

AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 27, 2023

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

[Recorded Meeting Link](#)

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Dr. Amy Matthews, LP, BCBA, LBA	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Brian Debano*	Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Dr. Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, a Non-Profit Organization serving those with ASD
Dana Lasenby*	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
Jenny Piatt	Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Employment Services
Krista Boe, M.A., BCBA, LBA	Acorn Health, Certified Behavior Analysts
Dr. Steve Tunnickliff	Genesee Intermediate School District
Martin Baum	Parent, ASD Community
Phil Kurdunowicz	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
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
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Frank Vaca	Self-Advocate, ASD Community
Dr. Jeanette Scheid	MDHHS Children’s Services Administration
Rebecca McIntyre*	Michigan Department of Education
MDE STAFF PRESENT	MDE STAFF REPRESENTATION
Jessica Corliss	Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS REPRESENTATION
Dr. Erika Dianis	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports

Heather Glidden*	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Anissa Emery*	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Maya Bryant	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Aarica Smith*	Legislative Affairs
Dr. Mary Luchies	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Sara Salamey*	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Willow Moon*	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 9:10 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

Amy Matthews called for a **MOTION** to approve the June minutes. Lauren Ringle made a **MOTION** to approve the June minutes. Phil Kurdunowicz **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

Autism Council Leadership Positions

Two self-nominations were made and offered to share the role. Amy Matthews deferred to MDHHS to confirm with procedures if role-sharing is appropriate. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing to report.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) UPDATES

Financial Operations Administration-MDHHS Budget: Maya Bryant Reported New implementation of Section 250 which serves as a process change in grant administration, offers more transparency in boilerplate language, ensures fiscal stewardship, offers consistency in the implementation of boilerplate statewide, and assures adherence to grant administration and procurement policies

- Autism Grants and Contracts
 - Autism Diagnostician Training Series
 - Developing a training series for ASD diagnosticians, \$85,000
- Autism Alliance Navigator
 - Provides resource support for families related to ASD needs, \$2,000,025

- Western Michigan Autism Training Program
 - Developing a day program for severe and challenging ASD individuals, \$4,000,000
- Comprehensive Autism Care Center
 - Building an autism care center in Oakland County Healthcare Network, \$2,500,000
- Developmental Milestones Toolkit
 - Developing toolkits for low-income families, \$500,000

Legislative Update: Aarica Smith reported on the bills listed in the appendix.

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

- IDD and ASD Services Section
 - Medicaid policy update – remove the requirement for reevaluations
 - Continuing requirement for medical and physical evaluation before being eligible for a diagnosis
 - Review of evaluations
 - 2018-2022 – 1,300 evals for master’s level diagnosticians
 - QBHP compliance – policy ends in 2025, flexibility was allowed during the pandemic – information is being collected to determine who the QBHPs are and support people in getting over the finish line
 - Trainings completed for this year in the list of contracts – continuing with Dr. Brooklier
 - 4 3-hour webinars – 1,000 participants overall
 - 2 8-hour in-person workshops
- LEO Updates
 - Offering additional services engaged in employment and other additional services
 - Focus on career paths, not just a job
 - MRS/MSU STEMM-UP Grant
 - Partnership with MSU for science-based vocational rehabilitation – additional funding
 - About 100 referrals/candidates participating in the program
 - Going Pro Funds Announcement
 - MI Works agency
 - Upscale/bring additional talent into their businesses
 - Michigan Reconnect program – lowers age from 25 to 21-24
 - Can attend college tuition-free
 - Community colleges or certification
 - Governor’s Launch of “You Can in Michigan”
 - Working to attract to Michigan or to stay in Michigan
 - The state population is declining, and Gov. launching a 20 million talent and attraction marketing campaign in a variety of states
 - MI is the only state that must stop age at 26 for disability services
 - MCAN to hire additional completion coaches to support students
 - College completion coaches
 - LEO Workplace Mental Health Services Webinars
 - No cost

- The intention for businesses to see if from an employee perspective support, them
 - Crain's Detroit Magazine on seeking harsher penalties for youth labor violations in Michigan
 - Increase 38% over the last year
 - Highlights in different initiatives to assist people across the State of Michigan
- MDE Update
 - Increasing knowledge of ABA services

Old Business

- Action Items from Previous Meeting
 - Follow-up on the Open Meetings Act
 - Required to attend in-person
 - Cannot vote or count for the forum if attending virtually
 - Unless for medical reasons or on active duty
- MDE and MDHHS Workgroup Update
 - Moving forward with the workgroup – meeting next week and getting the member list together
 - The focus of the group is to help coordinate some guidelines to help negotiate services of ABA during the school day
 - Stronger update may be provided during the December meeting
- Autism Council Organizational and Member Information
 - Guidance Document review and finalize (vote)
 - Discussion relating to the Open Meetings Act, is necessary to attend in person to have a forum
 - Summary of each agency and state organization represented
- 5-year planning update – annual report will be completed first
- Annual report planning update
- Autism Council Focus
- Working to develop focus and smaller groups, membership will be determined shortly
 - Ex. 5-year review and survey
 - Self-advocate advisory group

New Business

Safety Series

1. General Safety Series Introduction – plan to have safety topics presented at the next few
 - AAOM presentation – General safety
 - How AAOM can help:
 - Elopement (wandering or bolting)
 - Property Destruction
 - Engaging appropriately with authority figures
 - Independent living
 - Who We Are:

