

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 18, 2025

Time: 11:30 am

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

Commission Members Participating

The following members participated in person:

- Chair Tracey Brame
- Thomas Adams
- Paul Bullock
- Michael Carter
- Andrew DeLeeuw
- Judge James Fisher
- Christine Green
- James Krizan
- Debra Kubitskey
- Judge Paula Mathes
- Margaret McAvoy
- Tom McMillin
- Glenn Simmington
- Rob VerHeulen

The following Commissioners were absent:

- Kimberly Buddin
- ~~Michael Carter~~
- David Jones
- Loren Khogali
- Alicia Moon (non-voting member)

The following members requested accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act to participate via Zoom:

- Gary Walker (Chocolay Township, Marquette County, Michigan)

Chair Brame called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- James Heath
- Robin Dillard Russaw
- Natalie Erickson

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner McMillin moved that the agenda be adopted. Commissioner VerHeulen seconded. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Bullock moved that the consent agenda containing the minutes from the December 2024 meeting be adopted. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Staley provided an overview of Governor Whitmer's budget recommendation for the 2026 fiscal year that begins October 1, 2025. She updated the Commission on the trainings and conferences planned and attended by staff.

Standing Committee Report

Chair Brame provided an update on the committee's meeting.

MIDC 2024 Annual Impact Report

Commissioner McAvoy moved that the 2024 Annual Impact Report be approved. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried.

Regional Update: Western Michigan

Regional Manager Abraham Gonzales updated the Commission on the activities in his region.

MIDC Standards Implementation FY2026

Ms. McCowan reviewed the proposed compliance plan and cost analysis forms for FY2026. The deadline for submission will be April 25, 2025. Commissioner Kubitskey that the application be approved. Commissioner McMillin seconded. The motion carried.

Grant Manual

Ms. Staley and Ms. McCowan reviewed the proposed changes to the grant manual.

Commissioner McAvoy moved that the grant manual be adopted as presented. Commissioner Krizan seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner McMillin moved that the Commission meet in closed session under section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material subject to the attorney-client privilege that is exempt from public disclosure under section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act. Commissioner VerHeulen supported. Chair Brame requested a roll call vote. The motion carried with 14 yeas (Brame, Adams, Bullock, DeLeeuw, Fisher, Green, Krizan, Kubitskey, Mathes, McAvoy, McMillin, Simmington, VerHeulen, and Walker). The Commission moved into Closed Session at 12:58 pm.

The Commission returned to open session at 1:50 pm.

Commissioner VerHeulen moved that the Commission adopt a resolution stating that we are asking our staff to carefully monitor the commitments made in the letter of February 18 and that we expect full performance as listed in the letter and ask staff to provide periodic updates. Judge Fisher seconded. The motion carried, Commissioner Simmington opposing.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Brame at 2:00 pm.

The next meeting is April 22, 2025 at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcela Westrate