

# Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)



## **Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes**

August 10, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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

## **Call to Order**

Chairperson Carol Bergquist called the meeting to order at 9:35 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, Kellie Blackwell, Todd Culver, Trina Edmondson, Kathy Flagstadt, Kelsey Hockaday, Elham Jahshan, Karen Schulz, Karen Wang, and Margi Williams.

**Council Members Attending Virtually:** Lisa Cook-Gordon (Melvin, MI), Khodr Farhat (Dearborn, MI), Shana Lewis (Grand Rapids, MI), and Steve Locke (Auburn, MI).

**Council Members Excused:** Brent Mikulski

**Council Members Absent:** None

**Ex-Officio Member Present:** Sigrid Adams – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

**Ex-Officio Member Present:** Bill Robinson – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

**DSU Liaisons Present:**

Lisa Kisiel – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

Eric Bachmann – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Proposed Draft Minutes 08/14/2023 MCRS Meeting

### MCRS Support Present:

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

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

Juie Owendag – Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training

### Staff Present:

Steve Dalton – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Voni Booyinga – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Maureen Webster, Michigan Rehabilitation Services

### **Welcome to New Members:**

New members were appointed recently by the Governor. They are:

1. Ms. Trina Edmondson, of Six Lakes, Michigan, appointed to represent disability advocacy groups, for a term commencing June 30, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2025.
2. Mr. Khodr Farhat, of Dearborn, Michigan, appointed to represent disability advocacy groups, for a term commencing June 30, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2025.
3. Kathryn (Kathy) Flagstadt, of Marquette, Michigan, appointed to represent vocational rehabilitation programs, for a term commencing July 27, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2025.
4. Kelsey Hockaday, of Midland, Michigan, appointed to represent business, industry, or labor, for a term commencing July 27, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2024.
5. Ms. Shana Lewis, of Lansing, Michigan, appointed to represent the Michigan Workforce Development Board, for a term commencing June 30, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2024.
6. Mrs. Karen Wang, of Northville, Michigan, appointed to represent parent training and information centers established under Section 671 of the individuals with Disabilities Education Act, for a term commencing June 30, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2023. Ms. Wang is succeeding Tiffany Guthrie, who has resigned, and serving the remainder of Ms. Guthrie's term.
7. Margi Williams, of Mattawan, Michigan, appointed to represent business, industry, or labor, for a term commencing July 27, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2024.

## **Introductions by Members, DSU Representatives and Guests**

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

## **Approval of Proposed Agenda of August 10, 2023 Meeting (Attachment 1)**

Todd Culver moved to approve the August 10, 2023, Proposed Agenda. Motion supported by Karen Wang Motion put to a roll call vote. Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey called the vote.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Carol Bergquist, Chair	<i>approved</i>	Kelsey Hockaday	<i>approved</i>
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	<i>absent</i>	Elham Jahshan	<i>approved</i>
Kellie Blackwell	<i>approved</i>	Shana Lewis	<i>approved</i>
Lisa Cook-Gordon	<i>approved</i>	Steve Locke	<i>approved</i>
Todd Culver	<i>approved</i>	Karen Schultz	<i>approved</i>
Trina Edmondson	<i>approved</i>	Karen Wang	<i>approved</i>
Kathy Flagstadt	<i>approved</i>	Margi Williams	<i>approved</i>
Khodr Farhat	<i>approved</i>		

There being a unanimous vote, the motion carried. Proposed August 10, 2023, meeting agenda was approved.

## **Approval of May 11, 2023 Business Meeting Minutes (Attachment 2)**

Karen Schulz moved to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2023, MCRS Meeting. Motion supported by Lisa Cook-Gordon. Motion put to a roll call vote. Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey called the vote.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Carol Bergquist, Chair	<i>approved</i>	Kelsey Hockaday	<i>approved</i>
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	<i>absent</i>	Elham Jahshan	<i>approved</i>
Kellie Blackwell	<i>approved</i>	Shana Lewis	<i>approved</i>
Lisa Cook-Gordon	<i>approved</i>	Steve Locke	<i>approved</i>
Todd Culver	<i>approved</i>	Karen Schultz	<i>approved</i>
Trina Edmondson	<i>approved</i>	Karen Wang	<i>approved</i>
Kathy Flagstadt	<i>approved</i>	Margi Williams	<i>approved</i>
Khodr Farhat	<i>approved</i>		

There being a unanimous vote, motion carried. Minutes of the May 11, 2023, MCRS meeting are approved.

### **FY2023 Resource Plan (Attachment 3)**

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.

### **PROPOSED FY2024 Resource Plan (Attachment 4)**

The proposed FY2024 Resource Plan was presented by Steve Dalton, Fiscal Manager, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and Mike Pemble, Fiscal Manager, Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, to the full council for consideration and approval. Once Council members' questions were responded to, Todd Culver moved to approve the FY2024 Resource Plan. Motion was supported by Karen Schulz. Motion put to a roll call vote. Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey called the vote.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Carol Bergquist, Chair	<i>approved</i>	Kelsey Hockaday	<i>approved</i>
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	<i>absent</i>	Elham Jahshan	<i>approved</i>
Kellie Blackwell	<i>approved</i>	Shana Lewis	<i>approved</i>
Lisa Cook-Gordon	<i>approved</i>	Steve Locke	<i>approved</i>
Todd Culver	<i>approved</i>	Karen Schultz	<i>approved</i>
Trina Edmondson	<i>approved</i>	Karen Wang	<i>approved</i>
Kathy Flagstadt	<i>approved</i>	Margi Williams	<i>approved</i>
Khodr Farhat	<i>approved</i>		

There being a unanimous vote, motion carried FY2024 Resource Plan is approved.

