

## 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.

**April 22, 2025**

**Time: 9:30 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
- Kimberly Buddin
- Paul Bullock
- Michael Carter
- Christine Green
- Loren Khogali
- James Krizan
- Debra Kubitskey
- Judge Paula Mathes
- Margaret McAvoy
- Glenn Simmington
- Rob VerHeulen

The following Commissioners were absent:

- Andrew DeLeeuw
- Judge James Fisher
- David Jones
- Tom McMillin

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

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

Non-voting member Alicia Moon observed the meeting via Zoom but did not participate in the discussions.

Chair Brame called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

### **Public Comment**

The following people provided public comment:

- Pete Menna
- Robin Dillard Russaw
- Natalie Erickson

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Adams moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. Commissioner Kubitskey seconded. The motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Kubitskey moved that the consent agenda containing the minutes from the open and closed sessions of the February meeting be adopted, with the correction of Commissioner Carter's name being removed from the list of absent members. Commissioner Krizan seconded. The motion carried.

### **Chair's Report**

Chair Brame attended the MIDC's youth defense conference held in March at Cooley Law School. She gave an overview of the legislative committee meeting that she attended with Executive Director Kristen Staley.

Chair Brame appointed members to the Commission's standing and ad hoc committees.

### **Executive Director Report**

Ms. Staley provided an overview of legislative presentations that took place in March.

She gave an update on the compliance planning process to date and described the need for an IT solution to assist systems in tracking attorneys' cases.

Commissioner Adams moved to authorize the Executive Director to begin working with LARA to develop an RFP for standards data tracking. Commissioner Kubitskey seconded. The motion carried.

### **Executive Committee**

Chair Brame updated Commissioners about the Executive Committee's meeting.

### **Regional Update**

Matthew Lozen, Regional Manager for the MIDC's Mid Michigan region, gave an overview of the activities in his region.

### **MIDC Standards Implementation**

Deputy Director Marla McCowan provided an update on staff's communication with the City of Inkster.

Commissioner VerHeulen moved that the City of Inkster be given until the end of May 9 to bring their FY24 reporting into compliance and to authorize MIDC staff to initiate the procedures described in MCL 780.995 if reporting is not submitted. Commissioner Bullock seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. McCowan provided an overview of the change requested by Gratiot County to that County's approved compliance plan and cost analysis. The County requested \$138,177.14 be added to their total system costs for a reimbursement pursuant to MCL 783.993(16).

Commissioner Bullock moved that the FY25 costs for Gratiot County be increased to reimburse for overspending in FY24. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. McCowan provided an overview of the plan change to the County's indigency screening process. There is no additional change to the approved cost analysis.

Commissioner Krizan moved that the change to the compliance plan requested by Menominee County as to indigency screening procedures be approved. Commissioner Khogali seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2025 at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcela Westrate