

Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in person at the Michigan Bankers Association building in Lansing, MI. Remote access via Zoom was also available for members of the public and Commissioners in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. The MIDC website and meeting notice included information for members of the public on how to participate.

October 13, 2021

Time: 10:00 am

Michigan Bankers Association
507 S Grand Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

Commission Members Participating

The following members participated in person in Lansing:

- Judge Jeffrey Collins
- Joshua Blanchard
- Tracey Brame
- Andrew DeLeeuw
- Christine Green
- David Jones
- Debra Kubitskey
- Tom McMillin
- Judge Robinson Garrett
- John Shea
- Rob VerHeulen

The following members participated remotely under exemptions from the Open Meetings Act. During roll call, these Commissioners were asked to identify the county, city, town or village and state from which they are attending, that information is reflected below in parentheses following each Commissioner's name.

- Kimberly Buddin (Oakland County, Michigan)
- Hakim Crampton (Jackson, Jackson County, Michigan)
- James Krizan (Lincoln Park, Wayne County, Michigan)
- Margaret McAvoy (Mount Pleasant, Isabella County, Michigan)
- William Swor (Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan)
- Gary Walker (Chocolay Township, Marquette County, Michigan)

Commission Members Absent

Judge James Fisher, Cami Pendell

Staff Members Participating In Person and via Zoom

Marla McCowan, Shunkea Brown, Barbara Klimaszewski, Kelly McDoniel, Rebecca Mack, Deborah Mitchell, Susan Prentice-Sao, Nicole Smithson, Kristen Staley, Melissa Wangler and Marcela Westrate

Chair Collins called the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (“MIDC” or “the Commission”) meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Introduction of Commission members and guests

Chair Collins welcomed attendees to the meeting. He welcomed new commissioner Rob VerHeulen.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public wishing to provide comments.

Additions to agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner McAvoy moved that the consent agenda containing the minutes from the August 17, 2021 meeting be adopted. Commissioner Kubitskey seconded. The motion carried.

Chair Report

Chair Collins announced the assignments for the Ad hoc committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Commissioner Crampton will serve as Chair, the following Commissioners are appointed to the committee: Commissioners Brame, DeLeeuw, VerHeulen and Jones.

Chair Collins announced that he will call upon Commissioners to serve on the Ad hoc committee for nominations and that this committee will provide a report and recommendation at the December 21, 2021 meeting.

Interim Executive Director’s Report

Ms. McCowan updated the Commission on the contracts that have been returned by systems. MIDC has signed 70 contracts and these have been forwarded to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) for the Finance and Administrative Services Team’s review and signature.

Commission Business

Selection of Executive Director Candidates to interview

All Commissioners were given access to the entire pool of applications submitted for consideration. Commissioner Walker provided a written report prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Walker gave an overview of the Executive Director Search Committee’s work. The committee has met 5 times and scored each of the 19 applications that were submitted for the position. The scoring was used as a tool to determine who the committee would recommend for

interviews. The committee unanimously recommends the following three candidates for interviews: Bradley Hall, Haralambos Mihas and Kristen Staley. There are three additional candidates that the committee identified as potential interviewees: Jolea Mull, Karen Phillips and Ariel Simms.

Commissioner Walker requested that Chair Collins open the floor for the Commission's input and comment.

After discussion, Commissioner Walker moved that the Commission interview six candidates for the Executive Director Position: Bradley Hall, Haralambos Mihas, Jolea Mull, Karen Phillips, Ariel Simms and Kristen Staley. Commissioner Swor seconded. The motion carried.

The Commission discussed the interview process. Chair Collins invited Commissioners to submit potential interview questions to Commissioner Walker by October 19. The Commission will schedule a special meeting to interview the candidates.

Commissioner Shea moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner McAvoy seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am. The Commission will meet on October 19, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcela Westrate