
The Michigan Autism Council



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Lewis Cass Building
Friday, February 26, 2016
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, Non-profit Organization serving those with ASD
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Diane Heinzelman, Chairperson	Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District, Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Anthony Ianni	Michigan Department of Civil Rights, ASD Community (Self- advocate)
Cathy Kirby	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Stacie Rulison, Secretary	ASD Community (Parent)
Jane Turner	Michigan State University, Medical Centers/ Health Care Providers
Joanne Winkelman	Michigan Department of Education
George Mellos	Hawthorn Center, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chairperson (by phone)	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Jeff DeLay	Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans
Wayne Fuqua	Western Michigan University, State Universities
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS ORGANIZATION
Brie Elsasser	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
James Grant	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
Lisa Grost	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
Belinda Hawks	Federal Compliance
Phil Kurdunowicz	Office of Health Policy and Innovation
Rachel Rick	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
GUESTS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Christi Owens	Midland County Education Service Area
Katrina Rhymer	Central Michigan University
Mary Schrier	Community Mental Health of Central Michigan
Amy Livsey-Simmer	Mid-Michigan Health

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Chair Diane Heinzelman at 9:02 A.M. 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

Chair Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to approve the December minutes. Stacie Rulison made a **MOTION** to approve the December minutes. Cathy Kirby **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MDHHS & LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Lynda Zeller discussed the Governor's proposed budget, specifically Section 298 which calls for integration of the Medicaid managed care system that pays for both the physical health and behavioral health specialty services. Zeller explained currently the accountability is split between two entities – the Medicaid Health Plans and the Pre Paid Inpatient Health Plans. She noted it does not call for privatization of the Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs) but the goal would be to have more consistency in services provided at CMHPs statewide. Karla Ruest and Zeller will be meeting with legislators, answering questions and clearing up misunderstandings from the budget language.

There is a work group created by Lieutenant Governor Calley of approximately 60 people, comprising of consumers and advocates, who will give input on revised language and next steps in relation to Section 298. Zeller is lead staff and currently facilitating the group. Jeff DeLay is one of the members and will be asked to be the Autism Council liaison to this workgroup.

Karla Ruest reviewed the Autism Council's suggestions to the Behavior Analyst Licensure Legislation. She will set up a meeting with Senator Warren.

INFORMATION AND INPUT TO MDHHS

Belinda Hawks and Phil Kurdunowicz presented on the Home and Community-Based Services policy change within Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration. The rule was created by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and affects the Medicaid home and community-based services, such as Children's Waiver Program, Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances Waiver Program, Habilitation Supports Waiver Program, MI Choice Waiver Program, and the MI Health Link HCBS Waiver Program. The new policy creates new rights and protection for individuals to assure they have access to transportation, services, and the community as desired by the individuals by 2019. The statewide transition plan will be completed and expected to be posted within the next 10 days. PowerPoint provided to the members/guests.

COLLABORATING ACROSS AGENCIES TO PROVIDE A CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Amy Livsey-Sommer, from Mid-Michigan Health, Katrina Rhymer, from Central Michigan University, Mary Schrier, from Community Mental Health for Central Michigan, and Christi Owens, from Midland County Educational Service Agency, presented on the Pediatric Center of Mid-Michigan located in Midland. This center provides medical, therapeutic, and educational supports to a child with autism in one individualized plan. PowerPoint provided to the members/guests. The goal for the center was to create collaboration between the school and community providers and ensure all providers understand the goals for the individual. Presenters encouraged council members to contact them for additional information regarding the collaborative center:

- Amy Livsey-Sommer; Manager of Rehabilitation Services; (989)839-3306;

A.livseysommer@midmichigan.org

- Katrina Rhymer; Chair Department of Psychology; Central Michigan University; 989-774-3001; Rhyme1kn@cmich.edu
- Mary Schrier, Autism Supervisor; Community Mental Health for Central Michigan; 989-631-2320; mschrier@cmhcm.ig
- Christi Owens; Midland County Educational Service Agency; (989)513-8369; Cowens@mcesa.k12.mi.us

