



Monday Update

MDDC Newsletter

March 2008

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil

Education Work Group Minutes

March 26, 2008

Attendance: Glenn Ashley, Mark McWilliams, Karen Massaro-Mundt, Jane Spitzley, Theresa Squires, Dee Florence

Phone: Stacey Diekevers

1. Consideration of Minutes

Glenn moved that in order to assure the accuracy of the February 27 minutes, in particular the comments about the Everyone Together Evaluation report draft, that a small group of people who were present at the meeting review the minutes and present revised minutes for consideration at the next workgroup meeting. The motion was seconded and it was approved.

Karen appointed Glenn, Yasmina, Stacey, Neva and herself to the group. Stacey will convene the group.

2. Revision of Universal Education vision statement – address accessibility issue

At the last meeting it was decided to invite staff from the Department of Education to work on creating an accessible version of the MDE vision statement and brochure. Mark suggested finding out what person is responsible for the design and printing, and sharing guidelines for accessibility of printed and web materials with them. Mark will get the name of the person at the Center for Educational Networking (CEN). Theresa will check with MDRC about these guidelines. The key issues are large print and high contrast colors. Council staff will be asked to contact the MDE person. The phone number for accessible versions is on the document.

Two other documents, originally produced by the ET Advisory Council, have a very advanced reading level. At the May workgroup presentation to the Council people wanted a version with easier reading level. We could revise them, give credit to ET for the concepts and refer people for more detail. We agreed not to try to create another version those ET documents.



Continued... Education Work Group Minutes

The Council had adopted the Universal Education Position statement, which was from ET initially. Mark moved that the Education Workgroup only use the DD Council's own adopted version for our presentations. The motion was seconded, and carried. Glenn will forward that document to Yasmina for inclusion with the minutes.

3. Review Education Project ideas for 2009 and beyond. The state plan includes the project, "Minority Family Support to Improve Education Outcomes." This has been adopted, and will be moving forward. The Council will have additional funding available for the FY 2010 and 2011. We could put in a request for funding for projects for those years. We have a list of ideas from a couple years ago, which we should take a look at.

4. Discussion of development of Education Policy paper – identify topic to be developed.

The paper we did on Education issues will be considered for approval at the April Council meeting.

We are being asked to pick a topic, perhaps from the overall position paper, and develop additional papers. They should be 1-2 pages. They are to be used for advocacy. There is not a specific timetable. Possible ideas:

1. Advantages of attending neighborhood schools rather than being bussed to centers, including cost benefits, student achievement and research basis. Who is for it and against it? What are the key information that can help convince them? Group members mentioned examples from Maryland, Florida and the thumb. Marilyn Friend is a resource; she was a speaker at the WIN conference, and WIN is following up on overcoming barriers. It also ties into the Merit curriculum. We need to challenge the assumption those kids can't learn (at all, or at least those subjects.)
2. School safety. Could be part of the previous item. Safe routes to school is related.
3. Post-secondary education. Jane mentions recent news articles that say a high school diploma is not adequate for getting jobs in the new economy.
4. Transforming teacher education programs. Some standards were before the state board a couple years ago that were pretty good. The process seems to be stalled.
5. Over-representation of minority students in special education.
6. Preparation for adult community life, including work.
7. Administrative and funding barriers to inclusion.
8. Pathway to Kindergarten, which is being promoted by the Arc.
9. Other ideas?



Continued.... Education Work Group Minutes

Work group members will be asked:

What materials from other sources could we adapt?

Are there topics they are passionate about that they might volunteer to draft a position paper on?

Which topics are high priority, even if they might require significant workgroup discussion and time?

5. OSEP data and training opportunities. Sandee will report at a future meeting.

6. FY 2008 Work Plan Implementation.

The work plan was reviewed. Topics and issues at today's meeting are tasks in the work plan. Mark is putting a session together for the June Arc conference on using the local data for advocacy, which will help meet that target.

7. Other

The new MPAS Special Education Manual is out. It is excellent. Some college professors use the manual as a text for their classes. Work group members should call MPAS to order one. They are free, and can be provided in alternative format.

The last MOAS newsletter, the Exchange, is out, and it focuses on children's issues.

