



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  
March 19, 2021  
Meeting Minutes No. 334**

**Commissioners Present**

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

Floren시오 Hernandez  
Jessica Cruz  
Jeremiah Hernandez  
Juan Marinez

Jesus Hernandez  
Anthony Rubio  
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:**

Commissioner's were connecting as we were going through roll call. Some commissioners appeared to be calling in during roll call.

3) **Acknowledgement of Commissioner Absences:**

Commissioner Sonya Hernandez is not connected at this time. Commissioner Hernandez connected shortly after public comment. Commissioners Abril Valdes Siewert and Commissioner Jose Sanchez III 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 Juan Marinez. Motion was passed.**

5) **Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2021:**

Minutes from the January 22 online meeting were approved with prior review from Commissioners.

**MOTION: Commissioner Juanita Bocanegra moved to approve meeting minutes, with support from Commissioner Anthony Rubio. Motion was passed.**

6) **Public Comment:**

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  
Floren시오 Hernandez  
Jesse M. Bernal

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

Ana gave instructions on how public comment would work. Asked guests to present themselves and raise hands using Teams and called in the order in which they appeared.

- a) Edward Woods: Edward gave a short presentation on redistricting. He gave an overview about the history and invited all to participate in their upcoming meetings. Edward mentioned he would like to partner with the HLCOM to ensure all are included.
- b) Dale Freeman: Dale provided an update on migrant affairs. Continues to provide COVID testing to migrants. Their goal was to ensure that those who need to be isolated can be and they want to ensure that PPE is available to migrant workers. Most importantly, they are working aggressively to ensure that migrant workers can receive vaccines if they wish, they are currently working with the PMC to provide communications and answer questions. The important component is that this is voluntarily. Commissioner Monica Reyes posed a question about who is responsible for the vaccination for farmworkers. Dale mentioned there are a few clinics who are taking on this role.

### **7) Chair Reyes Report:**

- a.) It has been a while since they last met but they have accomplished so much. Many of the commissioners are on certain committees and they are meeting often and achieving many great things.
- b.) Chair Reyes gave an update on the ad hoc committee. Most of those members are also serving on the PMC Latinx working group. This keeps us informed on the work being done around the state and the resources available. The ultimate goal is to ensure equity and access.
- c.) Attended a few meetings this month, such as governors committee affairs, state of state address, and zoom calls with Felipe and Ana.
- d.) Covid-19 townhalls around state have been successful and done in English and Spanish.
- e.) Attended governor's priority presentations for budget recommendations and several committee meetings.
- f.) LEAD- Developing a strategic plan for a comprehensive plan of issues facing Latinx community in MI.
- g.) Today MDHHS- COVID 19 Update confirmed cases in MI are 618,000 over 15,000 deaths. We are in an uptick. Encouraging folks to get vaccinated to keep selves and families safe. Hispanic Latinx data: 5.63% of cases, 3.08% deaths
- h.) Celebrated the women of commission. Chair shared a little about each women of the commission. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez asked Monica to speak about herself as well. Graphic that Monica put together was shared.

### **8) Executive Director Report:**

- a.) Commissioner Sonya Hernandez asked to introduce a friend and colleague. Commissioner Hernandez introduced Omar Cuevas and expressed importance of highlighting the work that is being done in our communities.
  - a. Mr. Omar Cuevas gave a summary of the work he is currently doing in his community. Omar is working to provide equity services at Spectrum and Mercy Health by leveraging media outlets with his partners. He is trying to be a voice and represent our people.
- b.) E.D. began by requesting a moment of silence for the Asian community, and those affected by the tragedy in Atlanta. Staff reached out to the chair of MAPAAC, and we will support them with a sign on.
- c.) E.D. thanked chair for honoring our women. He also welcomed Ana and Patricia to our team and first virtual commission meeting. Felipe gave a brief introduction about Patricia. E.D. also congratulated Commissioner Cruz and Commissioner Sonya Hernandez about their new positions.

