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The Michigan Autism Council

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**AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**LEWIS CASS BUILDING**  
**Friday, December 19, 2014**  
**9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION</b>
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chairperson	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Cathy Kirby	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, Non-profit Organization serving those with ASD
Diane Heinzelman, Chairperson	Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District, Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
George Mellos	Hawthorne Center, Michigan Department of Community Health
Jane Turner	Michigan State University, Medical Centers/ Health Care Providers
Joanne Winkelman	Michigan Department of Education
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Human Services
Scott Gilman	Network 180, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans
Stacie Rulison, Secretary	ASD Community (Parent)
Wayne Fuqua	Western Michigan University, State Universities
<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION</b>
Anthony Ianni	Autism Alliance of Michigan, ASD Community (Self-advocate)
<b>MDCH STAFF PRESENT</b>	<b>MDCH ORGANIZATION</b>
Hailey DuBreuil	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Morgan VanDenBerg	Autism Behavior Specialist, Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Lynda Zeller	Deputy Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration
Sheri Falvay	Division of Services to Children and Families
<b>GUESTS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Thomas Lucking	Parent advocate

## **ROLL CALL**

A Roll Call of the Council Members, MDCH staff, and guests was completed.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Chair Diane Heinzelman at 9:01 A.M. A quorum was present for the meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Chair Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to approve the October minutes. Scott Gilman made a **MOTION** to approve the October minutes. Jane Turner **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Karla Ruest reported on the final actions of Legislative Session for 2014. During lame duck, HB 5742 regarding the Autism Reimbursement Fund and university autism funding, passed on December 16, 2014 and is expected on the Governor's desk before the end of the year. SB 655 which creates a licensure program for Board Certified Behavior Analysts unfortunately did not pass. She expects the bill to be reintroduced early in 2015 and is hopeful of it passing quickly. Karla discussed university funding and will continue to have conversations with the MDCH budget division in 2015.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tom Lucking, a parent advocate, shared information and concerns about Blue Cross Blue Shield and Blue Care Network's process of authorizing ABA therapy. Tom's documents can be accessed here: [S:\Autism Administration\Autism Council\Council Meetings\2014 Meetings\12-19-14 Council Meeting\Public Comment - Continuing Problems with Access to BCBSM Authorization Decisions for ABA.pdf](#) & [S:\Autism Administration\Autism Council\Council Meetings\2014 Meetings\12-19-14 Council Meeting\Public Comment - Problems with the BCBSM Medical Necessity Criteria for ABA.pdf](#)

## **Crisis Management Committee 2015 Recommendations**

Scott Gilman, co-chair of the Crisis Management Committee, presented the work of the Committee from the past year. Scott highlighted the end of the document which lays out the Committee's vision, goals, and recommendations to the Autism Council. He went through the recommendations, explaining the depth of each, and addressed his desire for this work to mark the end of the work of the committee. Scott recommends that new workgroups be established to develop action plans to support the implementation of the recommendations.

Council members offered few edits to the paper. Chair Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to approve the Crisis Management Committee Recommendations for 2015 with edits. Wayne Fuqua made a **MOTION** to approve; Joanne Winkelman **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

## **STANDING REPORTS**

### **School Systems Representative – Diane Heinzelman**

Diane introduced a visual process to be used during meetings to improve meeting efficiency. An Action Plan will be posted to keep track of agenda items requiring further action and a "parking lot" for items to be discussed later or at future meetings. Diane also facilitated discussion regarding the timeline of disseminating Autism Council Meeting Materials. Members agreed the materials should be sent out the Thursday before the meeting and therefore members are required to submit materials to MDCH staff by the Wednesday before the meeting. Hailey will reflect this change in the Operations Manual and Reference Guide.

**Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services – Cathy Kirby**

Cathy discussed the Autism Coverage Fund Reimbursement Summary spreadsheet. Cathy will report on the number of individuals represented by the claims being paid through the fund by the February Autism Council meeting.

**Non-profit Representative – Colleen Allen**

Colleen briefly reported on Autism Alliance of Michigan's plan for 2015 highlighting the parent conference in April. Colleen will provide Council members with AAoM's 2015 events.

**Michigan Department of Community Health – George Mellos**

George updated members on the status of children with ASD admitted to Hawthorn Center. He expressed concern that children are being hospitalized due to extreme crisis situations. Work is underway to support children with ASD and their transition out of Hawthorn to receive treatment in their community.

Sheri Falvay shared a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Children's Behavioral Action Team (C-BAT).

Information on the RFP can be found here: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2946\\_43858---.00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2946_43858---.00.html)

**University Representative – Wayne Fuqua**

Wayne reported on several of the universities' recent autism related initiatives. Grand Valley State University continues to move forward with their new school psychology program which incorporates Applied Behavior Analysis Certification. Central Michigan University is opening a new evaluation center to provide diagnostics and treatment to children and adolescents with ASD in central and northern Michigan. Western Michigan University has posted a required supervision training program which authorizes a BCBA to supervise a student in training.

