



# UP to the MINUTE

JUNE 2023  
Vol. V, Issue 4

Executive Director -  
Danielle Sirianni  
The Frederick Group

Michigan County Social Services Association  
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Save the Dat



## President's Message: June 2023

### 2022-2023 Officers

*Grenae Dudley-White -  
Oakland, President*

*Allan Bruder -  
Presque Isle,  
Vice-President*

*Shelley Boehmer - Life  
Member  
Immediate Past President*

*Carolyn Curtin -  
Osceola, Secretary*

*Sandy Cook -  
Ionia/Montcalm, Treasurer*

*Wayne Buskirk - Life Member  
Parliamentarian*

District I  
*Linda Kinnunen - Baraga  
Vacant*

District II  
*Naomi Deo - Montmorency  
Tammy Emig - Oscoda*

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

District IV  
*Bob VanderZwaag - Ottawa  
Vacant*

At each DHHS board meeting I attend as well as meetings associated with my job the one thing that appears common across all agencies at this time is staff turnover and changes. It is with some trepidation that I share with you that **Karla Ruest** is no longer with the Frederick Group. She has moved on to other opportunities and we wish her the best. Karla was the force behind MCSSA for the last couple of years and helped to streamline our processes, worked with the various committees to update our policies and procedures, and by laws. She worked with MCSSA presidents to host our annual meetings and our legislative conferences. She engaged legislators and during COVID worked with past president Shelly Boehmer to move our legislative conference to a virtual platform.

Our attendance and membership in MCSSA have grown. Our connection and engagement with State level DHHS flourished with her knowing who the right people from the department are to bring to the table. MCSSA wishes Karla the best of luck as she pursues other opportunities and knows she will always be a friend and supporter of us and what we do.

Bob VanderZwaag and I have personally met with Mike Frederick who is the president of The Frederick Group and received assurances from him that they will continue to provide the services we have contacted with them for and are committed to addressing any concerns or challenges we may have. Our office phone number and email remain the same. The Management staff assigned to MCSSA is **Danielle Sirianni**. Her background serving as the Chief of staff for former Senate Assistant Majority Leader Wayne Schmidt has certainly prepared her for managing and supporting MCSSA.

District V  
Kitty Packard – Saginaw

Ceylon Bettis – Saginaw  
County

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



**Danielle Sirianni** joined the Frederick Group after having served as a legislative staff to numerous legislators for more than 10 years. Her background in policy includes natural resources, energy, healthcare, economic development, tax policy, agriculture, and regulatory reform.

Again, we wish Karla all the best and look forward to Danielle filling the role that will continue to elevate MCSSA across the state.

## **Calendar of Events**

### **JUNE 2023**

6/13 – Development & Education 1:00pm and  
Legislative Committee 2:30pm

6/14 – Advisory Committee 8:00am and Board of  
Directors 10:30am

### **JULY 2023**

7/4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY – office closed  
Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

7/11 – Development & Education 1:00pm and  
Legislative Committee 2:30pm

7/12 – Advisory Committee 8:00am and Board of  
Directors 10:30am

7/17 – 1:30pm Listen and Learn “Handle with Care”

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

**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.***



# SAVE THE DATE

MCSSA/MCSSCET

ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE  
& BUSINESS MEETING

September 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

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 UNPERISABLE FOOD ITEMS PER ATTENDEE

ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO LOCAL FOOD BANK



# Michigan County Social Services Association

## DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

5/10/2023 – 1:00 pm

### In Attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Allan Bruder – Presque Isle

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Mike Frederick – TFG

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) **Call to Order** – Bob VanderZwaag, Chairperson @ 1:01 pm
- 2) **Review of Minutes – April 11, 2023** (minutes included in mailing) – motion by Sandy Cook, seconded by Allan Bruder. Motion carried.
- 3) **Approval of Agenda** – with change of update of TFG and introduction of Danielle Sirianni, motion by Allan Bruder, seconded by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried.
- 4) **Unfinished Business** – (change to ongoing business, instead of unfinished)
  - a. **Legislative Conference, March 14-15, 2023**
    - I. **Financial update** – 2 refunds were given, both reasons legitimate. Board approved, have been sent out. The financial report will be adjusted to reflect this.
    - II. **Confirmation of 2024 Legislative Conference** – Approved to move to April, dates are April 9 & 10, 2024, at the Double Tree Hotel and Heritage Hall are both available. It's a go! Numbers were up, will set pricing by past years counts.
  - b. **Annual Conference – September 11-12-13, 2023**
    - i. **Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn and Suites Conference Center**  
**Conference theme: Baby Stage to Golden Age: MDHHS & Partners Services for Michigan Citizens** -Update on progress of conference planning. Bob VanderZwaag, Danielle Sirianni and Nancy Peacock will visit Mt. Pleasant on May 19, 2023. Will meet with the hotel, visit food banks, and look at different activities.  
Tentative Feature Speaker – Dr. Ilene Wilson from MSU. Received good feedback on having her, will need approval from board, due to price. Will need to decide where to place presentation in agenda. Dave Knezek to speak as well, along with Pam Van Dam -Pathways to Potential, Renee Beniak – County Medical Group, Dennis Vantaken & Scott Wamsley -Aging Division. Asking attendees to donate 10 nonperishable food items, will call it The President's Challenge. Will donate to a local food bank, try to have it tribal with a presentation given about that food bank. Mike Fredrick will check on tribal connections. Talking about moving the

district meeting to a lunchtime slot to encourage better attendance at district meetings. Discussed having a “different decade” theme, with photo booth and option to dress up from your favorite decade. Received well, need more discussion.

**c. Listen and Learn** -dates and topics scheduled.

- i. **Monday, July 17, 2023 @ 1:30 pm-  
Handle With Care, Zoe Lyons, Jackson County DHHS Director**

Flyers have been sent out.

- ii. **Additional topics for future Listen and Learn sessions:**

Members are encouraged to send ideas for topics, the next session is scheduled for October 2023.

**5) New Business**

- i. **New Board Member orientation** – possible dates? Grenae Dudley and Bob VanderZwaag will continue to schedule these, including possibly one on September 11<sup>th</sup>, right before the start of the Annual Conference.

- ii. **Update of web site**

Proposal to investigate updating, hiring a web designer and check the cost.

**6) Adjourn**

- a. Motion by Allan Bruder, seconded by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried @ 1:48 pm

**The next meeting will be June 13, 2023 @ 1:00 pm  
Via Zoom or in person**

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**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes**

**5/9/2023 – 2:30 pm**

**In Attendance:**

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Allan Bruder – Presque Isle

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Sharon Campbell – Oakland

Yvonne Hebert – Wexford/Missaukee

Mike Frederick – TFG

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Nancy Peacock – TFG

1. **Call to Order – Sharon Campbell @ 2:35pm**
2. **Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda** – Correction, change name on item #6, from Karla Ruest to Danielle Sirianni and addition to Agenda, TFG update and introduction of Danielle Sirianni. Motion to accept with addition, Allan Bruder, seconded by Bob VanderZwaag. Motion carried.

3. **Approval of Minutes – April 2023** - motion by Sandy Cook, seconded by Allan Bruder. Motion carried.
4. **Update & Information, Sharon Campbell, Committee Chair** – nothing to update.
5. **Updates & Information from External Meeting Participants**
  - MI League for Public Policy-nothing currently
  - Brian Marcotte, E & T- nothing currently
  - Representatives from MDHH Legislative Affairs Division – nothing currently
6. **Legislative Update, Danielle Sirianni** – Update of bills, slow this week due to budget talks. Watching Senate Bill 13718 re: guardians of tribal children; allow access to guardian funds for foster placement. Will follow through all bills and update information will be sent when received.
7. **Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates**
  - a. **Child and Family Services, Sharon Campbell**
    - i. **No new Legislative Bills:** will communicate with Danielle Sirianni, no movement on bills at this time, and nothing to bring to the committee.
  - b. **Standard of Living:**
    - i. No Pending Legislation
8. **Unfinished Business:** nothing currently
9. **New Business:** nothing currently
10. **Adjournment:** motion by Allan Bruder, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried @ 2:55 pm  
**Next Meeting: June 13, 2023 @ 2:30 pm**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Minutes**

**5/10/2023 – 8:00 am**

**In Attendance:**

Christy Hilgers – Houghton	Grenae Dudley – Oakland
Yvonne Hebert – Wexford/Missaukee	Karen Holcomb-Merrill – MLPP
Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa	Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Demetrius Starling – DHHS	Dwayne Haywood – DHHS
Kitty Packard – Saginaw	Grenae Dudley – Oakland
Allan Bruder – Presque Isle	Mike Frederick – TFG
Danielle Sirianni – TFG	Nancy Peacock – TFG

- A. **Call to Order-** Grenae Dudley @ 8:15 am
- B. **Approval of Minutes, April 12, 2023** – motion by Bob VanderZwaag, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried.
- C. **Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda** – addition of update by TFG and introduction of Danielle Sirianni. Motion to accept Bob VanderZwaag, seconded by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried.