- d.) E.D. gave an update on the ad hoc committee work. One of the biggest achievements was pushing for farmworkers to be able to get vaccinated earlier, and they were successful in having them pushed up to March.
- e.) We are also very involved with the PMC. Ana is the manager of the PMC Latinx working group and Felipe is a commissioner. Vaccinations will be available to everyone 16 and over in the beginning of April. PMC has been focused on language access, funding, access to vaccination, etc.
- f.) E.D. brought up the Cinco de Mayo flyer that was created by the Michigan Senate Republicans. We have created a letter to address this issue. Other ethnic commissioners will be asked to support us.
- g.) E.D. gave an update on Senator Peters and Stabenow who voted against funding for undocumented workers. We have reached out but still have not gotten an explanation.
- h.) Statewide graduation is coming up. Our numbers are lower than usual, but it was expected, due to zoom fatigue. We will get more information to our commissioners. April 9 is our graduation event and April 16 is our next HLCOM meeting.

## 9) **Committee Reports**

- a) **Finance Planning:** Commissioner Cantu shared they have met a couple times and reviewed the HLCOM budget. The most recent budget is through the month in February, meaning we are 50% through our annual budget. The department anticipates we will have some remaining funds at the end of the year. This has prompted a discussion about how this additional funding should be utilized. The finance and executive committee plan to meet to share input about additional funding.
- b) **Public Relations:** Commissioner Sonya Hernandez shared that she has been working with staff to plan our virtual statewide graduation event. She has reached out to Dr. Wil Del Pilar and Dr. Cardona to request that he be our keynote speaker for our event, and he has graciously accepted, Dr. Miguel Cardona is still pending. Staff submitted a request for Gov. Whitmer as well. Commissioner Hernandez mentioned the importance of highlighting the work that our community members are accomplishing more than just once a year.
- c) **Advocacy:** Commissioner Marinez mentioned they have two new members on their committee. He also mentioned that he had noticed the Secretary of State had left out Hispanic/Latinx people who applied to the redistricting commission, the website has been updated since. This commission is in place for the next 3-5 years, so no opportunity to get Hispanic/Latinx representation in. Commissioner Marinez shared that Sally Marsh was invited to an advocacy committee meeting to present on the redistricting commission, Sally recognized their error of not including all the data and there was also a discussion about language barriers. He also brought up Senator's Stabenow and Peters voting again. LEAD has completed a video on redistricting that he plans to share with the commission.
- d) **Covid-19 Task Force Committee:** Commissioner Barber-Lopez highlights the importance of working with the PMC. She brought up that next week there is a meeting scheduled with Fayrouz and Eva to discuss how the commissioners can best support them. Commissioner Reyes shared that Commissioner Florenio Hernandez is on a committee that is dealing with vaccine hesitancy. Fayrouz shared one problem has been distributing materials and we are also seeking digital ambassadors to address these issues.

## 10) **Old Business:**

- a. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez requested a conversation about how meeting times were selected. Commissioner Reyes shared that originally the meetings were alternating (one at noon and one at 6), and after discussing with Felipe we realized we got more attendance at

noon. This discussion occurred among the executive committee. Commissioner Reyes mentioned things would change once we go back to being in person.

**11) New Business:**

- a. Presentation by Daniel Soza III from Samaritas. Samaritas serves unaccompanied children and works to find the youth a home. Daniel gave an overview about where the youth come from, the programs they have, the journey the youth endure, and how the programs work. They currently have two schools, one in Lansing and one in Ann Arbor. Staff can provide Mr. Soza's contact information to anyone who is interested. Fayrouz gave an overview about what is happening at the border.

**12) Announcements:**

- a. Commissioner Marinez plans to send a publication article on lynching's to staff to share with commissioners.
- b. Commissioner Barber-Lopez shared two wins. Currently working with FBI to create a protocol specifically for our community and she has started a series of advocacy through art of human trafficked victims (healing circle via art).
- c. Fayrouz gave an update on the Parallel Program. They have been working hard to secure funding in collaboration with MCAN and have raised some funds.
- d. Our next commission meeting date will be on April 16, 2021 at 12 PM via Teams. The staff will communicate to commissioners and constituents once a meeting flyer is made.

**13) Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Monica B. Reyes, Chairperson      Date

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Juanita Bocanegra, Trustee      Date