Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)

- *DRAFT* -

Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), in-person attendees met at the Disability Network Capital Area, 901 E. Mt. Hope Lansing MI 48910 and virtual attendees participated via Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order

Chairperson Carol Bergquist called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Member Roll Call with Location

Secretary Karen Schulz read the roll call. A quorum was present.

Attendance

Council Members Attending In-Person:

Carol Bergquist, Chair, Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair, Kellie Blackwell, , Lisa Cook-Gordon, Todd Culver, Trina Edmondson, Bill Ernzen, Kathy Flagstadt, Karen Schulz and Karen Wang.

Council Members Attending Virtually:

Jessica Brady (Lansing, MI), Elham Jahshan (Lansing, MI) and Shana Lewis (Grand Rapids, MI)

Council Members Excused:

Kelsey Hockaday, Steve Locke and Margi Williams

Council Members Absent:

None

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Bill Robinson – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

Ex-Officio Member Excused:

Sigrid Adams – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

DSU Liaisons Present:

Lisa Kisiel – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

Eric Bachmann – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

MCRS Support Present:

Alicia Kirkey – Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training

Lucas Cairn – Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training

Guests:

Mike Pemble – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (virtual – Lansing, MI)

Steve Dalton – Michigan Rehabilitation Services (virtual – Lansing, MI)

Voni Booyinga – Michigan Rehabilitation Services (virtual – Eaton Rapids, MI)

Aimee Pena – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (in-person)

Juan Ortiz – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (virtual – Kalamazoo, MI)

Introductions by Members, DSU Representatives and Guests

Chairperson Carol Bergquist asked those attending the meeting to introduce themselves.

Approval of Proposed Agenda of October 12, 2023 Meeting (Attachment 1)

Todd Culver moved to approve the October 12, 2023 Proposed Agenda with suggested changes. Motion supported by Brent Mikulski. Motion was put to a voice vote with Chair Carol Bergquist calling for council members in favor to say aye and those opposed to state nay. There being a unanimous vote, motion carried. Proposed October 12, 2023, meeting agenda approved.

Approval of August 10, 2023 Business Meeting Minutes (Attachment 2)

The draft minutes of the August 10, 2023, meeting were provided to the council prior to the meeting. Chair Carol Bergquist called for any comments or suggested changes. The attendee list was corrected, and Karen Wang moved to approve the Minutes of the August 10, 2023, MCRS Meeting with suggested changes. Motion supported by Kathy Flagstadt. Motion was put to a voice vote with Chair Carol Bergquist calling for council members in favor to say aye and those opposed to state nay. There being a unanimous vote, motion carried. Minutes of the August 10, 2023, MCRS meeting are approved.

Resource Plan (Attachment 3)

FY2023 Resource Plan report was presented by Steve Dalton, Fiscal Manager, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and opened the floor for questions. No questions were raised regarding the FY2023 Resource Plan. However, a question was raised regarding the process for amending and reallocating resources to the FY2024. A discussion followed. Chairperson Carol Bergquist indicated that all proposals are required to be presented to the full council for consideration and require council approval.

Partner Reports

Developmental Disability (DD) Council – No representative present.

Disability Rights Michigan (fka MPAS) – Elham Jahshan (Attachment 4).

Incompass Michigan – Todd Culver (Attachment 5).

Michigan Alliance for Families – Karen Wang (Attachment 6).

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition – Kellie Blackwell reported information about the assistive technology program, including highlights about demonstrations and short-term loans of assistive technology equipment as well as trainings. The lending library now has more than 1,600 devices available for Michigan residents to use. The program is federally funded, and funding was

reauthorized in 2023. Representatives are available to schedule demonstrations.

Michigan Interagency Transition Team (MITT) – Karen Wang (Attachment 7).

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) – No representative.

DSU Updates

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP): Director Bill Robinson, Director, shared an update on BSBP activities, including the budget, migration to an e-case management system and employee hiring and onboarding activities, such as the creation of the BSBP Academy, a three-week intensive immersion for new hires, which includes training about the agency, culture, and objectives. Juan Ortiz highlighted FY23 accomplishments at the BSBP Training Center. Mike Pemble elaborated about the budget and explained about the agency's spending authority. Lisa Kisiel shared that the BSBP Excellence Awards will be November 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. This will be a virtual event. All are invited to attend. Further information will be sent to council members.

