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# The Michigan Autism Council



## AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 25, 2021  
9:00 am – 12 pm

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION</b>
Diane Heinzelman, Chairperson	MDHHS Appointed Position
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, Non-Profit Organization serving those with ASD
Martin Baum	Parent, ASD Community
Krista Boe	Autism Centers of Michigan, Certified Behavior Analysts
Mary Chaliman	MDHHS, Child Welfare
Jacob Daar	Northern Michigan University, State Universities
Brian DeBano	Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chair	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
George Mellos, MD	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
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
<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION</b>
Dana Lasenby	Oakland Community Health Network, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans/Community Mental Health Service Programs
Rebecca McIntyre	Michigan Department of Education
<b>MDHHS STAFF PRESENT</b>	<b>MDHHS REPRESENTATION</b>
Vendela Collins	Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities Administration, Developmental Disabilities Council
Lisa Grost	Policy, Planning and Organizational Support Administration
Al Jansen	Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities Administration
Kristen Jordan	Financial Operations Administration
David Knezek	Executive Office, Administration
Mary Luchies	State Hospital Administration
Marina Wyrzykowski	Legislative Affairs
<b>GUESTS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Kelly Blakeslee	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Jenny Brown	Dutton Farm
Kimberly Flowers	Oakland Community Health Network
Tyler Gross	Michigan Rehabilitation Services
Lisa Kisiel	Michigan Rehabilitation Services
Joanna Lofton	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Jill Matson	Autism Alliance of Michigan

Jacquelyn Mayowski	Creating Brighter Futures
Holly Miller	Self-Advocate
Jennifer Mues	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Gabby Naula-Quintero	Early Autism Center
David Nichol	Braintrust Behavioral Health
Abby Railling	MORC, Inc.
Mary Schrier	Community Mental Health of Central Michigan
Melissa Tuttle	Central Michigan University

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Diane Heinzelman at 9:01 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 April minutes. Lauren Ringle made a **MOTION** to approve the April minutes. Martin Baum **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jenny Brown, CEO of Dutton Farms, reported Michigan Medicaid policy does not allow individuals to utilize home and community-based employment services in cannabis businesses due to restrictions on use of Federal dollars for this industry. Dutton Farms has successfully placed individuals in cannabis businesses to care for plants. Discussion with Council resulted in additional strategies to address her concern. Jenny Piatt will forward this to the Labor Economic and Opportunities director’s office. Al Jansen will explore with CMS as well as coordinate a call with Senator Debbie Stabenow and Jenny Brown.

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

Executive Update: David Knezek, Chief Deputy Director of Administration, thanked the Autism Council for being a driving force of expansion and enhancements to Medicaid services, trainings, policies, licensure, and a partner to foster coordination and collaboration of agencies for nine years. Behavioral health services are a priority of the Department and he will be utilizing the expertise of the members in future work.

Financial Operations Administration-Budget: Kristen Jordan reported on the FY22 Executive Budget, FY22 House Subcommittee Budget and FY22 Senate Subcommittee Behavioral Health Items. House passed budget 6/24/21 and awaiting Senate budget. The 2021 Medicaid Autism Services appropriation was \$271,721,000 and the FY22 Executive Recommendation is \$356,875,800. *Presentation attached.*

Legislative Update: Marina Wyrzykowski reported on the following bills:

**New:**

[Senate Bill 435](#) (MacDonald) – *expands the Michigan essential health provider recruitment strategy act to include mental health professionals* – DHHS Lead, passed the Senate and referred to House Committee. House Bills.

House Bill [4925-4929](#) (bipartisan sponsorship) – *behavioral health system redesign package; creation of behavioral health oversight council and provide for DHHS to contract with an administrative service organization (ASO)* – DHHS Lead, being discussed in House committee.

[House Bill 4762](#) (Kahle) – *prohibits discrimination against organ transplant recipient based on physical or mental disability* – DHHS/CR Lead, passed the House, referred to Senate Committee.

[House Bill 4956](#) (Stone) – *creates grant program to provide adult-sized changing tables in public restrooms* – LARA Lead, no movement.

[House Bill 5018](#) (Brabec) – *requires training for crisis intervention team in law enforcement to interact with mentally ill individuals* – No lead assigned yet, no movement.

[House Bill 5120](#) (Thanedar) – *requires increased mental health first aid training for law enforcement* – No lead assigned yet, introduced this week.

#### **Updates:**

[House Bill 4043, 4044](#) (Whiteford) – *requires information gathered by the electronic inpatient bed registry and state-operated registries to be reported to the Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL)* – DHHS Lead, signed into law 6/9/21.

[House Bill 4057](#) (Anthony) – *expands definition of restraint in Mental Health Code* – DHHS Lead, no movement, working with the sponsor on recommended changes.

[House Bill 4071/4072](#) (Kahle/Calley) – *Includes abuse of a vulnerable child as second degree child abuse, enacts sentencing guidelines* – DTMB/MSP/MDOC Lead, reported and referred to House Judiciary Committee w/ substitute H-1.

