

AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 26th, 2024

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

[Meeting Recording](#)

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Dr. Amy Matthews, LP, BCBA	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Dana Lasenby, MBA	Oakland Community Health Network, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans/Community Mental Health Service Programs
Emily DeLaGarza	Michigan Department of Insurance & Financial Services
Dr. Jacob Daar, BCBA	Northern Michigan University, State Universities
Dr. Jeanette Scheid	MDHHS Children’s Services Administration
Jenny Piatt, MA	Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Employment Services
Krista Boe, M.A., BCBA	Acorn Health, Certified Behavior Analysts
Dr. Steven Tunnicliff, Ph.D.	Genesee ISD, Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Phil Kurdunowicz, MHSA	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Rebecca McIntyre, Med*	Michigan Department of Education
Raymie Postema	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Recipient Rights
Dr. Neelkamal Soares*	Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine, Health Care Providers
Frank Vaca	Self-Advocate, ASD Community
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Brian Debano, MPA	Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Dr. Colleen Allen, Ph.D.	Autism Alliance of Michigan, a Non-Profit Organization serving those with ASD
Martin Baum, J.D.	Parent, ASD Community
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS REPRESENTATION
Dr. Erika Dianis, PsyD, LP	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Heather Glidden, LBSW, QJDP, MS	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Patricia Neitman, MS, LLP	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports

Marina Wyrzykowski*	Legislative Affairs
Dr. Mary Luchies, Ph.D., LP, BCBA, LBA	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Maya Bryant, MPH, NASM-CPT	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Alicia Cosgrove	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports

* Indicates the member joined virtually

- Multiple guests also attended in person and virtually.

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Amy Matthews at 9:02 am. A quorum was present for the meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Raymie Postema called for a **MOTION** to approve the February minutes. Phil Kurdunowicz **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Frank Vaca reported – 18–26-year-olds with developmental and intellectual disabilities who are interested in advocacy are requested for a project. See Appendix I for the flyer.
- Katie Oswald –CLS services that can no longer be completed via telehealth. Some people have expressed concern about how this will impact individuals moving forward who were making progress from CLS services [This may be due to [The End of the Public Health Emergency and Billing Telehealth Services \(ngsmedicare.com\)](https://www.ngsmedicare.com)].
- Sharon Manaskalco – ABA services continue to be more challenging as reimbursement rate decreases in anticipation of conflict-free access implementation approaches in October 2024, impact on CMH and the community to have a choice with provider network
- Raymie Postema – the proclamation of Autism Acceptance is found in Appendix I of the meeting minutes.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) UPDATES

Financial Operations Administration-MDHHS Budget: Maya Bryant reported, see Appendix II for the update.

Discussion:

- Phil Kurdunowicz - The House and Senate subcommittees have reported their budgets at the summary level, not in full bill context. As more information becomes available, departments are parsing through information and will share as more information is received.
- Question regarding what monitoring exists for autism diagnostician training series. DHHS is tracking comments and questions to see what information is beneficial to provide the provider network moving forward.
- Jenny Piat – Gov. Whitmer is looking for the public to be aware of the budget and provide more transparency. Different budget tours have been provided for different departments to inform every one of the initiatives being funded.

Legislative Update: Marina reported on the bills in Appendix III of the meeting minutes.

- Discussion
 - Frank Vaca – requested an update on seclusion and restraint bills.
 - Raymie Postema – someone in the legislature is working on developing a workgroup related to seclusion and restraint.
 - HB 5114 is awaiting a hearing in House Health Policy Committee - <https://legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2023-HB-5114>
 - SB 227 was defeated in the House in January along party lines. The balance in political parties in the House has changed again after 2 special elections, which might allow the movement of this bill if it is brought up on the agenda again. <https://legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2023-SB-0227>

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

- IDD and ASD Services Section
 - Project with MDE
 - Providing clarifications on ABA in schools – hoping to share an update in June.
 - Trainings with Dr. Brooklier for skill development and enrichment
 - A full-day workshop focused on challenging cases and 4, 3-hour training webinars. CEUs for practitioners available.

MDE Update

Michigan fast facts shared. See Appendix IV.

LEO/MRS Update

Updates on projects shared. See the slides in Appendix V.

Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS)

- No update

Old Business

- Mental Health Professional Expansion
 - Some insurances, such as Priority Health, are not being accepted due to changing definitions of behavioral health providers.
- Angel Sense Device
 - Working on coverage for initial purchase vs. recurring subscription and a GPS device.
- Self-advocate advisory group
 - Frank, Katie Oswald, and Raymie provided an update.
 - Brief meeting following the Autism Council meeting discussing the integration between Autism Council and self-advocate groups – perhaps a standing item on the agenda to hear from self-advocate groups
 - Frank made a motion to include time on the Autism Council agenda for self-advocacy organizations to provide updates. Dana seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

New Business

- Michigan ASD State Plan Priorities will be shared via the Autism Council website.
- Early On Presentation – see the presentation slides [here](#).

- Dr. Peterson – see presentation in Appendix VI

Member Updates

- Jacob – The Autism Cares Act of 2024 is under review by Congress. Autism Cares Act is set to sunset this year if not renewed. This Act provides surveillance rates, supports NIH, and funds other important programs. He asked council members to contact their congress person encouraging them to renew this
- Jenny proposed a conversation around assistive technology and the Assistive Technology Act for the June meeting.

Action Items			
<i>Status</i> <i>(Open)</i> <i>(Complete)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Target Date</i>
Open	Autism Self-Advocate Agenda Planning	Planning Group	Ongoing

Adjourn

Frank Vaca motioned to adjourn the meeting; Martin Baum seconded the motion. Amy Matthews adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm. The next Autism Council meeting will take place on June 28th, 2024.



**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
BEGINS JUNE 21, 2024**

a free program for 18-26 year olds with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) that want to gain opportunities and resources to grow their leadership skills

THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- RECEIVE A STIPEND UP TO \$450 AND ONE-ON-ONE MENTORSHIP
- DEVELOP DISABILITY PRIDE AND SELF ADVOCACY
- EXPAND CAREER BUILDING TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES
- ACCESS A NETWORK OF LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- JOIN A COMMUNITY OF EMERGING LEADERS ACROSS MICHIGAN

To access the application scan the QR CODE above or visit
www.MyMDRC.org/lfi-program
Email - leaders@MyMDRC.org



--- PRESS RELEASE ---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Friday, April 26, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT: [Mike Murray](#)
517-449-8231

Michigan partners spotlight Gov. Whitmer’s budget recommendations to support employment opportunities for Michiganders with disabilities

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) partnered with CVS Health and Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit on Wednesday, joining local community members, business leaders and stakeholders to discuss Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s FY25 budget recommendations that support employment opportunities for Michiganders with disabilities. The event, held at Goodwill Industries’ facility in Detroit, included a roundtable discussion and a tour of the CVS Health Workforce Innovation and Talent Center.

“Governor Whitmer’s proposed budget recommendation includes \$5.9 million to expand our vocational rehabilitation services to increase employment for individuals with disabilities,” said **LEO Director Susan Corbin**. “This is an investment that will support nearly 25% of Michigan’s population and help businesses meet their need for qualified talent, identify barriers, set up accommodations, and provide consultation and education to the business based on their unique needs.”

In February, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer released her [sixth executive budget recommendation](#) that will lower costs, power economic development and build a brighter future to ensure any person or business can “make it” in Michigan. The proposed \$5.9 million investment to expand vocational rehabilitation services through the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) and Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) will increase employment-related support for individuals with disabilities.

“It’s important to understand that federal funding for vocational rehabilitation requires a state match, so the Governor’s proposed \$1.25 million investment in the state’s general fund to support vocational rehabilitation will allow Michigan to access about \$4.5 million in federal funding,” said **Stephanie Beckhorn, director of LEO’s Office of Employment and Training**. “Vocational rehabilitation provides the training, support and resources people with disabilities need to become self-sufficient, highly productive members of the workforce – benefitting not only these individuals, but their families, businesses and communities.”

Vocational rehabilitation helps people with disabilities achieve financial independence and improve their overall quality of life. It also supports Michigan businesses, helping them develop a reliable pipeline of talent who bring different perspectives, experiences and problem-solving abilities to the table, fostering innovation and creativity.

During fiscal year 2023, preliminary data shows BSBP and MRS helped nearly 31,000 individuals and more than 6,900 businesses. Michigan vocational rehabilitation customers have the highest earnings in the nation. Michigan’s vocational rehabilitation programs rank second nationally for helping customers secure employment.

