



UP to the MINUTE

June 2024

Executive Director -
Danielle Sirianni
The Frederick Group

Michigan County Social Services Association
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President's Message: June 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*

We are enjoying the May flowers as promised by the April showers. I am in my new office on Detroit's Riverfront enjoying the budding trees and the fountain outside my windows. I often think of the opportunities and blessings that me and my family share. The good fortune that many of us share places us in the positions that we currently have to give of ourselves to others. I want to thank all of you for your time and commitment to your role as DHHS board members and for what you do in your communities. As MCSSA members, your goodwill continues to grow. Our education and development committee are busy planning our annual meeting at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. They are putting together an outstanding program, and we hope you will all be able to join us. Be reminded that you can be reimbursed for all of your expenses. Please contact your DHHS director or get what you may need from Danielle at the conference. We are working to make sure the process is as seamless as possible. I look forward to seeing board members and our DHHS staff in September. Our registration packet will be sent out soon and we hope you will complete the early bird registration.

Last year I issued the president's challenge and was overwhelmed with your response. You showed up and showed out. Your generous food donations to the food bank were appreciated.

This year we are donating to Safe Harbor in Traverse City. When families face homelessness, there is often nowhere for them to turn. Safe Harbor is a place of safety and shelter for those experiencing homelessness. **It is the only program of its kind in northern Michigan.**

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

Safe Harbor's goal is to provide compassion to those who need a helping hand and build long-lasting relationships based on respect. Often, when folks face situations like these, they feel that they lose their dignity and independence. Safe Harbor works to restore that sense of self-accomplishment. We are working with them to find out what donations will be appropriate and will make sure you have that information in the registration packets so you will know what to donate. Once again let us make a difference!

Do not forget about your county's silent auction items. All proceeds from the silent auction go to our scholarship fund. The scholarship committee has been working hard to select our new recipients, and I want to extend a warm thank you to Christy Hilger who has stepped up to assist the scholarship committee.

Do not forget to take care of you this summer. Plan something special just for yourselves!

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

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

7/1 – Early bird registration deadline

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)**

7/23 – Scholarship Committee Meeting @ 10 am

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 @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**

8/15 – Conference Hotel Block ends

8/30 – Last day to register for the Annual Conference

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 @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**

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 May 14, 2024, 1:00 PM

Attendees:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa
Mark Wolfe – Tuscola
Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Kitty Packard – Saginaw
Nancy Peacock – TFG

Yvonne Hebert – Wexford
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Kendra Spanjer – Ottawa DHHS
Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Jenna Stanton – TFG intern

- 1) Call to Order – Bob VanderZwaag, Chairperson @ 1:02 pm
- 2) Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2024, motion to accept by Sandy Cook, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – Motion to accept by Mark Wolfe, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 4) Ongoing Business
 - a. Legislative conference 2024 – Bob VanderZwaag brought up the idea of a 1 day only conference, held in Heritage Hall and have Legislators and Staff would be invited to breakfast, lunch or both, with food catered in at Heritage Hall. The suggestion: could look into the availability of DHHS rooms. It was noted that there may be some parking spaces available across the street from Heritage Hall. We'll look at the Legislative Schedule to see if to be in Lansing in March or April. County DHHS directors have multiple statewide meetings back-to-back in April, which makes them less likely to return for an additional conference that month. Because the Directors are in Lansing for a couple of other meetings in April, it may be possible to schedule our conference for a Tuesday, the day before their other meeting. We'll research all the options.
 - b. Listen and Learn - dates and topics.
 - i. Listen and Learn was held – May 13, 2024, Presenter was Danielle Madrigal, Audiologist from Hearing Life. A good presentation, interesting facts about hearing loss and how it can be a factor in mental illness.
 - ii. Future topics & Dates – Would like topics or presenters for our August Listen and Learn. Please, send suggestions to the MCSSA office.
 - c. Annual Conference 2024 – Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI – Sept. 16-18
 - i. The theme was decided it will be “Assembling the Puzzle of Mental Health” motion to accept theme made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.
 - ii. Speakers for the conference are being worked on, the Feature speaker will be Dr. Kathy Bailey from Grand Valley State University. Others are in the works.
 - iii. President’s Challenge this year Safe Haven, Traverse City, MI. Will be sending list of items with registrations.
 - iv. Early Bird Challenge again this conference, register in the 1st 30 days and be put in a drawing for prize. Tentative registration packet out by June 1, 2024.

d. Annual Conference 2025 & 2026

- i. Recommended conference location for 2025 is Clare, MI @ The Doherty Hotel & Frankenmuth, MI for 2026 @ the Bavarian-Inn Hotel, motion to accept by Yvonne Hebert, seconded by Mark Wolfe, motion carried.

5) New Business nothing at this time.

6) Adjourn-motion to adjourn made by Mark Wolfe, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, meeting adjourned @ 1:48 pm.

