

The Michigan Autism Council



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 22, 2021

9:00 am – 12 pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Diane Heinzelman, Chairperson	MDHHS Appointed Position
Martin Baum	Parent, ASD Community
Krista Boe	Acorn Health, Certified Behavior Analysts
Mary Chaliman	MDHHS, Child Welfare
Jacob Daar	Northern Michigan University, State Universities
Brian DeBano	Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
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
George Mellos, MD	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
Rebecca McIntyre	Michigan Department of Education
Amy Miilu	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Jenny Piatt	Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Employment Services
Kent Rehmann	Summit Pointe, 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
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, Non-Profit Organization serving those with ASD
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS REPRESENTATION
Leslie Asman	Legal Affairs Administration
Lisa Grost	Policy, Planning and Organizational Support Administration
Farah Hanley	Financial Operations Administration
Mary Luchies	State Hospital Administration
Marina Wyrzykowski	Legislative Affairs
GUESTS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Jessica Corliss	Michigan Department of Education
Heather Eckner	Autism Alliance of Michigan; and MI-LEND Trainee
Mariana Fraga	Henry Ford Health System
Mark Laman	Developmental Enhancement Behavioral Health
Joanna Lofton	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Holly Miller	Self-Advocate
Gabby Naula-Quintero	Early Autism Center
Steve Pastymak	Helen Devos Children's Hospital
Julie Pratt	Comprehensive Speech and Therapy Center
Abby Railling	MORC, Inc.
Shannon Shy	Livingston ESA
Jennifer Van Cleve	Oakland Community Health Network

Jennifer Ward-Kolka	Spectrum Autism Center
Ebony Williams	Oakland Community Health Network

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Diane Heinzelman at 9:00 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. Kent Rehmann made a **MOTION** to approve the August minutes. Jenny Piatt **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: Farah Hanley provided a comprehensive update on the MDHHS fiscal year 2022 budget. *Presentation attached.*

Legislative Update: Marina Wyrzykowski reported on the following bills:

New:

[Senate Bill 637/638](#) (Chang, Outman) – *creates community crisis response grant fund and program and behavioral health jail diversion program* – DHHS Lead, reported from Senate Health Policy committee with substitutes S-1, passed the Senate 36-0, referred to House Health Policy

[House Bill 5353/5354](#) (Whiteford) – *provides for revisions to the Michigan crisis and access line and creates the 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline fund* – DHHS Lead, referred to House Health Policy

Updates:

[Senate Bill 321](#) (Santana) - *Provides development or adoption of professional development standards for teachers on mental health first aid* – EDU/LEGAL Lead, reported from Senate Education with no amendment, passed by the Senate 36-0, referred to House Education

[House Bill 4059](#) (Wendzel) – *modifies autism evaluation review process requirements for Medicaid benefit eligibility* – DHHS Lead, passed the House 108-2, referred to Senate Health Policy and passed out of that committee with amendments, awaiting action in Senate.

Discussion: MDHHS has communicated the Medicaid autism evaluation policy has been modified to capture the elements of this bill with the sponsor. Council inquired on how it was disseminated along with guidance to assure the implementation was standardized. Diane Heinzelman asked Lisa Grost to inquire on this question from the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration.

[House Bill 4071/4072](#) (Kahle/Calley) – *Includes abuse of a vulnerable child as second degree child abuse, enacts sentencing guidelines* – DTMB/DHHS/CORR Lead, reported from House Judiciary with substitute H-4 for HB 4071 and no amendment for HB 4072, awaiting action in House

[Senate Bill 101](#) (McBroom) - *create standards and licensing requirements for mental health transport for involuntary psych hospitalization* – DHHS/MSP Lead, reported from Senate Health Policy with substitute S-3, awaiting action in Senate

[Senate Bill 191](#) (VanderWall) - *expands definition of mental health professional to include physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists-certified, and allow them to perform certain examinations* – DHHS Lead, reported from Senate Health Policy without amendment, passed the Senate 35-0, referred to House Health Policy

KB vs MDHHS/MI Kids Now: Leslie Asman reported KB vs MDHHS/MI Kids Now was allocated \$30M to increase services in fiscal year 2022, as well as children, youth, and family and stakeholder engagement sessions will begin within the next month. If you would like to host a session or have groups to suggest, please send them to Lisa Grost. *Presentation attached.*

State Hospital Administration: Dr. George Mellos reported the state psychiatric hospitals have provided the Applied Behavior Treatment direct care staff and clinical team 40 hour registered behavior technician training in August and September 2021. Criteria for the units is being developed and supported by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA): No update provided.