Beckhorn moderated the roundtable discussion which included Corbin and **Lisa Kisiel**, BSBP Field Services Director; **Sigrid Adams**, MRS Deputy Director; **Felicia Hunter**, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit’s Chief Mission Officer; and **Layna Gardner-Lott**, CVS Health’s Workforce Innovation Talent Center Manager.

The [CVS Health Workforce Innovation & Talent Center](#) offers workforce development trainings, certifications courses and professional education programs specifically designed for individuals facing barriers to opportunity who may not only need jobs, but also additional support to help ensure long-term success.

[Goodwill Industries](#) provides personal and workforce development training for Metro Detroit residents with barriers to employment, including those living with physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities, or mental health challenges and those who are justice involved.

Learn more about Michigan Rehabilitation Services by visiting Michigan.gov/MRS. For more information about the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, visit Michigan.gov/BSBP.

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MISSION

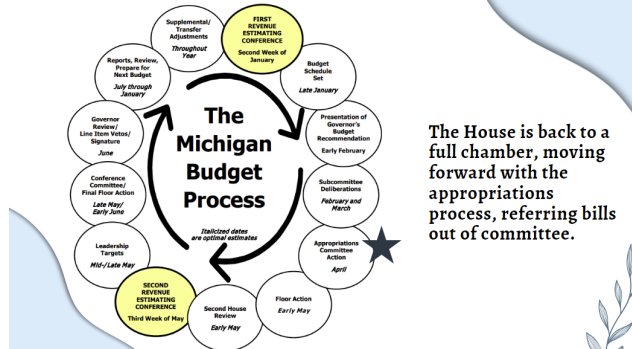
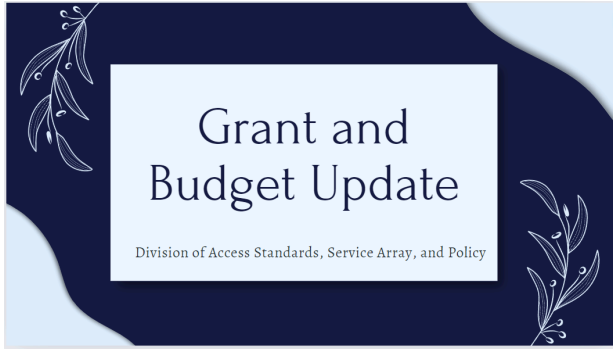
Expand economic opportunity and prosperity for all

VISION

Make Michigan a place where all PEOPLE, BUSINESSES, and COMMUNITIES have the educational and economic means to reach their full potential



Appendix II Budget Update



The House is back to a full chamber, moving forward with the appropriations process, referring bills out of committee.

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Grant Updates

- Autism Diagnostician Training Series
 - Continuing as scheduled. Recent lunch and learn had 68 participants (4/17)
- Autism Alliance Navigator
 - No change – continues to operate as defined, nothing new
- Western Michigan Autism Training Program
 - Dr Peterson will be presenting at the meeting
- Comprehensive Autism Care Center/ Easter Seals
 - Nothing new to report
- Developmental Milestones Toolkit
 - Nothing new to report

Appendix III

Updates:

[Senate Bill 27](#) (Anthony) – *Provides equitable coverage for behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment* – DIFS Lead, 4/18/24 Received a hearing in House Insurance Committee

[House Bill 4101](#) (VanderWall) – *Modifies temporary licensing of speech-language pathologists* – LARA/DHHS Co-Leads, Passed the House, referred to Senate Health Policy Committee, reported without amendment, placed on Third Reading in the Senate

[House Bill 4131](#) (Liberati) – *Modifies coverage for health care services provided through telemedicine* – DIFS Lead, Reported from Senate Health Policy Committee with substitute S-2, placed on Third Reading in the Senate

[House Bill 4213](#) (Morse) – *Provides definition of the distant site for telemedicine visit* – DHHS/LARA Co-Leads, Reported from Senate Health Policy Committee with substitute S-1, placed on Third Reading in the Senate

[House Bill 4523](#) (Hope) – *Modifies eligibility for mental health court for those with violent offenses* – SCAO/AG/LEGAL Co-Leads, Passed the Senate, returned to the House with substitute S-1, awaiting action in the House

[House Bill 4579, 4580](#) (Price, Brabec) – *Requires reimbursement rate for telehealth visits to be the same as office visits* – DIFS/DHHS Co-leads, Reported from Senate Health Policy Committee with substitute S-4 and no amendment, respectively, placed on Third Reading in the Senate.

