

**AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday, December 15, 2023**  
**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
[Recorded Meeting Link](#)

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION</b>
Dr. Amy Matthews, LP, BCBA	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Dr. Colleen Allen, Ph.D.	Autism Alliance of Michigan, a Non-Profit Organization serving those with ASD
Dana Lasenby, MBA	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
Dr. Jeanette Scheid	MDHHS Children’s Services Administration
Jenny Piatt, MA	Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Employment Services
Krista Boe, M.A., BCBA	Acorn Health, Certified Behavior Analysts
Dr. Steven Tunnickliff, Ph.D.	Genesee ISD, Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Martin Baum, J.D.	Parent, ASD Community
Phil Kurdunowicz, MHSA	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Rebecca McIntyre, MEd	Michigan Department of Education
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
Frank Vaca*	Self-Advocate, ASD Community
<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION</b>
Brian DeBano, MPA	Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
<b>MDHHS STAFF PRESENT</b>	<b>MDHHS REPRESENTATION</b>
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
Anissa Emery, MA, LPC*	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports

Patricia Neitman, MS LLP	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Aarica Smith*	Legislative Affairs
Dr. Mary Luchies, Ph.D., LP, BCBA, LBA	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Maya Bryant, MPH, NASM-CPT	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Audrey Dick*	Bureau of Budget
Lama Beydoun	Bureau of Children’s Service Coordinated Health Policy & Supports
Alicia Cosgrove*	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 was completed.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Amy Matthews called for a **MOTION** to approve the June minutes. Jenny Piat made a **MOTION** to approve the June minutes. Jacob Daar **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nothing to report.

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Updates**

Financial Operations Administration-MDHHS Budget: Maya Bryant Reported

- Autism Diagnostician Training Series- Developing training program and curriculum for FY24, updates may be shared at future meetings.
- Autism Alliance Navigator - Hired Navigators including the Crisis Navigator.
- Western Michigan Autism Training Program-Received info from the legislative sponsor in alignment with section 250, MDHHS can move forward in this process. The grant is intended to expand autism services through WMU.
- Comprehensive Autism Care Center/ Easter Seals- The legislature established a work project to allow for the funding to continue in FY 24 and support the expansion of Autism services.
  - Expansion of services through Easter Seals is continuing. Originally approved as an FY23 project and obtained authority to continue as an FY24 project.
- Developmental Milestones Toolkit-The recipient is Tammy McCrory of Universal Prevention Services Grant. They are working to provide accessible evidence-based health communication materials to parents to help them support their child’s development.

Legislative Update: Aarica Smith reported on the bills in Appendix I of the meeting minutes.

Discussion from Legislative Updates

- Change in open meetings act to allow for virtual attendees
- Master’s level clinicians require supervision by a Ph.D. – Dr. Soares and colleagues are concerned with removing this requirement and the quality of assessments
- CCBHCs being integrated into the existing structure raises concerns about competing with Michigan’s established CMH structure
- Parity bills – 5346 and 5347
  - Looking for more detail
- Restraint, seclusion, or any physical management will be aligned with the mental health code as there is no physical management outlined for care purposes in the current language

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

- IDD and ASD Services Section
  - QBHP Policy Update ending in 2025
    - Working with PIHPs to gather data and should be able to provide more information at the February meeting
  - Partnership with MDE
    - Working on ASD services in schools

MDE Update: Rebecca McIntyre provided the update in Appendix II of the meeting minutes.

LEO Update: Jenny Piat provided the update in Appendix III of the meeting minutes.

Action Item Review from the October Meeting:

All action items have been completed.

