

Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)



Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes

May 11, 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 Bureau of Services for Blind Persons - Training Center, 1541 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008 and virtual attendees participated via Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order

Chairperson Carol Bergquist called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.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, Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair, Todd Culver, and Karen Schulz.

Council Members Attending Virtually: Kellie Blackwell (Holt, MI), Lisa Cook-Gordon (Melvin, MI), Elham Jahshan (Lansing, MI), and Steve Locke (Auburn, MI).

Council Members Excused: None

Council Members Absent: None

Ex-Officio Member Present: Sigrid Adams – MRS (virtual – Lansing, MI)

Ex-Officio Member Absent: Bill Robinson – BSBP (excused)

DSU Liaisons Present:

Lisa Kisiel – BSBP

Eric Bachmann – MRS

Minutes Approved at 08/10/2023 MCRS Meeting

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 to Blind Persons

Steve Dalton – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Voni Booyinga – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Maureen Webster – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Introductions by Members, DSU Representatives and Guests

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

Approval of Proposed Agenda of May 11, 2023 Meeting (Attachment 1)

Todd Culver moved to approve the May 11, 2023 Proposed Agenda. Motion supported by Brent Mikulski Motion put to a roll call vote. Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey called the vote.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	<i>Approved</i>	Todd Culver	<i>Approved</i>
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	<i>Approved</i>	Elham Jahshan	<i>Approved</i>
Kellie Blackwell	<i>Approved</i>	Steve Locke	<i>Approved</i>
Lisa Cook-Gordon	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Schulz	<i>Approved</i>

There being a unanimous vote, the motion carried. Proposed May 11, 2023 meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of February 9, 2023 Business Meeting Minutes (Attachment 2)

Brent Mikulski moved to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2023 MCRS Meeting. Motion supported by Todd Culver Motion put to a roll call vote. Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey called the vote.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	<i>Approved</i>	Todd Culver	<i>Approved</i>
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	<i>Approved</i>	Elham Jahshan	<i>Approved</i>
Kellie Blackwell	<i>Approved</i>	Steve Locke	<i>Approved</i>
Lisa Cook-Gordon	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Schulz	<i>Approved</i>

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There being a unanimous vote, motion carried. Minutes of the February 9, 2023 MCRS meeting are approved.

FY2024 Council Meeting Schedule (Attachment 3):

The FY2024 proposed council meeting schedule was provided to council members in advance of the meeting. Chair Carol Bergquist stated that the council is required to hold four business meetings per year. Also, two years ago, the council added a fifth meeting in September to allow finalization of any council business required before the end of the fiscal year. The first quarter meeting is normally held in November. However, in November 2023, there are scheduling conflicts due to holidays and conferences. Rather than move the meeting to December, it is proposed to move the meeting to October 12, 2023. When discussion concluded, Todd Culver moved to approve the FY2024 Council Meeting Schedule. Motion supported by Kellie Blackwell. Motion put to a roll call vote. Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey called the vote.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	<i>Approved</i>	Todd Culver	<i>Approved</i>
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	<i>Approved</i>	Elham Jahshan	<i>Approved</i>
Kellie Blackwell	<i>Approved</i>	Steve Locke	<i>Approved</i>
Lisa Cook-Gordon	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Schulz	<i>Approved</i>

There being a unanimous vote, motion carried. FY2024 Meeting Schedule including dates of October 12, 2023, February 8, 2024, May 9, 2024, August 8, 2024 and September 5, 2024 is approved.

Resource Plan (Attachment 4)

FY2023 Resource Plan report was presented by Steve Dalton, Fiscal Manager, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and Mike Pemble, Fiscal Manager, Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. Spending is at just under 50% of the budget, which is due to spending still being a little less than pre-pandemic travel. No adjustments are recommended at this time. Carol mentioned that future

conference attendances should be factored into the FY2024 Resource Plan, which will need to be presented at the August 2024 meeting.

Partner Reports

Developmental Disability (DD) Council – No representative present.

Disability Rights Michigan – Elham Jahshan (Attachment 5).

Incompass Michigan – Todd Culver (Attachment 6).

Michigan Alliance for Families – No representative present.