- D. MDHHS Updates from Dwayne Haywood** – Federal monitors are in the facility today. Childcare/PHE are in process. Mid-June will give better numbers. Budget looks short, but will know once it comes in. Retention of staff reclassifies senior workers with higher responsibilities and higher pay for them. 3000/4000 staff will hopefully meet the new criteria-as Senior staff. They will work with the toughest cases. The new classification will be good for younger workers, who can move up to Senior staff in about 3 years. Hoping to keep staff longer with the opportunity for quicker upward movement. The more people who stay on the job, the fewer new hires are needed and less expensive training. Since March 200 new eligibility specialists, 90 were unemployment agency workers. HR is working to keep them and are working with universities with on-site recruiting. Grenae asked about universities adding to their curriculum more of the skills needed for jobs in Child Welfare and CPS. Training during school results in less time and money for training for departments.
- E.** Question asked about the status of workers returning to the office. This is in process with hybrid scenarios. New hires need on-site supervision/support at the offices.
- F. MDHHS Updates from Demetrius Starling** - Child welfare update – 9,300 children in foster care and facilities as of today, that is down from last year of 14,000 last year. Drop in numbers due to more care homes (465 now, 451 last year) and children are getting placed in appropriate homes. Traverse City percentage increase 20% increase in pay for foster. parents, and are now seeking an 8% raise. **Out of State Placements:** Kids can and are moved to different states and can return home anywhere from 3 to 5 years later. Working on getting the children in different states home. Down from 18 to 13. **Federal Lawsuit and Children's Services:** Started out with 177 issues fifteen years ago and now down to 4 issues but still costing Michigan 50 million dollars for attorney fees. That money could be used for housing, food, etc. What can MCSSA do to help get Michigan out of the lawsuit. Advocating with certain judges would be beneficial. Grenae can provide names. The number of foster homes is up, 4281 as of today. Groundbreaking was done for the new facility for adolescents that is expected to be completed by 2025. Other Topics: Working on UCL (Universal Caseload) computer service with all counties. Specialists are provided to consult with workers newly engaged in UCL. Work being done on the budget. May is Mental Health Awareness Month, Wear Purple for Adult Services next week.
- G. Unfinished Business:** nothing to report.
- **District Reports:**
    - #1 – Christy Hilgers-meeting held on 4/28/23, 6 attendees. Main issue, treasurer resigned, talking about elimination of separate offices, combine with secretary.
    - #2 – Allan Bruder -unable to attend meeting, believes meeting was held around 4/20/23.
    - #3 -Yvonne Hebert -20 attendees on May 2, 2023, it was a 2.5-hour meeting. Undercover FBI agents gave a presentation. Was a wonderful presentation and would highly recommend it.
- New Business** – nothing currently
- Adjournment** - motion to adjourn Kitty Packard, seconded by Yvonne Hebert. Motion carried @ 9:07 am

**Next meeting will be June 14, 2023 @ 8:00 am**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES**

**5/10/2023 – 10:30 AM**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Grenae Dudley – Oakland

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Allan Bruder – Presque Isle

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Yvonne Hebert – Wexford/Missaukee

