
The Michigan Autism Council



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Lewis Cass Building

Friday, October 30, 2015

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
Jeff DeLay	Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans
Wayne Fuqua	Western Michigan University, State Universities
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
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chairperson	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
George Mellos	Hawthorn Center, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
MDHHS STAFF PRESENT	MDHHS ORGANIZATION
Hailey DuBreuil	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
Lisa Grost	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
Rachel Rick	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
Karla Ruest	Legislative Affairs
Morgan VanDenBerg	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
GUESTS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Sarah Clark	University of Michigan, Child Health Evaluation and Research Unit
Jared Welehodsky	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Chair Diane Heinzelman at 9:00 A.M. A quorum was present for the meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

Chair Diane Heinzelman introduced the newest member of the Autism Council, Jeff DeLay. Jeff will represent providers from a pre-paid inpatient health plan (PIHP) as outlined in Governor Snyder's executive order no. 2012-11 establishing the Autism Council.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chair Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to approve the August minutes. Stacie Rulison made a **MOTION** to approve the August minutes. Mary Chaliman **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Karla Ruest reported fourteen session days remain this year for the State of Michigan legislature. It is unclear at this point if there will be additional committee meetings.

Karla, Senator Warren, and Senator O'Brien continue to work together regarding the BCBA licensure legislation. Senator Warren received more comments than expected prior to introducing the bill and is in the reviewing process. Karla agreed it would be beneficial for the Autism Council to develop talking points on the importance of passing legislation to license applied behavior analysis providers. Once developed and approved, Karla will provide the talking points to Senator Warren.

A hearing was held regarding the autism coverage reimbursement program. DIFS is projecting the funds will be depleted by November 2015. In the budget for fiscal year 2016, there was not money allocated and the State is currently in the middle of budget development for fiscal year 2017. Due to other high priority budget items, Karla is unsure if the fund will be allocated money for fiscal year 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMISSION REPORT UPDATE

Jared Welehodsky gave a presentation on recommendations from the Mental Health and Wellness Commission ([Mental Health and Wellness Commission.pdf](#)). Several objectives within the Mental Health and Wellness Commission's Initiatives were discussed as valuable to the ASD population, such as Project Search. Autism Council members discussed funding and the expansion of the Commission's initiatives as well as future collaboration opportunities including the possibility of coordinating efforts and sharing updates.

STANDING REPORTS

- Chair Diane Heinzelman reported she has been invited to be a member of the Special Education Reform Task Force chaired by Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley. The task force is composed of 16 members and will develop policy recommendations for Michigan's special education system and plan to have a report by the end of 2015. More information about the task force can be found here: <http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,4668,7-277--367465--,00.html>.
- Cathy Kirby reported on the Autism Coverage Reimbursement Fund. As indicated in the legislative update above, a committee hearing was recently held regarding the fund. DIFS is projecting the fund will be depleted by November 2015 and has sent written notification to the 34 entities approved to submit claims.

