



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

**Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan,
Latin American United for Progress
11687 American St, Detroit, MI 48204
Detroit, MI
March 15, 2024
Meeting Minutes No. 350**

Commissioners Present

Dr. Jesse Bernal, Chair	Monteze Morales (Virtual)	
Consuela Barber-Lopez, Vice Chair		
Aurora Saucedo		
Angelita Valdez		
Juan Rodriguez		
Sonya Hernandez (Virtual)		

Staff Present:

Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez (Virtual)
Marisa Constantini-Ramos (Administrative Assistant)

Guests:

Eva Alexander (Office of Global Michigan)
Gerardo Aranda (State Monitor Advocate)
Guadalupe Ayala (Statewide Language Access Coordinator -Virtual-)

1) Call to Order:

Chair Jesse Bernal called the meeting to order at 3:20PM.

2) Roll Call:

Administrative Assistant Marisa Constantini complete the Roll Call. Dr. Jesse Bernal, Consuela Barber-Lopez, Angelita Valdez, Aurora Saucedo, Juan Rodriguez, Sonya Hernandez (Virtual), Monteze Morales(Virtual) were present.

3) Acknowledgement of Commissioner Absences:

Commissioners Abril Valdes-Siewert, Florenio Hernandez, Jose Sanchez III, Elias Gutierrez, Vanessa Guerra, Anthony Rubio were not present.

4) Approval of Agenda:

Agenda was distributed to Commissioners prior the meeting for review.

5) Approval of Minutes from August 12th, 2023 :

MOTION: Motion for the approval of the minutes was made by Vice Chair Consuela Barber-Lopez, supported by commissioner Aurora Saucedo, seconded by commissioner Juan Rodriguez. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

Vanessa Guerra
Anthony Rubio
Elias Gutierrez
Juan Rodriguez
Jose Sanchez, III

Monteze Morales
Angelita Valdez
Aurora Saucedo

6) Executive Director Report:

a) Dr. Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez

Events:

- The Statewide Latinx Summit Planning Committee: Date: June 21 for the summit on the GR campus of GVSU. GVSU will serve as the primary sponsor of the summit. Pre-event on Thursday June 20th, at City Built Brewery.
- The Annual Hispanic Latino Statewide Graduation will take place on April 5th at the Michigan Historical Museum.
- May 1, 2024 All commissioner convening in Lansing.
- May 9, 2024 Latino Legislative Advocacy Day at the Gran Tower in downtown Lansing working with MiPoder and the Hispanic Legislative Caucus to plan the day's events.

Projects:

- HEC: The community grantees have been working on their projects and will be presenting to the Health Equity Council how the funds have impacted the community in May.
- Statewide Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Study. OGM received \$800,000 to conduct a statewide enumeration study to capture data regarding the shifting demographic of this populations.

Meetings:

- IMSC: The IMSC met in March and had a presentation on the Si Ayuda hotline and MDHHS' efforts for establishing effective channels for reaching the MSFW population to inform them about the funds.
- Commissioners and ED attended DEI training with Multicultural Coaching Consultant Essey Workie in January.
- Commissioners and ED attended community listening session facilitator training with Essey Workie of Multicultural Coaching earlier this week.
- One of our commissioners participated in the statewide Language Access Plan focus group.
- We also had commissioners participate in MDHHS' focus group on the new language standards to be used for describing racial and ethnic categories on MDHHS forms and in their programs.

Most Recent Outreach and Engagement:

- The commission requested a tribute and that flags be lowered to half staff for the great contributions of Captain Miguel Nava (28) of Traverse City who perished in a helicopter accident on February 6, 2024.
- Johnny Rodriguez celebrated the annual LAUP Youth Conference in February
- Vanessa Guerra has been handling elections in Saginaw County and promoting the Latino Vote
- Elias has been helping newcomer families sign up and acquire information for housing.
- Consuela Barber Lopez has been working with reps from various unions and trade schools regarding Latinx access to these programs.
- Angelita Valdez attended a language access meeting in Muskegon and advocated for language access.

b) Chair's Report- Dr. Jesse Bernal

Chair Jesse Bernal informed that the Strategic Initiative Groups (SIG) are open to any commissioner who wish to be included. He reiterated that the enumeration study is guided by the HLCOM Executive Director. He highlighted the importance of the commission's role in this study as it aligns with the commission's mission.

