
The Michigan Autism Council



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 25, 2022

9:00 am – 12 pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Diane Heinzelman, Chairperson	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Appointed Position
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, Non-Profit Organization serving those with ASD
Martin Baum	Parent, ASD Community
Jacob Daar	Northern Michigan University, State Universities
Dana Lasenby	Oakland Community Health Network, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans/Community Mental Health Service Programs
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chair	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Rebecca McIntyre	Michigan Department of Education
George Mellos, MD	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
Amy Miilu	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Jenny Piatt	Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Employment Services
Raymie Postema	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Recipient Rights
Lauren Ringle, Secretary	Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Neelkamal Soares, MD	Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine, Health Care Providers
Frank Vaca	Self-Advocate, ASD Community
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Krista Boe	Autism Centers of Michigan, Certified Behavior Analysts
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare
Brian DeBano	Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS REPRESENTATION
Lisa Grost	Policy, Planning and Organizational Support Administration
Al Jansen	Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities Administration
Kristen Jordan	Financial Operations Administration
Phil Kurdunowicz	Office of the Chief Deputy for Administration
Mary Luchies	State Hospital Administration
Lindsay McLaughlin	Office of the Chief Deputy for Administration
Jeanette Scheid	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Children Services Agency
Marina Wyrzykowski	Legislative Affairs
GUESTS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Taylor Barker	Ebb & Flow ABA Therapy
Veronica Depotty	Michigan State Housing Development Authority

Tawd Dorenfeld	Tink Tank Animate, LLC
Heather Eckner	Autism Alliance of Michigan; and MI-LEND Trainee
Craig Fahle	Van Dyke Horn Public Relations
Marianna Fraga	Henry Ford Hospital
Tara Gilman	Michigan State Housing Development Authority
Barb Groom	Mid-State Health Network
Kara Hart	Mid-State Health Network
Jessica Irish	Creating Brighter Futures
Julie Kornack	Center for Autism and Related Disorders
Mark Laman	Developmental Enhancement Behavioral Health
Kathleen Larson	
Joanna Lofton	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Sharon Maniscalco	
Jill Matson	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Jacquelyn Mayowski	Creating Brighter Futures
Tammy McCrory	
Allison Peart	Central Michigan University/MI-Lend
Mary Schrier	Community Mental Health of Central Michigan
Chaunta Tsegaye	Autism Alliance of Michigan

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Diane Heinzelman at 9:03 am. A quorum was present for the meeting.

ROLL CALL

A roll call of Council members, MDHHS staff, and guests was completed.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to approve the August minutes. Collen Allen made a **MOTION** to approve the June minutes. Rebecca McIntyre **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) UPDATES

Financial Operations Administration-MDHHS Budget: Kristen Jordan reported the FY23

Governor’s Executive Recommendation: [https://www.michigan.gov/budget/-](https://www.michigan.gov/budget/-/media/Project/Websites/budget/Fiscal/Executive-Budget/Current-Exec-Rec/FY23-General-Omnibus.pdf?rev=74f81fb47ef94cc8b4f8eb8b808d0109&hash=4543ED81F872CC754DA8FFF5DCAC9C41)

[/media/Project/Websites/budget/Fiscal/Executive-Budget/Current-Exec-Rec/FY23-General-Omnibus.pdf?rev=74f81fb47ef94cc8b4f8eb8b808d0109&hash=4543ED81F872CC754DA8FFF5DCAC9C4](https://www.michigan.gov/budget/-/media/Project/Websites/budget/Fiscal/Executive-Budget/Current-Exec-Rec/FY23-General-Omnibus.pdf?rev=74f81fb47ef94cc8b4f8eb8b808d0109&hash=4543ED81F872CC754DA8FFF5DCAC9C41)

1 Health and Human Services begins on page 113 of the General Operations Executive Budget Bill.

Medicaid Autism Services budget proposed \$287M. (*presentation attached*)

Legislative Update: Marina Wyrzykowski reported on the following bills:

New:

[House Bill 5709](#) (Anthony) – *provides equitable health coverage for behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment* – DIFS Lead, referred to House Insurance Committee

Updates:

[Senate Bill 435](#) (MacDonald) – *expands the Michigan essential health provider recruitment strategy act to include mental health professionals* – DHHS Lead, passed the Senate and reported from House Committee with substitute H-1, awaiting action in the House

[Senate Bill 637/638](#) (Chang, Outman) – *creates community crisis response grant fund and program and behavioral health jail diversion program* – DHHS Lead, signed by the Governor, assigned PA 162 and PA 163 of 2021. Effective date 12/27/2021.

[House Bill 5165](#) (Whiteford) – *modifies CMH ability to pay provision for adult inpatient psych services* – DHHS Lead, passed by the House and referred to Senate Health Policy Committee

[MI Kids Now](#): Phil Kurdunowicz reported the KB vs Hertel is close to certifying a class definition, and the settlement agreement will be the next priority. MDHHS is developing a strategic policy plan and has internal workgroups focusing on mobile crisis, standardized screening, wraparound services, student loan repayment program, and mental health services in child and adolescent health centers.

[State Hospital Administration](#): Dr. George Mellos reported the state psychiatric hospitals are consulting with Matthew Siegel, MD on providing children and adults with IDD/ASD with applied behavior treatment. Lisa Grost shared there is an increased collaboration with Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans/Community Mental Health Service Programs on keeping individuals in the community with intense treatment and coordination, as well as coordination of discharges with recommended services and integration into schools.

[Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration \(BHDDA\)](#): Al Jansen shared the MDHHS is working on increasing direct care wage to \$16-\$17 per hour, as well as intensive residential facilities for 60 patients (12 children/48 adults including those with ASD). (*presentation attached*)

Al shared customer service inquiries/reporting can follow the following process:

1. Please contact the PIPH regarding any behavioral health services for individuals/families.
https://www.michigan.gov/autism/0,4848,7-294-63682_104363---,00.html
2. If you are unable to get resolution, contact BHDDA Customer Service Hotline at 1-844-275-6324.
3. If you are unable to reach someone or do not get a call back OR you are assisting with a crisis situation and did not get a response from the PIHP or CMHSP crisis line, email Al Jansen and Sherida Aikins at jansena2@michigan.gov and aikinss@michigan.gov for immediate assistance.

[Access to Medicaid Autism Services](#)

[Workgroup Update](#): Diane Heinzelman shared the Access to Medicaid Services Workgroup met in January to discuss issues impacting access to Medicaid Autism Services shared by the Autism Council. They developed a communication tool to be presented to MDHHS-BHDDA leadership by Diane Heinzelman. (*Summary of Issues attached*)

[BHDDA Report to Council](#): Diane Heinzelman reported on the presentation delivered to MDHHS-BHDDA, which included, Farah Hanley, Kristen Jordan, George Mellos, MD, Jeff Wieferich, Al Jansen. Al reported these concerns and recommendations are being taken seriously by MDHHS leadership and are working on a plan to respond to the issues and recommendations for improvement.

[Presentation and Discussion](#)

[Increasing Vaccinations-AAoM](#): Colleen Allen and Jill Matson reported AAoM is conducting statewide awareness of the safety of Covid-19 vaccinations, collaborating with clinicians/organizations providing

vaccinations, and are working to increase access for vaccinations. AAOm is partnering with Michigan Public Health Institute and Van Dyke Horn Public Relations. (*presentation attached*) [Vaccination Video](#)

Homeownership Education: Jenny Piatt/Tara Gilman/Veronica DePotty shared a presentation on homeownership education and rental housing education and counseling. These services and supports assist first time homebuyers/renters and can be customized for clients. (*presentation attached*)

Resources:

[MSHDA Homeownership Video](#)

[Housing Agency Locator](#)

Old Business

Medicaid ASD Best Practice Guidelines/Evaluation Workgroup Update: Lisa Grost reported the Guidelines are being updated by the Autism Evaluation Workgroup. Dr. Kara Brooklier is leading the Workgroup and it will be meeting March 15, 2022. There will be several trainings scheduled after the Guidelines are completed with a target date of April 2022. Dana Lasenby recommended it should be within the policy.

Tammy McCrory, guest, shared families are getting turned away from PIHP/CMHSPs from receiving screenings and told to go to their primary care provider. Discussion included families should be able to go to either primary care or a mental health agency for developmental screenings.

Following discussion, it was determined the Access to Medicaid Autism Services Workgroup will meet to draft a motion to be presented to the Autism Council for approval to address the quality and consistency of evaluations. Consideration will be given to include the Medicaid ASD Best Practice Guidelines within contractual agreements with PIHPs and CMHSPS, and other providers implementing autism services.

Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act Resolutions Update: Diane Heinzelman reported the resolutions were sent to MDHHS and DIFS. The departments will meet jointly in March to discuss the resolutions.

New Business

2151 Intensive Crisis Stabilization/Mobile Crisis: Lisa Grost reported this policy will change the requirements for Intensive Crisis Stabilization/Mobile Crisis to be provided 24 hours a day 7 days a week; paraprofessional can be a peer parent or peer young adult; and mobile team members can participate in short-term treatment planning as invited by the family.

2152 School Services Program Plan: Rebecca McIntyre reported districts are voicing concern regarding implementation of this policy change. When an IEP or IFSP will serve as the plan of care (POC), the proposed revised policy for the School Services Program will require a separate information page to be completed by the district. The separate page will need to reference the IEP or IFSP as the POC, include a list of qualified medical providers that developed the POC and include the signature and credentials of the licensed medical provider signing off on the POC.

Member Updates:

Colleen Allen: [Navigating Autism Today Conference](#). March 18, 2022. Novi, MI. Host: Autism Alliance of Michigan

Jacob Darr: Upper Peninsula Behavior Analysis Conference. November 4, 2022. Marquette, MI. Host: NMU BEAR Center

- Amy Matthews: [21st Annual START Conference](#). May 2, 2022. Lansing, MI. Focus on secondary transition with speakers Peter Gerhardt, Amy Gravino, and Sean Roy
- Jenny Piatt: [Michigan Hidden Talent Workshop](#). March 14, 2022. East Lansing. Host: Small Business Association of Michigan
- Neel Soares: [WMU Disabilities Conference](#). April 20-21, 2022. Virtual (Lansing). Host: WMed, MDHHS, AAIAD Michigan Chapter
- Frank Vaca: [Sexuality training and Being a Strong Sexual Advocate](#). 4-part online training April-October. Host: Michigan DD Council, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Elevatus

Diane Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm. The next Autism Council meeting is **April 22, 2022**.

ACTION ITEMS

WHO	Will do WHAT	By WHEN
Jeff Wieferich *Al Jansen will work with Jeff Wieferich on this item. 2/25/22	Send Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans clarification on both autism services evaluations/re-evaluations and autism services cannot be limited to outside of school hours as an agency rule. It will be shared with the Autism Council for utilization and dissemination.	1/07/22
Al Jansen	Coordinate a second meeting in March 2022 with Diane Heinzelman and Lisa Grost to discuss BHDDA's plan to respond to the Medicaid Autism Services issues and recommendations for improvement.	3/09/22
Diane Heinzelman	Convene Access to Medicaid Services workgroup to develop language for motion to improve evaluation practices. Members: Jacob Daar, Colleen Allen, Dana Lasenby, Neel Soares	3/31/22
All	Send April agenda suggestions to Lisa Grost.	3/21/22