<b>Action Items</b>			
<i>Status (Open) (Complete)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Target Date</i>
Open	Provide legislative update on mental health professional expansion	Phil	12.15.23
Open	Notify the Council to whom 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	Amanda 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

### **Old Business**

- Secretary position
  - Dr. Scheid made a motion for Jenny to serve as secretary, and Jacob Daar seconded it
  - Vote was unanimously approved
- Guidance Document
  - Dr. Scheid made a motion to vote on the Guidance Document.
  - Raymie recommended a change to remove the language of “per the open meetings act” and instead include that council members are required to attend and not able to vote virtually
  - Steve seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously approved
  - Guidance Document in Appendix IV
- Planning for 5-Year Review and Survey
  - Goal to complete by next Fall

### **New Business**

- Safety Series Follow-Up Discussion with AAoM presenters Drew Shaw and Brittany Lynch
  - The cost of an Angel Sense annual subscription is around \$700
  - Concerns about funding sustainability to provide the service for families
  - Like a personal emergency device system, the subscription is important in addition to the cost of the device – looking to see how Medicaid coverage could be provided for it
    - The Department is looking into the process of how this could be deemed a personal emergency response system eligible for Medicaid reimbursement
  - Commercial insurance policies will need to be investigated in terms of how to handle it
    - FSA or HSA may be an option to investigate for reimbursement
  - Coverage on a similar device was investigated for patients with Alzheimer’s and the cost was also not covered for them as well
  - The Angel Sense company is based in Israel and is not interested in the administrative burden of becoming a Medicaid provider in each state
  - AAoM may be able to see if a cost-effective option may be able to provide less functionality that could be more accessible to families
  - Working towards safety planning as opposed to only the Angel Sense device
  - Showcasing a menu of options such as iPhone, Apple Watch, and other tracking mechanisms
  - Device could be approached from an individualistic standpoint based on needs, risk, etc. to choose the best device for each patient appropriately
  - Economic analysis could be beneficial to analyze the cost and subscription of the device in comparison to the cost of elopement with law enforcement and other public resources

### **Member Updates**

- Raymie
  - Adults finding that they need a behavioral assessment before receiving treatment that is not linked to ABA
- Colleen
  - AAOm will be connecting with the newly created Autism Caucus in the legislature.
  - Plans to continue working with the Disability Caucus.

<i>Status (Open) (Complete)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Target Date</i>
Open	Continued conversation around Medicaid Health Plan network issues and mental health professional expansion.	Phil/Dr. Soares	Completed
Completed	Share legislative affairs comprehensive list.	Aarica/Maya	12/15/2023
Open	Michigan ASD State Plan Priorities Initial Work Plan to be further developed and shared in January.	Amy	Ongoing
Open	Medicaid reimbursement for Angel Sense device	Phil	Ongoing
Open	Council to Review the Annual Report sent by Jacob.	All Council Members	02/23/2024
Open	Send council post-meeting email.	Maya	1/2/2024
Open	Consider structure for the self-advocacy group in preparation for Katie's presentation.	All Council Members	2/23/2024
Open	Research any insurance claims related to Angel Sense/GPS tracking.	Dana and Jacob	2/23/2024

**Adjourn**

Amy Matthews called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00pm. Dana Lasenby made a motion and Raymie Postema seconded the motion. The next Autism Council meeting will take place on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

## Appendix I Legislative Updates

[House Bill 4131](#) (Liberati) – *Modifies coverage for health care services provided through telemedicine* – DIFS Lead, 10/31 Reported from committee with an H-2 substitute, 11/9 Passed the House 75-35, referred to Senate Health Policy Committee

[House Bill 4213](#) (Morse) – *Provides definition of distant site for telemedicine visit* – DHHS/LARA Co-Leads, 11/9 H-2 substitute adopted, passed the House 75-32, referred to Senate Health Policy Committee

[House Bill 4320](#) (MacDonell) – *Provides for penalties for coercing a vulnerable adult into providing sexually explicit visual material* – MSP/AG Co-Leads, 11/7 Passed the Senate unanimously, signed into law as Public Act 275 by the Governor on 11/14

[House Bill 4387](#) (MacDonell) – *Provides sentencing guidelines for crime of coercing vulnerable adult into providing sexually explicit visual material* – AG/Legal Co-Leads, 11/9 Passed the Senate with S-1 substitute, signed into law as Public Act 276 by the Governor on 11/14

[House Bill 4523](#) (Hope) – *Modifies eligibility for mental health court for those with violent offenses* – SCAO/AG/Legal Co-Leads, 10/31 Passed the House 68-42, referred to Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

[House Bill 4579](#) (Price) – *Requires reimbursement rate for telehealth visits to be the same as office visits* – DIFS/DHHS Co-Leads, 11/9 Passed the House 57-50, referred to Senate Health Policy Committee

