

Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)



Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 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 Lansing MI 48910 and virtual attendees participated via Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order

Chairperson Carol Bergquist called the meeting to order at 9:31a.m.

Member Roll Call with Location

Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey read the roll call. A quorum was present.

Attendance

Council Members Attending In-Person:

Carol Bergquist, Chair, Kellie Blackwell, Todd Culver, and Steve Locke.

Council Members Attending Virtually:

Elham Jahshan (East Lansing, MI)

Council Members Excused:

Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair

Council Members Absent:

None

Council Member Seeking Reappointment Attending In-Person

Lisa Cook-Gordon

Ex-Officio Members:

Tina Fullerton – Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training (MRS-LEO-E&T) (excused absence)
Bill Robinson – Bureau of Services to Blind Persons, Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training (BSBP-LEO-E&T) (virtual – East Lansing, MI)

DSU Liaisons Present:

Lisa Kisiel – BSBP-LEO-E&T
Eric Bachmann – MRS-LEO-E&T

MCRS Support Present:

Alicia Kirkey – Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training
Andrew Pabst – Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training
Lucas Cairn – Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training

Guests:

Sigrid Adams, Deputy Director, MRS-LEO-E&T
Amie Weber, Fiscal Manager, MRS-LEO-E&T
Voni Booyinga – Administrative Assistant to Director Fullerton, MRS-LEO-E&T
Juan Ortiz – Training Center Director, BSBP-LEO-E&T

Introductions by Members, DSU Representatives and Guests

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

Approval of Proposed Agenda of February 9, 2023 Meeting (Attachment 1)

Todd Culver moved to approve the February 9, 2023 Proposed Agenda. Motion supported by Kellie Blackwell. Roll call vote by acting secretary Alicia Kirkey.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	Approved	Elham Jahshan	Approved
Kellie Blackwell	Approved	Steve Locke	Approved
Todd Culver	Approved	Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	Excused Absence

There being a unanimous vote, the motion carried. The proposed February 9, 2023 meeting agenda approved.

Approval of November 10, 2022 Business Meeting Minutes (Attachment 2)

Steve Locke moved to approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2022 MCRS Meeting. Motion supported by Kellie Blackwell. Roll call vote by acting secretary Alicia Kirkey.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	Approved	Elham Jahshan	Approved
Kellie Blackwell	Approved	Steve Locke	Approved
Todd Culver	Approved	Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	Excused Absence

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

Resource Plan (Attachment 3)

FY2023 Resource Plan report 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 (Attachment 4) Quarterly Report (f/k/a MPAS) – Elham Jahshan. A written report was submitted for members to read at their pleasure. Discussion centered around the pending litigation. DRM is seeking damages on behalf of their client. A case is now pending in the U.S. Supreme Court and awaiting decision by the court.

Michigan Alliance for Families – No representative present.

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) (Attachment 5) – Steve Locke, Executive, shared that lunch and learn meetings have been scheduled with the SILC directors for February 2023. This will provide first-hand feedback and enrich collaborations. Inclusive ADA celebrations are occurring around the state, primarily in Traverse City, Grand Rapids, Jackson area, and

Oakland/Macomb area. This allows those with disabilities to display their gallery level artwork by the end of July. Council member Kellie Blackwell offered assistance to SILC for support in the assistive technology program relating to SILC endeavors.

Incompass Michigan – (no written report submitted). Todd Culver shared that their calendar for various education and development opportunities and trainings has been developed and posted to their website. One of the trainings is the leadership conference scheduled for June 7-9, 2023, in Traverse City.

Developmental Disability (DD) Council – No representative present.

DSU Updates

Bureau Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) (Attachment 6): Deputy Director Sigrid Adams presented the MRS update in Director Tina Fullerton's absence. Budget and grant information was presented by Amie Weber, Finance Office. Eric Bachmann presented casework performance reports. Both Amie and Eric fielded questions regarding their reports.

Sigrid Adams continued with bureau updates. Voni Booyinga has started with MRS as the administrative assistant to Director Tina Fullerton. There will be other changes and new staff added and those announcements will be made as they occur. Overall staffing summary, MRS has about 500 staff total and 86 positions are in process of being filled.

