



UP to the MINUTE

February 2024

Executive Director -
Danielle Sirianni
The Frederick Group

Michigan County Social Services Association
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President's Message: February 2024

2024-2025 Officers

*Grenae Dudley-White -
Oakland, President*

*Allan Bruder - Presque
Isle,
Vice-President*

*Shelley Boehmer - Life
Member
Immediate Past President*

*Christy Hilgers - Houghton
Secretary*

*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*

We have now entered the second month of the year, where resolutions have been made, some already broken, and others still under consideration. February brings forth new opportunities for awareness and contemplation, particularly as we observe Black History Month. It is a time for reflecting on history, challenges, opportunities, and advocacy.

In this space, I have frequently emphasized the responsibility we bear in representing the constituents we serve, rather than viewing our positions solely as board memberships to enhance our resumes. It is crucial that we understand the challenges and circumstances faced by those who rely on the services provided by MDHHS. Sherrie Ross, representing District VI and serving on the advocacy committee for MCSSA, raised a concern during our recent meeting with the Senior Deputy Directors for MDHHS. This concern, brought to our attention by constituents in our county, directly affects Michigan's seniors, who may face potential income loss from Medicaid subsidies with as little as a \$10.00 increase in their social security. Fueled by our advocacy efforts, this issue has prompted a closer examination of a state policy that could significantly impact the constituents we serve.

We should remember an appeal made by one of our county directors during an annual meeting, urging the Senior Deputy Directors to repurpose the state cars that are auctioned off and make them accessible to the youth aging out of our foster care system, who require reliable transportation. This appeal has been under consideration within the department and shows signs of progress. It is important to acknowledge that change takes time, but it remains stagnant without proactive activation.

One of the primary ways to become aware of challenges and opportunities within our communities is through open communication. Therefore, I strongly urge you to host and attend your District meetings, where you can share the concerns voiced by your constituents and staff. Encourage your District chairs to participate in the Advocacy

District IV
Bob VanderZwaag -
Ottawa

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
Twanetta Ingram - Ingham

Committee meetings and articulate these concerns along with your accomplishments. MCSSA offers a platform to facilitate meaningful change at the community level, driven by our commitment to equity and our obligation to anticipate and address any unintended consequences resulting from our advocacy efforts. I extend my appreciation to the Frederick Group for their dedicated research and unwavering support for our cause.

February is a month filled with various reasons to celebrate. Beyond Valentine's Day, which will be upon us in no time, it is worth noting that February is also observed as American Heart Month, Canned Food Month, The Great American Pie Month, National Bird Feeding Month, National Cherry Month, National Grapefruit Month, and National Children's Dental Health Month, among others. The list of February Holidays and Observances comprises no less than 108 different occasions. As we at MCSSA express our admiration and gratitude for your unwavering dedication and commitment to your work, perhaps we can even advocate for a designated MCSSA DAY!

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2024

2/5 – Listen & Learn – Traverse Narcotics Team @ 1:30pm
2/13 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
2/14 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

MARCH 2024

3/12 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
3/13 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & **Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**
3/22 – DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

APRIL 2024

4/9-4/10 – Legislative Conference – Double Tree by Hilton in Lansing

MAY 2024

5/7 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
5/8 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

JUNE 2024

6/11 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
6/12 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & **Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**

JULY 2024

7/4 – Office Closed – Fourth of July
7/9 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
7/10 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & **Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**

AUGUST 2024

8/13 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
8/14 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

SEPTEMBER 2024

9/16-9/18 – Annual Conference – Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City

To attend any 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.



Development and Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday January 9, 2024 @ 1:00 pm

In attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa	Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Christy Hilgers – Houghton	Kitty Packard – Saginaw
Mark Wolfe – Tuscola	Allan Bruder – Presque Isle
Kendra Spanjer -DHHS -Ottawa	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Nancy Peacock - TFG	

- 1) Called to Order by Bob VanderZwaag, Chairperson @ 1:01 pm.
- 2) Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2023, motion to accept as presented by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda -motion to accept as presented by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried.
- 4) Ongoing Business –
 - a. Legislative Conference 2024 – April 9 & 10 – Double Tree by Hilton in Lansing, MI
Agenda & food– basically the same routine as last year, need to fill in speakers and meal choices. Travel time was added, and box lunches will be available in Heritage Hall from noon – 1:00 pm. Lunch for Legislators will be available for those that request it. The banquet will be a reception with heavy appetizers being served. Danielle Sirianni and Nancy Peacock are attending the Double Tree by Hilton’s grand opening reception. It will be a chance to taste some of the appetizers that might be chosen for the reception. A shuttle idea is to rent a multi-passenger van for Tuesday, it will be a lot smoother transition from the hotel to the Capital.
 - b. Listen & Learn
Next up is Traverse Narcotics Team on February 5, 2024 @ 1:30 pm. Flyer is in the Up to the Minute and will be sent out a few times between now and February 5th. Next Listen & Learn will be in May. The committee was asked to submit ideas and will discuss them at the next meeting.

