
The Michigan Autism Council



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 22, 2022
9:00 am – 12 pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Amy Matthews, Vice Chair	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Amy Miilu	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Brian DeBano	Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, Non-Profit Organization serving those with ASD
Dana Lasenby	Oakland Community Health Network, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans/Community Mental Health Service Programs
Diane Heinzelman, Chairperson	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Appointed Position
Frank Vaca	Self-Advocate, ASD Community
Jacob Daar	Northern Michigan University, State Universities
Jenny Piatt	Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Employment Services
Lauren Ringle, Secretary	Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Martin Baum	Parent, ASD Community
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare
Neelkamal Soares, MD	Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine, Health Care Providers
Raymie Postema	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Recipient Rights
Rebecca McIntyre	Michigan Department of Education
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
George Mellos, MD	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
Krista Boe	Acorn Health, Certified Behavior Analysts
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS REPRESENTATION

Alyssa Hanses	Bureau of Children's Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Jeff Spitzley	Legislative Affairs
Kristen Jordan	Chief Deputy of Health Office
Lindsay McLaughlin	Bureau of Children's Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Lisa Grost	State Hospital Administration
Mary Luchies	State Hospital Administration
GUESTS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Abby Railling	MORC
Amanda Elliott	
Ashley Shayter	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Barb Groom	Mid-State Health Network
Chaunta Tsegaye	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Cheri Ramirez	CMHA-CEI
Heather Eckner	Autism Alliance of Michigan; and MI-LEND Trainee
Kara Hart	Mid-State Health Network
Lindsay Hill	Michigan State University
Lori Larson	Director of ABA for Rebound Therapies
Mary Schrier	Community Mental Health of Central Michigan
Morgan VanDenBerg	
Sharene Nathan	Detroit Public School Community District
Sharon Maniscalco	Pioneer Resources
Tiffany Karol	Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network
Vendela Collins	Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

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 February minutes. Colleen Allen made a **MOTION** to approve the February minutes. Lauren Ringle **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: Lindsay McLaughlin reported Kristen Jordan has accepted a new position, and Audrey Dick will now provide MDHHS budget updates. House and Senate proposed budgets will be released soon and an update will be provided at the June meeting.

Legislative Update: Jeff Spitzley reported on the following bills:

New:

- HBs [5879](#) / SB [953](#) (Anthony) (Irwin) – Provides for licensure of music therapists
- HB [5894](#) (Brabec) – Amends definition of mental health professional in the foster care and adoption services act
- HB [5977](#) (Green) – Requires MDHHS to conduct an annual needs assessment regarding the utilization of residential treatment and the needs of youth who are referred for clinical interventions
- SB [992](#) (Lauwers) - Use of physical restraint in therapeutic group homes for children
- HB [6020](#) (Kahle) - Creates student mental health apprenticeship retention and training (SMART) internship grant program
- HR [266](#) (Calley) – A resolution to declare April 2022 as Autism Awareness Month in the state of Michigan

Updates:

- Senate Bill [435](#) (MacDonald) – expands the Michigan essential health provider recruitment strategy act to include mental health professionals – signed by Governor 3/24/22, assigned PA 38 of 2022
- Senate Bill [597/598](#) (Shirkey, Bizon) – provides specialty integrated plan in behavioral health services; provides updates regarding the transition from PIHPs to specialty integration plans – S-3 concurred in Senate
- Senate Bill [714](#) (Shirkey) - provides for multidepartment supplemental appropriations for behavioral health changes – S-1 concurred by Senate
- House Bill [5165](#) (Whiteford) - modifies CMH ability to pay provision for adult inpatient psych services – reported from Senate Health Policy Committee 4/12/22

State Hospital Administration: On behalf of Dr. Mellos, Lisa Grost reported the State Psychiatric Hospital continue to be at full capacity. The State Hospital Administration is working to open two additional units at Hawthorn Center, which is estimated to take up to 12 months. There is potential a unit could open at Caro Center for Adolescents until the new units are open at Hawthorn Center. Lisa Grost transitioned to the State Administration as of March 21, 2022.

Bureau of Children's Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports (BCCHPS)

Re-evaluation Clarification Memo: The language update regarding the frequency of comprehensive diagnostic re-evaluations occurring every 3 years was released in the [Medicaid Provider Manual](#) in April 2022. These changes are highlighted in blue and dated within section 18.7 (page 164). The department is aware of these inconsistencies and will be working towards reconciling policy for accurate implementation of Michigan law, and will follow proper procedures. This communication was distributed to the field within bulletin [MSA 21-20](#) that was published in July 2021, and in the Statewide Autism Coordinator meetings in August 2021 and February 2022. Additionally, the Waiver Support Application was modified to automatically populate the 3-year re-evaluation dates when the field inputs initial evaluation dates into a beneficiary's case.

Services During School Hours Update: Lindsay McLaughlin reported a workgroup met on February 28, 2022, which included review of survey, goals, timelines, implementation strategies, and impact on current ABA services. Workgroup members also provided helpful resources to guide appropriate implementation proposals. This workgroup was halted when MDHHS announced their reorganization. MDHHS plans to move forward with this discussion and work towards a resolution on this issue. As part of the reorganization, the BCCHPS will take the lead on guidance for ABA during school hours. Colleen Allen reported this guidance has been requested for over a year from MDHHS. Lindsay McLaughlin indicated she will inform the Autism Council on next steps on guidance.

