



UP to the MINUTE

MARCH 2024

Executive Director -
Danielle Sirianni
The Frederick Group

Michigan County Social Services Association
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President Grenae Dudley.
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President's Message: March 2024

Change is inevitable. The challenge is we should always be prepared for it, whether we look forward to it or not. Oakland is losing its Cash Assistance Director Belinda Arbogast to retirement. Belinda has been a strong advocate for community engagement, advocacy and staff engagement. Her legacy will continue. As County Board members we are encouraged to be aware of the changes and challenges in the communities we oversee. What issues are our constituents facing that we are positioned to address? Understanding our collective challenges allows us to have a voice and advocate for solutions. Highlighting our accomplishments allows us to see the opportunities. Our legislative conference is coming up and we are planning to meet with our state representatives. To truly be prepared we are encouraging all our counties to come together and meet in our newly revised Districts.

Attending your District meeting prior to the Legislative conference will give us the opportunity to discuss not just the concerns that are occurring in our communities but the opportunities and accomplishments that are making a difference. It is easy to point out the things that are not going right but important to highlight the things that are making a difference. Oakland County has partnered with the furniture bank of Southeastern Michigan that is providing furniture for hundreds of families in need. According to a recent article in the Oakland Press Director Boyle of the furniture bank stated: "More than 80% of the households we are helping have annual incomes of \$20,000 or less. That's not a lot of money especially when you figure most of the patrons have children and are already battling inflation and struggling to keep up with rent, groceries, utilities, and transportation costs." Our board members have allocated dollars to support their efforts. We have also donated furniture and are excited to know that in a tangible way we are helping the families we are committed to serving.

What highlights are happening in your counties and districts that are making a difference? Share them with us. It would be great to hear from each district and give us an opportunity to brag about the power of community engagement. Send your district highlights to the Frederick Group and share with us how your counties and districts are making a difference.

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*

*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*

Calendar of Events

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)**

APRIL 2024

4/9-4/10 – Legislative Conference

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
5/13 – Listen & Learn – Hearing Life @ 1:30pm

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

OCTOBER 2024

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

NOVEMBER 2024

11/12 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
11/13 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

DECEMBER 2024

12/10 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
12/11 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & **Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**

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 February 13, 2024 @ 1:00 PM

In attendance:

Christy Hilgers – Houghton	Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Kitty Packard – Saginaw	Mark Wolfe – Tuscola
Kendra Spanjer -DHHS -Ottawa	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Grey Skudlarick - TFG	

- 1) Called to Order by Christy Hilgers @ 1:04 pm.
- 2) Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2024, motion to accept by Mark Wolfe, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda -motion to accept as presented by Kitty Packard, seconded by Mark Wolfe, motion carried.
- 4) Ongoing Business –
 - a. Legislative Conference 2024 – April 9 & 10 – Double Tree by Hilton in Lansing, MI
Danielle Sirianni reported that the conference planning is well on its way. As of now, Director Hertel has confirmed that she will be speaking for 20-25 minutes on the Wednesday of the conference, and Amy Epkey, DHHS budget director, will also be speaking. We are also waiting on two State Representatives to respond to us on whether they will be able to speak or not. Registrations are also continuing to come in well.
 - b. Van Rental - Danielle Sirianni stated that as of now, we are looking for approval of a shuttle van for the conference. It would cost around \$200 to rent a 12-person van for one day. 12 people have signed up, and we expect many more people would want to ride in it as well. We need to book the van by the date of the next meeting. A motion was made by Mark Wolfe to support the rental of a van and pass it on to the executive committee and board of directors and make it part

of the conference planning process. A second was made by Kitty Packard, and the motion was approved by a committee vote.

b. Listen & Learn - State Police February 5th @ 1:30 p.m. presented and Danielle Sirianni said that was very interesting to learn about, and the speakers did a great job explaining the information that was presented.

Future Topics and Dates – May? - There were no suggestions made for future listen and learn sessions.

c. Annual Conference -September 16 -18, 2024 – Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI
Danielle Sirianni stated that the theme will be on Mental Health, but we still are in need of an overlying theme. Bob VanderZwaag is currently working on securing speakers for the conference. He has reached out to a professor at GVSU to be the main speaker for the conference.

d. Annual Conference locations for 2025 & 2026. Danielle Sirianni reported that as of now, we have 4-5 locations that we are researching for the conference. We are working with Bob VanderZwaag to schedule visits to these locations, as well as schedule locations for the 2025, 2026, and 2027 annual conferences.

5) New Business – MCSSA email, At the moment, we are having technical difficulties with the email. In the last week, we have looked into it, and it is more of a national issue, rather than an individual issue with our address alone. Please call us with any problems.