The rules for the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act are out for comment. Deadline is May 8. They govern rights to educational records. They focus on parents right to information for college students, based on the events at Virginia Tech.

A number of regulation changes are proposed in the Medicaid program. They affect children, and change long-standing policies for reimbursement for children's services. The Michigan impact would be over \$730 million in FY 08, and \$3.9 billion of lost revenue over the next 5 years. Advocacy organizations and citizens need to take positions on the impact of these issues. Congress put a 6-month moratorium on the regulations, which expires in June. Congress is considering an extension of the moratorium.

Comment periods on Michigan Special Education rules have been completed, but no action has been taken. The period for the state to take action on the rules is limited. Federal regulations and current state rules remain in force until a change is made.

An alternative parent's guide for Procedural Safeguard is needed, and groups are working towards developing one. The official guides are confusing. Suggestions and ideas about what kind of guidance parents want can be sent to Mark McWilliams.

A revised draft of the ET Evaluation report is being sent to the work group. It includes the recommendations from the work group.



Continued.... Education Work Group Minutes**8. Next meeting**

April 23, 2008, 10-12 at the DD Council office.

Michigan Housing Disability Workgroup**March 13, 2008**

Participants: Tracy Vincent, Vera Graham, Jacqui Day (DD Council), Paul Ecklund (Disability Resource Center), Nelson Grit (Michigan Disability Rights Coalition), Bob Webster, Chris Hodgson, Sue Hart, Carl Fenner, Zakiyyah Shaheed-Muhammad, Tiffany, (TDN – Flint)

- **Disability Caucus:** 3/12/08 Mike Zelle and Sue, Hart were on the agenda to discuss the need for accessible, affordable, integrated housing. Sue discussed the Michigan Housing Community Development Fund (MCHDF) and how we applaud the designation of approximately 2.2 million dollars to the fund by the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) appropriations committee last year. But, the need for housing in Michigan is dire and the mission of the fund is to provide housing opportunities for ALL Michigan residents and to help transform our economy by improving the quality of life in Michigan's cities, towns, and villages. Sue talked of her discussion with Rep. Hammel from the DLEG Appropriations Committee who said that they had just appropriated another \$2 million for the FY 2009 to the fund. The legislators in attendance suggested we asked to have the funding doubled every fiscal year. They also pointed out that they appreciate and read thank you cards and letter that they received. The website for the coalition for the fund is <http://livinginmichigan.org>
- **2008 Michigan Conference on Affordable Housing:** <http://housingconference.org>
There will be different presentations, which are:
 1. Inclusive Housing
 2. Transportation and Housing
 3. Homeownership for People With Disabilities
 4. Zero Step Across MichiganThe conference is April 28th through April 30th 2008. The Corrie Bair Building Inclusive Communities Award winner is Daryl Domke from the Michigan Homeownership Coalition. His nomination and biography are attached with the notes.
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition Conference:** We had a large delegation of people from Michigan attending advocating for various issues like the National Housing Trust Fund and Section 8 Voucher Reform Act. They were very knowledgeable on housing issues. They distributed these great Advocate's Guides on Housing that Aimee Sterk is looking into how much the books are and how we



Continued.... Multicultural Meeting Minutes

Committee members were not aware of gatherings for Arab Americans and African Americans, which had been held. McSherry will represent the RICCs at the Hispanic gathering.

The Diversity Summit, Continuing Michigan's journey toward equality and inclusion, Tuesday, March 25th is full. The free conference will focus on equality, inclusion and diversity. Baker will attend and provide a report next month.

The council is waiting for the final draft of council brochures. DMB has completed the translation into Spanish and Arabic and minor changes have had to be made. It is expected to have the documents within a few weeks

Members discussed their participation in the RICC Regional meetings and what improvements could be made. Members who had attended the meetings were not present to provide reports.

Recruiting new member was discussed and the need to have members from all ethnic groups the council is outreaching to. Baker will ask Leila Saba-Hanna and Pravina Ramanathan for recommendations.