c. Annual Conference -September 16 -18, 2024 – Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI Theme- all agree on Mental Health, Bob VanderZwaag has been in contact with Dr. Kathy Bailey from Grand Valley State University. She has a couple of different routes that she could go, for the main speaker. Bob VanderZwaag was impressed with what she sent him. He will follow up with her. The theme needs to be related to her topic. The Frederick Group shared a list of different “themes” that pertain to mental health. Will discuss theme at next meeting.

d. Annual Conference locations for 2025 & 2026. A member suggested Muskegon, another member suggested Frankenmuth. Other suggestions are Clare, Big Rapids, Boyne City, however, Kendra Spanjer stated that Shanty Creek should be avoided. Bay City was also suggested, but Mark Wolfe informed the committee that they are working on bridges for the next 3 years. This might make a messy commute.

- 5) New Business – nothing was brought up.
- 6) Adjourn- motion to adjourn was made by Allan Bruder, seconded by Mark Wolfe. Meeting Adjourned @ 1:41 pm

Then next meeting will be February 13, 2024 @ 1 pm, via Zoom or in person

Legislative Committee Minutes

Tuesday January 10, 2024 @ 2:30 pm

In attendance

Sharon Campbell – Oakland

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Katie Zeiter – DHHS

Laura Linebaugh – Ionia

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Kitty Packard – Saginaw

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Allan Bruder – Presque Isle

Twanette Ingram -DHHS

Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to Order – Sharon Campbell, Chairperson called the meeting to order @ 2:31 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes December 12, 2023 – motion to accept was made by Sandy Cook, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to approve was made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 4) Updates & Information, Sharon Campbell, Committee Chair – nothing to update, legislative emails include nothing new.
- 4) Updates & Information from External Meeting Participants
 - MI League for Public Policy - unavailable
 - E & T - unavailable
 - Representatives from MDHH Legislative Affairs Division – Katie Zeiter from Economics Stability informed that the Flint Pilot program has started. Auto files are being reviewed.
- 5) Legislative Bills Update, Danielle Sirianni, Mike Frederick – Danielle Sirianni informed the committee that not much is going on. The House and Senate adjourned in November and the new session starts

January 10, 2024.

- 6) Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates – nothing new
- 7) Unfinished Business – nothing currently
- 8) New Business – The Legislative Priorities are good for 2024. Next year it will be reviewed again. They are good for two years.
- 10) Adjournment – motion to adjourn made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 2:45 pm.

Next meeting is February 13, 2024 @2:30 pm, via Zoom or in person

Advisory Committee Minutes

January 10, 2024 @ 8:00 am

In attendance

Naomi Deo – Montmorency	Sherrie Ross – Oakland
Grenae Dudley – Oakland	Allan Bruder – Presque Isle
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm	Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Demetrui Starling –MDHHS	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Nancy Peacock – TFG	Grey Skudlarick - TFG

1. Call to Order – Naomi Deo, Chairperson @ 8:01 am.
2. Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2023, motion to approve was made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
3. Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to approve was made by Sherrie Ross, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried.
4. MDHHS Updates from Dwayne Haywood - unavailable
5. MDHHS Updates from Demetrius Starling -Demetrius Starling started by reporting that in terms of upcoming initiatives for 2024, the department wants to focus on lifting voices of youth, predominantly ones that are currently transitioning to adulthood. Specifically, the initiatives go along the lines of providing requisite resources for the target group like mental health services, bridge card services, and Medicaid support. The Department also aims to have youth experience groups assist with the building of the program initiatives that are comprised of former youth that were in these programs. Additionally, the Department aims to relaunch the I Care for Children campaign in 2024, which includes consulting with youth in order to achieve the goals of the campaign. Demetrui Starling would like to have some youth invited to attend the MCSSA Legislative Conference. The committee liked this idea and suggested inviting youth to the Annual Conference as well. The Department also is continuing to work with other state agencies, as they are planning on giving a presentation in front of the state Board of Education to talk about legislative recommendations in terms of foster care education and outcomes. Lastly, we want to continue to give concrete economic support to at-risk families. We plan on going to a conference in Chicago in February to present the initiatives that Michigan has underway, including programs that have been very positively affecting Michigan families. We are also looking to expand the amount of child resource workers in resource centers across the state, given that this has been a very successful program.
6. District Reports-
 - District I – Christy Hilgers-The next meeting will be held in April.

