

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.

June 10, 2026

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
- Andrew DeLeeuw
- Judge James Fisher
- Christine Green
- John Hays
- Charissa Huang
- James Krizan
- Judge Paula Mathes
- Margaret McAvoy
- Coriann McMillen
- Alicia Moon (non-voting member)
- Jim Samuels
- Alan Vanderberg
- Rob VerHeulen
- Gary Walker

The following Commissioners were absent:

- Thomas Adams
- Michael Carter
- Loren Khogali
- Sofia Nelson

Chair Brame called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Angela Cope
- Rachel Jackson
- Erin Freers-Cole
- Karen Moore
- Melanie Young
- Pete Menna
- Erin Van Campen
- Mike Naughton
- Amy Campenelli

Approval of Agenda

Judge Mathes moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Commissioner DeLeeuw seconded. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Krizan moved that the consent agenda containing the February 12, 2026 meeting minutes be adopted. Commissioner Vanderberg seconded. The motion carried.

Chair Report

Chair Brame welcomed Commissioners Hays, Nelson, and Samuels who were recently appointed to replace Commissioners McMillin, Jones, and Simmington. Commissioners Nelson and Samuels were appointed to the Training and Evaluation Committee. Commissioner Hays was appointed to the Selection Standards Committee. Commissioner DeLeeuw was appointed chair of the Data Committee replacing Commissioner Buddin.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Staley introduced Sainath Iyer, Regional Manager for the Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, and St. Clair region.

Ms. Staley gave an overview of the mediation process with Lake and Oceana Counties and results.

Commissioner VerHeulen moved to approve the FY26 compliance plan and a portion of the cost analysis submitted by Lake and Oceana Counties, consistent with the MIDC's previous action at the October 21, 2025 meeting, and MCL 780.993(4) and 780.995(2)(b). Chair Brame seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Staley presented a policy regarding receipt of complaints and recommendations. Judge Fisher moved that the process for complaints and recommendations be approved. Commissioner Krizan seconded. The motion carried.

The Commission reviewed the draft FY27 grant contract. Commissioner Vanderberg moved that the draft contract be approved with two amendments. The first amendment adds a definition of equipment as valued over \$5000. The second amendment modified second 2.8 Competitive Bidding

on page 9 to read: “Grantee agrees that all procurement transactions involving the use of state funds shall be conducted in a manner that provides maximum open and free competition, consistent with the Grantee’s purchasing policies. Sole source contracts should be negotiated to the extent that such negotiation is possible. Attorney contract for representation of indigent or partially indigent defendants, contracts for managed assigned counsel coordinators, all direct service providers who are members of the defense team, and those involved in research and data collection required by the MIDC Act, are exempt from a competitive bid process but must meet standard internal procurement policies, as applicable.” Commissioner Green second. The motion carried.

The Commission reviewed a request by staff to allow the MIDC’s Deputy Director to prepare and submit an amicus brief in the case of *People v Pamela Jean Taylor*, MSC Case No. 168814. Commissioner Green moved that this request be approved. Commissioner Walker seconded. The motion carried.

Chair Brame briefly left the meeting and Vice Chair VerHeulen assumed the role of Chair in her absence.

Executive Committee

Vice Chair VerHeulen gave an overview of the Executive Committee’s meeting.

Ms. McCowan reviewed the meeting of the Training and Evaluation and Indigence and Compensation Committees.

Commissioner Walker provided an update on the Ad hoc Committee on Rural Attorney Shortages.

