



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

**Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission Meeting
Lansing Center
333 E Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933
April 22, 2022, 3:00PM-4:30PM
Meeting Minutes No. 340**

Commissioners Present

Jesse Bernal, Chair	Angelita Valdez	
Sonya Hernandez, Vice Chair	Consuela Barber-Lopez	
Juanita Bocanegra, Secretary	Aurora Saucedo	
Florenio Hernandez, Treasurer	Jose Sanchez	

Staff Present:

Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez (Executive Director)
Francisca Garcia (Administrative Assistant)
Lexie Milukhin (Legislative Intern)

Guests:

Poppy Hernandez (Executive Director, Office of Global Michigan)

Start Audio Recording: 3:06 PM

1) Call to Order:

Chair Jesse Bernal calls the meeting to order at 3:06 PM.

Introduction: Chair gives opening remarks and welcomes guests and the public.

2) Roll Call:

Chair Jesse Bernal, Vice Chair Sonya Hernandez, Secretary Juanita Bocanegra, Treasurer Florenio Hernandez, Commissioners Anthony Rubio, Consuela Barber-Lopez, Jose Sanchez, Angelita Valdez and Aurora Saucedo were present.

3) Acknowledgement of Commissioner Absences:

Commissioners Monica Reyes, Esperanza Cantu, Abril Valdes Siewert, Jesus Hernandez, Celeste Sanchez Lloyd, and Monteze Morales were not present.

4) Approval of Agenda:

No approval of the agenda.

5) Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2022:

Secretary Juanita Bocanegra opened the floor for comments on the minutes from the March 25th meeting. The minutes from the March 25th meeting were reviewed electronically by the Commissioners prior to the meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved to approve meeting minutes with support from Commissioner Florenio Hernandez. The motion was passed.

6) Guests Updates:

Jesse Bernal, Chair
Sonya Hernandez, Vice Chair
Juanita Bocanegra, Secretary
Florenio Hernandez, Treasurer
Monica B Reyes

Anthony Rubio
Esperanza Cantu
Consuela Barber-Lopez
Abril Valdes Siewert
Jesus M Hernandez

Jose Sanchez, III
Celeste Sanchez Lloyd
Monteze Morales
Angelita Valdez
Aurora Saucedo

- a) **Poppy Hernandez, Executive Director Office of Global Michigan**
- a) Office of Global Michigan was recently awarded a grant to open a refugee community center on the westside of the state. The project will be done in partnership with Treetops, a local non-profit.
 - b) The current DHHS RFP is to increase vaccine efforts in immigrant and refugee communities. OGM is still waiting to hear back from the Commissioners on which organizations they have shared the information with.
 - c) 35 learners have been enrolled in the digital ESL program. The program is still open. The program can take up to 100 learners.
 - d) International Talent Solutions program is still working across state departments and private sector partners to reduce barriers to employment for those that are born outside of the state of Michigan.
 - e) Progress is being made across the commissions in legislative advocacy.
 - f) OGM is currently in the process of putting together their strategic recommendations for improving the impact of the Commission based on feedback from the Commissioners and the feedback of the other Commissions. More information will be shared with the Commissioners within 4-6 weeks.

7) Executive Report:

a) Dr. Jesse Bernal, Chair

Chair decided to forego his report for the sake of time. (Statewide Graduation event scheduled following the meeting)

8) Executive Director Report:

a) Dr. Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez:

- a) REDI Grant. HLCOM along with the Lansing Latino Health Alliance will be hosting 2 focus groups within the next 2 months in the Lansing area. The focus group is to ask Latinos about their experience with healthcare. The other partners involved in the grant will also be hosting focus groups within the communities that they serve. Those results will then be taken back the Ingham County Health Department. E.D. will be collaborating with them to extract the major data points and produce a report that will be shared with MDHHS.
- b) There are 2 current projects with LLEAD. One is for a census report. LLEAD hired a retired economist from MSU. He is currently working on comparing data from the 2010 Census to data from the 2020 Census. When the report is ready it will be shared on the HLCOM and LLEAD websites. The other LLEAD project is a Latino statewide directory. It is anticipated this project will be completed by June and posted to HLCOM and LLEAD websites by July.
- c) Michigan Non-profit Association survey on non-profit leadership has been closed. When results are available, they will be shared with the Commission.
- d) Bi-weekly newsletter.
- e) LEO YouTube channel has 2 episodes of Charlas Con La Comunidad posted.
- f) April 28th screening of Brenda's Story. E.D. is a part of the documentary and will be a part of a Q&A panel following the screening.
- g) On April 28th E.D. will be meeting with the new Mexican Consul in Madison Heights.
- h) E.D. will be meeting with USCIS director in Sterling Heights on April 28th. E.D. commented to the Commissioners that if they have any questions they would like asked to the USCIS director to please share those with E.D.
- i) On April 29th E.D. will be the keynote speaker for Albion College's La Cosecha Latinx Graduation.
- j) On May 16th E.D. has been invited to speak at the MLive Mentoring Women's Conference.
- k) Legislative Intern scholarship proposal.
- l) Highlight Hispanic Heroes form on website.

MOTION: Commissioner Bocanegra moved to approve the Executive Report with support from Commissioner Sonya Hernandez. The motion was passed.

9) Committee Reports:

a) Finance Committee:

- a) Treasurer Florenso Hernandez reported that there have not been many changes since the last report. We are halfway through the fiscal year.
- b) The Grants line in our budget is what we use for programming and events.

MOTION: Commissioner Florenso Hernandez moved to approve the Finance Report with support from Commissioner Bocanegra. The motion was passed.

b) Special Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee:

- a) Commissioner Barber-Lopez reported the committee met with the AG's office to discuss and review the bylaws.
- b) The committee will be making revisions based on that meeting.
- c) Commissioner Barber-Lopez anticipates having a version of the bylaws available to be voted on by the commission at the next meeting on May 20th.