Public Comment

Secretary Karen Schulz read the council guidelines for public comment. She called for public comment. There was no response. Public Comment concluded.

Working Lunch break

Continued Business Meeting:

Bureau Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) (Attachment 8 & 8a): Eric Bachmann, Division Director, reviewed the reports submitted by Michigan Rehabilitation Agency with the assistance of Steve Dalton, Finance Manager, reviewing the budget portion of the report. Further questions and discussion regarding pre-pandemic trends and how to reach those levels again, federal and statewide goals (setting and tracking goals).

Eric also shared that the MRS Champion awards will be Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., at the Michigan Career and Technical Services. This will be an in-person event, no virtual option will be available. All are invited to attend. The Combined State Plan was also discussed. The council's role in Michigan's Combined State Plan will be to review the plan and provide recommendations. Further information regarding the plan such as the purpose, the process, timeline, etc., was also discussed.

A question was raised about the October 18, 2023, MRS Public Hearing regarding proposed changed to the Administrative Rules. MRS had shared this information at a previous orientation. This is a public hearing. Anyone interested in attending should contact Eric for further details of the meeting.

Unfinished Business

Council member appointments, vacancies, and term expirations: Carol Bergquist reported that there remains one vacant seat on the council. Collaboration with the Governor's Appointment Office continues to address this vacancy. Additionally, there are several council members terms that will expire on December 31, 2023. These members are Carol Bergquist, Brent Mikulski, Kellie Blackwell, Bill Ernzen and Karen Wang. Carol reminded these members to submit their applications for reappointment if interested in continuing to serve.

State of Michigan Email Accounts: Carol Bergquist reported that Alicia Kirkey is working with the Department of Labor & Economic Development's IT staff to establish SOM emails accounts for council members.

2023 Conferences – Carol Bergquist

- NCSRC – Oct 28-29, 2023, Savannah, GA
- CSAVR – Oct. 28 – Nov 1, 2023, Savannah, GA
- NCSAB – Nov. 1-3, 2023, Savannah, GA
- Incompass re:con Conf - Nov 8-10, 2023, Traverse City, MI

Carol Bergquist reported that MCRS will have a vendor booth at the Nov 8-10 Incompass re:con conference. Members assisting with this booth will be Carol Bergquist, Brent Mikulski, Kellie Blackwell, Karen Wang, and Kathy Flagstadt.

New Business

MCRS Vendor Booth: Carol Bergquist discussed preparation for the vendor booth. This is a great opportunity for outreach and networking to promote awareness of who MCRS is, who MRCS represents, and what MCRS does. Signage and materials will need to be prepared.

Review FY2024 Meeting Schedule – September 5, 2024, meeting date: Carol Bergquist inquired as to whether to keep the September 5, 2024, meeting date due to this being a short week as the Labor Day holiday is Monday of that week. She thought some members may be traveling during that time. After some discussion, it was decided to keep the 2024 schedule as previously approved.

Carol also shared that it may be possible for the FY2025 October meeting to be coordinated with the MRS Champion Awards at the Michigan Career and Technical Institute. More information to come,

MCRS Member Orientation Sept. 7, 2023 - Follow up / Q&A: Carol Bergquist opened the Q & A session. Due to time constraints, Carol suggested that this Q & A session be moved to the work session.

Wrap Up – Council Member Share, Announcements: Carol Bergquist shared there will be a member work session after the conclusion of business meeting. Carol called for any questions or comments. There were none.

Business Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business, Todd Culver moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Bill Ernzen. Acting Motion was put to a voice

vote with Chair Carol Bergquist calling for council members in favor to say aye and those opposed to state nay. There being a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

APPROVED - FY2024 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Thursday, October 12, 2023, Disability Network Capital Area, 901 E. Mt. Hope Lansing MI 48910

Thursday, February 8, 2024, Disability Network Capital Area, 901 E. Mt. Hope Lansing MI 48910

Thursday, May 9, 2024, location TBD

Thursday, August 8, 2024, location TBD

Thursday, September 5, 2024, location TBD