

Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)



Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 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 Ave., Lansing, MI 48910 and virtual attendees participated via Microsoft Teams.

Participation

Council Members Attending In-Person:

Carol Bergquist, Chair; Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair; Tiffany Burge, Secretary; Kellie Blackwell, and Jackie Tahtinen

Council Members Attending Virtually:

Steve Locke (Auburn, MI)

Lisa Cook-Gordon (Melvin, MI)

Council Members Excused:

Kimberly Barrington, Todd Culver and Karen Schulz

Council Members Absent:

Travar Pettway

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Tina Fullerton – MRS (virtual – East Tawas, MI)

Bill Robinson – BSBP (virtual – Clinton County, MI)

DSU Liaisons Present:

Lisa Kiesel – BSBP (virtual – Kalamazoo, MI)

Eric Bachmann – MRS

MCRS Support Present:

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

Partner Guest:

Elham Jahshan, of the Client Assistance Program, is attending the meeting today and providing a partner report. She has applied for reappointment to the Council and is awaiting a response from the Governor's Office Appointment Office.

Guests:

Mike Pemble – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (virtual – Houston, TX)

Amie Weber – Michigan Rehabilitation Services (virtual – Bellaire, MI)

Jonathan Bischoff – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Amy Lamiman – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (virtual - Ortonville, MI)

Juan Ortiz – Michigan Career and Technical Institute (virtual - Kalamazoo, MI)

Call to Order

Chairperson Carol Bergquist called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m.

Member Roll Call with Location

Secretary Tiffany Burge read the roll call. A quorum was present.

Approval of Proposed Agenda (Attachment 1)

Brent Mikulski moved to approve the May 12, 2022 Proposed Agenda with suggested changes. Motion supported by Steve Locke. Motion put to a roll call vote. Secretary Tiffany Burge called the vote:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	Yes	Todd Culver	Absent
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	Yes	Steve Locke	Yes
Kimberly Barrington	Absent	Travar Pettway	Absent
Kellie Blackwell	Yes	Karen Schulz	Absent
Tiffany Burge	Yes	Jackie Tahtinen	Yes
Lisa Cook-Gordon	Yes		

There being a majority vote, motion carried. Proposed May 12, 2022 meeting agenda approved.

Approval of Business Meeting Minutes (Attachment 2)

Jackie Tahtinen moved to approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2022 MCRS Meeting. Motion supported by Brent Mikulski. Motion put to a roll call vote. Secretary Tiffany Burge called the vote:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	Yes	Todd Culver	Absent
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	Yes	Steve Locke	Yes
Kimberly Barrington	Absent	Travar Pettway	Absent
Kellie Blackwell	Yes	Karen Schulz	Absent
Tiffany Burge	Yes	Jackie Tahtinen	Yes
Lisa Cook-Gordon	Yes		

There being a majority vote, motion carried. Minutes of the February 10, 2022 MCRS meeting are approved.

Resource Plan (Attachment 3)

Update FY2022 Resource Plan was presented by Amie Weber, State Administrative Manager, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and opened the floor for questions. No questions were raised.

Partner Reports

Disability Rights Michigan Quarterly Report (f/k/a MPAS) – Elham Jahshan (Attachment 4).
Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) – Steve Locke (Attachment 5).
Incompass Michigan – Carol Bergquist shared that Todd Culver was not available today but has provided a written report in his absence (Attachment 6).

DSU Updates

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) (no attachment): Director Tina Fullerton.

Amie Weber, State Administrative Manager, MRS, provided budget updates. MRS is still working toward spending pre-ets carryover and they hope to decrease carryover for next year. A lot of infrastructure projects at MCTI, with a total of \$23 million allocated for improvements.

Jonathan Bischoff, Department Specialist, MRS, provided performance updates on parks program, new referrals increase in pre-employment transition services, increase in those exiting services as employed. Pilot program to begin for staff electronic signature tools.

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) (Attachment 7): Director Bill Robinson, Director, shared stories of opportunities available and positive outcomes of persons served and their families.

