



**Autism Council Meeting Minutes**

**Capital View Building**

**Monday March 19, 2013**

**9:45 a.m.**

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Colleen Allen, Chairperson	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chairperson	Grand Valley State University
Stacie Rulison, Secretary	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Michael Caine	Haslett Public Schools
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Human Services
Mary Clissold (representing Mr. Sheehan)	Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties
Rhonda Fossitt	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
R. Wayne Fuqua	Western Michigan University
Kimberly Gaedeke	Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Anthony Ianni	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Elizabeth Knisely	Michigan Department of Community Health
Joanne Winkelman	Michigan Department of Education
<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Robert Sheehan	Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties
Jane Turner	Michigan State University
<b>MDCH STAFF PRESENT</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Karla Garcia	MDCH, Legislative Affairs
Lisa Grost	MDCH, Children and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Kaitlyn Longoria	MDCH, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration
<b>COUNCIL GUESTS</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Sheri Falvay	Michigan Department of Community Health
Lori Irish (by phone)	Michigan Department of Community Health

Bill Leavell	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Dave Meador	DTE and Autism Alliance of Michigan Board Member
Audra Parsons	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS)
Mary Sharp	Physician and Parent, Advocate

**ROLL CALL**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Chair Colleen Allen at 9:54 a.m. A quorum was present for today’s meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Colleen Allen called for a **MOTION** to approve the meeting agenda. Joanne Winkelman made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by Amy Mathews. The **MOTION** carried.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES**

Chair Colleen Allen called for a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Joanne Winkelman made a **MOTION** to accept minutes with three corrections to the spelling of Mike Flanagan, Kim Gaedeke, and Joanne Winkelman’s names. A **MOTION** to accept the amended minutes was made by Amy Mathews and seconded by Elizabeth Knisely. The **MOTION** carried.

**STANDING REPORTS**

**Council Chair – Colleen Allen**

Colleen Allen informed the Council Lisa Grost propose a new agenda format to align with other councils. MDCH will provide support to prepare the agenda and minutes at the Autism Council monthly meetings.

Rhonda Fossitt was introduced as Kim Gaedeke’s replacement on the Council. Rhonda Fossitt was appointed by the Governor because of the creation of Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services due to State Department changes.

**Michigan Department of Community Health - Elizabeth Knisely**

Medicaid Summary: Elizabeth Knisely provided congratulatory remarks to the Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration and Medicaid Service staff for the diligent work on submitting the amended 1915 B waiver and 1915 I waiver for state Medicaid ABA services and responding to proposed questions from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Approval (CMS). The intent is to have the program effectively begin April 1, 2013.

Two additional trainings will be provided to the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP) and Community Mental Health Agencies (CMH) networks on the Medicaid Policy Update and on the web application

for documentation and assessment of services and payments. The MDCH is expecting final approval of this new autism benefit within two weeks.

Elizabeth Knisely introduced Lisa Grost as the Autism Coordinator for BHDDA and reported two additional positions, autism training specialist to support the PIHP/CMHAs on the autism benefit and a department analyst, will also be filled. The department analyst position was posted today March 18, 2013.

### **Michigan State Universities/Western Michigan University – R. Wayne Fuqua**

Wayne Fuqua mentioned that families are reporting difficulty accessing insurance and being approved for diagnostic services. He also reported people are still having difficulty with Community Mental Health pertaining to access to services.

### **Legislative Summary – Karla Garcia**

Karla Garcia informed members that permission is required from the MDCH in order to testify on behalf of the Council. It is essential that the MDCH and the Council are in agreement prior to going to the legislature on licensing and proposals. All information related to the MDCH Administration, Legislation and Communication must be directed to Lisa Grost. Lisa Grost is responsible for coordination of all Autism initiatives with MDCH. Karla Garcia meets weekly with State Department legislative staff and supports the Council in developing relationships with other Department legislative staff. Karla Garcia also briefed the MDCH budget, which includes a decrease in Autism Funds to support self-insured companies for 2014 due to low levels of funds being utilized in 2013.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Autism Council – ASD State Plan Subcommittee Recruitment and Operations Ad Hoc Committee**

Stacie Rulison discussed the challenges pertaining to sharing of data, specifically the Council subcommittee applications. Highlights included the need for identifying a way to share information. Also mentioned was the current applicants have selected numerous committees. Formal discussion was tabled on next steps.

Colleen Allen updated the Council on the current submission process. Lisa Grost/Kaitlyn Longoria will be responsible for receiving forms and sharing the updates with the Council.

Amy Matthews discussed the Early Intervention and Adults Services Sub Committees will be populated first and additional sub-committees will be developed in the future. The Early Identification and Intervention document will be used as a guideline for the additional sub committees. The details of the priorities for these two work groups are available here.

Lisa Grost shared the updated Autism Council/ASD State Plan Subcommittee Application. The Council identified the need for a committee to amend the application in order to strengthen the criteria, expectations, and volunteer role position. The members of the committee include Amy Matthews, Joanne Winkelman, Lisa Grost, and Wayne Fuqua. They will meet this week to revise the application and notify members when it is completed.