FY22 Autism Legislative Cost Report 960: Lindsay McLaughlin reported the Autism Legislative Cost Report 960 is complete and posted on the website.

MDHHS Current Position Postings:

- [ASD Specialist Position](#): Lindsay McLaughlin provided clarification that a certified behavior analyst is preferred, yet not required. Posting end date: May 2, 2022.
- [Clinical Support and Service Navigation Section Manager Position](#): Posting end date: April 27, 2022.
- [Access, Workforce Development, and Education Manager Position](#): Posting end date: May 1, 2022.

Presentation and Discussion

MDHHS Behavioral Health Reorganization: Lindsay McLaughlin presented MDHHS' new behavioral health organizational structure. Council members emphasized the importance of communication to providers and families (*presentation attached*).

Medicaid ASD Best Practice Guidelines

Finalization of Guidelines: Lindsay McLaughlin and Lisa Grost reported the Medicaid ASD Best Practice Guidelines have been updated to include the evaluation and telepractice policies. It is in final review for posting. Alyssa Hanses will disseminate the updated Guidelines through GovDelivery, and encouraged Council to disseminate training information to colleagues too. They shared much appreciation to Dr. Kara Brooklier and the ASD Evaluation Workgroup for their efforts on the Guidelines.

Training Topics and Schedule: Lisa Grost provided an overview of the 2022 training topics and schedule. These will be online: available to all clinicians, administrators, and families and will not have a fee.

Referrals to Evaluations Workgroup: Lindsay McLaughlin reported MDHHS is considering an ASD Referrals to Evaluation Workgroup to improve the system and policy. Council representation will be on the Workgroup and an update will be provided at the June meeting.

Old Business

Medicaid ABA Service for Adults: Lindsay McLaughlin reported a workgroup met on February 28, 2022. Milliman, a financial institution, was present to provide information on costs for implementation. MDHHS is continuing to evaluate the application of parity regulations and federal laws to ABA benefits for adults.

DIFS Bulletin and Update ABA Services for Adults: Amy Miilu presented an overview of a bulletin issued by DIFS, dated March 22, 2022 on the Affordable Care Act and guidance for insurances in plan year 2023, which includes removal of the age cap for applied behavioral analysis (*see attached*).

FY22 Autism Legislative Workgroup Report 959: Lindsay McLaughlin noted the FY22 Autism Legislative Report 959 is completed and being reviewed by MDHHS. The report will be shared with the Autism Council when it is approved.

Access to Medicaid Autism Services and Issues Impacting Access to Services: Diane Heinzelman emphasized the importance of continuing to explore the Council's identification of issues of accountability and access to services. It was acknowledged that these issues remain and will be addressed by the new BCCHPS. Clear and consistent communication to the field may resolve some of these concerns. MDHHS remains in support to address these items, as discussions on next steps pertaining to several of these have already begun. MDHHS is committed to continue working with the Autism Council and believes filling the Autism Specialist is critical to address these needs.

New Business

10-Year Autism Council Recognition & June Meeting Location: Diane Heinzelman shared Council members have expressed a desire to have a 10-year recognition event at the June Autism Council meeting. This event is an opportunity to effectively increase awareness of the council and promote their charge to support the ASD State Plan, accomplishments and momentum for the next 10 years. Diane Heinzelman and Lauren Ringle will co-chair the planning and survey members for an in-person date. Lindsay McLaughlin stated she would assist with a MDHHS location. Colleen Allen, Amy Matthews, and Lisa Grost will assist with the planning of the event.

Member Updates:

- Colleen Allen: Raised awareness to a recent consistent trend regarding autistic identification to be in a group potentially even if individuals do not have autism. She will look into the trend and commends a presenter. She shared The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers ((NACDL) has a new publication Representing Clients on the Autism Spectrum A 2-Hour Masterclass (Includes Both Audio CD & Video DVD).
- Jacob Darr: [MI-Lend Training Program](#). Applications are open until May 1, 2022 for 2022-2023 cohort. Provided update on 2022 changes to the certification for Behavioral as well as changes upcoming in [2026](#). The program will be entirely switching to accreditation in the future. If wanting more information, contact Jacob Daar.
- Jenny Piatt: Career Exploration on May 3, 2022. Virtual Career Fair for student and does not have a fee. It is designed for students with disabilities to increase their knowledge of career options for high-paying State of Michigan jobs (*see attached*)

Diane Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 11:18 am. The next Autism Council meeting will take place at the end of June 2022, with the 10-year recognition. The date and location are not yet determined.

ACTION ITEMS

WHO	Will do WHAT	By WHEN
Jeff Spitzley	Share out details regarding MDHHS legislative updates	As available
Colleen Allen, Diane Heinzelman, Frank Vaca, Jacob Daar, Jenny Piatt	Autistic identification versus neurodiversity trends; consider presentation at a future meeting	5/15/22
Lindsay McLaughlin	Share out Autism Legislative Report 959	As available
Diane Heinzelman	Send survey regarding June Meeting	4/29/22