



UP to the MINUTE

AUGUST 2023

Executive Director -
Danielle Sirianni
The Frederick Group

Michigan County Social Services Association
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INSIDE

- President's Message*
- message from MCSSA*
- President Grenae Dudley.*
- Events Calendar*
- MCSSA monthly meetings*
- and more important dates.*
- Meeting Minutes*
- Legislative Conference -*
- Save the Date*



President's Message: August 2023

2022-2023 Officers

*Grenae Dudley-White -
Oakland, President*

*Allan Bruder -
Presque Isle,
Vice-President*

*Shelley Boehmer - Life
Member
Immediate Past President*

Christy Hilgers - Houghton

*Sandy Cook -
Ionia/Montcalm, Treasurer*

Wayne Buskirk - Life Member

District I
*Linda Kinnunen - Baraga
Jamie Lemay - Marquette*

District II
*Naomi Deo - Montmorency
Tammy Emig - Oscoda
Don Bartosh - Alpena*

District III
*Wayne Buskirk - Life Member
Yvonne Hebert - Wexford*

District IV
Bob VanderZwaag - Ottawa

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and taking the much-needed rest and vacations that you all deserve. Over the last few years, we have been confronted with the growing need for mental health support and services. In a poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation in the Spring of 2020, nearly half (45 percent) of adults in the United States reported that their mental health has been negatively impacted due to worry and stress over the Covid 19 virus. Many constituents in our counties are dealing with changes in employment status, looking for jobs to work from home that further increase concerns regarding isolation and potential financial distress. Anxiety and depression are major concerns that we see not only among our adults but rising among our youth. Many adults make an erroneous assumption that our youth have nothing to worry or to be depressed about.

In this day and age of instant messaging and thumbs up if you like or approve of me, our youth are losing the ability to discern intent, hurt, embarrassment or shame. Hiding behind a text when the message I send is inflammatory or belittling appears to absolve the sender of the harm they may have inflicted. The burden our youth are carrying many times is unseen. Parents whose anger lashes out in words that belittle them are often unaware of the impact their words carry. Words that shame, degrade, and stigmatize. To hear from Demetrius Starling, the senior deputy director for MDHHS' Michigan Children's Services Administration that the department is working on increasing access to mental health services is a major plus.

This is also a message to our board members and staff to safeguard your mental health. Take time out for you. Stop texting and emailing, pick up the phone and talk or, better yet, visit. How many times have you gone into a restaurant to see families sitting together on their phones, snapping pictures of what they are eating

District V
Barb Hanneke - St. Clair

District VI
Sherrie Ross - Oakland
Harry Wilson - Jackson

Large County
Representatives

Bruce McCoy - Kent
Vacant - Macomb
Sherrie Ross - Oakland
Vacant - Wayne

Members at Large
Janice Covey - Mecosta
MiWha McBrien - Wayne
Twanetta Ingram - Ingham

to post on their social media pages, instead of talking with one another and sharing the challenges of their day to receive the support and positive feedback they need to carry on. Take this summer to reconnect and reach out. Continue to advocate for mental health services in your county and ask questions about how mental health concerns are being addressed.

Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2023

8/8 -Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm

8/9 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

SEPTEMBER 2023

9/11-9/13 – 2023 MCSSA Annual Conference, Mt. Pleasant, MI

OCTOBER 2023

10/10 - Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm

10/11 - Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

To attend any of these meetings via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4565476684>

Meeting ID: 456 547 6684

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Danielle Sirianni, Frederick Group.



Reminder to please, inform MCSSA office of the Auction items that you are donating for the 2023 MCSSA Annual Conference.



SAVE THE DATE

MCSSA/MCSSCET

ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

& BUSINESS MEETING

September 11th-13th

Mt. Pleasant, MI (Comfort Inn & Suites)

Theme: FROM BABY STAGE
TO GOLDEN AGE

“Looking at programs that span the
entire life cycle”

PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGE:

BRING 10 UNPERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS PER ATTENDEE

ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO LOCAL FOOD BANK

If you have not received the registration packet for the Annual Conference,
please contact: mcssa@mcssa.com



Michigan County Social Services Association

Development and Education Committee Minutes

June 13, 2023 @ 1:00 pm

In Attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Allen Bruder – Presque Isle

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Yvonne Herert – Wexford/Missaukee