New:

[House Bill 5525](#) (Paiz) – *Provides remedies for harm, injury, or death of a service animal* – SCAO/LEGAL Co-Leads, Referred to House Judiciary Committee

[House Bill 5549](#) (Paiz) – *Requires schools to create behavioral threat assessment and management teams* – MDE/DHHS Co-Leads, Referred to House Education Committee

[House Bill 5556](#) (Morse) – *Provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-2025* – SBO/DHHS Co-Leads, Referred to House Appropriations Committee

[House Bill 5610](#) (Polehanki) – *Modifies deadline for mental health providers to release mental health records or information to child protective service workers* – DHHS/AG/LEGAL Co-Leads, Referred to House Health Policy Committee

[House Bill 5630](#) & [House Bill 5631](#) (McKinney, Paiz) – *Provides protections against disability discrimination related to eviction and foreclosure and modifies requirements around notification* – MDCR/MSHDA/LEGAL Co-Leads, Referred to House Economic Stability & Small Business Committee

[House Bill 5642](#) & [House Bill 5643](#) (Kuhn, Wozniak) – *Creates bond condition of psychological screening for defendant arrested while in possession of a firearm* – SCAO/AG/LEGAL Co-Leads, Referred to House Criminal Justice Committee

[House Resolution 217](#) (Fitzgerald) – *A resolution to declare April 2024 as Autism Awareness Month in the state of Michigan* – Adopted 4/18/24

[Senate Bill 739](#) (Hertel, K.) – *Allows certain personal medical service agreements* – DHHS/LEGAL Co-Leads, Referred to Senate Housing & Human Services Committee

[Senate Bill 749](#) (Anthony) – *Provides supplemental appropriations for multiple departments for fiscal year 2023-2024* – SBO Lead, Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee

[Senate Bill 767](#) (Santana) – *Provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-2025* – SBO/DHHS Co-Leads, Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee

[Senate Bill 790](#) & [Senate Bill 791](#) (Hertel, K., Santana) – *Provides home help caregiver council and prescribes powers and duties; modifies the definition of a public employee in PA 336 of 1947 to include reference to home help caregivers* – DHHS/LEGAL Co-Leads & LEO/LEGAL Co-Leads, Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee

[Senate Bill 802](#) (Wojno) – *Provides inclusion of mental health and substance use disorder services with the Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL)* – DHHS/LARA Co-Leads, Referred to Senate Health Policy Committee

[Senate Bill 806](#) (Hauck) – *Requires psychological evaluation on a minor in a hospital emergency room due to a mental health episode within a certain period of time* – DHHS Lead, Referred to Senate Health Policy Committee

[Senate Bill 832](#) (Johnson) – *Authorizes making of medical treatment decisions for another individual under certain circumstances, prohibits some authorization, and provides for liability* – DHHS/AG/LEGAL Co-Leads, Referred to Senate Health Policy Committee

[Senate Bill 833](#) (Geiss) – *Prohibits limitations on insurance coverage based on the duration of inpatient psychiatric admissions* – DIFS/DHHS Co-Leads, Referred to Senate Health Policy Committee

Appendix IV MDE Update

Autism: Michigan Fast Facts

Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education April 2024

A child or youth, who was evaluated in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and is determined to meet **educational criteria** as having autism, is eligible for special education and related services under the IDEA, Part B, and therefore needs special education and related services.

For IDEA reporting purposes, **a child is reported under one primary disability category** unless that child has more than one primary disability and thereby is reported under the permitted value “multiple disabilities.”

Across the US, in SY 2022-23, the percentage of students with disabilities identified with autism was 12.81%. States reported a range from 5.76% to 17.28% of students with disabilities identified with autism.