Welcome to Celena Barns of Detroit. Ms. Barns is chair of the Pentecostal House of God's Special Needs Ministry of Detroit. Each year they sponsor a program entitled *Celebration Sunday* an outreach event for individuals with disabilities and their families. People of color and other races are able to obtain in formations and resources from the community provided by organizations/agencies.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm. The next meeting will be April 14th.

Family Support Work Group

March 10, 2008

Members Present: Joanne Darr, Sandra Killian, Jackie Igafo-Te'o

Via Phone: Vera Graham, Caryn Pack-Ivey, Audrey Craft, Karen Barantley

Guest: Kimberly Maddox-Reihl

Staff: Tracy Vincent, Tandy Bidinger

Welcome and introductions.

Approval of the Minutes

Karen moved that the January 16, 2008 minutes be approved. Sandra seconded. Carried.



Continued.... Family Support Work Group

FSWG Updates

- The next round of Did You Know? Meetings is going to be held on April 22-23 at Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy.
- Special Education Law & Advocacy Training sponsored by Great Expectations Children's Learning Center. April 23rd at the Livonia Laurel Manor Conference Center. Speaker: Pete Wright.
- Parenting Awareness Month kickoff is February 22nd at the Detroit Science Center from 6-9 pm.
ASM's Spring Conference with Brenda Smith-Myles "Planning for the Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Social Skills Development" on Monday, April 21, 2008 at Macomb Intermediate School District in Clinton Township.
- Autism Society of Michigan's holding four spring focus workshops. Visit their website for more information www.autism-mi.org
- Disability Policy Seminar is March 2-4 in Washington, DC. Three people from the DD Council are attending.
- A legislative event is being held at the Capital on April 22nd.
- Free lunch is provided if you RSVP.

Autism Society of Michigan

Kimberly Maddox-Reihl from the Autism Society of Michigan (ASM) talked about the organization and the autism insurance bills. The ASM is a parent organization that has been in operation for 30 years. The mission is to change the lives of individuals with autism. The organization holds a fall and spring conference and focus workshops, they partner with organizations that do parent trainings and provide resources.

Most health insurance companies do not cover the high costs of therapies that have been found to be the most successful in treating children with autism, resulting in a lack of services for children or cost-shifting to public health programs such as Medicaid.

Representative Angerer and Representative Ball submitted bills in the House that relate to the issues that so many parents with children with autism face.

HB5526 would give individuals an option to donate money towards research on autism by checking a box on their income tax form. HB5528 would put the bill into action. These bills are in committee.

HB5527 & HB5529 would mandate insurance companies to provide coverage for the **treatment of autism spectrum disorder**. SB785 & SB784 are companion bills to these bills that are sponsored by Tupac Hunter.



Continued.... Family Support Work Group

Once the insurance company sees autism they automatically reject the claim stating it's mental illness issue. They are looking for the easiest way out. Parents have to tap into savings accounts, 401Ks, and college savings to pay for services that can cost between \$30-\$70K per year for their child.

Parents ask doctors how they can present the diagnosis in a way that they insurance company won't reject the claim. The Autism Society works to educate physicians. They email them information on autism and now there is a toolkit for physicians on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The toolkit can be found at <http://www.aap.org/profed.html>.

ASM also encourages families to file complaints against their health insurance companies (even though when a claim is rejected, it takes parents 1-3 years to appeal the process to fight the insurance companies). It is a never-ending battle and some parents get too exhausted to fight. Michigan Protection & Advocacy (MPAS) usually takes on class action complaints where three or more families. When the Office of Special Education Programs receives a complaint from a parent they know that the family has tried every avenue and exhausted every advocacy effort.

Kimberly said that schools are an avenue, however it's an under funded avenue. IDEA was never fully funded, we are at 17%. Parents are encouraged to maximize every avenue possible. The school will evaluate the child and determine his/her level of service

The real issue is that this affects every system: special ed, social security, DD services, independent living, etc.

Mental Health Parity Groups were alarmed when the bills were introduced because they want mandated coverage for all. They didn't want one disability singled out for "special treatment." Kimberly explained that they didn't want to wait for mental health parity to become law. They wanted to act now and this legislation is an opportunity to get a foot in the door.

