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The Michigan Autism Council

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**AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**LEWIS CASS BUILDING**  
**Friday, October 24, 2014**  
**9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION</b>
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chairperson	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Cathy Kirby	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, Non-profit Organization serving those with ASD
Diane Heinzelman, Chairperson	Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District, Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
George Mellos	Hawthorne Center, Michigan Department of Community Health
Jane Turner	Michigan State University, Medical Centers/ Health Care Providers
Joanne Winkelman	Michigan Department of Education
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Human Services
Stacie Rulison, Secretary	ASD Community (Parent)
Wayne Fuqua	Western Michigan University, State Universities
<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION</b>
Anthony Ianni	Autism Alliance of Michigan, ASD Community (Self-advocate)
Scott Gilman	Network 180, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans
<b>MDCH STAFF PRESENT</b>	<b>MDCH ORGANIZATION</b>
Hailey DuBreuil	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Lisa Grost	Section Manager, Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Morgan VanDenBerg	Autism Behavior Specialist, Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Lynda Zeller	Deputy Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration
Sheri Falvay	Division of Services to Children and Families
<b>GUESTS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Shelly Bania	Sensory Systems Clinic
Barbara LeRoy	Developmental Disabilities Institute, Wayne State University
Tracy Vincent	Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Jill Lockhart	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services

## **ROLL CALL**

A Roll Call of the Council Members, MDCH staff, and guests was completed. Chair Diane Heinzelman welcomed two new members to the council: Dr. George Mellos representing the Michigan Department of Community Health and Catherine Kirby representing the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Chair Diane Heinzelman at 9:03 A.M. A quorum was present for the meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Chair Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to approve the August minutes. Joanne Winkelman made a **MOTION** to approve the August minutes. Mary Chaliman **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Lisa Grost reported on recent legislative items. The Michigan Department of Community Health and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs met to discuss language on the BCBA Licensure Legislation (SB 655) to propose to Senator Warren. We are also waiting for the Autism Reimbursement Fund Amendment (HB 5742) to move through Senate Committee on Appropriations and pass the Senate to allocate \$5 million to university and family support service initiatives as discussed in the August meeting. With 12 session days left in 2014, MDCH will continue to push for these pieces of Legislation to pass.

Lisa also reported on the Legislative Breakfast that took place September 23. Senator Warren was very happy with the turn out of the breakfast and presentation. Five universities attended to speak with law makers on their efforts toward autism. Director Lyon attended and appreciated everyone's dedication and effort.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Shelly Bania of Sensory Systems Clinic provided insight and facilitated discussion regarding Occupational Therapy as a recognized treatment for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. A copy of the handout she provided can be found here: [PUBLIC COMMENT-OT recognized tx for Autism.pdf](#)

## **STANDING REPORTS**

### **School Systems Representative – Diane Heinzelman**

Diane opened standing reports by referring to the Michigan ASD State Plan Executive Summary Recommendations for Immediate Action. Diane asked that while members gave their standing report to keep in mind and share how the work they're doing with their organizations are impacting the recommendations from the State Plan.

### **Non-profit Representative – Colleen Allen**

Colleen reported the Family Autism Support Services Initiative is very close to being ready to launch. She reported one challenge is coordinating implementation and making sure information is getting to all appropriate levels.

### **University Representative – Wayne Fuqua**

Wayne reported the Michigan Autism Conference (MAC) was successful with 450 participants. Several Universities met at the MAC to discuss disseminating best practices, supporting practitioners and BCBA's. Wayne also reported Western Michigan University will host a BCBA job fair in January 2015 which they hope to extend to the 2015 Michigan Autism Conference. The current autism state-funded universities

including Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Michigan State, and Oakland met October 1 to discuss 2015 priorities and it was facilitated by MDCH.

Following Wayne's report, discussion arose regarding how new BCBA's and those individuals new to the field can gain training on supervising staff. Wayne agreed to suggest a process to ensure supervision of a BCBA is provided by personnel that have the skills to perform the necessary supervision.

#### **State-funded Initiatives – Amy Matthews**

Amy reported the START project is refunded for the next 5 years. The START project's four priorities include: training of professional development, secondary transition, peer support, and implementation of evidence based practices.

#### **Department of Human Services – Mary Chaliman**

Mary reported that DHS is working closely with DCH on travel reimbursement for families attending medically necessary ASD services. DHS was also contacted by the Executive office regarding a new position for DHS that would be dedicated to autism. Mary indicated DHS supports the Autism Navigator proposal and the new position will act as support staff to the project.

#### **Michigan Department of Education - Joanne Winkleman**

The Office of Special Education is a member of the DHS's Disability Reform Work Group Strategic Plan.

#### **Health Care Providers – Jane Turner**

Jane indicated top priorities include building systems of care and services for identification and evaluation and getting children into necessary treatment. Efforts are also focused on building more AAECs for children with commercial insurance, but providers are having difficulties doing so with a lack of qualified people to focus on it. Jane reported on the recent approval of the HRSA grant being worked on by Behavioral Health and Children's Special Healthcare Services within DCH. The grant places a high emphasis on screening, improving early identification programs, and getting children into services.

#### **National Leadership Autism Collaborative – Colleen Allen**

Colleen reported on this national group of leaders from autism organizations within 26 states that meet in person each November and hold monthly phone conference calls. The group discusses issues occurring in the participating states and indicated she will have more to report at the December meeting. Colleen referred to a PowerPoint on application of collective impact which can be found here: [MIAC Collective Impact Example EIEI 10-14.pdf](#)

#### **Mental Health Commission Educational Objective – Diane Heinzelman**

Diane introduced to the Council a letter of support to the Mental Health and Wellness Commission. The letter of support indicates the Autism Council has read and understands the report and identifies how both groups are collaborating to achieve similar goals. Wayne Fuqua made a motion to support the letter. Amy Matthews seconded the motion. The letter was approved and will be sent to the Commission.