Danille Sirianni – TFG

Kitty Packard – Saginaw

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Renee Courier-Aumock – Bay

Kendra Spanjer -Director/Ottawa

Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to Order – Bob VanderZwaag @ 1:01 pm
- 2) Approval of Minutes, May 9, 2023 – motion by Sandy Cook, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried.
- 3) Approval of Agenda –with the addition of conference cost. Motion to approve with addition by Kitty Packard, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried.
- 4) Ongoing Business –
 - a. Annual Conference – September 11-12-13, 2023
 - i. Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn & Suites Conference Center
Conference theme: Baby Stage to Golden Age: MDHHS and Partners Services for Michigan Citizens. Update on progress of conference planning: A large block of rooms are available. All county board members are eligible for state funding for conference expenses. The main speaker will be Dr. Eileen Wilson on communications across the different ages of clients, staff and board members. We'll receive a survey from Dr. Wilson for all attending the conference. Conference packets will be sent early in July. Grenae Dudley is asking all conference attendees to bring 10 non-perishable items which will be donated to the tribal council food bank and food kitchen. Everyone who brings ten items will be entered into a drawing. Houghton County will provide the prize, a certificate for pasties to be shipped frozen to the winner. Costume prize will be \$25.00 Meijer gift card. Both contests will be a ticket if you donate 10 items and/or if you come in costume. Thank you gifts for speakers will be kept around \$20.00 each. There will be a welcome reception hosted by The Frederick Group
 - b. Listen and Learn – dates and topics scheduled
 - i. Monday, July 17, 2023 @ 1:30 pm. – Handle With Care – Zoe Lyons, Jackson County DHHS Director
 - ii. October 17th or 23rd – Domestic Violence. Will discuss at next meeting.
- 5) New Business –

- a. New Board Member Orientation – will be at 11 am right before the opening of the fall conference. Kendra Spanjer asked about a New County Directors Orientation, is there anything in the works, lots of new directors.
 - b. Website update - Right now, MCSSA pays \$19.00 per month for hosting site, only. This doesn't include edits or changes. Will bring options to the board of directors.
 - c. Cost of Conference – we are recommending to the Board of Directors to raise the conference price across the board by \$20.00 for all categories.
6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 8, 2023 @ 1:00pm via Zoom or in person at The Frederick Group office.

Legislative Committee Minutes

June 13, 2023 @ 2:30 pm

In Attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Kitty Packard – Saginaw

Karen Holcomb-Merrill – League for Public Policy

Yvonne Hebert - Wexford/Missaukee

Ceylon Bettis - Saginaw

Sharon Campbell – Oakland

Katie Zeiter - DHHS

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Tasha L. Welch - DHHS

Jeff Spitzley – MDHH Legislative Affairs

Allan Bruder – Presque Isle

Laura Linebaugh – Ionia

Yvette Harris – E & T

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Mike Frederick – TFG

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to Order – Sharon Campbell @ 2:30 pm
- 2) Motion to accept agenda with no corrections, motioned by Kitty Packard, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried.
- 3) Motion to approve minutes from May 9, 2023, motion by Sandy Cook, seconded by Ceylon Bettis, motion carried.
- 4) Updates & Information, Sharon Campbell stated that bills are starting to come through, less focus on budget.
- 5) Updates from External Meeting Participants:
 - MI League for Public Policy, Karen Holcomb -Merrill is temporarily filling in, a new person has been hired and will start in July. Kids Count will be released tomorrow and state released on 8/23/23. Talk about events to launch state kids count.
 - E & T, Yvette Harris – Food & Nutrition Service was in Detroit & Lansing. The refugee program has started and is underway.

MDHH Legislative Affairs Division, Jeff Spitzley stated the budget targets have been received and legislators are still introducing bills. Katie Zeiter added that tec support is offered and peer to peer learning with other states.

- 6) Legislative Bills update – Mike Frederick and Danielle Sirianni will send updates for July.
- 7) Pending Legislation Information, recommendations, and updates
 - a. Child & Family Services
 - i. HB 4664 -Amendment for Foster Care Education requirements, allow legal guardian to get information of cause of death, as long as not the cause of death. Motion to support by Allan Bruder, seconded by Laura Linebaugh, motion carried.
 - ii. HB 4676 – Ensure that children placed in foster care are provided an education that prioritizes meeting the graduation requirements of the Michigan merit curriculum content standards and the ability to receive educational records to the same extent as all students in foster care. Motion to support by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Ceylon Bettis, motion carried.
 - iii. HB 4677 – Requires department to collaborate with Department of Education and Center for Educational Performance to report to the legislature on details about the education received by children in childcare institutions. Motion to support by Yvonne Herbert, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
 - iv. HB 4678 – Amend regular reviews of educational programs for those in foster care facilities. Motion to support by Ceylon Bettis, seconded by Laura Linebaugh, motion carried.
 - b. Standard of Living -nothing currently
- 8) Unfinished Business – nothing currently
- 9) New Business – nothing currently
- 10) Adjournment – Sharon adjourned the meeting @ 3:28 pm

Next meeting, August 8, 2023 @ 2:30 pm via Zoom or in person

No July meeting motion to accept by Kitty Packard, seconded by Ceylon Bettis motion carried.