New Business

Summary of Priorities and Goal Committees: Diane Heinzelman provided a review of the 8 recommendations goal committees prioritized to be included in action plan development. *Chart of Priorities attached.*

Presentation:

Practical Functional Assessment/Skills Based Treatment: Amy Matthews and Shannon Shy shared the START Project's school-based implementation of the Practical Functional Assessment and Skills Based Treatment protocol including a description, outcomes, and long-term goals. The Council members noted the positive outcomes and identified potential partnerships and inclusion as pilot sites. *Presentation attached.*

Old Business:

2021 Annual Report: Amy Matthews expressed appreciation for member response to provide information to be included in the annual report. Members have until October 29 to provide any additional information. A draft will be completed and distributed to members for review by November 5.

Actionable Items:

FY22 Budget Discussion with Farah Hanley. Diane Heinzelman, Rebecca McIntyre, Amy Matthews, and Lisa Grost will meet with Farah Hanley regarding the expansion and new services.

Member Updates:

Amy Miilu shared DIFS has updated their website to add an autism insurance link at www.michigan.gov/hicap.

Neel Soares reported he is speaking at the SDBP Annual Conference Monday, October 25 – 3:00pm-3:45pm EST on “Do you Know What your Patient is Doing? The Growing Concern of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Extremism.” Panel includes Neelkamal Soares, Frank Straub (Michigan); Clare Allely (Manchester, England), Melanie Penner (Toronto, Canada).

Rebecca McIntyre reported there is an increased effort to expand the knowledge of education staff on applied behavior analysis in schools. There will be online modules available for general and special education teachers, related service providers, and administrators, in the near future to assist with this education.

Jenny Piatt shared the following update:

- National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM): October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and one of the busiest months for State Vocational

Rehabilitation. The theme for NDEAM 2021, “America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion,” reflects the importance of ensuring that people with disabilities have full and equal access to employment and community involvement during the national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Multiple events are taking place virtually on various topics related to disability employment – *please check out Michigan Rehabilitation Services website and calendar [Labor and Economic Opportunity - Events \(michigan.gov\)](#) for all upcoming public events.*

In celebration of NDEAM, State Vocational Rehabilitation - Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) & Bureau of Services for the Blind Persons (BSBP) hosted the MRS Champion Awards and BSBP Excellence Awards respectively. Both events showcase the accomplishments of nominated individuals with disabilities, students with disabilities, businesses, and community partners across the state.

- University of Michigan Partnership – Virtual Reality Job Interviewing research for Individuals with ASD: MRS/Michigan Career & Technical Institute (MCTI) partnered with Dr. Matthew Smith from the University of Michigan and his team of researchers to evaluate a new tool to improve employment outcomes for transition age youth with autism spectrum disorders. The virtual reality software is entitled Social Cognitive and Affective Learning Work or ‘SOCIAL Work’. This research-based intervention assists individuals with autism improve their social effectiveness to sustain employment. MCTI staff and students will participate in two, one-hour sessions to use the tool and provide feedback. All participation is voluntary. Previously, 50 MCTI students with ASD and staff participated in the Virtual Reality Job Interview Training for Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities study, “The Molly Project”.
- Employment First is a state and national movement to help individuals with disabilities in Michigan realize their fullest employment potential through the achievement of individual, competitive integrated employment outcomes. Executive Order **2015-15** establishes Employment First in Michigan and helps foster an inclusive environment that will create competitive employment opportunities for working-age individuals. The order aims to improve access to workplace support and services for people with disabilities. The MDHHS - Developmental Disability (DD) Council assists with this initiative along with several department/agencies including state vocational rehabilitation (MRS/BSBP), education, and community rehabilitation organizations. Stakeholder meetings and subcommittee work continues to be underway, those interested in attending or getting involved are welcome, [MDHHS - Employment First in Michigan](#)

Brian DeBano sent in as of October 1, 2021 Michigan has 116 licensed assistant behavior analysts and 1,549 licensed behavior analysts.

Autism Council Meeting Schedule: Members reviewed the 2022 Autism Council meeting schedule, including the following:

- December 17, 2021
- February 25, 2022
- April 22, 2022
- June 24, 2022
- August 26, 2022
- October 28, 2022
- December 16, 2022

Diane Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm. The next Autism Council meeting is **December 17, 2021.**

ACTION ITEMS

WHO	Will do WHAT	By WHEN
Autism Council Members	Send ASD State Plan Annual Report updates to Lisa Grost	10/29/21
Lisa Grost	Request from BHDDA how the Autism Re-evaluation policy was disseminated, and agencies trained for consistency and standardization.	11/01/21
Amy Matthews and Lisa Grost	Submit ASD State Plan Annual Report	11/18/21
Diane Heinzelman and Lisa Grost	Coordinate a meeting with Farah Hanley regarding FY22 budget. Rebecca McIntyre offered to join the meeting. If any other members are interested in joining, please notify Lisa Grost asap.	12/03/21
All	Send December agenda suggestions to Lisa Grost.	12/01/21

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