Amy Matthews gave a briefing of the layout of the state sub-committee plan. The Chair of the sub-committee needs to be a Council member. The Council will discuss leads for the sub-committees later in the meeting.

The Council appointed Colleen Allen as chair and Jane Turner as vice-chair of the Early Identification and Intervention Subcommittee. The Council appointed Stacie Rulison as chair and Michael Caine as vice-chair of the Adult Services Subcommittee.

### **Website Ad Hoc Committee**

Stacie Rulison indicated information was given to the MDCH and asked Lisa Grost to provide the update. Lisa Grost briefed that the Michigan website went live on Friday March 15, 2013. It is currently in phase one and additional information will continue to be added. Please share other priority items and ideas to her. [www.Michigan.gov/autism](http://www.Michigan.gov/autism). There is no longer a Website Ad Hoc Committee at this time due to the website being launched.

### **BCBA Licensing Bill**

Kim Gaedeke discussed the creation of the BCBA Licensing Bill and is working with Senator Warren. The highlights include the formation of a self-sustaining and more efficient process, which will keep administrative costs lower. Additionally a program that verifies certification should be established.

### **Insurance Ad Hoc Committee**

Colleen Allen updated the Council that the Insurance Ad Hoc Committee met on March 4, 2013. The insurance companies reported they are making exceptions to approving ABA services due to the long waits to be evaluated and diagnosed at the approved centers. They reported increasing the number of BCBAs approved by the plans. There is a follow up meeting scheduled with the centers on April 10, 2013 at the request of the insurance companies to learn more about the causes for the delays in getting into the centers.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Diagnostic Work Group Recommendations – Colleen Allen**

Colleen Allen informed the Council the Recommendations are being utilized by clinicians and insurers.

### **Council Grant Application- Colleen Allen and Amy Matthews:**

Colleen Allen and Amy Matthews discussed the need for the Council to be following possible grant opportunities. The Council discussed the need to have a member actively seeking grant opportunities. Lisa Grost indicated she could assist the Council and there will be more support when the ASD Program is fully staffed. Council members are urged to share grant opportunities they are seeking in their standing report and share opportunities with Lisa Grost and other Council members.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Adoption of Robert's Rules for Council Operations- Lisa Grost**

Lisa Grost addressed the Council on the need to formally adopt Robert's rules in order to prevent confusion and provide consistent and transparent operations.

Chair Colleen Allen asked for a **MOTION** to formally adopt Robert's Rules. Stacie Rulison made a motion to adopt Robert's Rules. It was seconded by Kim Gaedeke. All Council members are in favor. The **MOTION** carried.

### **Submission of Agenda Topic Form**

Lisa Grost presented to the Council the new form for submitting agenda items. All members and guest will adhere to this newly emplaced procedure. The form is available on the council website. This will assist in planning for monthly meetings, consistency, and allowing the public to present.

### **Secretary of the Council**

Colleen Allen indicated that the Council needs to replace Kim Gaedeke as Council Secretary. Kim is being replaced by Rhonda Fossitt due to State Department changes effective March 18, 2013. Colleen Allen proposed a **MOTION** to approve Stacie Rulison as the Secretary of the Council. Wayne Fuqua made a **MOTION** to approve. Amy Matthews seconded the motion. All Council Members are in Favor. The **MOTION** carried.

### **ASD Plan Priority Recommendations Monthly Review**

Colleen Allen and Amy Matthews discussed the ASD State Plan Recommendations for Immediate Action.

Amy Matthews presented the Autism Spectrum Disorder and Related Disabilities Resource Center for Michigan website draft. Autism Resources and Information Center (ARIC) has been built from Grand Valley State University funds. It is based off the OCALI website but it does not have an appointed person to populate or manage the site. Discussions included looking for funds and a qualified person who has content knowledge. It is proposed to be a stand-alone site and the group discussed looking into the operational best practices of OCALI. Once launched all partners, organizations and the [www.michigan.gov/autism](http://www.michigan.gov/autism) sites should link to it.

### **AC/ASD Plan Subcommittee Sharing of Documents**

Stacie Rulison addressed this earlier. No additional discussion occurred.

### **ASD Plan Update Recommendation Form and Process**

Stacie Rulison shared there needs to be a discussion on how to capture proposed changes and the process to update the ASD plan annually. Council agreed further discussion is needed.

### **Sub Committee Operational**

Amy Matthews led this discussion which is recorded in subcommittee reports.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENT**

No public comment.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS**

Sheri Falvay announced that there is a MDCH diagnostic / standardized screening tools workgroup. Currently, Council member Jane Turner is working with them.

Amy Matthews announced that there is an Adult Services Sub Committee opportunity on Wednesday April 24, 2013 from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. at the Lexington Hotel in Lansing. Nila Benita will be there discussing successful policy recommendations based off of her experience with ASD in Florida. She recommends that personnel interested in Employees and Adult Services should be attendance. Inform Amy Matthews if you can attend this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m. March 18, 2013.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lewis Cass Building.