



UP to the MINUTE

May 2024

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
Annual Conference -
Minutes
Listen & Learn
Legislative Conference -
Save the Date*



President's Message: May 2024

2024-2025 Officers

*Grenae Dudley-White -
Oakland, President*

*Bob VanderZwaag- Ottawa,
acting
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*

This past year has been a remarkable journey for MCSSA, propelling it to a prominent position in Michigan's social services landscape. Our collaborations with the state legislature and the Department of Health and Human Services have been pivotal in advocating for positive change in Michigan.

The recent annual Legislative Conference in Lansing was a resounding success. The two-day event provided a platform for engaging with elected officials and DHHS representatives, facilitating meaningful discussions on our legislative agenda and pertinent social service issues. The great attendance and diverse participation from members across Michigan enriched the exchange of ideas and experiences.

I kicked off the conference with an inspiring call to action to our members to participate and engage. We then had our Legislative Committee Chair, Sharon Campbell, and Executive Director, Danielle Sirianni gives us a legislative update and education on legislative process at Heritage Hall in the Capitol Building. Attendees had the opportunity to observe the State Senate session and engage with their respective representatives and senators to advocate for MCSSA's legislative priorities. Notably, I had the opportunity to speak with the Speaker of the House's, Special Assistant to the Speaker, Bobby Lawrence and our attendees met with 38 legislators!

The event featured educational speeches by prominent speakers such as Craig Thiel, Citizen Research Council of Michigan and Margaret O'Brien, Assistant Secretary of the Senate, shedding light on key aspects of the legislative landscape. Additionally, district meetings provided a collaborative forum for discussing region-specific challenges.

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

The following day started with our Legislative Breakfast, where our legislators and their staff were invited to interact with us – their constituents from across the state! The day unfolded with compelling presentations from Representative Stephanie Young, 16th House District, Families, Children and Seniors Sub-Committee Chair, Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director, Financial Operations Administration, Representative Christine Morse, 40th House District, House DHHS Appropriations Sub-Committee Chair and Director Elizabeth Hertel, Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, providing valuable insights into social service initiatives and the legislative budget process.

The conference culminated with department updates from Demetrius Starling, Senior Deputy Director of Children’s Services Administration and Dwayne Haywood, Senior Deputy Director of Economic Stability Administration. This truly highlights and emphasizes our strong partnership with MDHHS in advancing social service initiatives in Michigan.

The 2024 Legislative Conference was a tremendous success, fostering meaningful interactions with elected officials, enriching insights from distinguished speakers, and enabling valuable exchanges among Association members to shape policies for the benefit of Michiganders. We appreciate your attendance and eagerly anticipate our Annual Conference at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City- September 16-18, 2024.

See you there!

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.

Calendar of Events

MAY 2024

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

5/14 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm

5/15 – 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

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)**



Michigan County Social Services Association

Development and Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday March 12, 2024 @ 1:00 PM

In attendance:

Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Kitty Packard – Saginaw
Kendra Spanjer – Ottawa
Nancy Peacock – TFG

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Bob VanderZwaag - Ottawa
Danielle Sirianni – TFG

