



**AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
LEWIS CASS BUILDING
Friday, August 22, 2014
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Human Services
Rhonda Fossitt	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Scott Gilman	Network 180
Diane Heinzelman, Chairperson	Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District
Elizabeth Knisely	Michigan Department of Community Health
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chairperson	Grand Valley State University
Stacie Rulison, Secretary	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Wayne Fuqua	Western Michigan University
Joanne Winkelman	Michigan Department of Education
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION
Anthony Ianni	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Jane Turner	Michigan State University
MDCH STAFF PRESENT	MDCH ORGANIZATION
Hailey DuBreuil	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Lisa Grost	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Lori Irish	Division of Services to Children and Families
George Mellos	Hawthorn Center
Morgan VanDenBerg	Autism Behavior Specialist, Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Lynda Zeller	Deputy Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration
GUESTS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Pamela Lemerand	Eastern Michigan University



ROLL CALL

A Roll Call of the Council Members, MDCH staff, and guests was completed.

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Chair Diane Heinzelman at 9:07 A.M. A quorum was present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Joanne Winkelman noted a correction in the Education subcommittee report and Amy Matthews noted a correction in the Early Identification Early Intervention Subcommittee Report. Chair Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to approve the June minutes as amended. Stacie Rulison made a **MOTION** to approve the June minutes as amended. Mary Chaliman **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

MDCH AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Elizabeth Knisely updated the Council on BCBA Legislation indicating the legislation is still being discussed between LARA and DCH and Lisa will update the Council if it goes back to Committee in September.

A Legislative Autism Reform Update Breakfast will be held September 23, 2014 hosted by Senator Warren. Karla Ruest, MDCH Legislative Liaison, has been working closely with Senator Warren on the details of the event. Lisa Grost has been asked to be a primary speaker and the 5 universities receiving 2015 funding will be asked to set up a table at the event. Lisa indicated she would contact Senator Warren regarding the Council having a table, as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

STANDING REPORTS

Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District – Diane Heinzelman

Diane Heinzelman reported she met with the Lieutenant Governor in preparation for her new role as Council Chair and continues to familiarize herself with the Chair position and duties.

Autism Alliance of Michigan – Colleen Allen & Stacie Rulison

Colleen Allen and Stacie Rulison reported AAoM is continuing to work on the navigator. They recently met with MDCH and the Lieutenant Governor to lay out the goal of the navigator. They would like to present on the program at a future Council meeting. The anticipated launch time of the navigator is within the next 45 days using private dollars as AAoM. Private funds are being used to launch pieces of the navigator and will result in a 'soft launch'.

University Updates - Wayne Fuqua

Wayne Fuqua asked each university receiving state-funding to submit an update of their BCBA training programs and other autism-related progress being made. Wayne's 'University Updates' document includes information from Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University, Oakland University, and Western Michigan University and can be found here: <S:\Autism Administration\Autism Council\Council Monthly Meetings\8-22-14\University updates for the Autism Council 8-2014.pdf>

Wayne indicated across the board, universities are struggling with the state appropriations fiscal year and



the university fiscal years because they do not align. Wayne also shared one of their MDCH contract deliverables will be for Western Michigan University to host a job fair to match BCBA students in the job market with providers looking to hire new employees. They will extend the job fair to other universities.

Pamela Lemerand, a guest from Eastern Michigan University (EMU), reported on their most recent updates. EMU is using their funding to provide training to the community from their autism center and to expand their ABA rooms to increase amount of services available to individuals. EMU is also working on a program to help individuals with ASD find employment.

Grand Valley State University – Amy Matthews

Amy Matthews reported GVSU is launching their new school psychology program starting this fall with ABA sequence embedded within the program. They have submitted to the BACB and should hear back quickly. This program is targeted toward individuals working in schools/education rather than clinicians with the goal of the program being embedding behavior analysis within the school system. Amy also reported on START. There are currently 17 hubs around the state and there are several trainings planned for the 2015 year.

Department of Human Services – Mary Chaliman

DHS applied on behalf of the Governor's office for the Defending Childhood State Policy Initiative that is led by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and were 1 of 3 states selected. There will be a state team developing a state-wide strategic plan to identify, screen, assess and treat children who have witnessed or experienced violence. This is an opportunity to collaborate across government systems. Mary also touched base on psychotropic medication and how DHS has been working this summer on their Foster Care Psychotropic Oversight Unit that should launch September 1st.

Michigan Department of Education - Joanne Winkelman

Director of the Office of Special Education, Eleanor White, has left MDE and is now working for the Education Achievement Authority (EAA) in Detroit. The position has been posted and MDE is currently conducting interviews. The timeline for hire is around October. Joanne Winkelman also reported the Autism RFP funding official letter is not out yet.

Department of Insurance and Financial Services – Rhonda Fossitt

Rhonda Fossitt announced the August meeting will be her last as an Autism Council member and Cathy Kirby, Director of Office of Consumer Services has been recommended to the Governor as the next appointed member. Rhonda reported Act 101, the Autism Coverage Reimbursement Act, is being opened up due to some budget changes. They will also assure the Act aligns with the Affordable Care Act. Rhonda also reported Blue Cross will begin to utilize the Autism Reimbursement fund starting January 1st. DIFS will provide an update on the spending of the Autism Reimbursement Fund at the October 2014 meeting.