Advisory Committee Minutes

June 14, 2023 @ 8:00 am

In Attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Sherrie Ross – Oakland

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Kitty Packard – Saginaw

Dwayne Haywood – MDHHS

Allan Bruder – Presque Isle

Grenae Dudley-White – Oakland

Doug Williams – MDHHS

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Mike Frederick – TFG

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Nancy Peacock – TFG

- A. Call to order by Grenae Dudley @8:02 am
 - B. Motion to approve minutes from May 10, 2023, by Sherrie Ross, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
 - C. Motion to approve Agenda with no changes by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sherrie Ross, motion carried.
 - D. MDHHS updates from Dwayne Haywood
 - Budget update, legislative is working and should have final budget approved by July. Targets are lower than we wanted. UCL is being implemented in more counties across the state and the goal is for all counties to be included. Dashboard was introduced and is in use. In the process of redetermination, hiring staff and training in a specific time frame. June's numbers are light but hopefully cases will rise. 1 day training for employees and looking at simplified reporting.
 - E. MDHHS updates from Doug Williams, in place of Demetrius Starling
 - FIS Integration and Support Program, regions pair together to provide direct support. Posted 16 positions (internal), pilot program will begin in fall. Offering training to Counties, motivational interviewing to assist workers, supervisors, and managers. Goal is to build relationships and trust with clients. There are currently 9300 children in foster care. That is down from last year's total of 14,000. MCSSA members are asked to be mindful about engaging families to consider fostering. System is working, 47% of those are placed with a relative in October 2022, today it is 54%, likely due to the definition of "relative". Update of placement policy. Currently there is a 28% turnover rate for child welfare workers. The department is offering pay increases to the most senior workers in Child Welfare and Cash Assistance. Cash & welfare departments have begun working together. Doug reported the Men of Color initiative seeks to increase department recruitment of them. He states that JJ (Juvenile Justice) has decreased the numbers of youth in facilities. Focusing on education credits so all credits are good at all educational facilities. Vista Maria proposed a short-term residential therapeutic program. It is hoped this will include youth being discharged from hospitals in addition to those transitioning from Child Care Facilities. This is an option to get kids into therapy sessions to help transition into the real world, including engagement with families. It is a work in progress. Doug Williams also stated that during June, Pride month and Juneteenth events are planned.
 - F. Unfinished Business – District reports
 - District 1 – Christy Hilgers -nothing currently
 - District 2 – Allen Bruder - next meeting in July
 - District 3 –no update
 - District 4 – Bob VanderZwaag -nothing currently
 - District 5 – no update
 - District 6 – Sherrie Ross – nothing currently
 - G. New Business - nothing currently
- Motion for no meeting in July by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Sherrie Ross, motion carried.

Next meeting will be August 9,2023 @ 8:00 am

Moved by Kitty Packard and seconded by Bob VanderZwaag to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 am

Board of Directors Minutes

June 14, 2023 @ 10:30 am

In attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Kitty Packard – Saginaw

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Sharon Campbell – Oakland

Grenae Dudley-White – Oakland

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Yvonne Hebert – Wexford/Missaukee

Barb Hanneke – St. Clair

Ceylon Bettis – Saginaw

Mike Frederick -TFG

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Nancy Peacock – TFG

1. Call to Order – Grenae Dudley @ 10:32 am
2. Motion to accept minutes from May 10, 2023, by Sandy Cook, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
3. Motion to accept Agenda with following changes: add Host Web Page and Financial investment rates by Bob VanderZwaag, seconded by Barb Hanneke, motion carried.
4. Announcements/Correspondence
 - Danielle Sirianni to send out to all board members “What We Have Done” sheet.
5. President’s Report – Grenae Dudley reported on the transition of Danielle Sirianni, TFG is our management and lobbyist team. Danielle Sirianni will be the main contact. The conference planning committee has been busy.
6. Treasurer’s Report – Sandy Cook – statements were good.
 - a. Finance Committee Update – Refreshed look of document and added interest accrued. TFG account reconciled to Quick Books. MCSSCET has no updated report – tabled. Motion to approve treasurer report by Barb Hanneke, seconded by Bob VanderZwaag, motion carried.
 - b. Investment Rates – Mike is looking into better rates than 1.5 – 2%. Feds are meeting soon may raise rates, wait, and see. Referred to Finance Committee.
 - c. Web page – Mike Frederick gave 2 proposals to update the web page. \$350.00 monthly and \$89.00 monthly (TFG uses this one), both would be secured. Currently, MCSSA pays \$19.00 monthly for only hosting, no updating service and is unsecure. The current budget is \$600.00 for the website. Mike Frederick also tossed out the idea of updating the MCSSA logo, price would be \$400.00 to recreate. The board opted to ask the membership if anyone had interest in redesigning the logo. Danielle Sirianni to send out email about the matter. Have entries submitted by 8-23-23, so the Board can vote on its next meeting.
- 7) MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison – Renee Beniak – unavailable