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition – Kellie Blackwell stated that Michigan Disability Rights Coalition is the implementing agency for the Michigan Assistive Technology (AT) Program. The basic premise of the program is to increase access to and knowledge of AT options for folks with disabilities, older adults and those who support them. The AT Team provides direct services such as one-on-one demonstrations in homes, community locations, etc., regarding various AT options for the choosing of the individuals. There is also a loan component, both short-term and long-term, of devices. The AT team travels the state providing presentations and demonstrations wherever is needed.

Michigan Interagency Transition Team (MITT) – No representative present.

Brent Mikulski will coordinate with MITT members and provide a report at the next MCRS Meeting.

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) – Steve Locke shared that SILC is in the third year of their state plan for independent living. Continue to work with Centers for Independent Living and MRS regarding 2024 gap year. SILC is focusing on coordinating with partners to have a hybrid Michigan Youth Leadership Forum for 2024. SILC will be using the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment and in-person listening sessions to gather feedback from the disability community to incorporate into their state plan. Next SILC Meeting is June 9, 2023, in Marquette.

Minutes Approved at 08/10/2023 MCRS Meeting

DSU Updates

Bureau Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) (Attachments 07-1 and 07-2):

Interim Director Sigrid Adams, lead the presentation with assistance from several members of the MRS staff. A written report containing statistical data and in-depth information is attached.

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) (Attachment 8): Field Services Division Director Lisa Kisiel lead the presentation with assistance from several members of the BSBP staff. A written report containing more in-depth information is attached.

Unfinished Business

Council member appointments, vacancies and term expirations: Carol Bergquist shared that three council member's terms will expire December 31, 2023 – Carol Bergquist, Brent Mikulski and Kellie Blackwell. She suggested that if they are interested in continuing on the council, submit their applications by the next meeting so the Appointments Office has them on file.

Carol continues to reach out to the Governor's Appointment Office regarding vacancies. Hopeful to get a meeting scheduled soon.

State of Michigan Email Accounts: Alicia Kirkey reported that with the anticipation of several 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.

2023 Conferences: Carol Bergquist reported that the Incompass Leadership Conference is scheduled for June 7-9, 2023, in Traverse City, Michigan. If council members are interested in attending, please contact Carol Bergquist.

New Business

FY2024 Elections: Carol Bergquist reported that elections of the Executive Team consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be taking place at the August 10, 2023 Meeting in accordance with the council Bylaws. Brent Mikulski was asked to set up an ad hoc nominating committee to seek interest of council members in these positions. Brent will present nominations at the August 10 Meeting and elections will be take place at that meeting.

Member Work Session Outcomes: Carol Bergquist shared that council members would like to see more robust onboarding of members including a better understanding of the vocational rehabilitation system, expectations of a council member, more outcomes and customer experience/perspective data. Since MRS conducts a customer satisfaction survey, it would be helpful to schedule a meeting to discuss those outcomes. Possibility of scheduling a meeting in September to focus only on customer services and customer satisfaction was discussed.

Members also wanted a more comprehensive understanding about WIOA State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) federal mandates and how these mandates informed MCRS priorities and activities.

Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA): Carol Bergquist It is anticipated that the report will be finalized in June. The council will set up a presentation for the August 10, 2023 meeting.

Working Lunch break

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 three times. There was no response.

BSBP Training Center Presentation and Tour (Attachment 9): Juan Ortiz, Director, BSBP Training Center and his staff provided a fabulous presentation of the Training Center. Many of the instructors shared their area of expertise and the various way the training center assists their residents. The tour was conducted by three residents that were truly knowledgeable about the facility, the programs, and were incredibly open and honest in sharing their own stories. It was a great tour.

Wrap Up – Council Member Share, Announcements,

Carol Bergquist shared that the next meeting will be August 10, 2023, at the Disability Network Capital Area, in Lansing, Michigan.

Business Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business, Brent Mikulski moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Todd Culver. Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey conducted a Roll Call Vote:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	<i>Approved</i>	Todd Culver	<i>Approved</i>
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	<i>Approved</i>	Elham Jahshan	<i>Approved</i>
Kellie Blackwell	<i>Approved</i>	Steve Locke	<i>Approved</i>
Lisa Cook-Gordon	<i>Approved</i>	Karen Schulz	<i>Approved</i>

There being a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

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, 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, Disability Network Capital Area, 901 E. Mt. Hope
Lansing MI 48910

Thursday, September 7, 2023, Disability Network Capital Area, 901 E. Mt. Hope
Lansing MI 48910