For SY 2022-23 **Michigan reported 12% (25,147)**

For SY 2021-22 **Michigan reported 11.3% (23,092)**

For SY 2020-21 **Michigan reported 10.9% (22,165)**

For SY 2019-20 **Michigan reported 10.7% (22,455)**

For SY 2018-19 **Michigan reported 10.3% (21,550)**

For SY 2017-18 **Michigan reported 9.9% (20,595)**

For SY 2016-17 **Michigan reported 9.5% (19,632)**

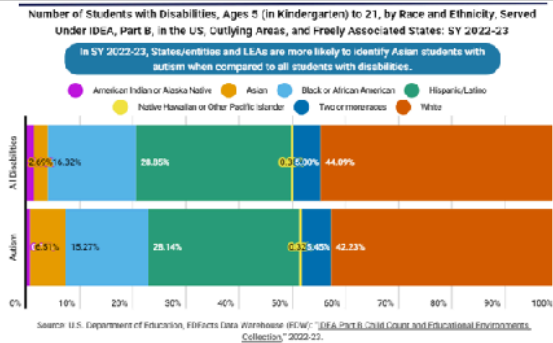
For SY 2015-16 **Michigan reported 9.1% (18,746)**

For SY 2014-15 **Michigan reported 8.7% (17,986)**

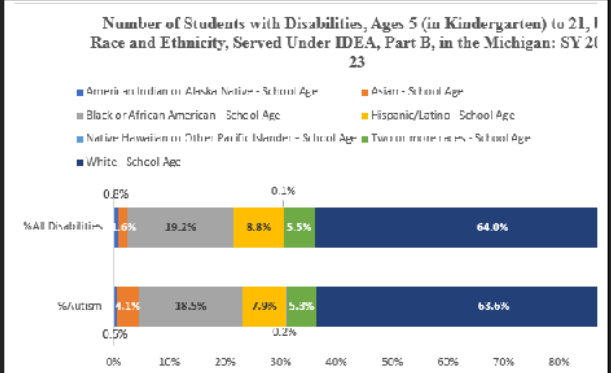
For SY 2013-14 **Michigan reported 8.4% (17,444)**

Autism by Race/Ethnicity

In SY 2022-23, States/entities and LEAs are more likely to identify Asian students with autism when compared to all students with disabilities.

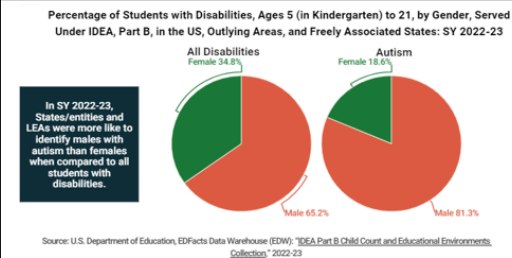


In SY 2022-23, Michigan LEAs were more likely to identify Asian students with autism when compared to all students with disabilities.

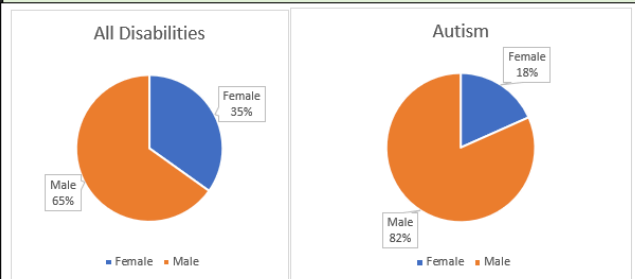


Autism by Gender

In SY 2022-23, States/entities and LEAs were more likely to identify males with autism than females when compared to all students with disabilities.

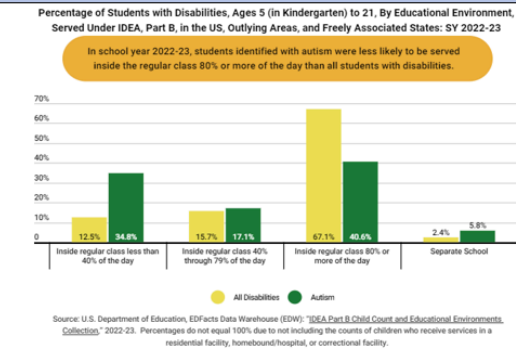


SY 2022-23, Michigan LEAs were more likely to identify males with autism than females when compared to all students with disabilities.