Department of Community Health – Elizabeth Knisely

Elizabeth Knisely reported on new appointees to the Council. MDCH is currently working with the Governor's office on this process and should have more information by mid-September. Lisa will update the Council as soon as more information is confirmed. MDCH and the Autism Team have been working on multiple projects since the June Meeting. The Autism Team continues to conduct their PIHP site reviews and have completed 7 of the 10 audits and will complete the final 3 by the end of September. MDCH held a conference call with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to clarify their recently released bulletin regarding autism services. It was clarified that states are not mandated to provide ABA to individuals ages 0-21; however, they do need to provide services to meet individuals' medical needs. MDCH is working on



policy options to comply with the new mandate.

MDCH is in the preliminary stages of researching the possibilities of adding BCBA's to the list of health care professionals who could receive loan reimbursement for working with Medicaid beneficiaries after graduation. The Department has also been working on 2015 contracts with the 5 universities receiving funding. MDCH has been awarded an autism HRSA grant and will be working with Public Health on a revised work plan and budget. Liz also announced that the August meeting will be her last as an Autism Council member as she accepts the position of CEO at Doctors Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan.

Network 180 –Scott Gilman

Scott Gilman had no updates for the Council.

National Leadership Autism Collaborative – Colleen Allen

Not discussed.

Mental Health Commission Educational Objective – Diane Heinzelman and Joanne Winkelman

Not discussed.

Mental Health Commission Employment Objective – Elizabeth Knisely

Liz Knisely reported the Mental Health and Wellness Commission approved document has been sent to Director Haveman and Elizabeth Hertel is working on home and community based rules specially pertaining to the Medicaid population.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Autism Upcoming Events – Morgan VanDenBerg

Morgan VanDenBerg shared with the Council members a list of upcoming events and trainings and encouraged them to send her upcoming events to add to the list. This list is posted on the www.michigan.gov/autism site under the autism council page – “2014 Autism Related Events.”

Autism Council Materials Template – Hailey DuBreuil & Morgan VanDenBerg

Hailey DuBreuil and Morgan VanDenBerg presented 3 materials templates to the Council members. They will have finalized options for the Council at the October meeting.

Autism Registry – Lynda Zeller

Lynda Zeller reported MDCH held their first meeting with Public Health Administration to explore ideas and recommendations for a Michigan Autism Registry. The Autism Registry would be housed under the current Birth Defects Registry; however, there are many steps that need to be taken in order to actively move forward. MDCH is researching New Hampshire's and New Jersey's registries to build a similar model. In order to pursue collecting this data, a case would need to be presented to and approved by Director Haveman. More information will be available at the next Council meeting after appropriate research and preparation is completed.

Autism Council Annual Progress Report – Amy Matthews

Amy Matthews reported the Council is on track to present the Annual Progress Report to the Governor's Office by December. Amy asked the Council members to send her information they would like reflected in



the report by September 3rd. She plans to have a more complete draft at the next Council meeting to be reviewed and approved by the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Autism Council Operations Manual and Reference Guide – Hailey DuBreuil

Hailey DuBreuil presented the first draft of the Autism Council Operations Manual and Reference Guide. The Council members should send their edits to Hailey by September 15.

Autism Resource Information Center (ARIC) – Amy Matthews

The ARIC site is built and will launch Phase 1 near the end of the fall. The site is simple, visually appealing and easily accessible. It is designed to answer questions by linking consumers to resources.

New Committee Application - Diane Heinzelman

Diane Heinzelman led discussion on the application process for subcommittees. She wants a simplified yet effective process for running subcommittees. The subcommittee application is currently off of the Autism Council website until a process is adopted. Stacie Rulison, and Joanne Winkelman offered to meet with Diane to discuss and bring a process back to the Council for approval at the October meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Early Identification Early Intervention Subcommittee – Amy Matthews and Colleen Allen

Colleen Allen reported on the Identification and Screening workgroups indicating the flow charts are ready to be sent to Amy, then to the Council for approval. They are currently working on a plan for next year with their primary goals being assessment; communication and dissemination. Amy Matthews reported on the Intervention Workgroup. They are finishing their critical components, reviewing next steps and deciding where they want the workgroup to go for the next year. In October, all workgroups are meeting together.

Adult Service Subcommittee - Stacie Rulison

Stacie Rulison reported the subcommittee met in June but had difficulty syncing schedules this summer. They have been focusing on evidence based models around the secondary transition programming and planning. Project Search is another area of focus for the Adult Service Subcommittee.

Education Subcommittee – Joanne Winkelman

Joanne Winkelman reported the Education Subcommittee created a timeline for the development of priority products. Joanne will send this timeline document out and it could be standardized for all subcommittees. The subcommittee is putting final touches on their evaluation document and getting ready to send it to the advisory group for input. They hope to have final documents by the December Council meeting for approval.

Insurance Ad Hoc Committee - Colleen Allen

Colleen Allen reported the Insurance Ad Hoc Committee meets quarterly. They continue to see challenges with providers receiving reimbursement for BCBA's providing direct care, occupational therapy reimbursement, reimbursement of school-based services, and BCBA students filling their academic requirements without reimbursement.

Crisis Management Ad Hoc Committee – Scott Gilman

Scott Gilman reported the Crisis Management Ad Hoc Committee organized their work into 3 buckets. The white paper should be ready to present to the Council by the December meeting. Scott also discussed the connection of coordination of medication while in an emergency department at a hospital. Dr. Beecroft and



Dr. Sheid will facilitate a meeting with the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians to develop training with best practice guidelines. More information will be available at the October meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M. The next Autism Council meeting will be on *October 24, 2014* in the Lewis Cass 5 Large Conference Room.