6) Adjourn- motion to adjourn was made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Kendra Spanjer.
Adjourned @ 1:19 pm

Then next meeting will be March 12, 2024 @ 1pm, via Zoom or in person

Legislative Committee Minutes

Tuesday February 13, 2024 @ 2:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Sharon Campbell – Oakland
Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Katie Zeiter – DHHS
Yvette Harris – DLEO
Tasha Welch – DHHS
Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Kitty Packard – Saginaw
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Yvonne Hebert – Wexford
Patrick Schaefer - MI LPP
Belinda Arbogast -Oakland
Grey Skudlarick – TFG

- 1) Call to Order – Sharon Campbell, Chairperson called the meeting to order @ 2:30 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes January 10, 2024 – 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 – Sharon Campbell shared that Danielle Sirianni and herself talked and confirmed that many bills will be coming out in the coming weeks.

5. Updates & Information from External Meeting Participants
 - a. MI League for Public Policy – Patrick Schaefer stated that given that the democrats don't have full control, many bills are stalled. They are working through committee, but not going forward at this time. In the governor's budget proposal, she is proposing more funding for the TANF program, guaranteed school lunches, reproductive and maternal health, updating water systems, and, lastly, more spending going into the FIP program.
 - b. E & T - Yvette Harris: The department is working on the Success Program, which entails working with selected recipients, including nonprofits and some other companies. This program is starting in February.
 - c. Representatives from MDHHS -Katie Zeiter: The department's aim is to get asset removal in place soon. Also, the RX Kids program has started in Flint. At the moment, we are working with ACF and are becoming compliant with their requirements. We are also working on cash payments for pregnant individuals. Lastly, many changes in the governor's budget are good for the department, and the department's TANF study will be done in April.

6. Legislative Bills Update – Danielle Sirianni informed the committee she sent out an email detailing the new budget last week, which included highlights that may be of interest to MCSSA. Lastly, bills are starting to move through committee but are not making it onto the floor yet.

7. Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates –

SB 692-695: This package of bills reorganizes current law regarding camp programs for both children's and adult camps. Sharon Campbell added that these bills would create a camp licensing fund to ensure contributions and expenditures are spent correctly, as well as immunity from liability. Additionally, they would require more significant criminal history checks for individuals working at the camps. SB 693 amends the code for criminal procedure, 694 amends the childcare licensing act, and 695 amends adult foster care facilities standards. Danielle Sirianni stated that this package moved into the senate committee last week but has not yet made it to the floor. This package stems from the auditor general's 2022 report, so it is the recommendations made via that report. The package would also require LARA to provide consultation in meeting requirements.

A recommendation to support the bill and pass it on to the executive committee and the board of directors was made by Kitty Packard and was seconded by Sandy Cook. Motion carried.

HB 5397

Danielle Sirianni reported that this bill has not moved yet. It was dropped into committee and sponsor is the chair, so the bill should move rather quickly through committee. The bill amends the vulnerable adult medical alert system and would ensure it is used for missing persons and would broadcast important information when a person is missing. It would also require the state police to establish the system plan as presented in the bill.

A recommendation to support the bill and pass it on to the executive committee and the board of directors was made by Sandy Cook and was seconded by Yvette Harris. Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business - Reminder of Legislative Conference April 9-10 – Registrations out now! Danielle Sirianni said that the conference is an excellent opportunity to come and meet with your Representatives and Senators, as well as learn about important legislation. DHHS budget director Amy Epkey and Director Hertel have confirmed that they are coming to speak at the conference, and we are also working on securing two more legislators to come speak. The new website is also live, and the documents tab contains the conference registration packet as well.
9. New Business – nothing currently
10. Adjournment – motion to adjourn made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:52 pm.

Next meeting is March 12, 2024 @2:30 pm, via Zoom or in person

Advisory Committee Minutes

February 14, 2024 @ 8:00am

In attendance

Naomi Deo – Montmorency
 Christy Hilgers – Houghton
 Demetruis Starling –MDHHS
 Nancy Peacock – TFG

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
 Kitty Packard - Saginaw
 Danielle Sirianni – TFG
 Grey Skudlarick - TFG

1. Call to Order – Naomi Deo, Chairperson @ 8:02 am
2. Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2024, motion to approve was made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
3. Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to approve was made by Sandy Cook, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
4. MDHHS Updates from Dwayne Haywood - unavailable
5. MDHHS Updates from Demetrius Starling -Demetrius Starling started by reporting that the news
 - reports from our hearing last month indicated that, in terms of federal program, MiSTEP eliminated 32 provisions, but the department is still subject to ongoing monitoring with 23 provisions. We started with over 170 provisions to be monitored by and are down to 20. This demonstrates how far we have come as a department. Also, the further we can get into using federal and state dollars will demonstrate how much further the department can come. We are centering these funds around CPS investigations and how these services are provided. Also, we have a new relative e-approval process, as we are trying to encourage and provide resources to relatives for kids going in to foster care. The program will be in place on or after March 4. Relatives applying for adoption, guardianship and foster parent approval will be pushed to the front of the line. We are also working on our domestic violence programs and contracts that go along with these. In terms of our child help sessions, we have different counties come in every month and demonstrate how they are helping families in their communities. We have learned that substance abuse and domestic violence are very prevalent in

families and communities, and we are looking for providers to come in to provide services to these families. We would also like to acknowledge MCSSA for their support of the program that connects young adults to vehicles. In the past few weeks, we have worked with DTMB to get these vehicles at a lower cost, and we are continuing to meet with officials from the state budget office to inquire about these vehicles, as well as setting aside money for insurance and mechanical costs.