- The MiNavigator team is an interdisciplinary group of professionals
- What's the Safety Program?
 - Specialized branch of MiNavigator services
 - Everyone who applies, has the option to connect with a navigator
 - Safety toolkits provided to families
 - GPS Scholarship
 - AngelSense device/services
- What's GPS Device?
 - Offered with 1-year subscription
 - Tracks range and geo-fencing
 - Ex. Going to school or outside of the range of the geo-fencing
- How does one apply for a GPS Device?
 - Families apply on the AAOM website
 - Or connect with a Navigator on the MiNavigator site
- How are families selected for the scholarship?
 - The following is taken into consideration:
 - Family income
 - County of residence
 - Whether the family has been awarded a scholarship in the past
- How are the navigators involved?
 - Walk alongside them throughout the process as a part of the team
- Since 2015, 648 families have been provided with the device
- AAoM - Choking Prevention Presentation, Laura Athens
 - Shared story of son eating his lunch, attempted to do the Heimlich Maneuver to get the inhaled chicken nugget out. Forceps were used and ER needed to remove it through a bronchoscopy. Her son was restrained and on a ventilator for 11 days and stayed in the hospital for 39 days
 - Four documents were shared regarding choking including Choking Prevention, choking Guidelines for Autism, Choking Emergency Protocol, and a Health and Safety Alert for choking.

Self-advocate advisory group discussion

- Determination of where the group should lie
- Reach out to the ASD community to see what language the preference is

Action Items			
Status (Open) (Complete)	Description	Owner	Target Date
Open	Provide legislative update on mental health professional expansion	Phil	12.15.23
Open	Notify the Council who the Developmental Milestones Grant was awarded to	Mary	12.15.23
Open	Provide time frames for bill introduction with more background information	Maya	12.15.23
Open	Address issues in loss of care with mental health services, outpatient, and behavioral health – provider contract issue	Phil	12.15.23
Open	Send items to Sara for review regarding pertinent documents and questions regarding diagnosis and not needing a reevaluation	Mary	12.15.23
Open	Review guidance Document made public for the expectations of what being a part of the Council entails	Amy	12.15.23
Open	Potential signature of acknowledgment of by-laws/membership requirements to vote on in December	Amy	12.15.23
Open	Discover sustainability and funding for Angel Sense device	Phil	12.15.23
Open	Dissemination of materials – post-meeting email	Maya	11.30.23
Open	Update on interactions with law enforcement	Lopez	12.15.23
Open	Meet to discuss the self-advocate proposal and prepare to discuss at the December meeting.	Amy, Raymie, and Frank	12.15.23
Open	Council to review the 5-Year Plan	All Council Members	12.15.23

Adjourn

Amy Matthews adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm. The next Autism Council meeting will take place on December 15, 2023, in Lansing.

Appendix

▪ Bill Number	▪ Sponsor	▪ Description
▪ SB 547	▪ Irwin	▪ Modifies the definition of child neglect.
▪ SB 548	▪ McBroom	▪ Modifies the definition of child abuse.
▪ SB 567	▪ Irwin	▪ Provides prescreening for dyslexia in public schools.
▪ HB 4944	▪ Zorn	▪ Requires coverage for hearing aids for children.
▪ HB 4963	▪ Steckloff	▪ Requires coverage of hearing-related services and devices.
▪ HB 5047	▪ Coffia	▪ Creates office of state guardian.
▪ HB 5063	▪ Wegela	▪ Allows students to be treated with marijuana-infused products and CBD products during school.
▪ HB 5064	▪ Wegela	▪ Allows students to be treated with medical marihuana and CBD products during school.
▪ HB 5111	▪ O'Neal	▪ Enacts sentencing guidelines for abuse of vulnerable children.
▪ HB 5112	▪ Zorn	▪ Increases penalties for abuse of a vulnerable child.
▪ HB 5114	▪ Rheingans	▪ Expands the definition of mental health professional to include physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists-certified, and allows them to perform certain examinations.
▪ HB 5135	▪ Schmaltz	▪ Requires at least 1 teacher trained in the Orton-Gillingham methodology at each public school to employ.
▪ HR 157	▪ Thompson	▪ A resolution to declare October 22-28, 2023, as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Awareness Week in Michigan.

Updates:

▪ Bill Number	▪ Sponsor	▪ Description
▪ SB 27	▪ Anthony	▪ Provides equitable coverage for behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment
▪ HB 4101	▪ VanderWall	▪ Modifies temporary licensing of speech-language pathologists
▪ HB 4320	▪ MacDonell	▪ Provides penalties for coercing a vulnerable adult into providing sexually explicit visual material
▪ SB 227	▪ Lauwers	▪ Modifies emergency safety intervention in a children's therapeutic group home
▪ HB 4387	▪ MacDonell	▪ Provides sentencing guidelines for the crime of coercing vulnerable adults into providing sexually explicit visual material
▪ HB 4389	▪ Arbit	▪ Allows a certain number of excused mental health days from school
▪ HB 4523	▪ Hope	▪ Modifies eligibility for mental health court for those with violent offenses
▪ HB 4579	▪ Price	▪ Requires reimbursement rate for telehealth visits to be the same as office visits
▪ HB 4580	▪ Brabec	▪ Requires reimbursement rate for telehealth visits to be the same as office visits
▪ HB 4649	▪ Stone	▪ Require height-adjustable, adult-sized changing tables in public restrooms
▪ HB 4909	▪ Breen	▪ Modifies requirements to be appointed as guardian or conservator.
▪ HB 4910	▪ Tsernoglou	▪ Modifies duties of guardians, conservators, and guardian's ad litem.
▪ HB 4911	▪ Filler	▪ Modifies appointment procedure.
▪ HB 4912	▪ Borton	▪ Modifies appointment of a temporary guardian; modify procedure and modifies procedure for removing a conservator.