Wayne reported upcoming events in 2015. On January 23-25, the National ABAI Conference will be held in Las Vegas and on February 20, the BAAM (Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan) Conference will be held in Ypsilanti.

**State-funded Initiatives – Amy Matthews**

Amy reported the Statewide Autism Resources and Training Project released applications for intensive training for next year. To date, 20% of intermediate school districts have applied for training.

**Department of Human Services – Mary Chaliman**

Mary discussed the recent DCH webinar regarding DHS transportation services partnerships. During the webinar, clarification was given to CMH and PIHP providers to disseminate to consumers. Hailey will send the PowerPoint slides to members before the February meeting.

**Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans –Scott Gilman**

Scott reported the CMHs are beginning to stabilize. However, challenges remain with recruitment of direct care staff. He reported a coalition has been meeting with the Lieutenant Governor to incentivize recruitment of direct care staff in Michigan.

**Michigan Department of Education - Joanne Winkelman**

Joanne reported on the status of the proposed changes to the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education. On December 11, 2014, the Joint Committee on Administrative Reform (JCAR) chose to take no action with regard to the proposed rules. According to JCAR, the committee's failure to take any action constitutes a withdrawal of the rules package. The Department is considering next steps.

### **National Leadership Autism Collaborative – Colleen Allen**

Colleen reported on the National Leadership Autism Collaborative annual one-day meeting that took place in November. Twenty-six states are represented and hold monthly conferences calls to discuss common issues across states. She said this is a great resource to see how other states are doing things and that Michigan looks great in comparison. Topics discussed include the federal CMS ruling, employment, housing and shelter work programs, collective impact and a common agenda nationwide.

### **Autism Support Services Initiative – Colleen Allen**

Colleen reported on the Autism Support Services Initiative pilot which works with 40 families to help equip them with skills to coordinate services. They are working to collect data to assess family needs, what supports are effective, and what challenges continue to exist for families.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Autism Council Operations Manual and Reference Guide – Diane Heinzelman**

Diane discussed the Autism Council Structure and Committees, described in the Operations Manual. Diane shared a document, 'Work of the Michigan Autism Council', to visually represent how the Council can take recommendations from committees to prioritize the Council's work. Each priority would be assigned to a committee and representation for committees would be determined by Council members. It was decided that the February 27, 2015 meeting will be used to discuss priorities for 2015 and shall be extended to 8:00 am- 12:00 pm.

Diane discussed the changes made in the Operations Manual to the 'Support for Programs and Proposals' section. Diane called for a **MOTION** to approve the Autism Council Operations Manual and Reference Guide. Wayne Fuqua made a **MOTION** to approve the Operations Manual and Reference Guide. Scott Gilman **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Collaboration Matrix - Diane Heinzelman**

Diane presented the 'Services for School-age Children with ASD: Coordination and Collaboration Opportunities' document created by the Autism Council Education Committee. Council members gave great feedback. Diane called for a **MOTION** to approve the Collaboration Matrix. Scott Gilman made a **MOTION** to approve the Collaboration Matrix. Joanne Winkelman **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Early Identification Early Intervention Committee – Amy Matthews and Colleen Allen**

Colleen and Amy presented seven documents the EIEI committee developed over the past year. The documents address how to navigate systems when entered at different entry points and spell out steps to be used by families and providers. Scott Gilman recommended adding a date to the documents and Joanne Winkelman recommended putting the documents on the letterhead. Diane volunteered to format the documents on Autism Council letterhead. Council will need to further discuss how documents will be updated, how to assess whether documents are helpful and useful, and how to use these documents during presentations.

### **Education Committee – Joanne Winkelman**

Joanne reported the Education Committee with have a "High Quality ASD Evaluation Guideline" document ready for review by the Autism Council at the February meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Activity/Outcome</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
Number of claims; reimbursement fund	Cathy Kirby	February 27, 2015		
Provide members with AAoM 2015 events	Colleen Allen	February 27, 2015		Complete
Colleen discuss with insurance group – disconnect with insurance of what is written in the policy and what is being done	Colleen Allen	February 27, 2015		
BCBA supervision scope of practice	Wayne Fuqua	February 27, 2015		

**PARKING LOT ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

Process of updating committee work once disseminated or put on the <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/autism">www.michigan.gov/autism</a> site
Review draft of template for presentation of Autism Council Work
Annual Council calendar of activities (annual report, annual priorities, review of products)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M. The next Autism Council meeting will be on *February 27, 2015* in the Lewis Cass 5<sup>th</sup> floor Large Conference Room.