How to Get Involved

- Meet face-to-face with your representative and give them your story. This is powerful.
- Get the word out. ASM is compiling a book of family letters. Families are encouraged to write their story and send them to the ASM. Also include pictures of your family
- Join the ASM's email list to receive up-to-date information.
- Tandy suggested getting on the agenda of the Disability Caucus to talk about



Monday Update**Continued.... Family Support Work Group**

- the legislation. Senator Gleason is the chair. She will email the group the dates the caucus meets.
- Families should attend the DD Council meetings to give public input on what the MPAS priorities should be.

The ASM is planning what they are going to do for the next hearing that has not been scheduled yet.

After discussion, Jackie motioned to support the legislation of the four Autism bills. Sandra seconded. Motion approved. The group decide to ask the Council's Executive Committee to consider supporting the bills at a future meeting.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2008 at 10:00am

Transportation Work Group Meeting Minutes**February 14, 2008**

Present: Diane Kempen, Paul Palmer, Jacqui Day, Alicia Rouse, Glenn Ashley
Staff: Tandy Bidinger, Dee Florence
VIA Phone:
Tuscola: Ralph Moore, Rita Wall
Baraga: Mick Sheridan, Harold Sackett, David Sereno, Carl Matila, Sue Meyers, Tom Naubemis, Ben Ranson, Lola Mariacher, Janel LaPlante
Washtenaw: Robin Sefton
Huron: Veronica Albon, Anthony Louie
Midland: Vera Graham
Muskegon: Karen Wynne, Mary Mitchell-Armour
Wayne: Hank Johnson, Andre Robinson, Charles Martin, Stephen Ogundipe, Verna Brocks, Robert Spruce, Juan Clay
Genesee: Ana Boyd, Tiffany McIntire, Zakiyyah Shaheed, Carl Fenner, Charlene Lizotte, Gordon Swilia, Gary Conway, Chris Hodgson, Bob Webster

Approval of the Minutes

Karen moved that the January 2008 minutes be approved as presented. Jacqui Day seconded. CARRIED.



Continued.... Transportation Work Group Minutes

Success Stories

Muskegon

The RICC is working on creating a regional public transit plan. It looks like a millage is likely.

Newaygo

Newaygo has applied in the area has a van and has contacted the RICC and wants to work with the voucher program.

Baraga

The senior center in the area has a van and has contacted the RICC and wants to work with the voucher program.

Genesee

MTA drivers are now doing door-to-door service. Drivers will now have a personal care attendant to help consumers to and from the van.

Shiawassee

The RICC is developing an action plan to make affordable transportation available to everyone in county.

The transit authority has been awarded a "New Freedom" grant for a mobility coordinator.

Teleconference Rules:

All RICCs, especially their transportation advocates are encouraged to participate in the TWG teleconference. Due to the large number of individuals interested in calling in, and the limited funding allocated to the TWG, ground rules have been set. They are as follows:

- The Teleconference site must be at a public place.
- There should be at least two consumers participating in the call.
- RICCs must RSVP in advance so that meeting materials can be sent to you before the meeting, and that we can let others from your area know where the phone site is.
- Please check your e-mail and fax machine before the meeting for meeting material, print them out and bring to the meeting.
- We understand that, at times, you may have less than two consumers (due to illness, weather, etc). That is OK, as long as it doesn't happen too often



Continued.... Transportation Work Group Minutes

- RSVP to Dee Florence at 517-334-6123 or florenced1@michigan.gov
- After the meeting, please fax your sign in sheet to Dee Florence at 517-334-7355.

Questions about this policy (or set up a new phone site) contact Tandy Bidingert at (517) 334-7355 or email bidingert@michigan.gov

HIWG Meeting Minutes**February 12, 2008**

Members Present: Mary Marin, Paul Shaheen, Jacqui Day, Pam Hall, Sharon Brueker, Charles Brandon

Staff: Terry Hunt, Dee Florence

Approval of Minutes

Jacqui Day moved that the January HIWG minutes be accepted as presented. Pam Hall seconded. CARRIED.

