



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Friday, December 13, 2024
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Amy Matthews, PhD, LP, BCBA, LBA (chair)	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Jacob Daar, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA (vice-chair)	Northern Michigan University, State Universities
Colleen Allen, PhD	Autism Alliance of Michigan, a Non-Profit Organization serving those with ASD
Krista Boe, MA, BCBA, LBA*	Acorn Health, Certified Behavior Analysts
Emily DeLaGarza, PIR*	Michigan Department of Insurance & Financial Services
Dana Lasenby, MBA, MA, LLP*	Oakland Community Health Network, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans/Community Mental Health Service Programs
Patricia Neitman, MS, LLP	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Jenny Piatt, MA, LPC	Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Employment Services
Jeanette Scheid, MD, PhD	MDHHS Children’s Services Administration
Neelkamal Soares, MD*	University of Michigan, Health Care Providers
Steven Tunnicliff, PhD	Genesee ISD, Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Rachelle Vartanian	Parent, ASD Community
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Raymie Postema	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Recipient Rights
Frank Vaca	Self-Advocate, ASD Community
Brian DeBano, MPA	Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Shannon Hinman	Michigan Department of Education
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS REPRESENTATION
Mary Luchies, PhD, LP, BCBA, LBA	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
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

* 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 9:05am. A quorum was not present for the meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Quorum was not present. Voting on October minutes will occur during the February 2025 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Carrie (parent) and Matthew (adult son): Carrie asked about what other states are doing to support adults with ASD. She has looked at waiver programs, other state adopted programs and spoken to representatives. Matthew says ABA was very instrumental in helping him to learn how to stay organized and be successful in college. He would like autism services to be extended past age 21 so other people can have opportunities to be successful. They identified challenges with slower behavior change as an adult and difficulties in finding ways to motivate change. The Autism Law Summit reported that a review of what other states are doing is happening.

STATE AGENCY UPDATES

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

- Budget, Grants, and Contracts: no update
- Legislative: (see Appendix I)
 - Marina reported on various bills
 - Discussion
 - House 5785: See LARA for details. Previously LLPs had to remain under supervision their entire career. This bill allows LLPs to operate without supervision and independently. No changes to CEU requirements.
- Bureau of Children's Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports (BCCHPS):
 - IDD and ASD Services Section
 - Dr. Mary Luchies presented at the Fall CMHA conference and provided updates to the technical requirements (see Appendix II) for behavioral treatment plans (BTP) in community-based settings. Important highlights include: if ABA is used, plan must be written by LBA; must get consent from individual to develop BTP; intent of BTP is to remediate current behavior that is impairing function not for past behavior or potential behavior; behavior treatment plans are not the same as behavior support plans. The presentation elicited many questions, and guidance will continue to be provided to the field in a possible webinar in January.
 - Guidelines on ABA in schools in the final review stage.

LEO/MRS

- Going PRO Talent Fund has awarded more than \$40 million in grants to support employers for training, developing and retaining current and newly hired employees. The training funded must be short-term and fill a demonstrated talent need experienced by the employer.

- MSU Center for Services, Training and Research for Independence and Desired Employment (STRIDE) has teamed with MRS and LEO to support and train underserved individuals with disabilities to achieve meaningful community engagement, employment, independent living, and skills training.
- Adult learning program success stories shared-young man working to become an EMT

Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS)

- No update

Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

- No update

Old Business

- Actions from previous meeting
 - Discussion around age cap and parity
 - Discussion about the need for work examples around ABA in schools. MDHHS guidance document will be provided after final approval
 - Individuals who are deaf, hearing-impaired, autistic, or have another medical diagnosis that may make it difficult to communicate, may request a special communication impediment designation be placed on their Secretary of State record to notify law enforcement about specific communication needs. It is not printed on the driver's license, state ID or vehicle registration but shows when law enforcement is accessing the record during a traffic stop or emergency. The designation is voluntary.
- 2024 Autism State Plan-update
 - Focus areas: 1) family engagement and involvement, 2) early identification and early intervention services, 3) educational support and services, 4) adult services and supports, 5) physical, mental and behavioral health, and 6) infrastructure to meet focus area goals.
 - Over 3,000 surveyed
 - High priority items across 9 stakeholder surveys: access to clinical and healthcare providers trained in autism; access to childcare/respite; access to supportive crisis care; and specialized services for children and adults with severe problem behaviors
 - Low priority items across 9 stakeholder surveys: education/training for ABA; education/training for adult transition service providers; information and resource center focused on autism in Michigan; insurance coverage for ABA services for adults; and increased funding for community activities to support autistic children and youth
 - High priority items for autistic adults: access to clinical and healthcare providers training in autism; access to supportive crisis care; specialized services for children and adults with severe problem behaviors; access to employment services and supports for adults with autism; and access to home and community-based living supports
 - Low priority items for school professionals and self-advocates: insurance coverage for ABA for children; insurance coverage for ABA for adults; education/training for ABA providers; and education/training for adult transition service providers

New Business

- Updated technical requirements for behavioral treatment plans (See Appendix II).
- Parity-Colleen discussed need for access to clinical services for adults
 - [House Bill 6127 of 2024 - Michigan Legislature](#)

Member Updates

- Full Spectrum Agency for Autistic Adults: [MiA3 Committee](#)
 - Form to express interest as an MiA3 supporter: <https://forms.gle/aUEhg9yZXtYpn6328>
- Rachelle Vartanian: introduced self and provided background information
- Shannon Hinman: not present

Action Items			
<i>Status (Open vs Complete)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Target Date</i>
Open	Foster care info: number of children with ASD	Patty	
Open	House Bill 802, follow up on MiCAL	Patty	
Open	Public comment from Carrie (Norton Shores Police Dept ASD stickers): follow up	Mary	
Open	Specific training for first responders	Jenny, Colleen	
Open	Parity discussion continued for Feb. meeting	All	
Open	Autism Self-Advocate Agenda Planning	Planning Group	Ongoing
Open	ABA/BCBA in schools presentation for Feb or April meeting	Amy	

Adjourn

Jacob Daar motioned to adjourn, and Jenny Piatt seconded it. The next Autism Council meeting will take place on February 28th, 2025.

Appendix I

Autism Council Legislative Updates

December, 2024

With only a few Session days remaining in the year, there is still a flurry of activity expected to occur. Please see the following activity on tracked bills and newly introduced bills since our last meeting in October.

Updates:

[House Bills 4909 - 4912](#) (Breen, Tsernoglou, Filler, Borton) – *Makes changes to requirements for guardians and conservators and their appointments* – DHHS/AG/SCAO Co-Leads, reported from Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary & Public Safety Committee with substitutes on 11/26/24

[House Bill 5371](#) & [5372](#) (Brabec, Green) – *Provide certification and funding for CCBHCS (certified community behavioral health clinics)* – DHHS/LEGAL Co-Leads, reported from House Health Policy committee with substitutes 12/10/24

[House Bill 5525](#) (Paiz) – *Provides remedies for harm, injury or death of a service animal* – SCAO/LEGAL Co-Leads, on House Judiciary Committee agenda for 12/11/24

[House Bill 5549](#) (Breen) – *Requires schools to create behavioral threat assessment and management teams* – MDE/DHHS Co-Leads, reported from House Education Committee with substitute H-2 and passed the House 57-51 on 12/10/24

[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, reported from Senate Health Policy Committee without amendment on 12/5/24

[Senate Bill 872](#) (Irwin) – *Provides conditions on the use of certain benefits, including federal disability benefits, for children in foster care* – DHHS/LEGAL Co-Leads, passed the Senate 38-0 on 11/7/24 then reported from House Families, Children and Seniors Committee with substitute H-1 on 12/3/24

[House Bill 5785](#) (Brabec) – *Modifies requirements for practice by limited licensed psychologists* – LARA/DHHS Co-Leads, reported from House Health Policy with substitute H-1 on 12/10/24

[Senate Bills 915-918](#) (Hertel, Santana, Irwin, Wojno) – *Makes various changes to the mental health outpatient treatment process* – DHHS/AG/LEGAL Co-Leads, passed the Senate 36-0 on 12/4/24 and referred to House Health Policy Committee, notice given to discharge committee on 12/10/24 and move to the House floor

[Senate Bills 922-925](#) (Klinefelt, Anthony, Hertel, Irwin) – *Provides for elder and vulnerable adult personal protection orders and adds other protections* – AG/LEGAL/SCAO Co-Leads, reported without amendment from House Families, Children and Seniors Committee on 12/10/24

[House Bill 5974](#) (Rogers) – *Provides licensing of prescribed pediatric extended care facilities* – LARA/DHHS Co-Leads, expected in House Health Policy Committee on 12/12/24

New:

[Senate Bill 1048](#) (Webber) – *Modifies recipient rights advisory committee membership* – DHHS Lead, referred to Senate Housing & Human Services Committee

[Senate Bill 1049](#) (Outman) – *Provides informed consent requirements for mental health treatment* – DHHS Lead, referred to Senate Housing & Human Services Committee

[House Bill 6127](#) (Snyder) – *Modifies required health insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders* – DIFS/DHHS Co-Leads, referred to House Insurance & Financial Services Committee

[House Bill 6143](#) (Rogers) – *Requires availability of prescription readers* – DHHS Lead --> reassigned to LARA, referred to House Health Policy Committee

[Senate Bill 1115](#) (Irwin) – *Modifies medical record fees to exclude certain individuals, including those applying for federal disability benefits* – DHHS/DIFS Co-Leads, referred to Senate Housing & Human Services Committee

[Senate Bill 1143](#) (Irwin) – *Expands prohibitions on denying or conditioning coverage of a Medicare supplement policy* – DIFS/DHHS Co-Leads, referred to Senate Finance, Insurance & Consumer Protection Committee

[House Bill 6149](#) (Hope) – *Modifies requirements for dependency of a juvenile, creating a "no fault" provision to relinquish parental custody* – SCAO/LEGAL/DHHS Co-Leads, referred to House Families, Children and Seniors Committee

[House Bills 6152 & 6153](#) (Rogers, VanderWall) – *Requires private and public insurance coverage of prescribed pediatric extended care centers* – DIFS/DHHS; DHHS/DIFS Co-Leads, expected in House Health Policy Committee on 12/12/24

[House Bill 6154](#) (Rogers) – *Requires coverage for medically necessary treatment related to acquired brain injury* – DIFS/DHHS Co-Leads, referred to House Health Policy Committee

[House Bill 6167](#) (Brabec) – *Modifies scope of practice of registered professional nurses who hold specialty certifications, related to prescribing controlled substances* – LARA Lead, referred to House Health Policy Committee

[Senate Bill 1177](#) (Damoose) – *Requires MSP to create and implement behavioral threat assessment and management program in schools* – MDE/DHHS/TREAS Co-Leads, referred to Senate Education Committee

Appendix II
Technical Requirements for Behavioral Treatment Plan

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10VKTkvy5pCNyFWYqv13tTojYrYY9tG_o/view?usp=drive_link