- 1) Called to Order by Bob VanderZwaag @ 1:03 pm.
- 2) Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2024, motion to accept by Sandy Cook, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda -motion to accept as presented by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
- 4) Ongoing Business
 - a. Legislative conference 2024 – The Double Tree by Hilton, Lansing, MI – April 9 & 10
 - i. Registrations so far are 28 attendees, there were 37 last year. Will change from Legislative reception to inviting Legislators to breakfast on Wednesday, morning. We have most of the speakers set and will be sending out updated agendas. Kendra Spanjer let us know that DHHS Directors have 3 weeks of conferences. Could have an impact on the number of attendees. Representatives are not in session on April 9th, due to a Muslim holiday.
 - b. Listen and Learn - dates and topics.
 - i. Listen and Learn – May 13,2024 @ 1:30 pm – Hearing Life
 - ii. Future topics & Dates – an idea was given to do “MCSSA year in review.”
 - c. Annual Conference 2024 – Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI – Sept. 16-18
 - i. The theme is due in May, mental health is our topic.
 - ii. Speakers - Dr. Kathy Bailey will be our guest speaker. She is from Grand Valley State University, also Bob VanderZwaag is trying to connect with a speaker on teen suicide. He also said that teen suicide could be a Listen and Learn. Also, contacting CARE program and B-Nice program and possibly a medical doctor for seasonal depression.
 - d. Annual Conference 2025
 - i. Location – Making visits to different locations for future Annual Conferences, Frankenmuth, Clare, Holland, and Muskegon are scheduled.
- 5) New Business – nothing currently.
- 6) Adjourn- motion to adjourn was made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Kendra Spanjer.
Adjourned @ 1:53 pm

Then next meeting will be May 7, 2024 @ 1pm, via Zoom or in person

Legislative Committee Minutes

March 12, 2024 @ 2:30 p.m.

In attendance

Sharon Campbell – Oakland	Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm	Katie Zeiter – DHHS
Yvonne Hebert – Wexford	Kitty Packard - Saginaw
Laura Linebaugh – DHHS	Bridget Heffron - DHHS
Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa	Ceylon Bettis – Saginaw
Patrick Schaefer – MI League for Public Policy	
Danielle Sirianni – TFG	Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to Order – Sharon Campbell, Chairperson called the meeting to order @ 2:31 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes February 13, 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 we seeing a few more bills come out and are reviewing them.
- 5) Updates & Information from External Meeting Participants
 - a. MI League for Public Policy – Patrick Schaefer report there wasn't an update.
 - b. E & T - Yvette Harris: not available
 - c. Representatives from MDHHS -Katie Zeiter: let the board know that cash assistance, room and board are up in the allotment given. They are working on summer EBT and MI CAP Benefits are increasing.
- 6) Legislative Bills Update – Danielle Sirianni informed the committee that there is slow movement.
- 7) Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates –
HB 5429: This bill would identify requirements for CASA volunteers, as it would improve training and supervision guidelines. Recommended to support by Yvonne Hebert, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
HB 5458: This bill would establish adequate access to care, quality of care, and continuity of care for Medicaid eligible patients identified with sickle cell disease. Recommended to support by Kitty Packard, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.
- 8) Unfinished Business - Reminder of Legislative Conference April 9-10 – Registrations out now!
Bob VanderZwaag stated that the program is coming together, new agenda will be coming soon.
In the process of scheduling Legislative meetings.
- 9) New Business – nothing currently
- 10) Adjournment – motion to adjourn made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Laura Linebaugh, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned @ 2:56 pm.

Next meeting is May 7, 2024 @2:30 pm, via Zoom or in person

Advisory Committee Minutes

March 13, 2024 @ 8:00 am

In Attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Grenae Dudley - Oakland