- District II – Allan Bruder-Next meeting will be held in January, waiting on specifics of that meeting.
- District III – Yvonne Hebert-Not present/no update
- District IV – Bob VanderZwaag-Not present/no update
- District V – Barb Hanneke-Not present/no update, haven't heard from her since November. Will continue to try and reach her.
- District VI – Sherrie Ross-We are currently in the process of reviewing a report concerning the universal caseloads. We have not reviewed the report in full but hope to later this week and will share the findings with the board.

7. Unfinished Business- Danielle Sirianni updated the committee that nothing has happened in the last month

In Lansing concerning legislation, however, we hope that more will occur once the legislature is back in session. Hope to report more at the next meeting.

8. New Business -Sherrie Ross brought up the topic of Medicaid and issues that concern seniors. She referred to comments by County Director Belinda Arbogast. If Social Security increases the overall cost of living benefits, a spend-down could potentially occur, given that many of these recipients would be in a new income bracket. This could require Seniors to spend as much as \$700 a month to qualify for many services. This could result in some of them losing Medicaid services due to inability to meet this requirement. Additionally, in terms of in-home care providers, a new EVV would require these employees to set up hours of service, and subsequently report. Hours to be compensated, as well as be subject to location tracking via cell phones to ensure that they are working during these hours.

Danielle Sirianni also gave a reminder of the February Listen & Learn. The Traverse Narcotic Team are the presenters, it will begin @ 1:30 pm.

9. Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Sherrie Ross, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion Carried. Meeting adjourned @ 8:35 am.

The next meeting will be February 14, 2024 @ 8:00 am via Zoom or in person

Board of Directors Minutes

January 10, 2024 @ 9:30 am

In attendance;

Christy Hilgers – Houghton
 Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
 Naomi Deo - Montmorency
 Danielle Sirianni – TFG
 Nancy Peacock – TFG

Allan Bruder – Presque Isle
 Grenae Dudley – Oakland
 Renee Beniak - DHHS
 Mike Frederick – TFG
 Grey Skudlarick - TFG

- 1) Call to order – Grenae Dudley, Chairperson @ 9:34 am
- 2) Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2023 – motion to accept was made by Naomi Deo, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of the Agenda – motion to approve was made by Naomi Deo, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 4) Announcements/Correspondence –
 Frederick Group updates-On January 9th, updates were sent out to all board members by Danielle Sirianni. We have worked on the Up to the Minute newsletter, planning both of our 2024 conferences, as well as collecting this year's dues (38 counties have paid so far).

