



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

**Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission Meeting
Neighborhood Empowerment Center
600 West Maple, Lansing, Michigan 48906
July 14, 2023 6:00PM-8:00PM
Meeting Minutes No. 347**

Commissioners Present

Jesse Bernal, Chair	Aurora Saucedo	
Consuela Barber-Lopez, Vice Chair	Vanessa Guerra	
Floren시오 Hernandez, Treasurer	Elias Gutierrez	
Abril Valdes-Siewert, Secretary	Monteze Morales (virtual)	

Staff Present:

Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez (Executive Director)
Marisa Constantini-Ramos (Administrative Assistant)

Guests:

Bent Cabanaw (Office of Global Michigan)
Carmen Bordea (Office of Global Michigan)
Theresa Rosado (Casa de Rosado Galeria)

1) Call to Order:

Chair Jesse Bernal called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. Introduced and welcomed new commissioners Vanessa Guerra and Elias Gutierrez.

2) Approval of Agenda:

Reading of the agenda.

MOTION: Motion for the approval of the agenda was made by Chair J. Bernal, supported, and passed by majority.

3) Roll Call:

Secretary Abril Valdes-Sierwert completed the Roll Call. Jesse Bernal, Consuela Barber-Lopez, Floren시오 Hernandez, Abril Valdes-Siewert, Aurora Saucedo, Vanessa Guerra, Elias Gutierrez, Monteze Morales (virtual)

4) Acknowledgement of Commissioner Absences:

Commissioners Anthony Rubio, Jesus Hernandez, Sonya Hernandez, Angelita Valdez, Juan Rodriguez, Celeste Sanchez Lloyd (she was present virtually but her presence did not count for quorum), and Jose Sanchez III were not present.

5) Approval of Minutes from April 14th, 2023 :

Minutes from the April 14th meeting were approved with prior review from Commissioners.

Jesse Bernal, Chair
Consuela Barber-Lopez, Vice Chair
Floren시오 Hernandez, Treasurer
Abril Valdes Siewert, Secretary
Sonya Hernandez

Vanessa Guerra
Anthony Rubio
Jesus M Hernandez
Celeste Sanchez-Lloyd
Jose Sanchez, III

Monteze Morales
Angelita Valdez
Aurora Saucedo
Elias Gutierrez
Juan Rodriguez

MOTION: Motion for the approval of the minutes was made by Vice Chair Barber-Lopez, supported by commissioner Valdes-Siewert, and passed by majority.

6) Executive Director Report:

a) Dr. Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez

Major Projects:

- a. Statewide Latinx Think Tank
- b. EIO External Facing Opportunities for Commissioner Stakeholder Engagement
- c. EIO Hispanic Heritage Month Calendar Planning
- d. REDI Grant Health Disparities Partnership with Ingham County
- e. Capital Area Health Equity Council
- f. Essey Workie to conduct Cultural Competency Assessment of the Commission
- g. Sponsorships cycle has closed.
- h. Scholarships and Nominations for HHE have closed.

Meetings & Outcomes:

- i. MSHDA meeting/Stakeholder Engagement
- j. IMSC
- k. US Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Engagement
- l. Motivational Edge Tour of Flint with Latinx Leaders
- m. MHCC
- n. MIRC

Presentation & Outreach:

Training for the Senior Allianc; keynote address at the Lansing School District; panelist Michigan State Medical Society Regional Health Equity Summit; Border Migration Preparation workshop with Michigan State Police, OGM, and stakeholders; Outreach Van Buren County "Bienvenidos Event", MDCR Summit panelist.

Upcoming Events & Activities

July 16th, MCRC Hearing; August 11 and 12, HLCOM commission retreat; possible performing arts presentation at the Wharton Center on September 15th (Ballet Nepantla) and assist in paying for bussing from the various Hispanic Centers across the State; Hispanic Heritage Event on September 22nd in Kalamazoo.