FY23 Operational Plan Objectives focus is closing equity gaps, growing the middle-class by removing barriers to employment, and creating better jobs and supporting small businesses.

MCTI's spring in-person graduation will include 47 graduates. Also, renovations continue at MCTI and open houses are occurring again.

Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment is underway. Anticipate a draft report in the April with the final report by the end of May. Working with MSU's Project Excellence and input of MCRS members and others as well.

Business Services talent workshop to be held in March at the Kellogg Center.

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) (Attachment 7): Field Services Division Director Lisa Kisiel and Training Center Director Juan Ortiz presented the BSBP update in Director Bill Robinson's absence.

Juan Ortiz recapped the data presented in the written report.

Lisa Kisiel presented the budget information and field services information, which is included in the BSBP written report. She also shared Pre-ETS challenges, VR priorities, updates from the Administrative Services Division and Business Enterprise Program. With respect to the Braille Talking Book Library (BTBL), she emphasized that this is a free service to anyone who cannot access printed materials. This program was greatly appreciated by patrons during the pandemic. BTBL is challenged with declining patrons. One of BTBL's new initiative is a currency reader. Additional information regarding currency readers can be found in the BSBP report.

Steve Locke offered SILC assistance in outreach for BTBL programs. Lisa suggested that following the BTBL Facebook page is a good resource for current information regarding outreach programs.

Unfinished Business

Council member appointments, vacancies and term expirations: Carol Bergquist shared that she has been working with the Governor's Appointment Office regarding filling the vacancies on the council.

Member Orientation & Engagement: Carol Bergquist shared that council members will be discussing member orientation and engagement during the member work session to be held after the official meeting.

State of Michigan Email Accounts: Alicia Kirkey reported that with the anticipation of several council vacancies being filled by the Governor over the next month or so, onboarding for all MCRS members, newly appointed and existing, will take place when new members begin.

MCRS 2022 Annual Report: Carol Bergquist noted that a copy of the report has been provided to council members and is posted to the council web page. She also reported that the report was finished on December 17, 2022, well in advance of the December 31 deadline. The report has been submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration and confirmation of receipt has been received.

New Business

2023 Conferences – Carol Bergquist

- February 28, 12:00-1:00pm - Michigan Assistive Technology Program's Tech Tuesday Session: Assistive Technology for Trauma.
- March 15-16 – **National Rehabilitation Association (NRA)** Conference - 2023 Annual Disability Employment Summit (all virtual)
- April 15-19 – **CSAVR/ NCSAB** 2023 Spring Conference, Bethesda, MD □ CSAVR and NCSAB are hosting a fiscal conference jointly. It will not be the normal conference. There will be no day on the Hill.
- June 7-9 – **Incompass Leadership Conference**, Traverse City, MI,

Ad Hoc and Work Teams: Carol Bergquist – This topic will be covered during the member work session to be held after the 02/09/23 meeting. One topic that keeps surfacing is that VR services and programs should not be the “best kept secret” in Michigan. This is a great focus for this council, especially considering the partnerships MCRS has.

Public Comment

Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey read the guidelines for public comment.

Comments were limited to and kept within the 3-minute time limit. She called for public comment. There was no response.

Working Lunch – There being no public comment, the council broke for lunch.

Wrap Up – Council Member Share, Announcements,

Carol Bergquist discussed

Carol Bergquist also announced there will be a member work session after the conclusion of business meeting, MCRS members will participate in a work session regarding member orientation and engagement.

Business Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business, Todd Culver moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Kellie Blackwell. Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey conducted a roll call vote:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	Approved	Elham Jahshan	Approved
Kellie Blackwell	Approved	Steve Locke	Approved
Todd Culver	Approved	Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	Excused Absence

There being a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m., with the understanding there will be a break for lunch and then council members will hold a membership work session starting after lunch.

FY2023 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Thursday, November 10, 2022, Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI),
11611 Pine Lake Road, Plainwell, MI 49080

Thursday, February 9, 2023, location, Disability Network Capital Area, 901 E.
Mt. Hope Lansing MI 48910

Thursday, May 11, 2023, location, BSBP Training Center, 1541 Oakland Drive,
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008

Thursday, August 10, 2023, proposed location - Lansing

Thursday, September 7, 2023, proposed location - Lansing