Mike Pemble, Director, Administrative Services, BSBP, discussed the BSBP budget, IT modernization, and the Braille and Talking Book Library.

Lisa Kisiel, Field Services Division Director, BSPB, provided updates on BSBP priorities for FY22, increase across all categories of individuals served, work force teams other highlights and Pre-ETS notable items. Lisa also introduced new staff member Amy Lamiman, State Administrative Manager for the BSBP.

Juan Ortiz, Division Director, BSBP Training Center, provided updates including 92 participants served in-person and 19 served virtually from 10/1/21 to 3/2022 and recent and upcoming events (see attachment for further information).

Unfinished Business

Conferences:

Carol Bergquist discussed the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) conference that was held on April 12, 2022.

MCRS members Carol Bergquist, Jackie Tahtinen, Brent Mikulski, and Tiffany Burge will be facilitating three focus groups with students at the Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI), in Plainwell, Michigan, on Friday, May 13, 2022.

Carol Bergquist also shared that the Incompass Michigan Leadership Conference is scheduled for June 8 – 10, 2022, at the Delamar Hotel, in Traverse City. This is an in-person conference. Anyone interested in attending should reach out to Carol.

Membership

Carol Bergquist discussed vacancies on the council and appointment expirations in 2022. Council members should consider making recommendations to the governor's appointment office. A support document of MCRS expectations and mandates will be sent to members.

New Business

None at this time.

Work Teams Open Discussion (attachment 8)

Brent Mikulski and Carol Bergquist presented the structure and focus of the work teams and then opened the floor for discussion.

1. Executive Team – Carol Bergquist, Brent Mikulski, Tiffany Burge, Travar Pettway
2. Customer Work Team – Karen Schulz, Kimberly Barrington
3. Membership Engagement Work Team – Todd Culver, Brent Mikulski
4. Partnership Work Team – Tiffany Burge, Lisa Cook-Gordon, Steve Locke, Kimberly Barrington
5. Policy Work Team – Travar Pettway, Jackie Tahtinen

Jackie Tahtinen shared information regarding council duties and suggestions for this work team. New members should begin before Jackie's term ends on 12/31/2022.

Public Comment

Public Comment took place at 11:30 a.m. Tiffany Burge read the guidelines for public comment. Comments were limited to a 3-minute time limit.

- Travis Perkins, Whirlpool Corporation and father of a daughter with hearing impairments, expressed appreciation for the council and said thank you to MCRS for the work that they do. He had recently become aware of the council and was happy to join the meeting a pleased to hear so many members that really care about this area.

Working Lunch break

Presentation - National Rehab Council Orientation Modules – Graham Sisson

Carol Bergquist explained due to schedule changes today, she will move the presentation from Graham Sisson to a future MCRS meeting. This will allow for a more in-depth presentation regarding the orientation modules.

Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves and entity they represent to Vendella Collins.

Presentation - Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (attachment 9)

Vendella Collins, Executive Director, Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) explained the work of the DD Council. Federally funded, self-governing organizations charged with identifying the most pressing needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and committed to advancing public policy and systems.

Brent Mikulski asked if the DD Council has any projects to help with voter registration and voter turnout. Vendella explained they are working on a campaign to offer voter education, increase voter registration, and voter turnout.

Council Member Share and Announcements

Carol Bergquist shared that Graham Sisson had agreed to present the National Rehab Council Orientation Modules at a future MCRS meeting.

Wrap Up

Business Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business, Brent Mikulski moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion seconded by Kellie Blackwell. Roll Call Vote:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	Yes	Todd Culver	Absent
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	Yes	Steve Locke	Yes
Kimberly Barrington	Absent	Travar Pettway	Absent
Kellie Blackwell	Yes	Karen Schulz	Absent
Tiffany Burge	Yes	Jackie Tahtinen	Yes
Lisa Cook-Gordon	Yes		

There being a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Upcoming FY 2022 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

August 11, 2022, Location TBD

September 8, 2022, Location TBD (added to wrap up any FY2022 business)