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Yvonne Hebert - Wexford

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Grey Skudlarick – TFG

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Nancy Peacock – TFG

1. Call to order by Grenae Dudley @ 8:06 am.
2. Motion to approve minutes from February 14, 2024, by Christy Hilger, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
3. Motion to approve Agenda with no changes by Yvonne Hebert, seconded by Bob VanderZwaag, motion carried.
4. MDHHS updates from Dwayne Haywood was not in attendance.
5. MDHHS updates from Demetrius Starling was not in attendance.
6. Unfinished Business – District reports
District 1 – Christy Hilgers - will be having a meeting on April 4
District 2 – Allen Bruder - not in attendance/no update.
District 3 – Yvonne Hebert – will be having a meeting at the Legislative Conference.
District 4 – Bob VanderZwaag - has not been successful in finding anyone to put a meeting together recently. Additionally, Bob has contacted Kalamazoo County about joining, as well as securing the state police drug report in the county and has not heard back.
District 5 - Barb Hanneke -not in attendance/no update.
District 6 – Sherrie Ross – not in attendance. Grenae Dudley stated that there was no update.
7. Unfinished Business - Danielle Sirianni: As you already know, our new website is live and complete with features such as an events calendar, important documents tab, and helpful maps. At this time, we are also working on putting together a one-page document detailing why counties should join MCSSA, and we will put it on the first page of the website when it is finished. Grenae Dudley recently tried to have a meeting with Wayne County administration to try to have them join as an MCSSA member, but they canceled the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. Grenae is looking to reschedule to provide information to them. Danielle Sirianni let the board know that Livingston and Charlevoix Counties also want to have meetings with us, and we are working on scheduling those. Bob VanderZwaag added that coming up in April, there is a statewide county DHHS directors meeting. Perhaps we could ask for 10 minutes at the meeting in order to give a short presentation regarding joining MCSSA. Christy Hilgers thought that would be a good idea. In our presentation, perhaps we could include that district meetings are essential to attend given that we can provide something to the community. Additionally, the Association is especially important, given that we are mandated by law.
8. New Business – nothing currently
9. Adjournment -motion to adjourn made by Christy Hilgers and seconded by Bob VanderZwaag, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 8:37 am.

Next meeting will be May 8th, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

Board of Directors Minutes

March 13, 2024 @ 10:30 am

In attendance;

Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa
Kitty Packard – Saginaw
Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Grey Skudlarick – TFG

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Grenae Dudley - Oakland
Sharon Campbell – Oakland
Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to order – Grenae Dudley called meeting to order @ 9:32 am
- 2) Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2024 – motion to accept was made by Sandy Cook, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of the Agenda – Addition made under the treasurer’s report, issues with Flagstar Bank. Motion to approve agenda with addition was made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Bob VanderZwaag, motion carried.
- 4) Announcements/Correspondence –
Frederick Group updates- Danielle Sirianni stated that prior to the meeting, members should have received the “What We Have Done” letter. In it, it mentions that we are working on things for both upcoming conferences. Also, 46 counties have paid dues so far this year, and 30 people have registered for the upcoming legislative conference. We are also experimenting with online artificial intelligence engines to create a new logo. Lastly, our next listen and learn will be on May 13th and will cover the topic of improving hearing.
- 5) President’s Report Grenae Dudley: Right now, our biggest concern with the Association is that engagement and participation is down. We need to look at ways on how we can increase engagement with board members and commissioners. Sharon Campbell added that after she joined, she became more aware and involved by listening to a presentation at her local Business Service Center, so she feels that it could be beneficial to have our members present at these meetings.
- 6) Treasurer’s Report – Sandy Cook: The treasurer’s report looks good, and everything checks out. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Bob VanderZwaag and was seconded by Sharon Campbell, motion carried.
Danielle Sirianni informed the members, Flagstar Bank merged with New York Community Bank, and it has not been going well. They have gone through 3 CEOs in the last 3-4 weeks, and last week, they needed a billion-dollar infusion from a group of investors to keep them afloat. We have also heard that they may need to be bailed out by government agencies, or bought by another bank, to avoid going under. We would highly suggest moving to MSUFCU in terms of safety and proximity to our offices. Grenae Dudley stated that she would agree with that. MSUFCU is very engaged in the community and aligns with our views, and their rates are better than other banks that we could go to. A motion to move banks was made by Bob VanderZwaag and was seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
- 7) MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison – Renee unavailable, no report.