[House Bill 4580](#) (Brabec) – *Requires reimbursement rate for telehealth visits to be the same as office visits* – DIFS/DHHS Co-Leads, 11/9 Passed the House 58-49, referred to Senate Health Policy Committee

[Senate Bill 227](#) (Lauwers) – *Modifies emergency safety intervention in a children's therapeutic group home* – DHHS/LARA Co-Leads, 11/8 Passed the House 105-4, ordered enrolled

### New:

[House Bill 5343](#) (Arbit) – *Requires insurance providers to panel a mental health provider within a certain period of the application process* – DIFS/DHHS Co-Leads, Referred to House Health Policy Committee

[House Bill 5344](#) (Brabec) – *Requires nonprofit health care corporations to panel a mental health provider within a certain period of the application process* – DIFS/DHHS Co-Leads, Referred to House Health Policy Committee

[House Bill 5346](#) (Coffia) – *Requires certain annual reports of health insurers related to mental health parity* – DIFS Lead, Referred to House Health Policy Committee

[House Bill 5347](#) (Mentzer) – *Requires certain annual reports of nonprofit health care corporations related to mental health parity* – DIFS Lead, Referred to House Health Policy Committee

[House Bill 5371](#) (Brabec) – *Provides for certification and funding for CCBHCs (certified community behavioral health centers)* – DHHS Lead, Referred to House Health Policy Committee

[House Bill 5372](#) (Green) – *Provides for certification and funding for CCBHCs (certified community behavioral health centers)* – DHHS/LEGAL Co-Leads, Referred to House Health Policy Committee

[Senate Bill 625](#) (Webber) – *Modifies requirements for supervised postgraduate experience for limited license psychologists* – DHHS/LARA Co-Leads, Referred to Senate Health Policy Committee

[Senate Bill 641](#) (McBroom) – *Changes provisions of the open meetings act relating to virtual attendance and participation of members of public bodies* – LEGAL Lead, Referred to Senate Oversight Committee

**Appendix II**  
**Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE):**  
**Summary of Key Changes**

Proposed changes to this rule set are designed to align them with controlling federal requirements related to special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC 1400 et seq, and its implementing regulations, 34 CFR 300.1 et seq. As amended, the rules will support Michigan’s assurance, which is required in its annual application for federal funds under Part B of the IDEA, that its policies and procedures are compliant with IDEA requirements or that Michigan has committed to make changes to support such assurances.

Input from external stakeholders was solicited to inform the work and staff from the Office of Special Education (OSE) involved in drafting, revising, and finalizing the proposed rules. Below is a summary of the changes to the MARSE:

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Section/Sub-Section</b>	<b>Key Elements</b>	<b>Legislative Ties</b>
R 340.1721b	Current Title: Timelines Proposed Title: Public agency responsibilities and timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifies timelines for evaluations for students attending public schools vs. students who are parentally placed in nonpublic schools.</li> <li>• Removes the requirement of the district to make an offer of a Free Appropriate Public Education available when the parent makes clear their intention to maintain enrollment of their child in a private school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 CFR 300.130 to 300.147</li> </ul>
R 340.1723c	Right to independent education evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes the requirement for a parent’s request for an Independent Education Evaluation to be in writing.</li> <li>• This conflicts with the controlling federal regulation, 34 CFR 300.502. Under 34 CFR 300.502(e)(2), a public agency may only impose certain conditions related to obtaining an independent evaluation; those conditions do not include that the request be in writing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 CFR 300.502</li> </ul>
R 340.1733	Program and service requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed amendment of R 340.1733(d) will support the requirement for students with disabilities to be educated in the least restrictive environment along with their nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate in accordance with 34 CFR 300.114.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 CFR 300.114.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifies language to require the age span for students who are assigned special education programs, except for severe cognitive impairment and serve multiple impairments operate in an elementary building not exceed the age span of students who are nondisabled in the building.</li> </ul>	
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**Other laws impacting school Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education:**

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\), 20 USC 1400 \*et seq.\*, and implementing regulations, 34 CFR Parts 300 and 303](#)