Commissioner F. Hernandez thanked C. Barber-Lopez and Sonya Hernandez for representing the commission at the ALSAME Latino Youth Conference at Ferris State University on May 12.

b) Chair's Report- Dr. Jeseé Bernal (No written report was submitted)

- Chair J. Bernal expressed verbally that some of the current commissioners will not be seeking reappointment and expressed his concern about low commissioner attendance to the meetings.
- He shared that he plans to have conversations with commissioners who have not been able to attend those meetings regularly, in order to make space for others.
- He emphasized the challenges of non-attendance: Decision-making complications.
- Commissioner F. Hernandez suggested to add that topic to the retreat for strategic planning.
- Commissioner Barber-Lopez emphasized that due to lack of communication with the Appointment's Office until the day before of the graduation there were challenges in establishing quorum.
- Commissioner J. Bernal informed that is required for the commissioners to notify the E.D. or Chair if he or she will not be running for reappointment, 6 months in advance.

7) Committee Reports

a) Finance Subcommittee: Treasurer Floren시오 Hernandez reported \$117,248 remaining funds. E.D. reported the previous sponsorships:

- \$450 Lansing School District (Lewton Elementary Literacy Event), \$500 Lansing Latino Health Alliance 25 Anniversary event, \$500 Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity at MSU Women Health Care Packages, \$1500 Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Academy, \$1500 One Michigan Immigrant Rights Organization for Children's gift distribution. **Total: \$4,450**

Treasurer F. Hernandez requested a motion for the finance report to be approved. But stopped himself and explained to the new commissioners the process for sponsorships. Chair J. Bernal explained that the process for sponsorships was approved in the January 23 meeting and clarified that all sponsorship requests are reviewed by the Executive Committee amounts are determined and shared with the finance committee for final approval. The Treasurer asked the ED to report on recent sponsorships.

E.D. reported recent sponsorships:

- LEO-AFLS Bienvenidos Event \$1,000 covers prizes for MSFWs
- Grand Haven Migrant Welcome Event, Grand Haven, \$1,000
- Civil Rights Commission MSFW Hearing, Lawrence Michigan, \$1,000 for meal to be served to the MSFWs
- Southeastern Michigan Migrant Resource Council Migrant Health Fair, Lenawee County & Monroe County, \$1,000
- Southwest Migrant Resource Council (Barrien County, several events over the summer, delivering school supplies to children, food and water to workers), \$1,000
- Latinos Working for the Future, Muskegon (The funds raised will benefit Latino youth hoping to attend college, through workshops, information sessions, etc), \$1,000
- Lakeshore Flavor, Muskegon (Conduct research and listening sessions on the needs of Latinx migrants and MSFW in the area), \$550
- Muskegon Community College, Latino Youth Conference, Muskegon (Conference to introduce high school students to college), You all said this funding could be used for food at the event \$500
- Honor Community Health, Pontiac (Walk and talk with the Doctor changed to Childrens health event), \$500

Total: \$7,550 make up the remainder of the original **\$12,000** the commission set aside for community sponsorships for FY 2023.

A motion for the finance report was made by Chair J. Bernal, Commissioner Abril Valdes-Siewert supported the motion, and passed by a majority.

b) Events Planning: The Hispanic Heritage Event will take place on September 22, 2023 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Kalamazoo in Kalamazoo. Commissioner Monteze Morales is helping with suggestions for local vendors. Expected budget: \$25,000 to \$28,000 which would come from our donations account. Free and open to the public. Current amount in the donations account: \$66,652.65

c) Outreach and Education: Vice Chair Barber-Lopez is leading this committee. She provided insights about her participation at the ALSAME Latino Youth Conference at Ferris State University on May 12.

8) Report from Office of Global Michigan:

Deputy Director Ben Cabanaw provided updates about new OGM staff openings and the new Language Access Coordinator that was hired to execute the Statewide language Access Plan. OGM has been asked to join the Governor's Growing Michigan Together Council-Poppy will serve as a non-voting rep. He also provided general State of Michigan budget and Refugee Services updates.