Sharon Campbell – Oakland

Kitty Packard - Saginaw

Mike Frederick – TFG

Nancy Peacock – TFG

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

- 1) **Call to Order** – Grenae Dudley @ 10:35 am
- 2) **Disposition of Minutes from April 12, 2023** – motion to accept Bob VanderZwaag, seconded Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.
- 3) **Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda** – motion to accept Allan Bruder, seconded by Bob VanderZwaag, motion carried.
- 4) **Announcements/Correspondence** – Update from TFG, staff changes, Danielle Sirianni will step up, Karla Ruest no longer with TFG.
- 5) **President’s Report – Grenae Dudley-White** – New board members orientation more information to come. Two different times – lunch & evening, plus schedule one in person immediately before the next conference as was done in the past. Drug traffic – DEA/FBI presentation was great, ask to present to your district.
- 6) **Treasurer’s Report – Sandy Cook** -looks good, motion to accept Bob VanderZwaag, second Sharon Campbell, motion carried.
- 7) **Finance Committee update** –Need to create a budget, update financial records, (specify the name for each account: send statement to districts routinely); need a candidate to chair finance committee. Finance meeting June 14, 2023 @ 9:00 am
- 8) **MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison – Renee Beniak** – unavailable
- 9) **Advisory Committee Report – Naomi Deo** – unavailable: Grenae Dudley summarized the information from the Advisory Committee meeting. Demetrius Starling reported a downward trend in Child Welfare cases, that foster parent rates have increased by 20% with an additional 8% planned. 18 kids in out of state placement now reduced to 13. These placements last 3-5 years and can result in adverse children’s experiences and lack of family contact. He updated the status of the Federal Lawsuit which started out with 177 child welfare issues fifteen years ago and is now down to 4 issues. MCSSA can help Michigan out of this lawsuit by talking to judges who can help. Dwayne Haywood reported a good trajectory for child day care. 15% of redetermination cases were passively renewed; other states have 30% passive renewals, and we’ll find out how we might improve our rate. Reclassifying senior workers to give more



responsibility and higher pay should help with the retention of these employees. The department is still hiring new eligibility staff and working with universities on providing more training for students. Status of transition to staff working in the offices: hybrid options continue at DHHS and in other state agencies with concern about staff retention.

#### **10) Legislative Updates**

**11) Legislative updates** – Sharon Campbell – is monitoring new bills which are slow right now, not many bills moving as budget talks are in the front seat.

#### **12) Committee/Liaison Reports –**

- a. Development and Education Committee: Bob VanderZwaag reported on the Annual conference –progress is in full swing, “Baby Stage to Golden Age”. Have presenters that we need include- Pathway to Potential; Demetrius Starling Children’s Services; Dwayne Haywood Economic Stability Administration; Dave Knezek for banquet speaker: Renee Beniak for Medical Care Facilities; Scott Wamsley for Bureau on Aging; The featured speaker will be an hour presentation by MSU professor on Generational Communication (including activities). We’ll explore giving continuing education credit. Bob VanderZwagg, Danielle Sirianni and Nancy Peacock will visit Mount Pleasant next week to work more on conference planning. Grenae Dudley’s MCSSA Presidential Challenge – collect 10 nonperishable items from each fall conference attendee. Donations will be given to Mount Pleasant area food bank.

#### **Discussion and Action Items for Conference:**

Approval for Key Speaker expense: motion by Allan Bruder, seconded by Sharon Campbell. Motion carried.

Feedback given about kicking off conference with the key speaker. Allan Bruder thought it would get things started right away. It was mentioned that more people would attend the full day of the conference. Will research as to what day is best.

District meetings – directors are usually busy and would like to have them on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Suggested to have district meetings during lunch. Would like more feedback.

Possibly have business meeting Day 2 from 10:30 – noon

Include a fund raiser for Scholarship Fund

- a. Mac – Bob VanderZwaag – Report is in the May Up to the Minute newsletter.
- b. MCAH/Michigan Health Policy Forum – Shelly Jipson-Lomax – unavailable
- c. Next Listen and Learn is July 17,2023: Topic is “Handle with Care”

#### **XI. District Reports from Advisory Committee Members –**

- #1 – Christy Hilgers-meeting held on 4/28/23, 6 attendees. Main issue, treasury resigned, talking about elimination of separate offices, combine with secretary.
- #2 – Allan Bruder -unable to attend meeting, believes meeting was held around 4/20/23.
- #3 -Yvonne Hebert -20 attendees on May 2, 2023, it was a 2.5-hour meeting. Undercover FBI agents gave a presentation and are willing to present to our districts anywhere in the state if their identities can be protected. Was a wonderful presentation and would highly recommend it.

#4 – unavailable

#5 – next meeting June 2, 2023

- XII Unfinished Business: nothing currently
- XIII. New Business – nothing currently
- XIV Next meeting June 14, 2022 @ 10:30 am
- XV Adjournment, motion Kitty Packard, seconded Bob VanderZwaag, motion carried @ 11:47 am



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



## **2022-2023 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PLATFORM**

This committee shall review all pending Health and Human Services reforms that pertain to county governments. This committee supports local control and accountability to meet the individual needs of local communities and opposes the creation of any unfunded mandates. This committee is responsible for assessing the adequacy of state appropriations related to the local delivery of services. MAC supports stronger prevention and treatment initiatives for all human services, such as, but not limited to, mental health issues, substance abuse, homelessness, children's protective services, the stabilization of families and the prevention and control of diseases.

