



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

**Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission Meeting
Online Meeting
Microsoft Teams
April 16, 2021
Meeting Minutes No. 335**

Commissioners Present

Monica B. Reyes, Chair
Sonya Hernandez, Vice-Chair
Juanita Bocanegra, Secretary
Esperanza Cantu, Trustee

Jose Sanchez III
Jessica Cruz
Jeremiah Hernandez

Abril Valdes Siewert
Celeste Sanchez Lloyd
Jesse Bernal

Staff Present:

Felipe Lopez-Sustaita (Executive Director)
Ana Manzano (Program Coordinator)
Patricia Jaimes (Intern)
Fayrouz Saad (OGM Executive Director)

Start Audio Recording:

1) **Call to Order:**

Chair Monica B. Reyes calls the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

Introduction: Chair Reyes calls the meeting to order.

2) **Roll Call:**

Commissioners were connecting to the meeting as we were going through roll call.

3) **Acknowledgement of Commissioner Absences:**

Commissioner's Florenzio Hernandez, Consuela Barber-Lopez, Jesus Hernandez, Anthony Rubio, and Juan Marinez were not present.

4) **Approval of Agenda:**

Reading of the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Juanita Bocanegra moved to approve the meeting agenda, with support from Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez. Motion was passed.

5) **Approval of Minutes from March 19, 2021:**

Minutes from the March 19 online meeting were approved with prior review from Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Juanita Bocanegra moved to approve meeting minutes, with support from Commissioner Esperanza Cantu. Motion was passed.

6) **Public Comment:**

Ana gave instructions on how public comment would work. Guests were asked to present themselves and raise hands using Teams "raising hand" feature and called in the order in which they appeared. There were no public comments.

Monica B. Reyes, Chair
Sonya Hernandez, Vice Chair
Juanita Bocanegra, Secretary
Esperanza Cantu, Trustee
Abril Valdes Siewert

Anthony Rubio
Celeste Sanchez Lloyd
Consuela Barber-Lopez
Florenzio Hernandez
Jesse M. Bernal

Jessica Cruz
Jeremiah Hernandez
Jesus M. Hernandez
Jose Sanchez, III
Juan Marinez

7) Chair Reyes Report:

- a.) Chair is on vacation and did not have a formal report. She did not have updates from our last meeting.
- b.) Shared that she had just attended the PMC Latinx Working group where they were discussing pop up clinics in different areas. Chair stated we can make connections for anyone who would be interested in becoming a pop-up clinic. MDHHS did reach out to farms and have asked if they are interested in receiving vaccinations.

8) Executive Director Report:

- a.) E.D. began by acknowledging the terrible tragedies that have been happening around the county.
- b.) E.D. shared that we sent the Cinco de Mayo Letter with support from MAPAAC. The advocacy committee decided it was important to inform MSU of this letter since they are hosting the event, staff did send an email. MSU did not take responsibility.
- c.) E.D. shared the success of our graduation event. He thanked all involved in the planning and shared some of the feedback we have received.
- d.) We are also working with multiple offices to highlight what is happening with the vaccination sites in Detroit. We are working together to create a pop-up clinic in Pullman, MI. It might be important to use some of our excess funding on these vaccination sites, as was mentioned by a few commissioners.
- e.) E.D. shared we do have \$15,000 in our budget that is excess. We are estimating that we actually have more than \$15K in excess funds, but right now we should discuss what to do with the \$15,000. We need to begin discussing how these funds should be used collectively.
- f.) There are also 250 unaccompanied children who are coming to Michigan. They are arriving to Albion, and commissioners discussed the importance of providing insight to help these children.
- g.) E.D. shared that he just accepted a new job offer. He shared his highlights of the last 5 years, such as cultivating leaders and conducting a wide range of community outreach. Commissioners congratulated him and wished him well on his next endeavor.

9) Committee Reports

- a) Finance Planning:** Commissioner Cantu followed up about the excess funding in our budget. We do not have an updated report this month, but we seem to be in good standing from the last report. At the last finance committee, they discussed wanting input from the rest of the commission of how to utilize excess funding. After this list is generated, a survey will be sent to decide where we will put funds. Commissioner Cantu opened the floor for feedback on how to use funding. Chair Reyes recommended commissioners send an email about where they would like to see funding go.
- b) Public Relations:** Commissioner Sonya Hernandez had to leave the meeting early. Chair Reyes shared about the success of the graduation ceremony and how the recording is available for those who would like to watch. Chair Reyes thanked Mike Snyder for his amazing work on this event. E.D. thanked Sonya for helping with the amazing keynote speaker.
- c) Advocacy:** Commissioner Marinez was not present to give an update. Chair Reyes stated E.D. had done a good job at covering the Cinco de Mayo Letter, the unaccompanied children, and the redistricting commission. E.D. shared that the redistricting commission requested Felipe's support to get our community's input. E.D. agreed to share any information he receives from the redistricting commission.

- d) Covid-19 Task Force Committee:** Commissioner Barber-Lopez was not present to give report. Chair Reyes gave an update about the work the PMC and Latinx Working group are doing. Fayrouz shared about the efforts of the group to set up vaccination clinics in the areas where we are noticing gaps but requested support in distributing information.

10) Old Business:

- a. Discussion about meeting times was brought up by Chair Reyes. Chair Reyes explained the changes and the reasoning behind the changes. We opted to change the times to noon because we were getting more attendance at this time. Commissioner's expressed noon worked best if meetings continue to be virtual, however, when we go back to person evening meetings would work best. We will go with majority of respondents to email about if noon or evening works best.

11) New Business:

- a. Commissioner Comments: Jose Sanchez shared that they have decent parking lot that may be able to host pop up clinic. Chair Reyes requested that Ana connect him with Eva to get this figured out.

12) Announcements:

- a. Next commission meeting is on September 17, 2021 at noon.
b. However, with Felipe's departure, we need to form a new hiring committee. This work will require a lot of hours and meetings will be during the day. We need between 3-5 individuals working on the committee and they are responsible for reviewing materials, interviews, and making final decisions.
c. We need to work with the finance committee about how to utilize excess funding.

13) Adjournment

MOTION: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bocanegra and supported by Commissioner Cantu. Motion passes and the meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica B. Reyes, Chairperson Date

Juanita Bocanegra, Trustee Date