Commissioner Barber Lopez asked for a copy of the OGM report and E.D Montemayor Vazquez indicated commissioners would receive the full written report from OGM in their commissioner weekly update. Commissioner Barber Lopez indicated that she would like better clarification on the working relationship between OGM and HLCOM.

9) Old Business:

Chair J. Bernal shared that Drive Safe Bills have been introduced in the house by Representatives Hood and Ayash. People are still waiting for the hearing.

9) New Business:

a. Surplus of funds. E.D. Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez shared that the commission has approximately \$32,000 in surplus funds that if not spent, will not roll over to the next fiscal year. E.D. proposed to allocate approximately \$13,000 to support 12 to 13 additional organizations that recently applied for sponsorships and are waiting to hear a response. Additionally, \$20,000 was proposed for a statewide performing arts presentation at the Wharton Center, in collaboration with MSU Chicano Latino Studies Program. \$12,000 will be the cost for the performing arts group. The Wharton Center fee could range between \$5,000 and \$7,500. She also proposed that any additional remaining funds could be used to assist Hispanic centers across the state in providing busing and transportation for people attending the performance, and additional community sponsorships. She emphasized that the event will be free to the public.

E.D. explained that she could not call for a motion. Chair J. Bernal called for a motion. Commissioner Abril Valdes-Siewert asked what the vote was for; Chair Bernal answered: "the new budget, the budget amendment"; Commissioner F. Hernandez added: "the surplus budget".

MOTION: A motion for the surplus budget amendment was made by Commissioner Abril Valdes-Siewert, Commissioner Vanessa Guerra supported the motion, and passed by a majority.

b. Review of 2024 State Budget (E.D. Isabel Montemayor Vazquez). Commissioner Guerra and Chair Bernal suggested the review be shared on the HLCOM website

Additional comments:

Commissioner Consuela Barber-Lopez asked to add an additional comment and informed that she will be attending a 5-county meeting with community listening sessions with the Michigan Roundtable of Diversity and Inclusion, and the Michigan Civil Rights Department. She expressed her interest in being part of these initiatives and engaging with community members to address problematic issues. The community members expressed a desire to have an opportunity to discuss these issues with the authorities through listening sessions. Commissioner Barber Lopez asked if HLCOM would be conducting listening sessions.

E.D. shared that OGM is currently considering listening sessions across the state. HLCOM will collaborate with the other two commissions to define the structure of these sessions in order to be in alignment for data collection.

c. Chair J. Bernal shared the tentative agenda for August 11 and 12 retreat in Detroit and asked the commissioners if they had any additional items they would like to see in the agenda. Commissioners Vanessa Guerra and Abril Valdes-Siewert asked if the Drive Michigan Forward Coalition and the Hispanic Legislative Caucus could be invited to give presentations. Chair Bernal indicated this was a good idea. Chari Bernal also shared that the next commission meeting will be on August 11 at 6:00pm.

d. Chair J. Bernal shared that there is interest among commissioners to host informational webinars to elevate Latino concerns in the state of Michigan.

Vice Chair Barber-Lopez asked if they talked about the Ballet Nепantla at the meeting. Chair J. Bernal responded "Yes, we approved it".

10) Public Comment:

Limited to 2-3 minutes. Public comments will be received but will not be acted upon by the Commission. They will respond if requested via email in 2-3 business days.

- a) Theresa Rosado, Director of Casa de Rosado Galeria and Cultural Center. Shared about the events and exhibits that will be taking place at the venue in the upcoming months, and thanked the Commission for their sponsorship of Casa de Rosado's Summer Mercados that took place during 2022.

11) Announcements:

12) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Bernal, Chairperson Date

Abril Valdes Siewert, Secretary Date