### **COUNTY BOARDS OF HEALTH**

#### **MAC supports:**

- Coordinated decision-making by county, state and federal health care officials to provide optimal customer services, particularly as they relate to coordination and collaborative input about global, national or statewide health crises.
- Efforts to preserve and strengthen the role of local boards of health.
- Adequate funding for mandated essential local public health services, which at a minimum should include full implementation of the 50/50 cost-sharing mechanism to avoid any potential reduction in services (most recent numbers show the state has contributed 44% of the statutorily mandated 50% for these services).
- Investment in public health infrastructure and emergency preparedness to prepare counties for future pandemics.
- Continuation of county health plans as essential components of the social safety net in providing access to health care for low-income and uninsured persons in a way that reduces disparities of health care across our communities.
- State investments in monitoring and meeting basic social determinants of health, as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- State and local coordination of health need surveys to identify the state's priority health problems.

### **MEDICAID AND MANAGED CARE**

#### **MAC supports:**

- A policy of county, state and federal government agencies and county health boards working as responsible partners in providing optimal and equitable health care services with adequate state and federal funding.
- Continued collaboration between local health and community mental health boards in developing and delivering local health care services.
- Flexible use of local funds to match and support individual county Medicaid and Medicare services.

- Federal entitlement benefits for otherwise Medicaid- and Medicare-eligible individuals placed in a state or county facility, including correctional facilities.
- Amending Section 1905(a)(A) of the Social Security Act to allow the continuation of federal benefits, such as Medicaid, Medicare and Children's Health Insurance Plan, for enrolled and eligible individuals who are pending disposition from mental illness, substance use disorders and other chronic health conditions.
- Establishment of Medicaid rates to reflect the actual and projected growth in demand and for the real costs of providing the services associated with Michigan's Medicaid mental health benefit.
- Federal legislation and Medicaid Section 1115 waivers to lift the statutory Medicaid inmate exclusion for services provided to persons in custody for a certain period prior to their reentry into their communities.

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD)**

### **MAC supports:**

- Our public mental health system, which gives local control and oversight to our counties in ensuring quality and accessible services for all residents when adequately funded by the state.
- Community and evidence-based mental health care should take into account geographic factors that include community resources, natural supports, staff and service shortage areas. Optimal funding for mandated mental health services.
- Continued mental health parity, thereby ensuring financial requirements for mental health and SUD are no more restrictive than requirements applied to other medical or surgical benefits.
- Sustainable funding for SUD treatment services.
- The ability of the regional advisory committee to determine the appropriate use of PA 2 SUD funds, with county member input.
- Increased state funding to support community mental health providers and proper classification of enrollees to ensure maximum Medicaid rates.
- State investment for treatment and services related to combatting the opioid epidemic and maximization of funds allocated to the state and locals through the national opioid settlement.
- Removal of Section 928, which requires local counties to fund the state's obligation for drawing down Medicaid funds.
- Flexible use of local funds to match and support individual county Medicaid and Medicare services.
- A rate-setting system that more effectively responds to changes in the quantity and cost of services.

### **MAC opposes:**

- Any attempt to keep money from the opioid settlement for exclusive state General Fund appropriations, similar to what happened with the tobacco industry settlement.

## **COUNTY MEDICAL CARE**

### **MAC supports:**

- An appropriate reimbursement and regulatory structure that is adequate for the delivery and sustainability of quality care services.
- Comprehensive strategies to address staffing shortages across all levels of nursing.
- Merging Medicaid and Medicare dual-eligible persons into one managed care program, on the condition that improved care is achieved, care settings are used appropriately, the beneficiary's best interests are met, reimbursement is not reduced and county-operated entities are fully engaged and fully funded.

### **MAC recognizes:**

- The importance of medical care facilities and long-term care units in guaranteeing access to long-term care for county residents.

## **SENIOR-RELATED SUPPORTS AND SERVICES**

### **MAC supports:**

- Coordinating county, state and federal programs to meet the needs and services of Michigan's aging population.
- Quality long-term care options focused on individualized quality care.
- Senior initiatives that encourage and prolong independence, including, but not limited to, wellness programs, technology educational programs, suitable housing, transportation, health care choices, home delivery of meals, in-home care, care-giver respite and senior volunteers.
- State investment for the advocacy and research of effective alternative treatment programs that improve health and well-being for age-friendly communities.