- 8) Advisory Committee Report – Grenae Dudley: This morning during the meeting, we were not able to have an MDHHS update from Demetrius. Many sentiments were expressed about why people may be hesitant to participate and get engaged, and we mentioned attending meetings with county boards in order to present to them about MCSSA.
- 9) Legislative Updates – Sharon Campbell shared that there are two bills discussed during the Tuesday afternoon meeting.
1. HB 5429: This bill would identify requirements for CASA volunteers, as it would improve training and supervision guidelines. It was recommended by the committee that we support the bill. A motion to support the bill was made by Sharon Campbell and was seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
 2. HB 5458: This bill would establish adequate services for sickle cell disorder patients, as it would make services adequate per Medicaid requirements. It was recommended by the committee that we support the bill. A motion to support the bill was made by Sharon Campbell and was seconded by Bob VanderZwaag, motion carried.
- 10) Development and Education Committee – Bob VanderZwaag Legislative Conference – The Double Tree by Hilton, Lansing, MI – April 9 & 10
- a. Currently, we are making a few adjustments to the schedule due to the House of Representatives not being in session on April 9th. We are adding a few speakers to fill some time on the 9th, and an effort is being made to schedule meetings with either representatives and/or senators or their staff members between 11:00 and 2:00 on the 9th. We are eliminating the legislative reception but will provide appetizers for the members in that time slot, April 9th and are replacing it with business meetings for MCSSA districts. However, we are expanding breakfast on Wednesday morning in order to accommodate legislators in place of the reception. When everything is shored up, you will receive an updated agenda. Lastly, Director Hertel will speak on Wednesday morning as will Amy Epkey from the DHHS budget office.
- 2024 Annual Conference – Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI – Sept. 16-18
- a. Currently, we are making progress on the keynote speaker for the conference, who is Dr. Kathy Bailey from GVSU. She will be focusing her presentation on mental health issues. Also, Bob has been speaking to a suicide prevention program worker to have them come speak, as well as with a medical doctor on issue of seasonal effective disorder as a mental health issue. Lastly, members of the Montcalm County mental health care network are also willing to come speak.
 - b. We are also currently looking at four different locations for the 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 annual conferences. Those locations include Frankenmuth, Clare, Holland, and Muskegon.
- Listen and Learn
- a. Our next Listen and Learn will be on May 13th at 1:30 p.m. and will cover hearing awareness.
- 11) Committee/Liaison Reports –
- MAC – Bob VanderZwaag
- Bob VanderZwaag was not able to attend the last meeting, however, the committee’s legislative priorities are very aligned with the MCSSA legislative priorities. Although Bob VanderZwaag was not able to attend the meeting, he received communication that the committee came to a final recommendation for their priorities, and they will be voted on at their next meeting.
- MCAH/Michigan Health Policy Forum – Member volunteer to attend?
Currently, MCSSA is in need of a volunteer to attend these meetings.
- Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee – Grenae Dudley-White
The next committee meeting will take place in April.

- 12)** District Reports from Advisory Committee Members –
- District I – Christy Hilgers- Next District meeting will be held April 4, 2024
 - District II – Allan Bruder - Not in attendance/no update
 - District III – Yvonne Hebert - They are planning to meet at the Legislative Conference, Grenae Dudley relayed what was said in an earlier meeting.
 - District IV – Bob VanderZwaag – no update
 - District V - Barb Hanneke - unavailable
 - District VI – Sherrie Ross – unavailable, Sharon Campbell: There is no report to give currently, however, we are working on scheduling an upcoming meeting.
- 13)** Unfinished Business:
- a. Danielle Sirianni: The new MCSSA website is live. Some important components of it include a new event calendar, documents tab, and updated agendas and “Up to the Minute.”
Vote on shuttle for legislative conference
 - a. A motion to approve the rental of a shuttle van for the legislative conference was made by Bob VanderZwaag and was seconded by Sharon Campbell, motion carried.
- 14)** New Business
No new business to report.
- 15)** Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sharon Campbell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 10:13 a.m.

Next meeting May 8, 2024 @ 10:30 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)

SAVE THE DATE

MCSSA/MCSSCET

ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE
& BUSINESS MEETING

Topic: Mental Health



September 16-18, 2024

Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI