

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, September 26, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
MDCR Executive Offices, 8th Floor Commission Room
110 W Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Rasha Demashkieh, Co-Chair
Commissioner Arthur Horwitz, Co-Chair
Commissioner Mumtaz Haque, Secretary
Commissioner Deloris Hunt
Commissioner Ricardo Resio
Commissioner Linda Lee Tarver
Commissioner Bradley Voss

EXCUSED: Commissioner Laura Reyes Kopack

The meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chair Demashkieh at 4:00 p.m.

I. WELCOME

Commission Co-Chair Demashkieh opened the meeting with Roll Call of the Commissioners and welcoming remarks.

ROLL CALL: Commissioner Voss, Commissioner Resio, Commissioner Hunt, Commissioner Tarver, Commissioner Arthur Horwitz, Commissioner Haque, Commissioner Demashkieh

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: To approve Meeting Agenda as submitted. On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Hunt), the Meeting Agenda was approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

III. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To approve Consent Agenda as submitted. On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Haque), the Consent Agenda was adopted as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the July 25, 2016 Meeting Minutes as submitted. On Motion duly made (Commissioner Resio) and supported (Commissioner Tarver), the Minutes were approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

V. DIVISION REPORTS

Director's Report, Dr. Agustin Arbulu – In addition to Director Arbulu's submitted report, he highlighted the work activity of the Department since the July 25th meeting, which included Cabinet-level meetings with the Executive Office and state directors, meetings with

legislators, and networking opportunities with existing and potential partnering agencies throughout the state. Highlights included: Update of Commission Manual by 12/2016 for present and future commissioners; initiatives – Flint Water Crisis Hearings and tour of the Flint, expansion of ALPACT to Traverse City, Lansing, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, education and intake pilot outreach effort in community organization centers in the cities of Flint, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Detroit; information on upcoming MIAAHC Conference (213 already registered) Oct 24 at Kellogg Conference Center; development and distribution of Visor Cards; implementation of Service Animals patch (approx. 280 have registered); updating of MDCR brochures (Bill of Rights, Complaint Investigation Process, etc.); Lean Process Initiative pilot program for employee engagement; update on expansion of gender identity and sexual orientation at next meeting in December; technology update – working on going paperless; expansion of disparities study for Southeastern MI by 2017; attending annual United Tribes meeting; reviewing/updating cultural competency and diversity/inclusion training programs, working on development of racial equity training module; brief report on MSFW camp visits, anticipating an update report from the interagency workgroup. Budget update – included in written report, will schedule individual conference calls with Commissioners.

Deputy Director Colleen Pero: Ms. Pero provided an update on the Division on Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing – since implementation of the new program for Endorsements, we have received 454 applications: 392 have been approved – 43 are pending, 18 have been denied – since July 7, 2016. Update on annual reports – the MDCR annual report is due November 30, 2016; the Commission annual report is due January 30, 2017.

VI. COMMISSION MATTERS

Co-Chair Report, Rasha Demashkieh – Co-Chair Demashkieh indicated that she would defer her report to accommodate the deliberations on the Flint Water Crisis.

Attorney General Report, Ron Robinson – In addition to Mr. Robinson’s submitted written report, the following status updates were provided on the following cases: ***Smith v. Countryside*** oral arguments have been scheduled for Oct 4 in Court of Appeals, Detroit Cadillac Place 14th Floor; Barash case oral arguments occurred August 10th, an opinion was determined on attorney’s fees, final decision is pending from the Court of Appeals. ***Simpson v. MDCR*** case – case has been dismissed due to failure to follow court rules.

VII. COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Commission Committees are inactive, and the reports were waived. However, the Commission determined that the Communication Committee would be reactivated.

VIII. ONGOING BUSINESS

Next Steps re: Flint Water Crisis, Co-Chair Demashkieh

Co-Chair Demashkieh provided background information on the three hearings, and after deliberations a Motion was proposed for next steps.

MOTION: To adopt the proposed recommendations set forth in the September 22, 2016 memo from the Michigan Department of Civil Rights be adopted by the Commission. On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported

(Commissioner Voss), the Commission adopted the recommendation set forth in the MDCR's September 22, 2016 memo to the Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

SB-90 Update, Director Arbulu

Director Arbulu indicated that currently, the legislative body is in recess, but SB-90 could be taken up during lame duck session. The Commission will await an update in future meetings.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the September 26, 2016 meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. On Motion duly made (Commissioner Tarver) and supported (Commissioner Voss), Motion to adjourn was approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Secretary

Director