
The Michigan Autism Council



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 23, 2022
9:00 am – 10:45 am

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Amy Matthews	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
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,	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Appointed Position
Frank Vaca	Self-Advocate, ASD Community
George Mellos, MD	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
Jacob Daar	Northern Michigan University, State Universities
Jenny Piatt	Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Employment Services
Krista Boe	Acorn Health, Certified Behavior Analysts
Lauren Ringle	Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Martin Baum	Parent, ASD Community
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare
Neelkamal Soares	Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine, Health Care Providers
Raymie Postema	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Recipient Rights
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Amy Miilu	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Rebecca McIntyre	Michigan Department of Education
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS REPRESENTATION
Alyssa Hanses	Bureau of Children's Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports

Audrey Dick	Financial Operations Administration
Marina Wyrzykowski	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
Leslie Asman	Legal Affairs
Ramiro Galvan	Legislative Affairs
Sara Salamey	Bureau of Children's Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
GUESTS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Ashley Shayter	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Barb Groom	Mid-State Health Network
Bill Pompos	Blue Cross Blue Shield
Cheri Ramirez	CMHA-CEI
Darci Stevens	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Dr. Beecroft	Blue Cross Blue Shield
Ebony Williams	
Edwin Portugal	Self-Advocate
Heather Eckner	Autism Alliance of Michigan; and MI-LEND Trainee
Janet Mara	Macomb County CMH Services
Juanna Cofton	
Karah Ley	Austim Alliance of Michigan
Katie Oswald	Voices from an Inclusion Social Community

Kierra Jones	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Kourtnee Elliott	Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network
Krista Clancy	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Lori Larson	BCBA
Jeremy Franklin	Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health
Justin Persoon	Lakeshore Regional Entity
Lori Larson	Director of ABA for Rebound Therapies
Todd Anderson	Blue Cross Blue Shield
Mariana Fraga	Henry Ford Hospital
Rachel Barnhart	Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network
Stewart Mills	Northern Michigan Regional Entity

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Diane Heinzelman at 9:08 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 April minutes. Lauren Ringle made a **MOTION** to approve the February minutes. Martin Baum **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: Audrey Dick reported conference negotiations continue to occur, with tentative confirmation of the MDHHS budget in July 2022. A comprehensive update will be provided at the August meeting.

Legislative Update: Marina Wyrzykowski reported on the following bills:

New:

- [Senate Bill 1012](#) (VanderWall) – *Creates student mental health apprenticeship retention and training (SMART) internship grant program* – EDU/DHHS Lead, reported from Senate committee with S-1 substitute; passed the Senate 37-0 on 5/26/22, referred to House committee

- [House Bills 6137 - 6139](#) (Whiteford, Calley & Brann) – *Provides mental health parity, addiction equity compliance, certain annual reports from health insurers and health care corporations regarding mental health parity* – DHHS Lead, referred to House committee, received a hearing last week Thursday
- [House Resolution 286](#) (Carter, B.) – *Resolution to designate May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month* – Adopted 5/4/22

Updates:

- [House Bill 5488/5489](#) (Kahle, Brabec) – *Enacts psychology interjurisdictional compact; modifies those who are authorized to engage in practice of psychology in the state to include those authorized under psychology interjurisdictional compact* – LARA/LEGAL Lead, reported from Senate committee without amendment on 6/16/22
- [House Bill 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* – DHHS Lead, passed the House 107-0 on 5/24/22, referred to Senate committee with tentative discussion held on 6/23/22.
- [House Bill 6020](#) (Kahle) – *Creates student mental health apprenticeship retention and training (SMART) internship grant program* – EDU/SBO Lead, reported from House committee with H-1 substitute, passed the House 93-12 on 6/2/22, referred to Senate committee
- [Senate Bill 714](#) (Shirkey) – *Provides for multidepartment supplemental appropriations for behavioral health changes* – SBO/DHHS Lead, passed the Senate on 6/15/22, referred to House Appropriations committee
- [House Bill 5165](#) (Whiteford) – *Modifies CMH ability to pay provision for adult inpatient psychiatric services* – DHHS Lead, signed into law on 6/6/22 as PA 91 of 2022 with immediate effect
- [Senate Bill 101](#) / [House Bill 4414](#) (McBroom, LaFave) – *Creates standards and licensing requirements for mental health transport for involuntary psych hospitalization* – DHHS/MSP/LEGAL Lead, passed the Senate and referred to House Health Policy committee together; reported with H-2 substitutes on 6/16/22.