- 8) Advisory Committee Report – Naomi Deo – unavailable
- 9) Legislative Updates
 - a. Legislative updates – Sharon Campbell – 4 Bills
 - HB 4664 – Access to death records as long as not the cause of death. Motion to support by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.
 - HB 4676 - Education for Foster Care requirements all educational credits would be treated equal. Motion to support by Sharon Campbell, seconded by Ceylon Bettis, motion carried.
 - HB 4677 – Access to reports on foster care and education. Motion to support by Sharon Campbell, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.
 - HB 4678 – Assessments and regular reviews of foster care children education. Motion to Support Sharon Campbell, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
 - b. Status of the Marijuana blue backs – Danielle Sirianni stated that it was still in a draft and we are waiting for the budget to be finalized. Introduced HB 4430 which provided safety measures to the public. Will be updated again in fall.
10. Committee/Liaison Reports –
 - a. Development & Education Committee – Bob VanderZwaag

Conference planning is going well, visited the hotel. Featured speaker is Eileen Wilson, a MSU professor, she will speak Tuesday, her topic is “Communicate across the Ages”. She will also have activities, for interaction. Several Directors along with other speakers are set to speak at the conference. Registrations will be sent out in the first part of July. District meetings will be held during lunch. Reminder of the Presidential Challenge – All Conference attendees are asked to bring 10 nonperishable items. For each 10 items you Donate, you receive one raffle ticket. The prize for the food drive will be a gift certificate For pasties that will be shipped frozen to the winner’s house from Houghton County. Prize for “dressing up in your favorite era” for the banquet: Each participant will get a Raffle ticket with the winner receiving a \$25.00 Meijer Gift Card. Recommended to the board to raise conference price, \$20.00 across the board for each category. Motion to increase pricing by Bob VanderZwaag, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried. Prizes for both food drive and costumes, 10 non-perishable items = 1 raffle ticket, Dress up in your favorite era = 1 ticket. Prize for food drive, will be a Pasties gift certificate from Houghton County, that will be shipped frozen to the winner’s house. The prize for the costume will be a \$25.00 Meijer gift card. Speaker “thank-you” gifts will be around \$20/25 each.

July 17, 2023, is Listen and Learn, presented by Zoe Lyons. Because October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we’ll have that topic for our Listen and Learn. January 2024, Listen and Learn could be the Michigan State Police presenting on drug issues. We will have our silent auction at the conference to raise funds for scholarships. If you can contribute an auction item, please email a description to the MCSSA email. We received 2 scholarship applications so far. New Member Orientation will be held Monday morning before the conference. New Director Orientation TBD.
 - b. MAC – Bob VanderZwaag – report is in the UP To the Minute new letter. MAC does not meet in June, July, and August.
 - c. MCAH/Michigan Health Policy Forum – Shelly Jipson-Lomax – unavailable
 - d. Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee – Grenae Dudley

The Opioid Advisory Committee is researching how money from the lawsuits will be

allocated to different states and municipalities. One of the companies named in the lawsuit has declared bankruptcy. The committee would like the funds coming to Michigan to focus on prevention, treatment, and recovery.

11) District Reports from Advisory Committee Members

District 1 – Christy Hilgers, nothing to report.

District 2 – Allan Bruder, meeting in July

District 3 – Yvonne Hebert, sent note for other counties to host the next district meeting, if there are no volunteers, she will host again.

District 4 – Bob VanderZwaag – nothing to report.

District 5 – Barb Hanneke – meeting in July, invites are a written poem by Barb.

District 6 – Sharon Campbell – nothing to report.

12) Unfinished business – nothing currently

13) New Business –

Grenae needs a representative from each district to serve on the nomination committee. Need recommendations, names, and numbers.

14) Next meeting will be August 9, 2023 @ 10:30 am via Zoom or in person

15) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Bob VanderZwaag, seconded by Sharon Campbell. Motion carried.

Adjourned @ 12:02 pm