

## **MINUTES**

### MICHIGAN SCHOOL SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

February 22, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room  
John A. Hannah Building, Fourth Floor  
608 West Allegan Street  
Lansing, Michigan

Present: Dr. Daveda J. Colbert (virtual) Dr. Jennifer Taiariol (virtual)  
Mr. Patrick R. Green (virtual) Ms. Rosa M. Thomas (virtual)  
Dr. Alyse F. Ley Mr. Jason Russell (virtual)  
Dr. Nasuh Malas (virtual) Ms. Aimee Alaniz (virtual)  
Ms. Beth Nagel (virtual)

Staff Present: Dr. Diane Golzynski

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Colbert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

With only one voting member in attendance, and the other Commissioners participating virtually, there is no quorum, and no actions can be voted on. Meeting will proceed without taking any action.

### III. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Colbert asked that the Commission members introduce themselves and the sector they were nominated to represent. Each Commissioner, present or on the virtual call, introduced themselves and stated which sector they were representing.

### IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Section 31n Update by Ms. Amy Zaagman, Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health (MCMCH) and 31n Advisory Committee chair, and Scott Hutchins, 31n and Medicaid Consultant, Michigan Department of Education.**

Reviewed the eight core features of a comprehensive school mental health system and the 31n funding that is to be used for hiring licensed Master's level mental health professionals. Reviewed the funding increases since the start of the 31n funding in 2018-19 to where the current funding is in this year's budget. The increases are welcome, but have some unintended consequences in that Michigan does not have enough licensed Master's level providers available to hire. Additional options are being considered including hiring Bachelor's level providers that would go back to school and earn their Master's degree. Gave a brief overview of the Caring4Students program. Shared data on the increases of number of schools served, number of school buildings served, and number of students served with the 31n(6) funds and the impact those funds have had in the last few years. Also shared data on the services provided by the 31n(6) funding professionals as far as number of students being screened and receiving direct services or referrals. Discussion on 31o and 31aa funding as well. Comments and questions were addressed.

**Presentation on efforts to retain and recruit school psychologists by Cheryl Somers, Michele Millhouse, and Jana Aupperlee, Michigan Association of School Psychologists (MASP)**

School psychologists serve academic, social emotional, and behavioral outcomes for all students. Presenters discussed the lack of school psychologists available to fill open positions. Current school psychologists to student ratio in Michigan is 1:1,500 students – recommended ratio is 1:500. There are currently an approximate 208 unfilled school psychologist positions in Michigan. This shortage has led to limited mental health services for the students in Michigan. Presenters discussed barriers individuals face when trying to enter the school psychologist field, including cost of education and limited number of educational programs. Michigan Legislature has funded an initiative for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year graduate students in school psychologists, social work, and school counseling to train and retain professionals in these fields. Distance learning, which allows people to learn from where they live, was discussed. This can lower costs as no relocation and travel expenses come into play. Distance learning has been successful in other states. Funding is needed to assist with distance learning. Funding is also needed to help with tuition for those choosing to enter these fields. Comments and questions were addressed.

**Discussion of Talent Pipeline.** No discussion. Will continue to be a recurring agenda item each month.

**Update on Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) contract by Dr. Diane Golzynski, Interim Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations at the Michigan Department of Education.** Dr. Golzynski stated that contracts were about to be signed when the Governor's Executive Recommendation came out. The Executive Recommendation line item for the School Safety and Mental Health Commission was not included. Therefore, MDE will not allow the signing of the MPHI contract since it is not

known if there will be a Commission or funding for these Commission positions. The House and Senate budget recommendations will be out soon. These budget recommendations may include Commission funding. Until the final budget is signed, the contract for MPHI cannot be signed. Commissioners discussed options and next steps, including sending a letter to the Governor's office to request the funding be put back into the budget.

V. ACTION ITEMS

**As there was not a quorum present, the School Safety and Mental Health Commission did not approve the draft minutes from the December 21, 2022, meeting or the January 25, 2023, meeting.**

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one requested the opportunity to provide public comment.

VIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the School Safety and Mental Health Commission is Wednesday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in the Lake Superior Room at the Library of Michigan.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dixon  
Executive Secretary  
Office of Health and Nutrition Services