



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

Recipient Rights Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2025

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Hybrid – Virtual and In Person at MDHHS South Grand Building

Present:	David Emmett-Hulet, Dr. Robert Lagrou, Lynn TenBrock, Tina Bertram, Yasmina Bouraoui (virtual), Melissa Callison, Dianne Baker (virtual), Chardae Burton (virtual), Angie O'Dowd
Absent:	Shaun Thompson, Tammy Banker
ORR Staff:	Karen Currington, Raymie Postema, Edward Wilson, Sue Witting (virtual), Tammi Leto (virtual), Robin Vican (virtual), Jennifer Gorman (virtual), Leonard Harden (virtual), Walter Herbert (virtual)
Guests:	Audrey Dick, Eric Houghtaling

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by Chair Robert Lagrou. The committee welcomed new member Angie O'Dowd. Welcome Angie!

Approval of Agenda

Agenda was moved to be accepted with one addition by Angie O'Dowd.

Moved: Lynn TenBrock Supported: Angie O'Dowd

Motion carried

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 11, 2024, meeting were reviewed and moved to approve as written.

Moved: Angie O'Dowd Supported: Lynn TenBrock

Motion carried

ORR Updates and Reports

Director – Raymie Postema

- All bills introduced in the last legislative session have died due to the new session that started in January 2025. One bill from the previous session has been reintroduced as SB 142, which called for membership changes in the recipient rights advisor committee.

- OAG audit still has not concluded. So far there have been four findings, and a few more are anticipated.
- Edward Wilson has been selected as the new Director of Education, Training and Compliance.
- MLive published an article critical of the recipient rights system in Michigan. MDHHS has responded to the author noting several factual errors.
- Pontiac General hospital is still not accepting patients, but has reapplied for certification.

Education, Training and Compliance Unit – Edward Wilson

- Written report submitted to the committee was reviewed.
- Basic skills training for new rights staff has been revised and a new schedule implemented that will hopefully fill the increased need for more frequent training.
- Changes to online training modules were also made. The annual training module for MDHHS staff has been paused. ORR is evaluating whether it is still needed, especially since it has been several years since any revision to the training.
- Edward Wilson asked the committee if the current written report was sufficient or if they would like to see different data. Members discussed that the inclusion of online training data numbers do not need to be included.

Investigation Unit – Karen Currington

- The written reports regarding complaint investigation activities submitted during the meeting were reviewed.
- Members requested if a more longitudinal view of data to determine trends or patterns would be possible. ORR will see if presenting data differently is possible.

Unfinished Business

Strategic Goals for the Committee

- The committee's current review of legislative efforts was discussed and continues to be the ongoing focus.
- Members also wanted to continue focus of inviting individuals to the meeting. Dr. Mellos, Director Hertel, and David Knezek were individuals identified to invite to a future meeting.

Membership

- The committee still has one vacancy. A family member of children/youth recipient is still being sought.
- The committee discussed the absences of member Shaun Thompson, and that it is unknown of his status.

2024 Rights Conference Evaluations

- The committee reviewed comments submitted by attendees. Overall the comments were positive.

New Business

2025 ORR Funding Review

- Eric Houghtaling and Audrey Dick presented an overview of the budget process and reviewed the ORR budget for 2025.

2024 Annual Report

- A final draft of the 2024 annual report was reviewed. The report is due to legislature by March 31.
- The committee discussed recommendations to the Department, and agreed with the ones written in the report.
- Ongoing challenges in obtaining not only behavioral health services, but health services in general was discussed by the committee.

2025 Recipient Rights Conference

- The committee discussed the Cookie Gant award, and the need for increased solicitation for participation in the nomination process. ORR will send an email to interested parties on behalf of the committee seeking nominations.
- The committee will review nominations at the June meeting and will decide the awardee at that time.

Crisis Residential Unit and Camera Use

- Member Angie O'Dowd raised the issue of a Crisis Residential Unit in her area that regularly utilizes cameras in the milieu. Raymie Postema clarified that the Mental Health Code simply does not allow the use of video surveillance in any setting other than a hospital including, including Crisis Residential Units.

Training on Recipient Rights Policies

Due to time constraints, training on recipient rights policies was tabled until the next meeting.

Committee Announcements

The committee discussed the possibility of scheduling the next meeting at Caro Psychiatric Hospital. Members felt due to the challenges in traveling to Caro, if individual members wished to tour the facility it could be arranged at a time separate from the scheduled meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Next meeting is June 18, 2025, 1:00 PM.

- Cookie Gant nomination review and selection

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.