Chair Bernal provided an overview of the sponsorship process, explaining that the EC reviews each application and provides recommendations to the ED. He outlined some of the guidelines for sponsorships, including geographic, diversity and population factors. He invited all commissioners who wish to be involved in future decisions about sponsorships.

7) Committee Reports

- a. Operations SIG- (Commissioner Juan Rodriguez)
 - HLCOM needs assessment survey to collect information about interest in listening sessions, major issues impacting Latinx across the state, and familiarity with the work of the commission. Will be placed online and available at HLCOM events.
 - Vice-Chair Barber-Lopez emphasized the importance of the commission being recognized by Hispanic/Latinos and being responsive to their needs across the state. She underscored the significance of providing data to inform people about the commission's activities and accomplishments.
- b. Legislative SIG- (ED Dr. Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez)
ED Dr. Montemayor-Vazquez emphasized that the information had been included in her ED report.

8) Report from Office of Global Michigan:

Eva Alexander provided the report.

Eva Alexander highlighted that in February, OGM conducted a DEI training for HLCOM, CEMEAA and MAPAAC. In March, listening sessions were held, attended by Commissioner Aurora Saucedo, Florensis Hernandez, and Vanessa Guerra.

She mentioned that OGM maintains a calendar featuring its own events and those organized by partners to enhance engagement. OGM is focusing on improving communication efforts.

LGBTQ+ Commission and the Michigan Immigrant Refugee Council will have upcoming meetings. OGM, in partnership with USCIS, held the Detroit Afghan Support Center, which saw participation from 1,400 individuals. OGM provide translation services at the event.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer released her executive budget recommendation. This balanced, fiscally responsible budget proposal lower costs for Michiganders.

Guadalupe Ayala (Statewide Language Access Coordinator) presented the State Government Language Access Updates

Old Business:

- a. Drive Safe HLCOM Letters of Appreciation were sent to all legislators in support of the bills, Senator Chang's office made copies and delivered a copy of the letter to every legislator.
- b. The Commission did provide a letter for support for Bradley Hall to the appointment's office. Chair Bernal suggested that in the future, the commission should engage in conversations about this type of support for appointees. Vice-Chair Barber-Lopez proposed discussing this topic in the next Operation SIG meeting and establishing a process for providing support to appointees.

New Business:

- a. Vote on Executive Committee Recommendations for Sponsorship. Chair Bernal reiterate the process for the EC to make recommendations on sponsorships to the ED. The sponsorship request recommendations were distributed to the commissioners.

MOTION: Chair Bernal called for a motion to approve the list. Commissioner Aurora Saucedo supported the motion, and Commissioner Juan Rodriguez seconded it. The motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Angelita Valdez made recommendations regarding the sponsorship program in the future. Her suggestions were noted for consideration in future discussions and planning.

b. Tribute Mr. Gerardo Aranda State Monitor Advocate

9) 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) **Bethany McAllister, Libelula Books.** She highlighted the importances of having books and resources available in Spanish and emphasized the need for translations to be available in all state agencies. She requested funding for distribute audiobooks in the Detroit area to enhance access to literature and resources for Spanish-speaking communities.
- b) **Hector Arroyo. Targeted Services Division Administrator. Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.** He expressed gratitude to the commission for honoring Mr. Gerardo Aranda for his services. He noted that March marks the beginning of agricultural month and the arrival of seasonal migrant farmworkers to the state. He highlighted the significant role that Mr. Aranda has played in this context. He thanked the commission for its engagement in the enumeration study.

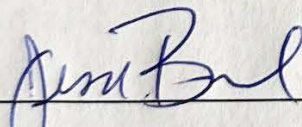
10) Announcements:

- Vice Chair Barber-Lopez announced the program in Detroit aimed at assisting employed youth. She highlighted that Michigan is the first state to officially recognize Chicano History Week, which is a significant achievement for the community. She announced the Statewide Latinx Summit scheduled for June 21 at GR campus of GVSU.
- Commissioner Juan Rodriguez announced "Fiesta Week", a celebration in Holland, MI from July 15 to July 21, hosted by LAUP.

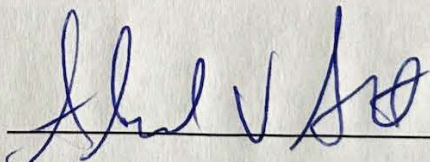
Next Commission meeting scheduled for April 5, in Lansing.

11) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

 6-7-2024

Jesse Bernal, Chairperson Date

 6/7/2024

Abril Valdes Siewert, Secretary Date