State Hospital Administration: Dr. Mellos reported limitations on the labor market, with reassessment on ability to provide treatment care services for people with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities. The waitlist at Hawthorne currently stands at 60. Patients at KPH have been moved to Caro for more adequate staffing. It was also reported the developing unit at Hawthorn is paused. Focused care has transitioned to populations with serious mental illness. Lindsay McLaughlin reported redirection protocols. Lindsay encouraged increased advocating from the Council and families. The Autism Council members proposed need for continued discussion at the August Council meeting.

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

MDHHS Current Position Vacancies:

- **ASD Specialist Position:** Lindsay McLaughlin reported no success with securing a hire for this position in recent interviews. MDHHS has prioritized this position and will repost after the position description is rewritten. Lindsay provided clarification that a certified behavior analyst is preferred, yet not required.
- **Executive Secretary:** Sara Salamey has been hired into this role to assist with leadership coordination and communication. Please contact Sara at salameys@michigan.gov.
- **Office of the Advocate for Children, Youth, and Families Division Director:** Patty Neitman has been

hired into this role to oversee the Critical Support and Services Section. Please contact Patty at NeitmanP@michigan.gov for clinical support. Patty will expand her team in the near future, and MDHHS has encouraged feedback on how this team is structured. MDHHS will establish clear communication to providers and families on who should be contacted for specific situations.

- Data Monitoring and Quality Improvement Manager: Erin Mobley has been hired into this role to track and report trends on concerns and complaints that are received in this section. Please contact Erin at mobleye2@michigan.gov. MDHHS will present framework on this at the August meeting
- Access, Workforce Development, and Education Section Manager: Lisa Collins has been hired into this role to oversee the rollout and implementation of standardized screening and assessment, and statewide workforce development and training. Lisa has an effective date of mid-July 2022.

Public Health Emergency (PHE) Flexibilities: Lindsay McLaughlin reported the 1135 flexibilities will discontinue immediately upon the end of the PHE. MDHHS recommends telehealth services to remain in place after the PHE ends, yet will make official statements after internal discussions are finalized. MDHHS will further explore ABA compliance for teleconference usage and report back to the Autism Council. Blue Cross Blue Shield confirmed continued reimbursements on telehealth for their beneficiaries.

PIHP and CMHSP Contact Update: Alyssa Hanses reported requested updates from the Autism Council on current PIHP and CMHSP contact information has been [published](#). MDHHS will confirm all changes were accurately reflected once reviewed.

Presentation and Discussion

Voices from an Inclusive Social Community: Katie Oswald and Frank Vaca presented information on the importance of ASD inclusion (*presentation attached*).

Old Business

ASD Evaluation Referral Policy: Lindsay McLaughlin reported continued revisiting of this policy and the department is working closed with partners in the field for consistent language. Lindsay hopes to have an update at the August meeting.

Policy – Age Limit for Behavioral Treatment: Todd Anderson, Bill Pompos, and Dr. Beecroft from Blue Cross Blue Shield reviewed the memo regarding policy changes to autism treatment services, effective 1/1/22 (*see attached*). It was reported that growing literature on this topic supported this implementation, as well as supports ABA, and a combination of ABA, social skills, and psychotherapy. Clarification was provided on awareness of the lack of providers to execute this policy change. Discussion was held regarding insurance specific coverage, comprehensive evaluations, medical necessity, and Blue Cross Blue Shield's plan of communication to families, providers, and consultants. Blue Cross Blue Shield will explore data extraction based on age, diagnosis, behavioral treatments, and eligibility.

MDHHS Medicaid Autism Services: Lindsay McLaughlin reported the need of an expanded budget from the legislature for Medicaid Policy changes to occur. The Autism Council reported need to advocate, request, and support funding for training for ABA practitioners to work with adults.

Member Updates:

There were no member updates to report.

Diane Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am. The next Autism Council meeting will take place on August 26, 2022, with the location to be determined.