MIDC Standards Implementation

FY26 Compliance Plan and Cost Analysis Changes

Ms. McCowan gave an overview of the recommendation to change Van Buren County’s compliance plan. No additional funding is required for the request. Commissioner McAvoy moved that the compliance plan change for Van Buren County be approved. Commissioner Walker seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. McCowan gave an overview of the recommendation to change Wayne County’s compliance plan. No additional funding is needed in FY26 to facilitate this change. Commissioner DeLeeuw moved that the recommendation be approved. Commissioner Green seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. McCowan gave an overview of the requests submitted by systems for reimbursement for overspending in FY25 or that have demonstrated projected additional funding needs in FY26. The following systems have requested modifications to their cost analyses:

	FY26 Approved Funding (total costs)	Additional Funding Requested	Revised FY26 total system costs
Antrim County	\$529,331.08	\$125,000.00	\$654,331.08
City of Detroit	\$7,634,539.32	\$437,444.31	\$8,071,983.63
City of Dearborn Heights	\$379,285.29	\$141,503.96	\$520,789.25
City of Livonia	\$761,683.43	\$151,283.00	\$912,966.43

City of Romulus	\$238,901.43	\$82,000.00	\$320,901.43
City of Roseville	\$1,277,041.52	\$220,000.00	\$1,497,041.52
City of St Clair Shores	\$263,504.73	\$157,894.00	\$421,398.73
City of Shelby Township	\$535,444.00	\$200,000.00	\$735,444.00
City of Sterling Heights	\$848,791.32	\$189,550.19	\$1,038,341.51
City of Wyandotte	\$355,056.60	\$85,000.00	\$440,056.60
Clare County	\$1,202,323.95	\$662,759.23	\$1,865,083.18
Gratiot County	\$1,283,571.23	\$237,419.00	\$1,520,990.23
Grosse Ile Township	\$404,040.00	\$55,000.00	\$459,040.00
Iosco County	\$677,143.62	\$98,821.26	\$775,964.88
Mason County	\$1,045,472.94	\$18,046.86	\$1,063,519.80
Sanilac County	\$643,196.86	\$72,493.76	\$715,690.62
Total		\$2,934,215.57	

Judge Fisher moved that funding be increased in FY26 for the systems listed above.

Commissioner Brame resumed the role of Chair at 11:30 am. The Commission recessed for 30 minutes.

FY27 Compliance Plans and Cost Analyses

Ms. McCowan presented an overview of the FY27 compliance plan and cost analysis submitted by the City of Eastpointe. Staff recommends disapproval of the compliance plan and cost analysis. Commissioner VerHeulen moved that the staff recommendation be adopted. Commissioner Vanderberg seconded. The motion carried.

Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, and St. Clair Counties

Ms. Wangler presented an overview of the compliance plan review process and of the plans submitted by this region.

Staff recommends the approval of the compliance plan and cost analysis for the following systems:

- Charter Township of Shelby
- Charter Township of Waterford
- City of Madison Heights
- City of Pontiac
- City of Roseville
- City of Royal Oak
- City of Sterling Heights
- City of Warren

Commissioner McAvoy moved that the compliance plans and cost analyses be approved for the systems listed above. Commissioner Walker seconded. The motion carried.

Staff recommends the approval of the compliance plan and a portion of the cost analysis be approved for the following systems:

- City of Birmingham
- City of Farmington
- City of Ferndale
- City of Hazel Park
- City of Oak Park
- City of Southfield
- City of St Clair Shores
- Clinton Township
- Lapeer County
- Macomb County
- Oakland County
- St. Clair County

Judge Mathes moved that the compliance plans and a portion of the cost analyses be approved for the systems listed above. Commissioner Hays seconded. The motion carried. Commissioner Krizan abstained from the vote.

Northern Michigan Region

Lauren Calef provided an overview of the plans submitted by systems within the region.

Staff recommends approval of the compliance plan and cost analysis be approved for the following systems:

- Antrim County
- Charlevoix County
- Iron County
- Otsego County

Commissioner Huang moved that the compliance plans and cost analyses for the systems listed above be approved. Commissioner VerHeulen seconded. The motion carried.

Staff recommends approval of the compliance plans and a portion of the cost analyses for the following systems:

- Alger County
- Cheboygan County
- Chippewa County
- Crawford County
- Emmet County
- Gogebic County

- Grand Traverse County
- Houghton County
- Kalkaska County
- Leelanau County
- Luce County
- Mackinac County
- Manistee County
- Marquette County
- Menominee County
- Ontonagon County
- Presque Isle County
- Schoolcraft County
- Wexford County

Judge Mathes moved that the compliance plans and a portion of the cost analyses be approved for the systems listed above. Commissioner DeLeeuw seconded. The motion carried.