### **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 – Karen Wang (Attachment 7).

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition – Kellie Blackwell (Attachment 8).

Michigan Interagency Transition Team (MITT) – Karen Wang (Attachment 9).

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) – Steve Locke (Attachment 10).

### **DSU Updates**

Bureau Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) (Attachments 11a and 11b):

Interim Director Sigrid Adams and her management team provided updates on the budget and performance updates as reflected in their attached documentation.

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) (Attachment 12): Director Bill Robinson and his management team provided updates as reflected in their submitted report on their budget, and the Field Services Division and the BSBP Training Center activities and highlights. The Administrative Services Division shared updates regarding their modernization projects, Braille and Talking Library updates, and outreach projects.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Council member appointments, vacancies, and term expirations:** Carol Bergquist shared that there are now fifteen (15) of seventeen (17) council seats appointed. Two vacancies remain – the designee of the Michigan Department of Education Superintendent and one more seat representing business, industry, or labor. She is continuing to work with the Governor’s appointment office to get these positions filled.

**State of Michigan Email Accounts:** Alicia Kirkey reported that she will be coordinating with the Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity’s IT staff to begin the process of setting up the State of Michigan Outlook accounts, which will be the way that the council conducts business.

**2023 Conferences:** Carol Bergquist shared the dates and information of the following conferences:

- NCSRC – Oct 28-29, 2023, Savanna, GA
- CSAVR – Oct. 28 – Nov 1, 2023, Savanna, GA
- NCSAB – Nov. 1-3, 2023, Savanna, GA

- Incompass re:con Conf - Nov 8-10, 2023, Traverse City, MI

The focus of the council is going to be attending the Incompass re:con conference in November.

### **New Business**

**FY2024 Elections:** Carol Bergquist stated that in accordance with the MCRS Bylaws, elections for the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will take place. Currently, the chair is Carol Bergquist, and the Vice Chair is Brent Mikulski. Both the Secretary and Treasurer positions are vacant. Todd Culver was asked to hold the elections:

Todd shared that nominations were as follows:

- Chair – Carol Bergquist is nominated to serve another term.
- Vice Chair – Brent Mikulski is nominated to serve another term.
- Secretary – Karen Schulz has been nominated.
- Treasurer – Kellie Blackwell has been nominated.

A call for nominees from the floor was called. There being no further nominations, a vote was called for the existing nominations. Acting Secretary Alicia Kirkey called the roll call vote.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Carol Bergquist, Chair	<i>approved</i>	Kelsey Hockaday	<i>approved</i>
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	<i>absent</i>	Elham Jahshan	<i>approved</i>
Kellie Blackwell	<i>approved</i>	Shana Lewis	<i>did not vote</i>
Lisa Cook-Gordon	<i>did not vote</i>	Steve Locke	<i>approved</i>
Todd Culver	<i>approved</i>	Karen Schultz	<i>approved</i>
Trina Edmondson	<i>approved</i>	Karen Wang	<i>approved</i>
Kathy Flagstadt	<i>approved</i>	Margi Williams	<i>approved</i>
Khodr Farhat	<i>did not vote</i>		

There being a majority vote, the officers of the MCRS Executive Team are:

Carol Bergquist, Chair  
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair

Karen Schulz, Secretary  
Kellie Blackwell, Treasurer

**WIOA State Rehabilitation Council (SRC):** 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 are to be limited to and kept within the 3-minute time limit.

Laura Penfold, Peckham, Inc., shared comments about Ability One contracts.

At Peckham, employees work as a team without separation of duties because of intellectual component of work or physical disabilities. They are not segregated at all. She has realized that the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) concluded that employment in an ability one contract does not coincide with their definition of competitive integrated employment. She feels that the work at Peckham is the very definition of competitive integrated employment. Disabled people in Michigan are taxpayers. And the rehabilitation services in Michigan receive tax dollars. Just because the choice is to work in an ability one contract, should not prevent those from receiving services. Arizona is a state that does not comply with the RSA opinion and Arizona individuals receive placement in jobs and equipment provided by the state. She came before the council to share her comments and to question the State of Michigan's decision to not recognize ability one contracts as competitive and integrated.

**Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA):** Sukyeong Pi, of Project Excellence, Michigan State University; Maureen Webster and Claudia Pettit, of Michigan Rehabilitation Services; and, Lisa Kisiel, of Bureau of Services to Blind Persons, presented the 2023 report to the full council. Their presentation provided much detail including many statistical charts and graphs. Their presentation is made part of this report as an attachment.

### **Wrap Up – Council Member Share, Announcements,**

Carol Bergquist shared that there will not be a September 7, 2023, business meeting. Rather, an all-member, in-person Orientation will be held on September 7, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Disability Network Capital Area, in Lansing, Michigan.

### **Business Meeting Adjournment**

There being no further business, the chair called for a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. There being a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 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, No Business Meeting will be held.