
The Michigan Autism Council



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Friday, August 26, 2022
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Amy Matthews	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Amy Miilu	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
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
Jacob Daar	Northern Michigan University, State Universities
Lauren Ringle	Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Krista Boe	Acorn Health, Certified Behavior Analysts
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
Frank Vaca	Self-Advocate, ASD Community
George Mellos, MD	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
Jenny Piatt	Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Employment Services
Rebecca McIntyre	Michigan Department of Education
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS REPRESENTATION
Kristen Jordan	Chief Deputy of Health Office
Leslie Asman	Legal Affairs

Lindsay McLaughlin	Bureau of Children's Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Marina Wyrzykowski	Legislative Affairs
Mary Luchies	State Hospital Administration
Patricia Neitman	Bureau of Children's Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Phil Kurdunowicz	Bureau of Children's Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
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 and Wendy Erzen	Presenter
Brian DeBano	Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Cam Hosner	Presenter
Chaunta Tsegaye	Guest
Christina Burnett	Harbor Oaks
Dr. Beecroft	Blue Cross Blue Shield
Dr. Karen Clark	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Emily C	Guest
Joanna Lofton	Guest
Juliana Harper	Presenter
Julie Pratt	Guest
Justin Persoon	Lakeshore Regional Entity
Kara Hart	Mid-State Health Network
Karen Everett	Presenter

Kayla Perdue	Kids Speech
Krista Hausermann	Presenter
Kristen Hjelmstad	ESS Michigan
Larissa Heise	Presenter
Lori Larson	Director of ABA for Rebound Therapies
Mariana Fraga	Henry Ford Hospital
Mark Laman	DEBH
Nicole Osgood	HealthCall
Rachel Barnhart	Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network
Rebecca McIntyre	MDE
Stewart Mills	Northern Michigan Regional Entity

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Diane Heinzelman at 9:07 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 June 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: Phil Kurdunowicz and Kristen Jordan reported on FY23 boilerplate items regarding outpatient and inpatient services. Current work is being done to understand the legislative intent behind the legislative provisions

Legislative Update: Marina Wyrzykowski reported on the following bills:

New:

[House Bill 6323](#) (Breen) – *requires each intermediate school district to employ at least 1 mental health coordinator and 1 emergency/safety manager* – EDU/LEGAL Lead, referred to House Rules and Competitiveness Committee

[House Bill 6355](#) (Filler) – *amends the Mental Health Code to set time limits for when psychological assessments of individuals in hospital emergency rooms must take place and defines who can complete those assessments* – No Lead Agency yet assigned, referred to House Health Policy Committee

[Senate Bill 1135](#) (MacDonald) – *provides for the definition of a “distant site” for a telemedicine visit for purposes of Medicaid reimbursement* – DHHS Lead, referred to Senate Health Policy & Human Services Committee

Updates:

[Senate Bill 1012](#) (VanderWall) – *Creates student mental health apprenticeship retention and training (SMART) internship grant program* – EDU/SBO Lead, signed into law as PA 180 of 2022 on 8/17/22

[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, SB 101 signed into law as PA 146 of 2022 on 7/20/22

State Hospital Administration: Lisa Grost gave the update on behalf of Dr. Mellos. Caro is no longer admitting individuals with IDD/ASD. Administrative staff are working within MDHHS to find additional support for in-home community-based services.

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

MDHHS Current Position Vacancies:

- **Clinical Support and Service Navigation Section Manager:** Stacy Farrell has been hired for this position. FarrellS7@michigan.gov
- **Chief of Staff:** Alicia Cosgrove has joined our team starting September 18th and will help support Autism Council as well. CosgroveA@michigan.gov
- **IDD & ASD Services Section Manager:** Working through the hiring process for this position and will hopefully be able to announce in our October Meeting.

Office of the Advocate for Children, Youth, and Families: Patty Neitman reported on steps to improve the delivery of specialty behavioral health services to children, youth and families. This includes prioritizing systemic barriers to access of publicly funded behavioral health services. Patty also highlighted two sections within the division: the Family and Community Partnerships Section lead by Justin Tate, and the Clinical Support and Service Navigation Section lead by Stacy Farrell.

Emergency Department Utilization Data: Phil Kurdunowicz reported on the Fiscal Year 2021 Medicaid Beneficiaries Data regarding ER visits and other services used. (See Acute Care Response presentation attached)

Some questions that the council would like noted:

- What were the services that those individuals were receiving before the ER visit?
- What happened after the ER visit?
- Where did they go?
- What would the services?

Presentation and Discussion

Acute Care Response Presentation: Diane Heinzelman provided current and historical context of the Autism Council’s efforts to improve acute care response. (*Presentation attached*).

A Family's Experience: Bill and Wendy Ernzen shared their challenging multi-year journey to access care for their daughter, which included their recent need for acute care support. Members suggested that council use their "story" to identify key areas (e.g., evaluation, ABA and behavioral health services, acute care, county/PIHP borders) that resulted in delay and barriers to services and make recommendations for improvement.

Michigan Psychiatric Care Improvement Project: Krista Hausermann presented council with an overview of Michigan's Crisis Services System currently in development. The three primary components include "someone to call" (incorporating 988 and MiCAL), "someone to respond", and "somewhere to go" (safe place for stabilization services). . (Presentation attached)

Model of Intervention: Cam Hosner and Larissa Heise, representing Easterseals Michigan, presented members with a summary of Easterseals Autism Intensive Services. Developed in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, this wraparound approach has been found to be extremely effective to respond to immediate need and assist families to access necessary behavioral health services. (Presentation attached)

Guided Discussion and Next Steps

Members discussed the 3 presentations and offered the following during discussion:

- Review the Autism Council 2014 Crisis Management Recommendations Report. The recommendations remain primarily the same, but there was a lack of implementation by state infrastructure partners.
- Lack of training and who needs it – Support training of skills, accessing of resources and providers
- Expand resources due to lack of availability for care
- Expand funding for these services
- Expand availability of students to be placed in crisis cases to gain experience
- Develop state-wide list of standardized training components
- Letter of support for increased wages for Direct Care Workers to assist with retention and recruitment barriers
- Provide input on barriers with waivers
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- Well-rounded care coordination from start to finish

Annual Report

ASD State Plan Annual Report template will be distributed to council members the first week of September and will be required to be turned in by October 14th, 2022. Responses will be compiled and sent for draft review to the council before submitting to the MDHHS Director by December 1st, 2022.

Member Updates:

Congratulations to Diane for 8 years of service with Autism Council for her amazing leadership and dedication to the autism community.

Diane Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 12:01 pm. The next Autism Council meeting will take place on October 28, 2022, at the South Grand Conference Room, 333 South Grand Ave, Lansing, MI.