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Diane Heinzelman presented the final report from the Special Education Reform Task Force. The report gives policy recommendations for Michigan's special education system and the 5 focus areas were 1) develop a more inclusive and transparent rulemaking process, 2) increase access to and improve the scope and quality of services, 3) end restraint and seclusions in schools, 4) create a better problem-solving process, and 5) support parents, guardians, and educators with more resources and options. Two main policy recommendations from the report include: (1) legislation restricting restraint and seclusion to emergency situations only, and (2) Support district development of a multi-tier system of support that includes positive behavior interventions and supports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Behavior Analyst Licensure
 - Chair Diane Heinzelman held a conference call with council members on February 18th to discuss the council's input on the draft behavior analyst licensure.
 - Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to provide Senator's Warren's office with the Autism Council's comments on the Behavior Analyst draft bill. George Mellos made a **MOTION** to approve the behavior analyst licensure legislation comments. Jane Turner **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.
- Talking points
 - The Behavior Analyst Licensing Talking Points was revised and updated to reflect 2016 numbers of the amount of BCBAs, BCaBAs, and RBTs in the state of Michigan.
 - The council suggested to change the 3rd bullet under "Rationale for Behavior Analyst Licensing" to say "Licensing would be ensuring the quality of treatment, care, and services of the citizens of Michigan by standardizing behavior analyst training and continuing education requirements."
 - Chair Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to approve the Behavior Analyst Licensure Talking Points. Stacie Rulison made a **MOTION** to approve the Behavior Analyst Licensure Talking Points. Anthony Ianni **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

STANDING REPORTS

Chair Diane Heinzelman reported comment from participants at the BAAM conference included concern that some educators are hesitant to talk about ABA services with parents due to concern that it may force the district to pay for the ABA therapy services. Diane noted it is the school's obligation to develop an individualized education program for each child with a disability. Included would be the supports and services to ensure access to the general curriculum. Communication of supplemental services that the parent may be able to access would be informational in nature and not an obligation for the district. Diane will share this with the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE) Community of Practice and discuss strategies to communicate a deeper understanding for educators, advocates, and service providers.

Stacie Rulison reported on her invitation to be a part of the Clinton County Parent Advisory Committee and looks forward to providing her knowledge and resources to the groups.

Anthony Ianni reported the Relentless Tour continues to move forward successfully, both statewide and nationally.

Cathy Kirby reported on the Autism Coverage Reimbursement Fund. Currently, there are 30,060 claims that were submitted and approved. There are \$2.2 million in claims which were not reimbursed due to fund being at a \$0 balance.

Colleen Allen reported the Autism Alliance of Michigan is busy planning for their gala, which is scheduled on April 16th. She also reported the Insurance subcommittee has three dates scheduled to meet, but smaller groups will continue to meet in between those meetings.

Joanne Winkelman reported the Michigan Department of Education is redesigning the transition coordinator role, an IDEA grant-funded position. Each intermediate school district employs a transition coordinator to support transition activities in schools. In addition, MDE Office of Special Education has been reconstructing the state's complaint system, a focus area identified in the Special Education Reform Task Force Report.

Jane Turner reported the Early Childhood Committee is drafting a white paper on the integration of systems in medical mental health education. Additionally, various Michigan universities have submitted for a LEND grant. Sharon Milberger of the Developmental Disabilities Institute will be codirecting the grant with Jane, if provided the funding. The universities will be notified on July 1st if they were awarded the grant.

Mary Chaliman reported that the Department successfully renegotiated our modified settlement agreement and now have an implementation, sustainability, and exit plan for child welfare improvement.

Lisa Grost reported the new Medicaid Autism Behavioral Health Treatment/Applied Behavior Analysis policy is going well, and there currently are 1731 children are on the benefit with 311 being over the age of 6.

George Mellos reported Hawthorn Hospital is currently working with Amy Matthews and will be sending Hawthorn staff to START training. Additionally, the Children's Behavioral Action Committee continues to keep children from reoccurring hospital admissions and reducing the stay of children by a minimum of 60 days.

Jeff Delay was not present at the meeting and submitted a written report provided to the members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 P.M. The next Autism Council meeting will be on **April 22nd, 2016** in the **Lewis Cass 5th floor Large Conference Room**.