Ballot Proposal

Healthcare costs are raising each year and more and more individuals are being forced to drop their healthcare coverage because they can't afford it. One solution may be the proposed constitutional amendment for the November 2008 ballot. MOTION: RoAnne Chaney/Mary Marin the HIWG recommended to the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council's Executive Committee that the Council support and encourage adoption for the following proposed constitutional amendment for the November 2008 ballot:

"The State Legislature shall pass laws to make sure that every Michigan resident has affordable and comprehensive health care coverage through a fair and cost effective financing system. The legislature is required to pass a plan that, through public or private measures, controls health care costs and provides for medically necessary preventive, primary, acute and chronic health care needs."

Allies are joining together to gather signatures. Half-million signatures are needed to get this amendment on the November 2008 ballot.

Motion CARRIED

Blue Cross Blue Shield Bills

A series of bills have been introduced that will allow Blue Cross to dramatically change the way it operates. Blue Cross is a nonprofit regulated by the state and covers almost three-fourths of Michigan's citizens. Blue Cross was created in 1939 to be a charitable insurer of last resort. They are required to provide health insurance to Michigan citizens who cannot get it elsewhere. Over the years, Blue Cross has received billion of dollars in public subsidies to support its public mission. Blue Cross now wants to be like a private insurer while continuing its tax-free status.



Continued... HIWG Meeting Minutes

These bills would allow Blue Cross to operate more like a for-profit insurance company. The bills would:

- Eliminate community rating
- Allow Blue Cross to charge sick customers up to 250% more than other customers
- Allow Blue Cross to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions up to 12 months
- Allow Blue Cross to increase administrative costs from 10% to 30%
- Eliminate the Attorney General's ability to challenge proposed rate hikes
- Eliminate state oversight in setting reasonable premiums

The HIWG considered the proposed changes for Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan and made the following recommendation. MOTION: Pam Hall/Mary Marin the HIWG recommends that the DD Council support the Put Michigan People First Coalition's Community Consensus Statement, which calls on the Legislature to:

- Reject Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan's (BCBSM's) unwise and unworkable legislative scheme;
- Hold public hearings to examine a broader range of options for stabilizing the individual market, and ensuring enhanced access to affordable insurance;
- Review BCBSM's extraordinarily high financial surplus in the context of the high number of uninsured Michigan residents;
- Hold BCBSM accountable to its nonprofit mission as the insurer of last resort; and
- Provide a legislative solution to provide affordable, quality health insurance to all residents of Michigan

Motion CARRIED

Status of Care Coordination Project

The quarterly care coordination meeting will be in March with someone from each project updating the HIWG on their progress. They will recommend the next steps to keep the focus on health care coordination and the lessons learned already.

Medicaid: Our Neighbors, Our Community

Where do we go from here to further the outreach of this DVD? It is suggested that RICCs show the DVD to their legislators when using the talking points to start a discussion about Medicaid. The HIWG needs to find targets for the movie; State Chamber of Commerce Health Committee, etc.

Status of Oral Health Project

The Oral Health Coalition has sent out a survey to all the dentist and hygienist in Michigan to see if they serve seniors, and care for persons with developmental disabilities and what their concerns are in caring for this population.



Continued. . HIWG Meeting Minutes

Future meeting dates:

April 15, 2008

May 20, 2008

June 17, 2008

July 15, 2008

August 19, 2008

September 16, 2008

Program Committee Minutes**February 12, 2008**

Present: Carolyn Lejuste
By Phone: Caryn Pack-Ivey, Glenn Ashley
Staff: Cheryl Trommater, Tracy Vincent

Issue: Welcome, Introductions

Issue: Housekeeping: Minutes of the January 8, 2008 meeting.

Action: Minutes were approved by consensus

Issue: Review Group Process: approve change in procedure that was recommended last month.

Discussion: Currently, the procedure states that the review group should include 8-12 members, however it is not typically achieved. The only change that the committee suggested was to edit the procedure to state "the group should include 6-12 members."

Action: Cheryl has made this change

Issue: Possible new database

Information: The Massachusetts DD Council has designed a business performance management system to manage council projects and data more efficiently and effectively and to streamline completion of programmatic reporting requirements, called the DD Suite. It is designed to specifically collect council data, monitor and analyze council project and to develop reports, including the Program Performance Report (PPR).

