

Isabella County Human Rights Committee
January 5th, 2026 @ 5:15 p.m.
Meeting held at the Isabella County Commission on Aging

PRESENT:

Donna Giuliani - Chairperson	Laura Gourlay - Vice Chairperson	Nicole Hagle - Secretary
James Moreno - County Commission	Amy Pershbacher	Phillip Mikus
Stephanie Dunn	Danny McQuarters	Russ Hyde
Amy Shawboose- Virtual		

ABSENT: (NOTE - Excused / Unexcused is kept on a separate [spreadsheet](#))

	Sarjit Chowdhary	Maureen Eke

- I. Welcome and Call to Order @ 5:15
- II. Land Acknowledgement
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Amendment proposed: Move the elections to the top of the agenda.
 - B. Amy P. motioned, Stephanie D. seconded
- IV. Vote on executive committee membership
 - A. Chairperson - Donna Giuliani (nominated by Laura G.)
 - B. Vice chairperson - Laura Gourlay (nominated by Donna G.)
 - C. Secretary - Nicole Hagle (nominated by Donna G.)
- V. Old Business
 - A. Secretary's Report: Nicole Hagle
 1. Minutes for December. Danny M. moved to approve. Stephanie D. seconded. Motion carried.
 - B. Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Liaison Report: Amy Shawboose
 1. The tribe is gearing up for a tribal membership meeting and the new tribal council will be introduced.
 2. Yesterday, 1/4/25, was National Ribbon Skirt Awareness Week
 - C. Central Michigan University Liaison Report: Maureen Eke or Danny McQuarters
 1. MLK is Monday, 1/19/25. The brunch is at 8:30 a.m. at Finch Fieldhouse.
 2. Mainstage is January 30th

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3. February 18-20: Klymyshyn Symposium (formerly Diversity Symposium)

D. Isabella County Public Schools Liaison Report: Laura Gourlay

1. Peacemaking Awards are on January 19th @ 6 p.m. All are invited; it is a public event. Students k-12 who are recognized as “peacemakers” in the public schools.

E. Safety Report: Paul Lauria, Mt. Pleasant Public Safety

1. The training calendar for the year is being finalized and will be shared

F. Community Engagement report:

1. Winter (Christmas) Parade in Downtown, Dec 6th.
 - a) It went well, the parade had a good turnout
2. *Upcoming* MLK Brunch at CMU Jan. 19th
 - a) Nicole will send an email around for a signup
3. *Upcoming* Mainstage at CMU Jan. 30 about 2:00 until 5:00
 - a) There is a \$50 fee that Donna will check with Brian Smith about funding.

G. Bylaw update

1. Bylaws were passed in December, and Donna sent everything to Julie
2. The Bylaws were struck from the agenda, and Donna is working with Brian Smith to get it on the agenda for January.

H. HRC year-end [presentation](#) update

1. The ICHRC year-end presentation was not on the agenda for December
2. The Commissioners are interested in a shorter update
3. Donna will talk to Brian Smith about what the County Commission would like presented to them.
4. Director Lauria spoke to the value of the ICHRC
5. Danny M. indicated that he would like to see the ICHRC be more “forward-facing” in the community.

I. Subcommittees

1. Microaggression grant collaboration, Education Subcommittee
 - a) The subcommittee met and discussed options
 - b) The plan will be put in writing by the subcommittee to be approved by the committee as a whole.

VI. New Business

A. Climate setting for 2026

1. Professional conduct

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- a) We would like to move forward as passionate, empathetic, and professional individuals.
 - b) The “ouch,” “oops” strategy was suggested.
 - c) We are interested in moving forward respectfully and without judgment
2. Presentation expectations
 - a) Members will bring suggestions to the February meeting as to what we would like to hear from each entity that presents.

VII. Additional Business

1. We need to lean into “data and assessment,” as indicated in our bylaws. We will put it on a future agenda
2. We should consider writing grants.

VIII. Public Comments: 3 minutes per speaker

IX. Next meeting February 2, 2026, 5:15 PM, Isabella County Commission on Aging

X. Adjournment @ 6:30

Human Rights Committee 2026 Meeting Dates

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

July 6

August 3

September 14 (September 7 is Labor Day)

October 5

November 2

December 7

Human Rights Committee Opportunities for Involvement

Jan. 19

MLK Brunch at CMU

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Jan. 30	Main Stage at CMU
March 21	CMU Celebrating Life Pow Wow
April 23-26	Shepherd Maple Syrup Festival (register in March)
May – Oct.	Farmer's Market - We need to register to host a table
May 28-30	Special Olympics Michigan Summer Games
June 6	Honoring, Healing, and Remembering Ceremony
June	Pop Up Pride in the Park (registration open in February)
June 19	Juneteenth
July 24-26	42nd Annual Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Powwow
August 1st?	Isabella County Fair
September	Michigan Response to Hate conference, Lansing Mi.
Sept. 19th?	Let Peace Reign
Sept. 21	International Day of Peace
Oct.	CMU Homecoming Parade
Dec. 5	Winter (Christmas) Parade in Downtown
1st Fridays of the month	Isabella County Community Collaborative