

Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in person at the Michigan Bankers Association building in Lansing, Michigan. Remote access via Zoom was available for Commissioners and, upon request, for members of the public. The MIDC website and meeting notice included information for members of the public on how to contact the MIDC to obtain the Zoom link for participation. Commissioners were able to participate remotely if they qualified for an exemption under the Open Meetings Act or if they requested an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12131 *et. seq.*, and Rehabilitation Act, MCL 395.81 *et. seq.*, pursuant to Attorney General Opinion No. 7318.

February 20, 2024

Time: 11:00 am

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

Commission Members Participating

The following members participated in person:

- Chair Christine Green
- Joshua Blanchard
- Tracey Brame
- Kimberly Buddin
- Paul Bullock
- Andrew DeLeeuw
- Judge James Fisher
- David Jones
- Debra Kubitskey
- Margaret McAvoy
- Tom McMillin
- Alicia Moon
- Rob VerHeulen

The following member observed the meeting via Zoom but did not participate in the discussions:

- Thomas Adams

The following Commissioners were absent:

- James Krizan
- Judge Mathes
- John Shea
- William Swor
- Gary Walker

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Introduction of Commission members and guests

Chair Green invited guests to introduce themselves to the Commission. She introduced Justin Hodge, Clinical Associate Professor of Social Work, University of Michigan.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Jill Recker
- Craig Paull

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner McAvoy moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Brame seconded. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Chair Green removed the December 2023 minutes from the consent agenda. Commissioner VerHeulen moved that the minutes be approved. Judge Fisher seconded. The motion carried.

Chair Report

Chair Green indicated that Commissioners Brame and Shea would serve as co-chairs on the ad hoc committee to review the American Bar Association's revised 10 Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System.

Commissioner McAvoy will chair a new ad hoc Bylaws committee. The following Commissioners will also serve on the committee: Brame, Blanchard, Kubitskey, and Green.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Staley gave an overview of the expert/investigator clearing house. This would be used by local systems and would serve as a one-stop shop for systems looking for the names and contact information of experts and investigators.

Commissioner McMillin moved that the Executive Director be authorized to begin the RFP process with LARA for a contracted position to manage the expert and investigator clearinghouse and that the RFP document return to the Commission after it is drafted. Commissioner Buddin seconded. The motion carried.

Commission Business

Standing committee reports

Chair Green provided an update on the Executive Committee's activities.

Commissioner Blanchard provided an update on the Performance Standards Committee. The work of the committee is reflected in the grant manual and compliance plan. The committee discussed the numbers in the workload standards.

Commissioner Brame provided an update on the Training and Evaluation Committee. The work of the committee is reflected in the grant manual.

Ad hoc Committees

Commissioner Budden provided an update on the Data Committee.

Commissioner Jones provided an update on the Equity and Inclusion Committee. Commissioner Jones was appointed to the Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Michigan Judiciary to represent the MIDC. That group held its first meeting in February.

MIDC Annual Impact Report

Commissioner VerHeulen moved to approve and publish the annual report pursuant to MCL 780.999. Commissioner Bullock seconded the motion. The motion carried.

MIDC Standards Implementation

Berrien County submitted a request to use existing funds for a construction project to build a confidential area for client meetings. The request exceeds the dollar threshold for construction projects and is before the Commission for approval. Senior staff recommends approving the request.

Judge Fisher moved to approve the construction project requested by Berrien County. Commissioner McMillin seconded. Chair Green requested a roll call vote. The motion failed with six yeas (Green, Brame, Buddin, Fisher, Kubitskey, McMillin) and six nays (Blanchard, Bullock, DeLeeuw, Jones, McAvoy, VerHeulen).

Regional Update

Susan Prentice-Sao, Regional Manager for the MIDC's Western Region, provided an update on the activities in her region.

Commissioner Blanchard left the meeting at 1:52 pm.

Commissioner Brame left the meeting at 2:00 pm.

FY25 Compliance Planning Resources

Ms. McCowan provided an overview of the changes made to the compliance plan and cost analysis for FY25. Judge Fisher moved to approve the FY25 compliance plan and cost analysis revisions. Commissioner Jones seconded. The motion carried.

Judge Fisher moved that staff's proposed changes to the Grant Manual be approved. Commissioner DeLeeuw seconded. The motion carried.

Presentation from Justin Hodge, Clinical Associate Professor of Social Work, University of Michigan

The ad hoc committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, requested that Professor Justin Hodge from the University of Michigan be invited to present to Commissioners about the Commission's policy development and work.

Chair Green adjourned the meeting at 3:37 pm.

The next meeting will be held on April 30, 2024 in Lansing at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcela Westrate