There are 24 councils currently using the program. The DD Council is interested and is in the process of talking with DIT and Massachusetts about using the program.

Issue: General overview of current grants: grant spending plan and 2008 active grants description

Information: Tracy put together a list of the council's active grants that gives a brief summary of what each project is doing that includes grantee contact information.



Monday Update**Continued.... Program Committee Minutes**

Cheryl reviewed the council's spending plan. This document shows the amount of dollars committed in the current planning year and shows how much longer the grants will be active. The council has overcommitted dollars in 2008 and 2009. the budget office is currently working on this issue.

Issue: Updates: planning and RFP's

Information: The Consumer Input to the DD Council Planning Process RFP is out. The Bidder's Conference is February 13, 2008, at 1:30pm.

Cheryl is hoping to have the RICC Mini-Grant RFP out by early March.

Issue: Adjourn

Action: Meeting was adjourned at 10:00am

Public Policy Committee**February 12, 2008**

Chairs: Andre Robinson, Jane Spitzley, Robin Sefton

Present

Jacqui Day, Paul Palmer, Tandy Bidinger, Dee Florence, Pam Hall

Via Phone

Robin Sefton, Melinda Haus-Johnson, Judy Cerano

Approval of the Minutes

Melinda Haus-Johnson moved that the January 2008 minutes be approved as presented. Jacqui Day seconded. CARRIED

Legislative Update***State***

The Governor has presented her proposed budget for FY 2009. Legislators will be holding hearings to discuss. There are \$172 million dollars in proposed spending cuts. The Department of Corrections and the Department of Community Health are the agencies targeted for the biggest cut.

Federal

An Economic Stimulus package was signed into law, included in the package is a tax refund for most taxpayers.

The federal budget is near being settled. DD funding will likely remain the same as it was last year.



Continued.... Public Policy Committee Minutes**Blue Cross HB 5282-5285**

A series of bills have been introduced that will allow Blue Cross to dramatically change the way it operates. Blue Cross is a nonprofit regulated by the state and covers almost three-fourth of Michigan's citizens. Blue Cross was created in 1939 to be a charitable insurer of last resort. They are required to provide health insurance to Michigan citizens who cannot get it elsewhere. Over the years, Blue Cross has received billion of dollars in public subsidies to support its public mission. Blue Cross now wants to be like a private insurer while continuing its fax-free status.

These bills would allow Blue Cross to operate more like a for-profit insurance company. The bill would:

- Eliminate community rating
- Allow Blue Cross to charge sick customers up to 250% more than other customers
- Allow Blue Cross to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions up to 12 months
- Allow Blue Cross to increase administrative costs from 10% to 30%
- Eliminate the Attorney General's ability to challenge proposed rate hikes
- Eliminate state oversight in setting reasonable premiums

Autism Bills

The Family Support Work Group will be having a guest speaker come in on February 20, 2008 to discuss the proposed Autism bills. We will update you on these bills next month.

Mt Pleasant Facility

The Public Policy Committee has finalized and will send its memo to Patrick Barrie commending the Department for taking action to reduce the number of persons with developmental disabilities residing at Mt. Pleasant.

Work Plan

The PPC is working with the RICCs via the RICC teleconference and RICC regional meeting to train RICC members on political issues. A training is being created to teach RICC members about voting, how to talk to legislators, etc.

Multicultural Committee Request (Policy Paper)

The Multicultural committee has requested that all committees and work groups review their policy paper and ensure that the diversity outreach is included in each paper.



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Continued.... Public Policy Committee Minutes

CMH Issue (Self Determination/Person-Centered Planning Process)

Access to services seems to be a big problem in the CMH system. One of the problems is a lack of understanding with dual diagnosis. Many RICC members have said they can't get CMH's to do self-determination and person-centered planning. It is obvious that mental health parity is necessary. Council member Judy Webb will be asked to come to a future PPC meeting to discuss this issue.

Volunteers Still Needed: Information On Presidential Campaign

The PPC is still in need of volunteers to reach where the presidential candidates stand on the issues and then create a document explaining their stands in a format that RICC members and other consumers will understand.

Check Us Out Next Month...