[House Bill 4059](#) (Wendzel) – *modifies autism evaluation review process requirements for Medicaid benefit eligibility* – DHHS Lead, passed the House, referred to Senate Committee.

[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, passed the Senate, referred to House Committee.

Jacob Daar inquired if SB 435 includes licensed behavior analysts. Marina Wyrzykowski reported that it does not include them.

State Hospital Administration: Dr. George Mellos reported the state psychiatric hospitals continue to have several requests for admissions daily. He is working closely with Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration on home and community-based services for patients who have urgent needs for services as well as on discharging patients with the appropriate treatment services more efficiently.

Dr. Mellos shared the Applied Behavior Treatment, utilizing licensed behavior analysts, applied behavior analysis, and medication regimens more appropriate for patients with intellectual developmental disability, including autism spectrum disorder, is resulting in almost zero usage of restraints and seclusion. It is also decreasing the hospital stay by months. The discharge for patients is held up due to the lack of home and community-based services.

Council discussed the FY22 proposed budgets which includes increased funding for state hospital staffing and infrastructure.

Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA): Al Jansen shared he has established an internal Department subcommittee to develop Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan and Community Mental Health Service Program contract accountability monitoring and outcomes. In July, outside Department staff will be included in the subcommittee to review the draft document and tools for implementation of this work.

Al Jansen reported BHDDA has developed a legislative workgroup to review proposed legislation to provide an analysis to Legislative Services. He will include the Autism Council on future legislation analysis.

Behavioral Health Treatment 2063-BHDDA/Medicaid Bulletin 21-20 Behavioral Health Evaluation: Al Jansen reported the Medicaid Bulletin 21-20 is awaiting final approval within the Medical Services Administration.

FY21 ASD Legislative Workgroup Report (Section 959) Activity Update: Al Jansen reported he is on a CMS telehealth workgroup to work toward keeping telehealth as an option for several services. Service delivery is the choice of the individual/family and this will continue for them. Telehealth was a recommendation in the FY20 Legislative Workgroup report. There has not been any action on the FY21 recommendations since the submission on April 15, 2021. Dr. Neel Soares raised the concern regarding access to telehealth in broadband desert areas. Marina Wyrzykowski reported that there are a number of bills introduced to improve broadband access and scope in the House and Senate this term. Unsure of how many will move at this time.

Al Jansen said there has not been any action on the FY21 Legislative Workgroup Report recommendations since the submission on April 15, 2021.

Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL) Al Jansen reported MiCAL was launched on April 22, 2021. The goal is to create consistency of responses to inquiries and access to services statewide. It includes a customer service component within the operations of it. Currently, it is being piloted in the Upper Peninsula and in Oakland County with targeted resources in these two areas. However, it is available as a service to the entire state of Michigan. Two supporting documents were shared after the meeting and are attached to the minutes.

### **New Business**

Behavioral Health Service Needs: Colleen Allen thanked colleagues for their collective efforts on improving behavioral health services. She reported there is statewide crisis and individuals/families are suffering from the lack of services being provided in Michigan. She said it is a lack of clinical services and oversight and is beyond a customer service issue. There are not enough efforts focusing on helping these families. Children are being sent home who are setting their homes on fire and hiding scissors plotting to kill family members due to lack of evaluations. There is research to support families need respite and when it is not received, families have a higher level of probability to go into a "crisis state." Additional comments included: staffing at residential homes and crisis stabilization units do not have properly trained staff for individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, bipolar disorder, and suicidal signs; the red flags of children expelled, losing employment, involved with law enforcement and lack of PIHP/CMHSP services should not be ignored. The issue of individuals needing behavioral health services is in the media regularly. Solutions suggested were allocating American Rescue Plan Act funding and move the "customer service/oversight" of crisis/comprehensive treatment plans to a new area within the Department.

Martin Baum said he does not believe hospitals are utilizing the certificate of need psychiatric beds and funding as allocated by the state. He shared this media report:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTS4\\_zIV3f0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTS4_zIV3f0)

Al Jansen responded that he provided Director Elizabeth Hertel and Chief Deputy Director Doctor Joneigh Khaldun with ten ideas on how to improve the system and has not heard back from them yet.

It was determined an Autism Council workgroup would be established to identify key issues to be provided to the Department. Members will include Krista Boe, Colleen Allen, Al Jansen, Dr. George Mellos, Diane Heinzelman, Dana Lasenby, Mary Luchies, Martin Baum, and Lisa Grost.

**Presentation:**

Disability Employment and Inclusion: Jenny Piatt, Tyler Gross and Lisa Kisiel provided a very well received presentation on efforts in Michigan on Disability Employment and Inclusion. *Presentation attached.*

**Member Updates**

Brian DeBano reported the Public Health Code has been amended to include the requirement of implicit bias training for licensed professionals as of June 1, 2022. He will share the Frequently Asked Questions when they are completed and provided a resource on additional details which is attached for you.