6. District Reports:

- District I – Christy Hilgers-The next meeting will be held April 4th in Marquette. The speaker will be someone who is transitioning from foster care to adulthood. There will be a question-and-answer segment.
- District II – Allan Bruder-Not present/no update
- District III – Yvonne Hebert-Not present/no update
- District IV – Bob VanderZwaag-Not present/no update
- District V – Barb Hanneke-Not present/Kitty Packard stated that nothing was scheduled that she was aware of.
- District VI – Sherrie Ross- Not present/no update

7. Unfinished Business- Danielle Sirianni gave an update that the web site was live and the documents page allows people to see the agendas, minutes, registration packet, etc.

8. New Business – Danielle Sirianni reminded everyone to complete and return your registration for the Legislative Conference.

9. Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion Carried. Meeting adjourned @ 8:17 am.

The next meeting will be March 13, 2024 @ 8:00 am via Zoom or in person

Board of Directors Minutes
February 14, 2024 @ 10:30 am

In attendance:

Christy Hilgers – Houghton	Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Naomi Deo - Montmorency	Yvonne Hebert – Wexford
Kitty Packard – Saginaw	Sharon Campbell - Oakland
Danielle Sirianni – TFG	Nancy Peacock – TFG
Grey Skudlarick – TFG	Mike Frederick - TFG

- 1) Call to order – Kitty Packard called meeting to order @ 10:31 am
- 2) Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2024 – motion to accept was made by Sharon Campbell, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of the Agenda – motion to approve was made by Naomi Deo, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.

- 4) Announcements/Correspondence –
Frederick Group updates- 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 (40 counties have paid so far). Mike Frederick added that Flagstar was sold to New York Community Bank, due to distress. We are below the FDIC limit, so we are covered. Danielle Sirianni stated that had we not purchased the CD we would have been above. We will watch and see and decide next month whether to stay with them or change banks.
- 5) President’s Report – Grenae Dudley-White was unavailable, no president’s report.
- 6) Treasurer’s Report – Sandy Cook reported that all looks good. Motion to accept treasurer’s report by Naomi Deo, seconded by Sharon Campbell, motion carried.
- 7) MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison – Renee unavailable, no report.
- 8) Advisory Committee Report – Naomi Deo stated that Demetrius Starling gave us an update on The number of consent decrees are down and will be off soon. Moving to get quicker licenses for related to youth Foster Care parents. He also touched on the autos for Foster Care children that are leaving the system. They are working to make the state vehicles available for a low cost to the participants.
- 9) Legislative Updates – Sharon Campbell was unavailable, updates given by Danielle Sirianni. SB 692-695: These bills reorganize current law regarding camp programs for children and adults including funding, criminal background checks for employees, and adult foster care standards. Moved by Christy Hilgers and second by Sandy Cook to support these bills. Motion Passed.

HB5397: Alert will broadcast information about missing vulnerable adults. Moved by Naomi Deo and second by Yvonne Hebert to support this bill. Motion passed.
- 10) Development and Education Committee – Bob VanderZwaag was unavailable, so Danielle Sirianni reported.
 - Legislative Conference – The DoubleTree by Hilton, Lansing, MI – April 9 & 10
Registration packets are out, and registrations are coming in. Additionally, we have Rep. Morse, Amy Epkey and Director Hertel speaking.
 - 2024 Annual Conference – Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI – September 16-18
Danielle Sirianni reports that 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. Lastly, our next Listen and Learn session was on February 5th featuring the Traverse Narcotics Team. Good presentation, good turnout. We are looking for topics for future Listen and Learn presentations.
- 11) Committee/Liaison Reports –
MAC – Bob VanderZwaag, was unavailable.
MCAH/Michigan Health Policy Forum –Still in need of a member volunteer
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 April 4, 2024, in Marquette, with a youth speaker from the Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative. The plan will include state police.
- District II – Naomi Deo – Next meeting they will vote new officers in, not good attendance at meetings. Asked association for help and ideas to get attendance up. Next meeting is in April.
- District III – Yvonne Hebert -Agrees with Naomi Deo, numbers are down. They are planning to meet at the Legislative Conference and need a new slate of officers.
- District IV – Bob VanderZwaag – unavailable
- District V - Barb Hanneke - unavailable
- District VI – Sherrie Ross – unavailable

13) Unfinished Business

The web site is now live.

14) New Business

No new business to report.

15) Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Sharon Campbell, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 10:57 a.m.

Next meeting March 13, 2024 @ 9:30 am via Zoom or in person



Your hearing helps you
keep being you.

Please, join MCSSA for
LISTEN and LEARN

 **HearingLife**
www.hearinglife.com

Speaker:
Danielle Madrigal, Audiologist

Please join us May 13, 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)

GET YOUR REGISTRATION IN TODAY!
FOR THE
2024 MCSSA/MCSCET LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



APRIL 9th & 10th, 2024
DOUBLE TREE by Hilton
Lansing, MI

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