MOTION: Commissioner Bocanegra moved to approve the Special Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee Report with support from Commissioner Sonya Hernandez. The motion was passed.

9) Old Business:

- a) Chair will select subcommittee chairs.
- b) Chair entertained any updates or comments from the commissioners.
 - 1. Commissioner Barber-Lopez reported that the Advocacy Committee has not yet agreed upon a meeting date. She reported that there are members of the community who would like to be active in the Advocacy Subcommittee. As part of the Economic Subcommittee, Commissioner Barber-Lopez reported that she has met with Commissioner Sanchez to discuss employment and retention barriers for Latinos.
 - 2. Commissioner Barber-Lopez requested that Legislative Intern work with the subcommittees to keep them informed of any legislative issues that may affect the work of the committees.
 - 3. Commissioner Valdez reported that the MSFW/Health Subcommittee approved at \$1,000 grant for City of Refugee Ministries in Lenawee County.

MOTION: Commissioner Bernal requested a motion to approve all subcommittee reports. Commissioner Bocanegra moved to approve with support from Commissioner Sonya Hernandez. The motion passed.

- 4. E.D. advised the Commissioners to keep in mind that they can give smaller grants to the community. She was recently made aware of a migrant family that was in need of beds due to a house fire.
- 5. Commissioner Florenso Hernandez requested an update on how many sponsorship applications have been received. E.D. reported that 6 have been received in total and will be or have already been forwarded to the appropriate subcommittees.
- 6. Commissioner Bernal reported that organizations in Grand Rapids are collaborating on the RFP request from OGM. Commissioner Valdez reported that a few organizations in her area were hesitant to respond because they believed the request was simply for the refugee population. OGM has clarified that the request is for immigrant and refugee populations, including individuals who were born outside of the U.S.
- 7. Commissioner Barber-Lopez announced that she is a keynote speaker for an upcoming event in partnership with Johns Hopkins focused on the Afro-Latinx population and vaccination. She will notify the Commission of the date at the next commissioner meeting.

10) New Business:

- a) Commissioner Bernal proposed that sponsorship applications have a cutoff date of June 15th for the current fiscal budget. Applications will be accepted yearlong, however, may be funded from the upcoming fiscal year budget.
MOTION: Commissioner Bernal requested a motion to accept the sponsorship application cutoff date. Commissioner Bocanegra moved to accept with support from Commissioner Barber-Lopez. Motion was passed.
- b) Commissioner Bernal announced that in the upcoming Finance and Executive Committee meetings, Commissioners will be determining the scholarship award levels and the amount of scholarships to be awarded at the upcoming HHM event. The Executive Committee will also be requesting an application deadline so that funds can be dispersed to students as they return to classes in the Fall.
- c) E.D. requested that commission consider awarding Lexie Milukhin, Legislative Intern with a \$2,000 scholarship for the work she has done during her time with the commission.
MOTION: Commissioner Bernal requested a motion to accept the \$2,000 scholarship award for Intern. Commissioner Bocanegra moved to accept with support from Commissioner Barber-Lopez.
 - (1) Assistant Attorney Tonya Jeter advised Commissioner Bernal that the floor should be opened for discussion. Commissioner Bernal opened the floor for discussion by proposing that a scholarship amount for future interns be included in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. E.D. clarified that the scholarship being awarded to intern is coming from the grants line, but does not affect the \$10,000 already allocated for each subcommittee. Commissioner Florensio Hernandez began calculating the amount currently reported on the grants line. E.D. clarified again that the grants line is used for all programming and scholarships throughout the fiscal year. Currently there is a little over \$40,000 in the grants line that should be used before the end of this fiscal year. \$10,000 of that has been allocated for the subcommittees. The \$2,000 scholarship awarded to the HLCOM intern will not affect the \$10,000 amount. Commissioner Florensio Hernandez asked if the \$2,000 would be given directly to the student or to the institution. After further discussion amongst the Commission it was resolved that the funds would be paid directly to the intern since paying it to the institution could result in loss of future financial aid for her.
With no further comments, Commissioner Bernal requested a vote. The motion passed unanimously.
- d) Recognitions presented to Dale Freeman and Hector Arroyo.

11) Public Comment:

- a) **Dale Freeman, Director of Migrant Affairs for MDHHS**
 - a) Migrant Affairs is working in partnership with public health agencies and federal qualified health centers to provide vaccination opportunities for the migrant community.
 - b) Daniel Carreon-Cambreros is leaving his position. Mr. Freeman will notify the commission when his position opens up to share with the community.
- b) **Daniela Lopez, Albion College Student**
 - a) Daniela wanted to introduce herself to the commission along with her sorority sisters who were in attendance with her. She also announce that would be participating in the Statewide Graduation.

12) Announcements:

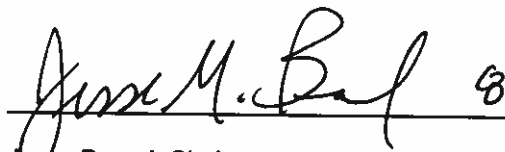
- a) Next meeting scheduled on May 20th in Flint, MI.
- b) Statewide Graduation Ceremony following the meeting at 6pm.
- c) Commissioner Barber-Lopez shared Homeland Security and ICE update.
- d) Commissioner Sonya Hernandez shared Muskegon County corrections tracking update.
- e) Commissioner Florensio Hernandez shared information about LCLAA fundraiser on April 23rd.

- f) Intern was recognized and applauded by the Commission on her scholarship and work with the Commission.

13) Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,


_____ 8-13-2022

Jesse Bernal, Chairperson

Date