

The Michigan Autism Council



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 28, 2020

9:00 am – 10:30 am

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Farah Hanley, Chairperson	MDHHS, Financial Operations Administration
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chair	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, Non-Profit Organization serving those with ASD
Krista Boe	Autism Centers of Michigan, Certified Behavior Analysts
Mary Chaliman	MDHHS, Child Welfare
Krista Clancy	Wayne State University, State Universities
Stefani Hines, MD	Beaumont Hospital, Medical Centers/ Health Care Providers
Rebecca McIntyre	Michigan Department of Education
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	Public Schools of Petoskey, Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Stacie Rulison, Secretary	Parent, ASD Community
Frank Vaca	Self-Advocate, ASD Community
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
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
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS REPRESENTATION
Lisa Grost	Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration / Policy and Planning Administration
Belinda Hawks	Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration
Al Jansen	Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration
Mary Luchies	State Hospital Administration
GUESTS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Josh Diehl, PhD	Logan Center, MI Behavior Analysis Providers Association
Erin Duncan, MD	HealthCall
Heather Eckner	A2IEDEAS
Jennifer Jager	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Karah Ley	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Mark Laman, PhD	Developmental Enhancements
Joanne Lofton	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Erica Scotford	Autism Alliance of Michigan

Madeline Tousley	Merakey Education and Autism Center
Emma Tryson	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Melissa Tuttle	Central Michigan University
Sharon Valente	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Jennifer Ward-Kolka	Spectrum Autism Center

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Farah Hanley at 9:05 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

Farah Hanley called for a **MOTION** to approve the April minutes. Stacie Rulison made a **MOTION** to approve the April minutes. Colleen Allen **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josh Diehl, Michigan Behavior Analysis Providers Association, reported not all Applied Behavior Analysis Provider Agencies are applying for stabilization funds. However, there are some Agencies closing due to COVID-19 and lack of financial assistance. The Association would also like guidance for members on scheduling with families during E-learning due to the inconsistent direction from Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans and Community Mental Health Service Programs.

MDHHS UPDATES

Financial Operations Administration-Budget: Farah Hanley reported the FY20 Budget is complete. The increase sales tax from home supply stores and car sales and July income taxes, along with the federal COVID-19 relief funds assisted with the financial needs of the state agencies. FY21 Budget negotiations are occurring with the goal of finalizing it before October 1, 2020.

State Hospital Administration: Dr. George Mellos reported there is an increase in the number of children being recommended for inpatient treatment at Hawthorn. There is also an increase in the number of children spending multiple days/weeks in emergency departments. Colleen Allen said Autism Alliance of Michigan received a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to work train emergency department staff on patients with challenge behaviors, and they could include resources on working with health care public and private payers.

Dr. George Mellos reported Budget Section 962 allows MDHHS to contract directly with providers of services involving high-need children or adults. This is being utilized to prepare people to return to home and/or community settings. Also, he reported the Applied Behavior Treatment began at Caro Hospital in June 2020 and Applied Behavior Treatment is in the planning phases for Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospitals with the goal of starting in 2021.

Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA): Al Jansen reported having regular communication with the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans and Community Mental Health Service Programs. All Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans are participating with Michigan’s stability plans. The Behavioral Health Transformation which was being worked on after the 298 Project is on a solid pause. A letter will be going out in the next week with an update. MDHHS is currently working on a Behavioral Health Strategic Plan with department administrations, stakeholders and families, as well as, utilizing information

obtained over the last four years. If you are interested in providing input on the six pillars, contact Lisa Grost.

Belinda Hawks shared BHDDA has extended the policy to allow telemedicine and telephone services which started under COVID-19 to allow flexibility for providing services to people/families. The code chart has been updated too.

New Buisness

Education Guidance with E-Learning: Rebecca McIntyre provided Michigan Department of Education Guidance for Return to Learn for Students with Individualized Education Plans. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/ReturntoSchool_699307_7.pdf

Educational Supports, Services and Coordination with Behavioral Health Services: Lauren Ringle shared the MAASE Autism Community of Practice is working on updated their guidance document. Belinda Hawks reported there is a meeting on August 31 to discuss guidance from BHDDA. Kevin Bauer indicated there is flexibility with Medicaid School Services Program during COVID-19 and there is a white paper being developed to describe it.

MDHHS Autism Website: Lisa Grost reported the platform for the Autism website will be converted soon. Amy Matthews, Stacie Rulison and Colleen Allen offered to assist with determining what the new site should include on it.

Autism Council Meeting Schedule: Farah Hanley would like to discuss future meeting schedule based on the recommendation of the members for 2021.

Member Updates

Colleen Allen provided a live demonstration of Autism Alliance of Michigan’s enhanced website with resources for families.

Jenny Piatt reported Michigan Rehabilitation Services has resumed providing services. Counselors are working with schools and families. If anyone hears there are challenges, she welcomed people to contact her.

Brian DeBano, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, shared a written report including the Bureau of Professional Licensing has issued over 26,000 licenses since March 22, 2020 while working remotely. Michigan has licensed 91 Assistant Behavior Analysts and 1,142 Behavior Analysts.

Farah Hanley adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m. The next Autism Council meeting will be on **October 23, 2020**.

ACTION ITEMS

WHO	Will do WHAT	By WHEN
Kevin Bauer	Share White Paper on School Services Program and Telemedicine	10/01/20
Colleen Allen	Press Release for the AAoM Navigator’s Website	10/15/20
Lisa Grost, Amy Matthews, Stacie Rulison and Colleen Allen	Update the Autism Website	10/23/20