Isabella County Human Rights Committee
February 2nd, 2026 @ 5:15 p.m.
Meeting held at the Isabella County Commission on Aging

PRESENT:

Nicole Hagle - Secretary	Maureen Eke	Sarvjit Chowdhary
Amy Pershbacher	Russ Hyde	Phillip Mikus - Virtual
Stephanie Dunn		James Moreno - County Commission

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

Amy Shawboose	Danny McQuarters	
Donna Giuliani - Chairperson	Laura Gourlay - Vice Chairperson	

I. Welcome and Call to Order @ 5:15

II. Land Acknowledgement

    A. The Isabella County Human Rights is honored to acknowledge the Anishinaabe people whose traditional land we are gathered on today. To recognize the Anishinaabe people and their ancestral land is our expression of gratitude and appreciation, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on this land since time immemorial and whose land on which the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe have resided and who have continued to reside on for centuries. We feel it is important to understand the long-standing history of this land and to seek to understand our place within that history.

III. Approval of Agenda Phil moved to approve the agenda. Stephanie Dunn - Motion carries.

IV. Old Business

    A. Secretary's Report: Nicole Hagle
        1. Minutes for January - Russ moved to approve the minutes, Stephanie seconded - motion passes.

    B. Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Liaison Report: Amy Shawboose
        1. The tribal community is concerned about the presence of ICE
        2. There is a public [statement](#) from Tribal Council available on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Website.

    C. Central Michigan University Liaison Report: Maureen Eke or Danny McQuarters
        1. CMU usually does black history month events, and details will be on their website. This [Flyer](#) has events listed.

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D. Isabella County Public Schools Liaison Report: Laura Gourlay
    1.
E. Safety Report: Paul Lauria, Mt. Pleasant Public Safety (Not Present)
F. Community Engagement report:
    1. MLK Brunch at CMU Jan. 19th -
        a) HRC Members attended and the event was packed.
    2. Peace Making Awards at Mt. Pleasant High School Jan. 19th
        a) This event was rescheduled for Feb 2nd
    3. Mainstage at CMU Jan. 30
        a) Jim Moreno went. It took place in the SAC
        b) His observation is that most students are unaware of the existence of the Human Rights Committee
    4. *Upcoming* Klymyshyn Symposium at CMU Feb. 18-20th
        a) Click the link above to see the updated events.
G. Subcommittees
    1. Microaggression grant collaboration, Education Subcommittee
        a) Flyer for the contest has been emailed to all Committee members for review and recommendation.
        b) Animations will be used to educate our community
        c) We would like to approve it at the next HRC meeting.
    2. Law enforcement subcommittee: present draft of the new incident report for consideration.
        a) Concern about the word "violator." Could we consider "offender"? If it is used to create consistency, then it should not be changed.
        b) We'd like to have Director Lauria here to discuss this further
        c) We'd like to see what other human rights committees use

V. New Business

    A. 2026 incident report, a revisit to a 2024 unresolved complaint

        1. D. Giuliani sent letter acknowledging receipt
        2. Appoint an investigative committee
            a) Nicole will email the disability subcommittee with the complaint to get 2 volunteers.
        3. Establish initial committee meeting prior to February 9th.
            a) This will be established via email.
    B. Assessment, data, accountability
        1. Bylaws
            a) Donna is working on making sure that the bylaws get in front of the commission for review and approval.

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2. Attendance
   a) We are tracking attendance at meetings and events for compliance with the bylaws.
3. Incident tracking
   a) We would like to improve our tracking mechanism
   b) This begins with the modification of the intake form and creation of the investigation process mentioned previously in this meeting.

VII. Additional Business

1. City commission is talking about creating a tenants rights committee, and Maureen reports that we might be able to work with them.
2. We'd like to establish a process for passing off materials like the banner and swag. This could be as simple as a text thread.
3. Maureen mentioned that the Honoring, Healing and Remembering ceremony will be on the 5th, not the 6th.
4. The secretary usually monitors the email that the committee has with the county. If we do not have anyone with knowledge of the password, we need to contact IT for a reset.
5. The website needs to be updated. (Membership)

VIII. Public Comments: 3 minutes per speaker

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

X. Adjournment @ 6:18

Human Rights Committee 2026 Meeting Dates

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

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Human Rights Committee Opportunities for Involvement

Jan. 19	MLK Brunch at CMU
Jan. 19	Peace Making Awards at Mt. Pleasant High School
Jan. 30	Main Stage at CMU
Feb. 18-20th	Klymyshyn Symposium 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 5th	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 FairSept.
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