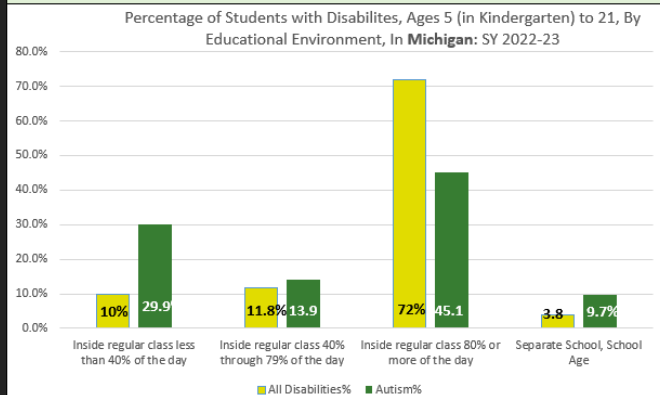


Autism by Education Environments

US Fast Fact: In SY 2022-23, students identified with autism were less likely to be served inside the regular class 80% or more of the day than all students with disabilities.



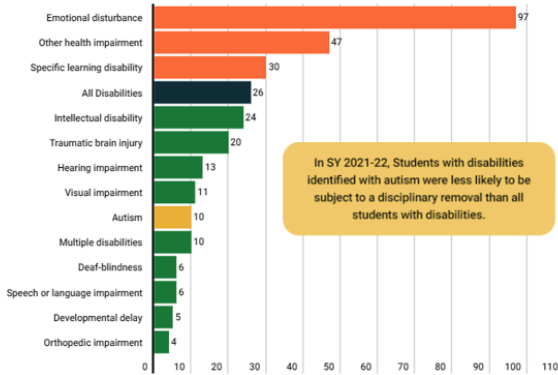
MI Fast Fact: In SY 2022-23, students identified with autism were less likely to be served inside the regular class 80% or more of the day than all students with disabilities.



Autism and Discipline

In SY 2021-22, Students with disabilities identified with autism were less likely to be subject to a disciplinary removal than all students with disabilities.

Total Disciplinary Removals Per 100 Children or Students with a Disability, Ages 3 to 21, by Disability Type, Served Under IDEA, Part B, in the US, Outlying Areas, and Freely Associated States: SY 2021-22

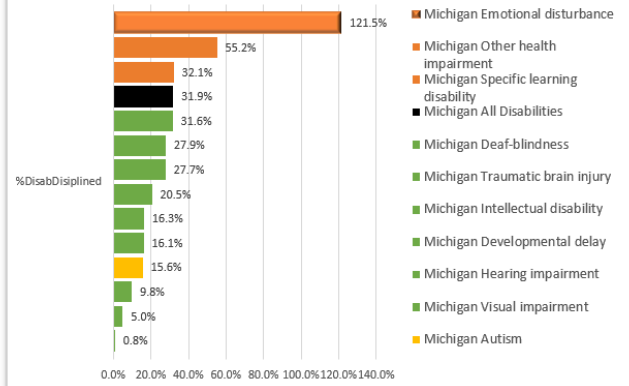


In SY 2021-22, Students with disabilities identified with autism were less likely to be subject to a disciplinary removal than all students with disabilities.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, EDData Warehouse (EDW): "IDEA Part B Discipline Collection" 2021-22. Students reported in these categories may be subject to multiple disciplinary removals.
U.S. Department of Education, EDData Warehouse (EDW): "IDEA Part B Child Count and Educational Environments Collection" 2021-22. Data for Iowa was excluded.

In SY 2021-22, Michigan students with disabilities identified with autism were less likely to be subject to disciplinary removal than all students with disabilities.

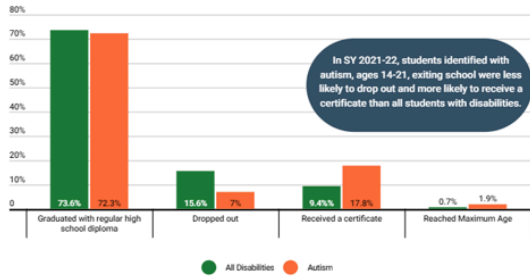
Total Disciplinary Removals Per 100 Children or Students with a Disability, Ages 3 to 21, by Disability Type, Served Under IDEA, Part B, in Michigan: SY 2021-22



Autism and Graduation and Dropout

In SY 2021-22, students identified with autism, ages 14-21, exiting school were less likely to drop out and more likely to receive a certificate than all students with disabilities.