[Michigan School Code – PA 451 of 1976](#)

### Appendix III

- **Nearly \$1M available to help underrepresented Michiganders into Registered Apprenticeships** – on November 1, press release announcing RFP for organizations to apply for funding from the Michigan Statewide Targeted Apprenticeship Inclusion and Readiness System
- **Gov. Whitmer kicked off National Apprenticeship Week with 2024 goal to boost the use of Registered Apprenticeship training model to grow needed talent statewide** – on November 13, press release announcing official Apprenticeship Week, including Governor’s proclamation and Race to Talent with Registered Apprenticeship marketing campaign.
- Also on November 14, several LEO-E&T staff volunteered at MiCareerQuest Southeast in Novi. High school students from Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Wayne, Monroe and Washtenaw County schools were able to explore a variety of careers in the advanced manufacturing, construction, health sciences and technology sectors through hands-on interactive job activities depicting a day in the life of several Michigan careers. Director Corbin and LEO-E&T Director Beckhorn were able to partake in the event and see first-hand its impact on attendees. Here is a link to a video recap of the event: [https://youtu.be/BHfwfO\\_xuw?si=XHS4X8laAypahEHp](https://youtu.be/BHfwfO_xuw?si=XHS4X8laAypahEHp).
- **\$2M grant will expand employment and training services to support returning citizens and Michigan employers** – on November 6, press release announcing expansion of Michigan Citizen Reentry Initiative

### MRS Updates:

- **Total MRS customers served in 2023 with ASD: 5,556**
- **MCTI Students with ASD who received training: 177**
- **MRS was recently requested by AAoM to participate and present at the *Navigating Autism Today Conference* in Grand Rapids last month. The presentation focused on employment, accommodations and resources**
- **Success Stories:**
  - ❖ **Ian P.:** Ian came to the Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI) with an interest in increasing his employment and earning credentials. He was working for Masters Millwork and inquired with his employer about expanding his work opportunities. Ian decided to attend MCTI to earn the ability to become a millworker. He started by learning basic construction skills and enrolled in the Cabinetmaking and Millworking program at MCTI. Because Ian was willing to expand his comfort zone and learn new skills to increase his employability, he and earned two credentials – a Construction Laborer certificate and a Certified Woodworking Machine Operator certificate. He graduated from the Cabinetmaking/Millwork program in June of 2023 and returned to full time employment at Masters Millwork in Madison Heights, where he received a new position and increased his pay.
  - ❖ **Jacob M.:** Jacob began his coursework in MCTI’s Pharmacy Technician trade in January 2023. Jacob’s drive to succeed was proven by his finishing the second term early. Since his recent graduation, Jacob has focused on obtaining a driver’s license and now working with a job placement agency, through MRS, for employment in the retail pharmacy field. He recently passed his National Certification Exam for pharm tech on his first try.

## Appendix IV Autism Council Member Representation Guidance



The following guidance is offered for consideration during the selection process for Autism Council members. Applications for council membership will be reviewed based on demonstrated experience and expertise related to the council's charge and the need for specific representation on the Council.

Representatives of Michigan's Autism Council will:

- Commit to in-person attendance at bi-monthly meetings throughout their tenure. Council members are not permitted to vote when in virtual attendance.
- Demonstrate foundational knowledge about autism spectrum disorder (ASD), including evidence-based practice, individual and family support services, and best practices in listening to and supporting the voices of individuals with disabilities.
- Indicate a foundational understanding of state level structures for service provision such as healthcare, community mental health, education, advocacy, and/or family supports.
- Describe specific ways they can participate in the work of the Autism Council to address the primary tasks of the council as listed in the Executive Order, such as updating the ASD State Plan and collaborating to implement the plan recommendations, reporting on progress to the Director of the Department, and updating recommendations.
- Demonstrate a direct connection to at least one state or community agency/organization focused on ASD policy, programming, services, and/or advocacy.
- Commit to regular outreach, communication, and coordination with stakeholder groups to support the work of the Autism Council.
- Commit to reviewing and providing feedback on applicable legislation, policies, programs, and resources related to services and practices that benefit individuals with ASD in Michigan.