#### **Mental Health Commission Employment Objective – Lynda Zeller**

Lynda gave a very brief overview of the Mental Health Commission Employment Objective. The group is led by the Lieutenant Governor and consists of bipartisan Legislators. The group meets regularly and should complete their objectives by November 2015.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Autism Council Materials Template – Hailey DuBreuil**

Hailey presented to the Council two materials templates with suggested corrections from Council members. The Council voted and decided on one of the two templates. Hailey will also develop a template in landscape orientation and for documents exceeding 1 page.

#### **Autism Council Operations Manual and Reference Guide – Hailey DuBreuil**

Hailey presented an edited draft of the Operations Manual and Reference Guide to the Council. Members did not recommend any changes to the draft but should send edits to Hailey before the December Council meeting.

#### **Autism Registry – Lynda Zeller**

Lynda reported that the meeting to discuss the Autism Registry was postponed until December. Although this is a priority for the State of Michigan, MDCH, and the Autism Council, there are competing priorities and there may not be enough resources to move forward with the project at this time.

#### **Autism Council Annual Progress Report – Amy Matthews**

Amy presented the draft Annual Progress Report to Council members. She indicated the first page of the report is a summary narrative and plans to add subcommittee work to the narrative. Council members should send any additions or edits to Amy by October 31.

#### **Autism Resource Information Center – Amy Matthews**

Amy reported that everything is still being pulled together for the Autism Resource Information Center and hopefully it will launch by the end of 2014. They are still making decisions on who the site will partner with and what information will go on the website. Council members discussed other websites, such as the Autism Council page, that might house information while ARIC refers families to those particular sites.

#### **Autism Support Services Initiative – Colleen Allen**

Colleen reported the Autism Support Services Initiative has launched their pilot with 40 families in designated regions. They have a region by region rollout plan that will stagger high population and low population areas. Colleen also announced that AAoM is creating liaison positions within DHS, DCH and MDE to work closely with the organization on the initiative and to better equip the departments to answer questions and refer families to services. They are waiting for the Autism Reimbursement Fund to pass the Senate to receive their funding.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Autism Council Structure and Subcommittees - Diane Heinzelman**

Diane introduced a new process for recruiting and structuring subcommittees developed by her, Stacie Rulison and Joanne Winkelman (outlined on page 10 of the Autism Council Operations Manual and Reference Guide). After some discussion an Ad Hoc Committee was developed with Diane, Joanne, Stacie, and Amy to further discuss this process.

#### **Autism Council Communication of Work – Diane Heinzelman**

Diane introduced a Committee Report document that will replace meeting notes for committees. The new report document will allow for concise meeting summaries and action items and will be used at Autism Council meetings to report on the progress of committees.

#### **Medicaid Autism Behavior Intervention Expansion – Lisa Grost**

Lisa indicated that MDCH is working with a stakeholder workgroup with a variety of expertise to determine medical necessity and expand ASD services to qualifying individuals up to age 21. Lisa will have more information to report at the December meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Early Identification Early Intervention Subcommittee – Amy Matthews and Jane Turner**

The EIEI Subcommittee met last month as one large group and had a very successful meeting. Their documents will be ready for review at the December meeting.

**Adult Service Subcommittee - Stacie Rulison**

The Adult Service Subcommittee visited a program in Kent County which looks promising and has the potential to be a model for the subcommittee to follow. The Subcommittee finalized their recommendations for post-secondary supports which is ready for committee review.

**Education Subcommittee – Joanne Winkelman**

The Education Subcommittee is putting the finishing touches on their evaluation document and will be sending it to their advisory group soon. Their documents will be ready for review at the December meeting.

**Insurance Ad Hoc Committee - Colleen Allen**

The Insurance Ad Hoc Committee’s standing agenda includes diagnostics and ACEs while the coding and reimbursement issues have been resolved. A large concern discussed at meetings is with co-pays and deductibles which limit the number of sessions children can pursue. Colleen also mentioned the Insurance Ad Hoc Committee has had much discussion surrounding AMA codes and their next meeting is devoted to this topic.

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Activity/Outcome</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
Send letter with intent to support Education and Employment First components to Mental Health and Wellness Commission	Diane Heinzelman	October 28, 2014		Completed
Provide Hailey with the Committee Report template to be used by committees to report on activities of committee	Diane Heinzelman	October 28, 2014		Completed
Provide edits to State Plan Progress Report to Amy Matthews	Council Members	October 31, 2014		Completed
Review Committee structure section (pages 10-13) of Draft Operations Manual and Reference Guide	Diane Heinzelman Joanne Winkelman Stacie Rulison Amy Matthews	December 1, 2014		Completed
Provide draft edits to council members to review and be prepared to discuss at Council meeting December 19	Diane Heinzelman	December 7, 2014		Completed
Insurance Ad Hoc committee will discuss and identify a data collection method to determine if children are removed from educational setting to be provided ABA therapy.	Colleen Allen	December 19, 2014		
Review a process to ensure supervision of BCBA is provided by personnel that have the skills to perform the necessary supervision. (Personnel Quality Assurance)	Wayne	December 19, 2014		

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M. The next Autism Council meeting will be on *December 19, 2014* in the Lewis Cass 5<sup>th</sup> floor Large Conference Room.