Percentage of Students with Disabilities Exiting School, Ages 14 to 21, By Basis of Exit, Served Under IDEA, Part B, in the US, Outlying Areas, and Freely Associated States: SY 2021-22

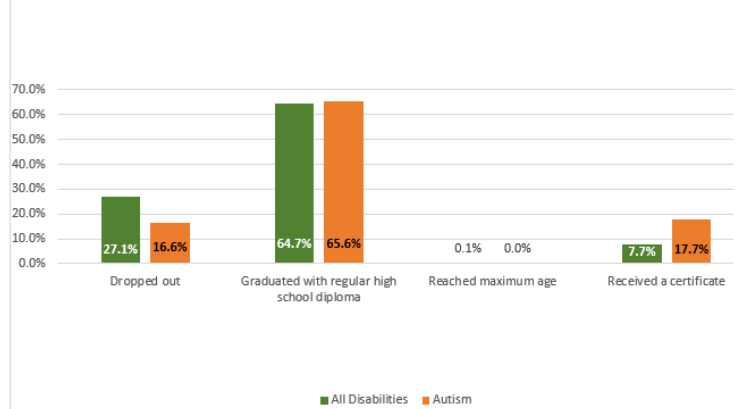


In SY 2021-22, students identified with autism, ages 14-21, exiting school were less likely to drop out and more likely to receive a certificate than all students with disabilities.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, EDData Warehouse (EDW): "IDEA Part B Exits Collection" 2021-22. Percentages do not equal 100% due to not including the counts of children who died, moved, or reached maximum age.

In SY 2021-22 Michigan students identified with autism, age 14-21, exiting school were less likely to drop out and more likely to receive a certificate than all students with disabilities.

Percentage of Students with Disabilities Exiting School, Ages 14 to 21, By Basis of Exit, Served Under IDEA, Part B, in Michigan: SY 2021-22



Appendix V LEO Update

DLEO Updates

- **\$3M investment helps youth overcome barriers to employment success and build brighter futures in Michigan** – on March 1, [press release](#) on Young Professionals initiative that offers work opportunities to youth and young adults.
- **Governor Whitmer announces first-ever Michigan Statewide Workforce Plan** – on March 19, [press release](#) announcing comprehensive, all-access roadmap that lays out ambitious strategies and data-driven actions needed to build Michigan's success and ensure all Michiganders have the skills, opportunities and support they need to make it in Michigan.
- **\$6.1M investment will expand Registered Apprenticeships in non-traditional sectors and occupations for Michiganders** – on March 22, [press release](#) announcing recipients of State Apprenticeship Expansion 2023 grant dollars to provide Michiganders with access to Registered Apprenticeships.
- **Autism Acceptance Month promotes a more inclusive Michigan** – on April 1, [press release](#) announcing Autism Acceptance Month to foster acceptance and encourage Michiganders to work together to build a more inclusive state that supports opportunities for all.
- **Michiganders encouraged to explore high-wage, in-demand pathways during Career Exploration & Awareness Month** – on April 4, [press release](#) highlighting annual Career Exploration and Awareness Month to spotlight the state's growing need for talent programs and services in place to help engage residents in employment, training and educational opportunities.

MI Autism Council Meeting
April, 26 2024



LEO Updates Continued:

- **Implementation of UbiDuo at all MRS District Offices**
The UbiDuo device benefits a range of individuals, including those who are Deaf, persons with an acquired hearing loss or those who cannot easily express themselves verbally, such as some persons on the spectrum or with ALS. This simple, intuitive device allows clients with basic English literacy skills the ability to independently communicate with unfamiliar communication partners quickly and easily. It is not intended to be a replacement for the user's preferred method of communication such as American Sign Language interpreter but can be a very effective option that allows for clear communication in situations such as addressing the needs of walk-up clients or for initial interviews.
- On April 8th Division Director, Jenny Piatt in partnership with **Michigan State University-Eli Broad Business College & CSAVR-NET Business Director, Kathy West Evans** presented at the Spring CSAVR Conference in Bethesda, MD. The intention of the presentation focused on the partnership between MSU and Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), as change agents. We presented on collaborative activities and future planning to move the needle on our dual-customers' needs; and bridge how the partnership between academia and VR can go from theory to practice. Check out the **Abilities, Opportunities and the Future of Work** [HOME | Conference \(aofow.org\)](#)



Case Highlight: Making strides towards meaningful employment

Jacob came to MRS as a 10th grader on a certificate of completion track. Along with his class work, he was active in work based learning through his high school and his school's archery team (even attended national championship his senior year!). In the community Jacob was involved with miracle league and he volunteered at the local park and rec summer program he had also attended as a camper. Jacob loves being social and has shown a strong desire to interact with others. Jacob and his family were interested in social coaching/self advocacy programs, disability awareness programs, job exploration, work based learning experiences and counseling on post secondary education programs.

