



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

**Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission Meeting
Boys and Girls Club of Bay City
300 W Lafayette Ave. Bay City, MI 48706
October 15, 2021 6:00PM-8:00PM
Meeting Minutes No. 337**

Commissioners Present

Monica B. Reyes, Chair	Floren시오 Hernandez	
Juanita Bocanegra, Secretary	Jesse M Bernal	
Anthony Rubio	Celeste Sanchez Lloyd	
Jeremiah Hernandez		

Staff Present:

Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez (Executive Director)
Francisca Garcia (Administrative Assistant)

Guests:

Leona Flores (American GI Forum Vice Chair)
Manuel Lopez (American GI Forum Bay City Chapter Commander)

Start Audio Recording: 6:07 PM

1) Call to Order:

Chair Monica B. Reyes calls the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Introduction: Chair Reyes calls the meeting to order.

2) Roll Call:

Chair Monica Reyes, Secretary Juanita Bocanegra, Commissioners Anthony Rubio, Jeremiah Hernandez, Floren시오 Hernandez, Jesse Bernal and Celeste Sanchez Lloyd were present.

3) Acknowledgement of Commissioner Absences:

Vice Chair Sonya Hernandez, Treasurer Esperanza Cantu, Commissioners Abril Valdes Siewert, Consuela Barber-Lopez, Jessica Cruz Jesus Hernandez Jose Sanchez and Juan Marinez 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 Floren시오 Hernandez. The motion was passed.

5) Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2021:

Minutes from the September 17th meeting were approved with prior review from Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Juanita Bocanegra moved to approve meeting minutes, with support from Commissioner Celeste Sanchez Lloyd. The motion was passed.

6) Public Comment:

Monica B. Reyes, Chair
Sonya Hernandez, Vice Chair
Juanita Bocanegra, Secretary
Esperanza Cantu, Treasurer
Anthony Rubio

Jessica Cruz
Jeremiah Hernandez
Floren시오 Hernandez
Jesse M Bernal
Consuela Barber-Lopez

Abril Valdes-Siewert
Jesus M Hernandez
Jose Sanchez, III
Celeste Sanchez Lloyd

Administrative Assistant Francisca Garcia gave instructions on how public comment would work. Guests were informed the meeting is being recorded. Speakers are to identify themselves by name before their public comment. Speakers will be called in the order their request is received.

- a.) Daniel Carreon-Cambremos (DHHS Office of Migrant Affairs): Speaking on behalf on Dale Freeman who was not able to attend the meeting. Gave an overview of their recent work with the agriculture worker population. The MDHHS migrant programs continue to partner with migrant health clinics throughout the state to provide agricultural workers with vaccinations. The work is being done statewide but efforts are being focused on the west side of the state where there is a larger population of migrant farmworkers. Over 4,500 agricultural workers have been vaccinated due to these efforts. Chair Monica Reyes requested more information on the outreach being done in the Benton Harbor area in relation to the water issue. Daniel will review specifics with Dale Freeman and Audra Fuentes and report back to Chair Monica Reyes.

7) Executive Report:

a.) Chair Monica Reyes

- a) Chair began by thanking our host, the Bay City American GI Forum.
- b) Shared that we participated in the statewide Hispanic Heritage virtual event on September 22, 2021, hosted by Poppy Hernandez, Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer. Thanks to Commissioners Jessica Cruz, Jesus Hernandez, Celeste Sanchez Lloyd and Abril Valdes Siewert who participated and shared their expertise.
- c) Announced that Poppy Hernandez is the new Executive Director of the Office of Global Michigan.
- d) Many members of the Commission continue to mee with the Statewide Latinx Project Michigan workgroup to get the word out about the importance of vaccinations. Please be sure to connect with the workgroups in your region when you can.
- e) The November 19th Strategic Planning Meeting will be in Lansing and hosted by Commissioners Florenio Hernandez and Juan Marinez. We are planning to start at 10am, so we request that you arrive by 9am. We are still finalizing the location and facilitator details.
- f) Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez requested to open a discussion on Commissioner absences. Per the bylaws Commissioners are only allowed to miss two meetings. The last revision of the bylaws did include that a virtual option would be made available, however, we do not have the capability to offer that. There needs to be more clarification for allowed absences.

MOTION: Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez moved to have the Executive Committee review the bylaws and commissioner absences and to have the information brought forth and discussed at the November 19, 2021 public commission meeting. Commissioner Jesse Bernal supported the motion. The motion was passed.

8) Executive Director Report:

- a.) Executive Director Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez shared that she has begun working with the Ingham County Health Department and the REDI Grant. E.D. will be sending a 2nd draft of the survey to the Commissioners. Feedback from the 2nd draft will be due back by October 20th, the drafts will be sent out soon.
- b.) E.D. shared that she met with Diana Rivera and Al Flores of LLEAD to discuss collaboration on two projects. The first project is with a grant that has been contributed to LLEAD for the review of the 2020 census. The anticipated outcome is to have an interactive map that can be loaded to the HLCOM and LLEAD websites so the information will be available to the public. LLEAD is currently looking for a contractor or an intern that is willing to work on the project

with the funds available. The second project is a statewide Hispanic/Latinx directory. LLEAD has had an intern working on the project. The goal is to get a list of all resources, services, nonprofit and state agencies that serve the Hispanic/Latinx population in the state of Michigan. The directory would be made available on both the HLCOM and LLEAD websites. Our Administrative Assistant will be collaborating with LLEAD on the project.