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **MAC supports:**

- Collaboration and communication between the Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs and counties to ensure adequate and sustained funding for veterans' services.
- Directing resources and funding to the local level to deliver efficient programming and services for veterans, including at least \$50,000 funded through the county veteran service grants.
- Increased funding for veteran specialty courts.
- Maintaining current staffing levels for veteran regional coordinator services.
- Review of outdated legislation as it pertains to veterans' programs and funds.

## **COUNTY CHILD CARE FUND**

### **MAC supports:**

- An increase in the state match for community-based children's prevention and intervention programs that have proven positive outcomes, as such programs are the best alternative for children and will ultimately save the county and state money.

- Continuation of at least a minimum of 50 percent cost-share in state funding for out-of-state placements made by the local courts.
- Ensuring the 10 percent indirect cost allocation is applied to costs related to child welfare and juvenile justice populations.
- The state's recognition of counties' role in child welfare and juvenile justice funding model discussions and allowing counties to decide how Child Care Fund dollars are appropriately allocated.
- Continued collaboration toward best practices between the state and the counties to ensure timely payments.
- Fair appeal processes for fund source determinations and partnership with the state to maximize federal foster care funding.
- State investment and funding to ensure adequate housing for juveniles under the care and supervision of the county/court.

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

### **MAC supports:**

- Extensive involvement and oversight by county commissioners in administering the Partnership Accountability Training Hope (PATH) program or other programs that move people to self-sufficiency.
- Adequate funding for training displaced and unemployed workers to address the gap between workers' skills and employers' needs.
- Delivery of employment and training services by existing county-structured partnerships and labor market areas through the state's Workforce Investment System.
- Increased funding for the skilled trades training, such as the GoPro Program.
- Sufficient and sustainable funds for all workforce development activities, particularly providing employment and training services to welfare recipients.
- State support and partnership in creating and expanding tools for local governments to support the development or rehabilitation of housing supplies that are attainable to more of our citizens.
- Decisions being made at the county and local level to support community goals of affordability, particularly to provide workforce housing for families and individuals making up to 120 percent of the area median income.
- Employer-based incentives and supports for housing for moderate- and low-income workers.
- Solutions and policies to help combat worker shortages and support parents struggling to find accessible and affordable childcare and transportation.

## **OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER (shared with Judiciary and Public Safety)**

### **MAC supports:**

- Legislative and regulatory changes that advance research and provide technical assistance for data collection and analysis that chart a pathway for enhancing statewide training and standards for county offices of the medical examiner.
- Medical examiner accreditation(s) or certification of non-forensic pathologists and medicolegal death investigators to enhance the proficiency of medicolegal death investigations.

**MAC opposes:**

- Mandated regionalization of medical examiner services and/or offices.
- Statutory caps on fees or costs associated with medical examiner services.



## **Chuck Higgins Memorial Scholarship**

**Provided by the Michigan County Social Services Association,  
through the Consortium for Education and Training**

**Deadline: June 23, 2023**

**APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE**



This scholarship fund is for the children, grandchildren, stepchildren, step-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, step-nieces, or step-nephews of MCSSA members and DHHS employees.

The student must be enrolled in a human service field as determined by the selection committee. Those enrolled in pre-med, medical school, or education will not be considered. Those interested in the field of nursing may be considered.

Undergraduate students must be at the junior level with a declared major in a human services field, have maintained at least a 2.75 GPA and must provide a certificate and/or transcript from their Michigan college or university as proof of grade level.

Graduate-level students must have maintained a GPA of 3.0.

For more information email  
**[mcssa@mcssa.com](mailto:mcssa@mcssa.com)**  
or call **517-371-5303**



# **LISTEN AND LEARN “HANDLE WITH CARE”**

**Please Join us July 17th at 1:30pm Via Zoom!**

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

Meeting ID: 456 547 6684  
Dial by your location  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**Handle With  
Care is a  
program aimed  
at ensuring that  
children who are  
exposed to  
violence receive  
appropriate  
interventions so  
they can succeed  
in school to the  
best of their  
ability.**

**Speaker:  
Zoe Lyons,  
Jackson County  
DHHS Director**