Through self advocacy and work readiness classes, Jacob has moved from earnestly asking the same one or two questions and answering questions with one word answers, to being able to hold conversations with peers and skills trainers, as well as coworkers and supervisors during his work based learning experiences.

Jacob's parents have benefitted from his involvement with MRS and the provision of PreETS. In an email from July 2023 mom wrote: "This was a time in Jacob's life that I was worried about. The transition to adulthood. You have made it 1 million times better by being you, by being helpful, and by connecting Jacob with so many amazing opportunities." In looking back over Jacob's experiences with MRS, Jacob's parents Larry and Rebecca shared:

"Our 19-year-old autistic son, Jacob, has been receiving services from Michigan Rehabilitation Services for about 2 1/2 years. We were concerned that as Jacob got older and transitioned to adulthood that there would be a decrease in services available to him. Some of our friends told us about MRS and we reached out to begin the process. Within a day or two, we received an email from Sara Kalt, MRS vocational rehabilitation counselor. Sara is an amazing, professional counselor that has helped us advocate for Jacob and his needs.

Jacob has had the opportunity to participate with agencies such as Balance MI Skills, Peckham, Selective Case Management, Disability Network, and Michigan Alliance for Families.

Jacob is his own guardian and is currently enrolled in his county's transition program. MRS is currently providing work-based learning experiences, as well as self advocacy/social skills classes.

Jacob is excited about his future. He shared: "My goal is to go to Project Search at MSU after the Eaton RESA program. I want to get my driver's license and have a job in plumbing."



Appendix VI

Severe Behavior Services at KAC

Stephanie M. Peterson, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
Presentation to the Michigan Autism Council
April 26, 2024

Kalamazoo
Autism Center

- Mission
 - To improve the lives of individuals with autism and their families by providing evidence-based, individualized treatment to advance meaningful community engagement.
 - To provide high-quality supervision of and training in applications of behavior analysis to assist children with autism.

Severe Problem Behavior

- ~2M individuals with IDD engage in severe problem behavior
 - Aggression
 - Self-injury
 - Destruction
- Risk of challenging behavior increases with:
 - Severity of IDD
 - Extent of communication issues
 - Co-occurring ASD
- Behavior analytic advances provide evidence-based assessment and treatment
 - Functional analysis
 - Functional communication training
 - Other reinforcement-based interventions

Barriers to Treatment

- Obtaining authorization for services
- Sustainable reimbursement rates
- Availability of highly trained service providers
- Not unique to Michigan
- Families have a difficult time accessing effective services
- Problem behavior worsens over time
- Crisis
- Restrictive placements/procedures

Severe Behavior Consortium

- Partnership among behavior analysts across the state with expertise in severe behavior problems
 - Western Michigan University
 - Eastern Michigan University
 - Oakland University
 - University of Michigan Medicine
- Working together to partner with others to provide a continuum of services for individuals with severe problem behavior

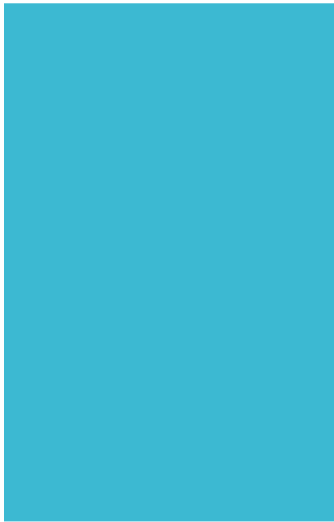
Current Project at WMU

- Add a new service—Severe Behavior Service—to the Kalamazoo Autism Center to further deepen its mission of improving lives of individuals and their families
 - Engage with a variety of disciplines to provide bio-behavioral assessments when needed



Action Steps

- Locate new facility (in process)
- Develop services, including protocols and procedures (in process)
- Accept and treat a minimum of two clients with severe problem behavior (in process)
- Conduct analyses of costs, achieve sustainable billing rates
- Create training protocols
- Hire at least doctoral trainees (in process)
- **Develop and offer at least one training workshop**
- **Conduct at least one off-site consultation (In process)**



Thank you!

Stephanie.Peterson@wmich.edu