Colleen Allen shared the Autism Alliance of Michigan is in support of HB 4657 to add Parent Implemented Model of Intervention to covered services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. They support this bill as it would provide additional treatment options for families, and not instead of other services, including applied behavior analysis. Jacob Daar provided feedback from his meeting with the Autism University Collaborative membership. Colleen Allen will lead a workgroup to discuss HB 4657 and draft a letter of support to be shared with the Autism Council.

Dr. George Mellos revisited the psychiatric bed discussion by emphasizing that it is a national matter that reflects behavioral health treatment in pandemic and other current stresses. Beds wherein youth are placed must be supported by a competent hospital treatment team, and a community system of care that can maintain hospital gains. This article is sobering, and it makes clear that it is not just about psychiatric hospital beds:

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fkhn.org%2Fnews%2Farticle%2Fchildren-teens-emergency-room-boarding-mental-health%2F%3Futm\\_campaign%3DKHN%253A%2520Daily%2520Health%2520Policy%2520Report%26utm\\_medium%3Demail%26\\_hsmi%3D136217695%26\\_hsync%3Dp2ANqtz-wYs6ENZhMHKgb1YRuUAOF6NF0HtS4A-PWst99-me4zqq2V2nldBPekBwgVX6K1tP2H2Gw9RS9oVMO2qcX\\_VLFhrQg%26utm\\_content%3D136217695%26utm\\_source%3Dhs\\_email&data=04%7C01%7Cmellosg%40michigan.gov%7C4d9467b443de4aa9ed7208d937ea9a96%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637602303011651658%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QFHpBxUmzoy4Dizq8bXd5mIC%2FFHjF5Vjkfij82VkQMM%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fkhn.org%2Fnews%2Farticle%2Fchildren-teens-emergency-room-boarding-mental-health%2F%3Futm_campaign%3DKHN%253A%2520Daily%2520Health%2520Policy%2520Report%26utm_medium%3Demail%26_hsmi%3D136217695%26_hsync%3Dp2ANqtz-wYs6ENZhMHKgb1YRuUAOF6NF0HtS4A-PWst99-me4zqq2V2nldBPekBwgVX6K1tP2H2Gw9RS9oVMO2qcX_VLFhrQg%26utm_content%3D136217695%26utm_source%3Dhs_email&data=04%7C01%7Cmellosg%40michigan.gov%7C4d9467b443de4aa9ed7208d937ea9a96%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637602303011651658%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QFHpBxUmzoy4Dizq8bXd5mIC%2FFHjF5Vjkfij82VkQMM%3D&reserved=0)

Future Council Meetings: Council members would like to explore future in person meetings with technology to include members and guests interactively who cannot be in the conference room. Diane Heinzelman, Dr. George Mellos and Lisa Grost will research options for future meetings.

Diane Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm. The next Autism Council meeting is **August 27, 2021.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

WHO	Will do WHAT	By WHEN
Belinda Hawks	<u>Public Act 282 (20):</u> Inquire on the possibility of adding licensed behavior analysts to the list of professions recognized in the	3/15/21

	centralized credentialing system.	
Belinda Hawks	Distribute Behavioral Health Treatment 2063-BHDDA/MSA 21-20	5/05/21
Colleen Allen (lead), Diane Heinzelman, Lisa Grost, Amy Miilu, Jacob Daar, Mary Schrier (guest)	Draft clarification/position paper in support of HB4657 that amends the insurance code to include Parent implemented model of intervention” as a covered benefit and then share it with Council.	5/14/2021
Diane Heinzelman, Colleen Allen, Lisa Grost	Research and report on the autism safety trainings and related initiatives occurring in Michigan.	6/25/21
Jenny Piatt	Inquire with Labor Economic and Opportunities director’s office on possible solutions on how to allow federal funds to be utilized to support employment skills in cannabis companies in Michigan. Al Jansen will inquire with CMS as well as set up a call with Senator Debbie Stabenow and Jenny Brown.	7/09/21
Al Jansen (lead), Jenny Brown and Marina Wyrzkowski	Schedule a meeting with Senator Debbie Stabenow, Jenny Brown, Marina Wyrzkowski (or Legislative Service staff) and himself to explore how to amend federal policy to include employment opportunities with home and community-based support in cannabis companies. (jeanette@duttonfarm.org)	7/09/21
Al Jansen	Inquire with CMS how to amend federal policy to include employment opportunities with home and community-based support in cannabis companies	7/16/21
Colleen Allen, Martin Baum, Al Jansen, Krista Boe, Dana Lasenby, Dr. George Mellos, Mary Luchies, and Lisa Grost	Research the Behavioral Health Service Needs being raised by members, media, families, and providers, and provide an update to Council members.	7/23/21
All	Send August agenda suggestions to Lisa Grost.	8/06/21
All	ASD State Plan Workgroups – Update Reporting Forms	8/06/21