- Mike Frederick added that when we took over the management of the association, we were given an old filing cabinet full of old MCSSA documents. Over the last few months, Nancy Peacock has completed the digitization of those documents, which eliminates the need to have the filing cabinet. What would the board like us to do with it? Grenae Dudley would like to donate the old filing cabinet.
- 5) President's Report – Grenae Dudley-White reported that last month, Danielle Sirianni and Grenae Dudley met with Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties to present prevalent facts and statistics to them about their counties. They have indicated that they are both very interested in becoming members. Additionally, a subcommittee met last month to discuss a new district map, and I suggest that we approve the recommendation made by the subcommittee and approve the new map. Motion to approve made by Allan Bruder, seconded by Naomi Deo, motion carried.
 - 6) Treasurer's Report – Sandy Cook reported that as of right now, everything checks out and looks good.
Mike Frederick stated that the MCSSA CD worth \$90,000 took effect November 30th, 2023. Interest for both November and December is on treasurer's report, moving forward, we will go off the monthly bank statement instead of website indication for MCSSA monthly financials and will provide those numbers monthly to the board. Motion to accept treasurer's report by Allan Bruder, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
 - 7) MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison – Renee Beniak reported that they are currently working on two grants, one that concerns advancing education on dementia care, as well as one that concerns workforce development, such as recruitment retention and training, in nursing homes. Currently, we are aware of many nurses going back to school to receive advanced degrees and higher certifications, which is a positive trend. Additionally, we have a social media campaign kicking off this month for care facilities. Next month, we will be attending the NACo conference in Washington, D.C. While there, we also hope to incorporate in many visits to Capitol Hill, as well as meet with both Michigan Senators, Debbie Stabenow, and Gary Peters. With them, we plan to cover topics such as Medicare and Medicaid benefits, as well as county nursing homes and the challenges that they are facing, such as staffing shortages. Additionally, CMS has put out new staffing regulations that could potentially make it very hard for facilities to keep up with these regulations, so this is also an area of concern for us.
 - 8) Advisory Committee Report – Naomi Deo stated that this morning, Demetrius Starling gave us many good updates concerning the Department. He indicated that they are in the process of asking for input from impacted youth to create better programs concerning the transition to adulthood. Additionally, he indicated that the Department is working on collaborating with private entities to provide economic resources to underprivileged youth. He also mentioned being open to giving a presentation on the Used Cars for Youth program headed by the Department at one of our upcoming MCSSA conferences. He also provided some clarity on the social security spend down issue and hopes to have more information at our February board meeting in order to lobby legislators and potentially work on new legislation.
 - 9) Legislative Updates – Sharon Campbell was unavailable, updates given by Danielle Sirianni. There has been no legislative activity in the last month, however, hopefully there will be some pieces moving through both chambers in the next month, given that they return to session today. We hope to have a report at the February meeting.
 - 10) Development and Education Committee – Bob VanderZwaag was unavailable, so Danielle Sirianni reported.
 - Legislative Conference – The DoubleTree by Hilton, Lansing, MI – April 9 & 10
As of right now, our goal is to have registration packets out by the end of the month. We want to encourage early registration, and this will be incentivized by being entered into a

drawing for a gift card if you register by a specified date. Additionally, the agenda is set, but is tentative, and we are currently working on filling spots for speakers.

- 2024 Annual Conference – Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI – September 16-18
Currently, we are working on the mental health topic for the conference. Bob VanderZwaag has been in contact with Dr. Kathy Bailey, a professor at Grand Valley State University, who will be the headlining speaker for the conference. We are also looking to fill slots for other speakers, and the Traverse City Tourism Bureau will be coming to the conference as well to inform attendees of things to do in the Traverse City area. Additionally, we are currently looking at locations for the 2025 and 2026 annual conferences. Some cities that we have been suggested are Muskegon, Frankenmuth, Clare, Bay City, Big Rapids, and Boyne. Mark Wolfe informed the committee that Bay City will be working on their bridges and there will be detours, it's expected to take 3 years. Lastly, our next Listen and Learn session is scheduled for February 5th featuring the Traverse Narcotics Team.
- 11) Committee/Liaison Reports –
 - MAC – Bob VanderZwaag, sent an email that reported that there has not been a committee meeting since October, so there is nothing new to report on.
 - MCAH/Michigan Health Policy Forum – Member Volunteer to attend?
MCSSA is currently in need of someone to sit through these virtual meetings and report back to the board.
 - Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee – Grenae Dudley-White
Not present/No report
- 12) District Reports from Advisory Committee Members –
 - District I – Christy Hilgers- Next District meeting will be held in April.
 - District II – Allan Bruder –The next meeting will be in January in Gaylord.
 - District III – Yvonne Hebert -unavailable
 - District IV – Bob VanderZwaag – unavailable
 - District V - Barb Hanneke - unavailable
 - District VI – Sherrie Ross reported at the Advisory Committee that they are currently in the process of reviewing a report concerning the universal caseloads. They haven't reviewed the report in full but hope to later this week and will share the findings with the board.
- 13) Unfinished Business
 - No unfinished business to report.
- 14) New Business
 - No new business to report.
- 15) Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Sandy Cook, seconded by Naomi Deo motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 10:04 a.m.

Next meeting February 14, 2024 @ 10:30 am via Zoom or in person



"A PROUD tradition of SERVICE through EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY, and COURTESY"

Please, join MCSSA for
Listen and Learn

***Fentanyl, Gun Violence, and
Human Trafficking***

Presented by: **D/Lt. Misty Long-Birgy and
Sgt. Kathleen Wicker**

February 5, 2024
1:30 pm

To attend via Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 456 547 6684

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE
2024 MCSSA/MCSCET LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



APRIL 9th & 10th, 2024
DOUBLE TREE by Hilton
(Formally the Radisson Hotel)
Lansing, MI

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A REGISTRATION PACKET, PLEASE EMAIL
MCSSA@MCSSA.COM