- c.) E.D. has called on each of the commissioners to set up a one-on-one meeting with her so expectations of her as Executive Director can be discussed, and to also better understand what the constituents in their regions are sharing with them as priorities and areas of concern that could possibly be addressed at the Strategic Planning Meeting. E.D. requested that Commissioners schedule their one-on-one meeting via Administrative Assistant Francisca if they have not already done so.
- d.) E.D. shared information on recent meetings she has attended. A meeting was held with the other ethnic commissions. It was a short but productive meeting. All three commissions agreed that they want to support the Drive Safe bills and a legislative luncheon. The three ethnic commissions have also requested to have a joint meeting with Poppy Hernandez to have a better understanding of how our offices are affected by financial and budgetary constraints. E.D. attended the LLEAD Executive Meeting in Holland. She also attended the Interagency Migrant Services Committee Meeting. The meeting contained a presentation on heat-related injury and illness by Juley Fulcher. E.D. had the opportunity to introduce herself to the different partners that were present at the meeting.
- e.) E.D. shared about recent presentations and outreach efforts she has contributed to the community. She delivered a presentation for HHM to the Urban Housing Network. She has been interviewed by Que Onda Michigan, which is a weekly series, Don Kuchnicki for the podcast A Passion to Serve and by Isabel Flores for La Prensa.
- f.) Upcoming events: Meet and Greet for the Executive Director in Lansing on October 29th. A tentative Meet and Greet is in the works for Saginaw.
- g.) Commissioner Jesse Bernal asked for clarification on the status of a HLCOM physical office. E.D. explained that the address we have been given is a mailing address. HLCOM does not have an office space or access to office equipment at this time. Chair Monica Reyes reports that she has been having meetings with state staff regarding these issues.

9) Committee Reports

- a) **Finance Planning:** Commissioner Cantu was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Monica Reyes reported that the end of the fiscal year budget showed an excess of \$30,000 for HLCOM. Chair Monica Reyes has requested to be allowed to spend those funds since we were not aware of them. No response has been given or an approval for using the funds. Chair Monica Reyes will keep the Commission posted on updates and changes with the budget as they are made available.
- b) **Public Relations:** Commissioner Jesse Bernal reported that the HHM awards virtual event was postponed. The committee realized afterwards that there were three other Latinx events taking place on the same evening. The committee is considering a new date for the event or, announcing the awardees via a mass email so that there is no delay in those individuals being announced and recognized. Since this is a required event for the Commission, Chair Monica Reyes suggests making a video to post so that we meet our commitment.
- c) **Advocacy:** Commissioner Floren시오 Hernandez reported that the committee is looking for ways in which they can work with other organizations to support the driver's license cause. The committee is also looking for ways in which to make lawmakers understand this issue affects the state as a whole. Commissioner Floren시오 Hernandez suggests that the Commission as a whole should work on strengthening their relationship with the Latino Caucus to stay better informed of matters being brought forth at the Capitol.

- d) **Ad Hoc-COVID:** Chair Monica Reyes reports that the committee is working on their report and will have it soon.
- e) **Ad Hoc-Elections:** Commissioner Anthony Rubio reported the following Commissioners have reported their interest in the following positions: Chairperson: Commissioner Monica Reyes, Vice Chair: Commissioner Jesse Bernal, Secretary: Commissioner Juanita Bocanegra and Treasurer: Commissioner Florenio Hernandez. The list must be finalized by November 19th. The Commissioners must report if they accept their nomination. Chair Monica Reyes has reminded Commissioners to complete their applications for reappointments.

10) Old Business:

- a. None to report.

11) New Business:

- a. Commissioner Juanita Bocanegra announced the LAUP Gala event will be taking place on October 22nd. E.D. has been invited and will be attending. Commissioner Jesse Bernal will also be attending. Commissioner Juanita Bocanegra suggests discussing events that should be attended by the Commissioners at the next meeting. She feels that when Commissioners are invited to attend an event, they should be able to take a plus-one or their spouse. Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez reports that Meijer is accepting nominations for local artists. The artists can self-nominate themselves. Meijer will have the items available in their store for sale. Commissioner Celeste Sanchez Lloyd reports that the Latina Network of West Michigan is celebrating 11 years. They would like Executive Director Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez to meet with them. E.D. reports she met with the Detroit Hispanic Development Network and a collaborative of non-profit organizations from around the state. It was a great opportunity to get to know the other organizations and the work that they do. E.D. emphasized that the Commission is looking forward to collaborating with them in the future.

12) Announcements:

- a. The next commission meeting is November 19, 2021, at 6 pm in Lansing. The location is TBD.
- b. Strategic Planning Meeting is prior to the public meeting on November 19, 2021, starting at 10 am in Lansing.
- c. Elections will take place at the November meeting.

13) Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Monica B. Reyes, Chairperson Date

Juanita Bocanegra, Secretary Date