Western Michigan

Joseph Kanan provided an overview of the systems within the region.

Staff recommends the approval of Cass County's compliance plan and cost analysis. Commissioner Vanderberg moved that the staff recommendation be adopted. Commissioner Krizan seconded. The motion carried.

Staff recommends that the compliance plans and a portion of the cost analyses submitted by the systems listed below be approved:

- Allegan County
- Barry County
- Berrien County
- Branch County
- Calhoun County
- City of Grand Rapids
- Ionia County
- Kalamazoo County
- Kent County
- Montcalm County
- Muskegon County
- Ottawa County
- St. Joseph County
- Van Buren County

Commissioner McAvoy moved that the compliance plans and a portion of the cost analyses submitted by the systems listed above be approved. Commissioner Hays seconded. The motion carried. Commissioner Vanderberg and Judge Mathes abstained from the vote.

South Central Michigan

Nicole Walter provided an overview of the compliance plans submitted by the systems within her region.

Staff recommends the approval of the compliance plans and approval of a portion of the cost analyses for the systems listed below:

- Clinton County
- Eaton County
- Genesee County
- Gratiot County
- Hillsdale County
- Ingham County
- Jackson County
- Lenawee County
- Livingston County
- Monroe County
- Shiawassee County
- Washtenaw County

Commissioner Vanderberg moved that the compliance plans and a portion of the cost analyses for the systems listed above be approved. Commissioner Huang seconded. The motion carried. Commissioner DeLeeuw abstained from the vote.

Wayne County

Jessica Paladino provided an overview of the compliance plans submitted by the systems within the region.

Staff recommends the approval of the compliance plans and cost analyses submitted by the following systems:

- City of Allen Park
- City of Garden City
- City of Grosse Pointe
- City of Grosse Pointe Park
- City of Harper Woods
- City of Inkster
- City of Southgate

Judge Mathes moved that the compliance plans and cost analyses submitted by the systems listed above be approved. Commissioner Krizan seconded. The motion carried.

Staff recommends the approval of the compliance plans and the partial approval of the cost analyses for the following systems:

- Canton Township
- City of Dearborn
- City of Dearborn Heights
- City of Detroit
- City of Grosse Pointe Farms
- City of Grosse Pointe Woods
- City of Hamtramck
- City of Highland Park
- City of Lincoln Park
- City of Livonia
- City of Romulus
- City of Taylor
- City of Wayne
- City of Westland
- City of Wyandotte
- Grosse Ile Township
- Township of Redford
- Wayne County

Commissioner McAvoy moved that the compliance plans and a portion of the cost analyses for the systems listed above be approved. Commissioner Hays seconded. The motion carried.

Mid-Michigan

Matthew Lozen gave an overview of the compliance plans submitted by the systems within his region.

Staff recommends the approval of the compliance plan and cost analysis for the following systems:

- Alpena County
- Arenac County
- Midland County
- Roscommon County

Commissioner VerHeulen moved that the compliance plans and cost analyses for the systems listed above be approved. Commissioner Vanderberg seconded. The motion carried.

Staff recommends the approval of the compliance plan and a portion of the cost analysis for the following systems:

- Alcona County
- Bay County

- Clare County
- Huron County
- Iosco County
- Isabella County
- Lake County
- Mason County
- Mecosta County
- Montmorency County
- Newaygo County
- Oceana County
- Ogemaw County
- Osceola County
- Oscoda County
- Saginaw County
- Sanilac County
- Tuscola County

Judge Mathes moved that the compliance plan and a portion of the cost analysis be approved for the systems listed above. Commissioner Green seconded. The motion carried.

Chair Brame adjourned the meeting at 1:45 pm.