- Stacie Rulison reported on her participation in a think tank parent group as part of a grant to the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council.
- Mary Chaliman reported MDHHS is hosting a safety conference in December for child welfare staff expecting 400-500 participants. Mary is working with the Autism Program to develop an autism specific session at the conference.
- Anthony Ianni reported the Relentless Tour continues to move forward successfully. The tour has gone nationwide and has begun to sell merchandise. Anthony also reported an autism center in Mexico headed by a former Michigan State University faculty is using his “game changer” video in their center and translating to Spanish.
- Joanne Winkelman reported she is working on seclusion and restraint policy background. In addition to her current position at MDE, Joanne also has a new role as supervisor of complaints, due process, and policy.
- Wayne Fuqua reported Western Michigan University opened their Approved Autism Evaluation Center (AAEC) on September 11, 2015. WMU’s AAEC is currently on a one month wait list. The 2015 Michigan Autism Conference took place on October 8th and 9th with over 500 attendees. WMU is already planning for the 2016 conference and is looking for suggestions.
- Colleen Allen reported AAoM’s MINavigator program has assisted nearly 500 families so far and is 7 months into the program. AAoM is recording data on referrals and number of resolved cases among other information. AAoM has expanded their safety program by adding a safety specialist to their staff allowing them to expand their presentations to larger audiences.
- Jeff DeLay reported the Medicaid system field is focused on ramping up for age expansion of the Medicaid and MICHild Autism Benefit. Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority is not aging children off of the Autism Benefit by utilizing general fund dollars. He indicated the system is concerned about a change in funding stream from reimbursement to a capitation rate. Jeff also reported DWMHA has completed a documentary on mental health and stigma.
(<http://www.dwmha.com/Home/tabid/56/ModuleID/476/ItemID/131/mctl/EventDetails/Default.aspx>)
- George Mellos reported on Hawthorn Hospital’s efforts over the past year on bed management. Hawthorn has been able to staff children with ASD adequately to provide intensive support with a typical ratio of 2 staff : 4 children. 30-40% of children in Hawthorn have ASD and 50% of those children are involved with the Children’s Behavioral Action Team (CBAT). CBAT is expanding from 25 to 50 children and has been educating Hawthorn on what treatment means in the community and translating care while in Hawthorn to the community. CBAT and Hawthorn are working together to keep children at home, working to nurture an ABA culture in appropriate environments (i.e. home and Hawthorn), and are working to create quality safety plans. CBAT is funded through September 30, 2016. George also reported Wayne State and Trinity Healthcare residents have been trained and are working in Hawthorn to participate in the ADOS process and daily rounds.
- Jane Turner reported on Michigan State University’s (MSU) Approved Autism Evaluation Center (AAEC). MSU’s AAEC is still in the process of completing paperwork and has not seen any patients yet. When the AAEC is able to see patients, they will accept MSU Blue Care Network insurance. Jane reported MSU is leading a LEND grant proposal. The Request for Proposals has yet to be released, however, MSU is collaborating with other universities in preparation for the RFP. The core team working on the LEND proposal meets for the first time in November.
- Lisa Grost reported on many updates for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Lisa’s update can be found here: [MDHHS Update 10-30.pdf](#). Council members discussed how MDHHS reports on qualitative measures of the Medicaid and MICHild Autism Benefit in addition to quantitative measures.
- Amy Matthews reported that the Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) project is celebrating their 15 year anniversary. This year START is showcasing the positive work schools are doing to support children with ASD. The theme for their annual conference on May 2nd is focusing on integration within the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **2015 ASD State Plan Report –**

Amy Matthews facilitated discussion regarding the 2015 ASD State Plan Report. The report focuses on ASD recommendations and state-level work. Concern was expressed regarding the Council's advisory role in statewide initiatives, policies, and funding. Autism Council members should refer to the action items for details on submitting their additions to the report. The report is due to Governor Snyder by December 1.

NEW BUSINESS

- **MDHHS Recommendations: HRSA ASD/DD Grant –**

Sarah Clark facilitated discussion to get Autism Council feedback on priorities and opportunities for training primary care providers. Through the HRSA funded grant to improve the care of young children with ASD and DD, several projects are positioned to train and support primary care providers. Sarah provided a feedback form to members and reviewed the different topic areas requiring feedback. Autism Council members should refer to the action items for details on submitting their feedback.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Early Childhood Committee–**

The Early Childhood Committee has not met since the last Autism Council meeting. Their upcoming meetings will be in November and February and will be divided by workgroups (HRSA grant workgroup, Parent Support workgroup, Integration of Participation workgroup).

- **Child and Youth Committee –**

The Child and Youth Committee met on September 29, 2015. Committee minutes were shared with members. An ad hoc workgroup planned to meet on October 30, 2015 to go into further detail of the committee action plan.

- **Adult Committee –**

The Adult Committee has not met since the last Autism Council meeting.

- **Insurance Committee & Priorities –**

The Insurance Committee plans to continue meeting in smaller workgroups to work on priorities such as reimbursement for BCBA's for direct care and crisis stabilization.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 P.M. The next Autism Council meeting will be on **December 18, 2015** in the **Lewis Cass 5th floor Large Conference Room**.

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES

In response to the expected depletion of the autism coverage reimbursement fund, Autism Alliance of Michigan has reported they will launch a legislative campaign to lobby for re-appropriations to the fund.

ACTION ITEMS

Activity/Outcome	Who	By When	Comments	Status
2015 ASD State Plan Report edits and additions.	Autism Council members	Monday, November 9, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send to Amy.• Highlight edits/additions in blue.	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the document with initials in the title. 	
Complete the recommendation survey providing feedback for the HRSA ASD/DD Grant primary care providers training.	Autism Council members	Friday, November 13, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send to Lisa Grost (GrostL@michigan.gov). • Lisa will consolidate the feedback and report to Sarah Clark. 	
Draft Autism Council BCBA licensure legislation talking points (why the licensure is necessary).	Wayne Fuqua	Monday, November 30, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send draft to Council members for approval via email. • December 19, 2015 Agenda item: Review report with Karla. 	
Submit Autism Council annual report	Lisa Grost	Monday, November 30, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Council members send feedback to Amy Matthews by 11/9/2015. • Amy Matthews send to Lisa Grost by 11/23/2015. 	