The next meeting will be June 11, 2024, 1:00 pm via Zoom or in person

**Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday May 14, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Sharon Campbell - Oakland

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Patrick Schaefer – MI League for Public Policy

Bridgett Heffron

Katie Zeiter – DHHS

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Jenna Stanton – TFG intern

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Kitty Packard – Saginaw

Yvonne Hebert - Wexford

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Stacey Houghtaling – Clinton/Eaton

Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to Order – Sharon Campbell, Chairperson @ 2:32 pm.
- 2) Approval of Minutes -March 12, 2024, motion to accept by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to approve agenda made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 4) Updates & Information, Sharon Campbell, Committee Chair -Not much other than trying to get budget passed it happening. Once the budget is set things will start moving again.
- 5) Updates & Information from External Meeting Participants
 - MI League for Public Policy – update given by Patrick Schaefer, focused on budget, once it’s finalized, we will know more.
 - E & T – Hector retired, and we need to find a replacement.
 - Representatives from MDHHS – Katie Zeiter spoke for MDHHS and stated that Kansas U is just wrapping up, budget changes will be helpful and that is what they are waiting on.
- 6) Legislative Bills Update, Danielle Sirianni, Mike Frederick -Danielle reported that we are waiting on the budget, it should be in its final days. Hoping to get numbers this Friday. Once the budget is finalized it will be a few weeks before things get moving.
- 7) Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates
 - a. SB 647-654, this is a combined bill, rolled all in to one and pertains to licenses to those that sell nicotine or tobacco products in retail, and its packaging and age access of products.

- i. Recommendation – the board thought it was a good bill and a motion to support was made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.
 - 8) Unfinished Business –nothing currently.
 - 9) New Business – nothing currently.
 - 10) Adjournment – motion to adjourn by Bob VanderZwaag, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned @ 2:48 pm.

Next Meeting: June 11, 2024, 2:30pm via Zoom or in person

Advisory Committee Minutes May 15, 2024 @ 8:00am

Attendees:

Naomi Deo – Montmorency
Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Dwayne Hayward – MDHHS
Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Yvonne Hebert – Wexford
Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa
Nancy Peacock – TFG

1. Call to Order – Naomi Deo, Chairperson - @ 8:15 am
2. Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2024, motion to accept made by Sandy Cook, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
3. Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – Motion to accept made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
4. MDHHS Updates from Dwayne Haywood – Dwayne Haywood started by thanking Bob VanderZwaag for speaking with staff at the meeting about MCSSA. He touched on Public Health Emergency, redeterminations are roughly 94% completed, with over 3 million to do at the beginning, numbers are about 151,000 left to redetermine. They have extended the finish date from May to June. There will be a few stragglers that will come in and those will be completed in the remainder of the summer months. He added that DHHS staff have been helping with the people that were affected by the tornados, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Cass, and Branch counties were affected. It was declared a disaster. The staff took 601's (food replacement affidavit), SER, ES Funds, etc. to assist with relocating, assisting the victims. DHHS purchased 2500 gift cards for clothing and personal things and handed them out. Donations of bed, furniture, etc. were given and will be working on assisting until end of May, unless it needs to be extended. UCL in rolling out the next wave, added a current rollout to evaluate after this wave to see if another is needed. They are trying to be as consistent as possible. Hoping to be done in 2026, last to go live hoping to be done in 2025. Budget is currently being worked on hoping to increase FIP grant, SER and additional programs.
5. MDHHS Updates from Demetrius Starling -didn't attend this month.
6. District Reports:
 - District I – Christy Hilgers-The April meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm, looking to reschedule it.
 - District II – Naomi Deo – Last meeting was held in Gaylord, struggling for attendees. Next meeting will be in July and hoping that Grenae Dudley will be able to join them.
 - District III – Yvonne Hebert -There next meeting will I July. They are getting speakers for a panel that will talk about homelessness in the area.

- District IV – Bob VanderZwaag-Grenae met with Kalamazoo County, it was productive. Danielle Sirianni let us know that just a few minutes ago, Kalamazoo County has decided to join MCSSA. Bob VanderZwaag talked with Matthew Kuzma from Muskegon County, and he is open to hosting the district meeting. 2 members are very positive and would like to see Commissioners on board, that is the goal.
- District V – Need to find a member to be chair, nothing to report.
- District VI – Sherrie Ross -didn't attend, nothing to report.

7. Unfinished Business- nothing at this time.

8. New Business -nothing at this time.

9. Adjournment -motion to adjourn made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Bob VanderZwaag, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 8:41 am

The next meeting will be June 12, 2024 @ 8:00 am via Zoom or in person

Board of Directors Minutes

May 15, 2024, 10:30 am

Attendees:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Yvonne Hebert – Wexford

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Nancy Peacock - TFG

Sandy Cook – Ionia/ Montcalm

Naomi Deo – Montmorency

Sharon Campbell - Oakland

Mike Frederick – TFG

- 1) Call to order – Grenae Dudley, Chairperson, Grenae Dudley unavailable, Bob VanderZwaag ran meeting, called to order @ 10:32 am.
- 2) Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2024, motion to approve made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of the Agenda – motion to accept made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 4) Announcements/Correspondence –
 - a. Frederick Group updates – What We Have Do -
 - Danielle Sirianni informed us that 52 counties have paid their dues. Second notices have been sent to those who haven't paid.
 - We're in the process of changing from Flagstar Bank to MSU Credit Union and getting all the signatures and information needed to make the transfer.
 - Mike Frederick reported he was off by 1 cent in the bank balance, Treasurer Sandy Cook caught it, it has been corrected.
- 5) President's Report – Grenae Dudley-White was unavailable. Bob VanderZwaag stated that Grenae Dudley had met with Kalamazoo County, and we found out that they will be joining MCSSA.

- 6) Treasurer's Report – Sandy Cook reported that all is well, all updates have been made and everything looks good. Moved to accept made by Naomi Deo, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.
- 7) MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison – Renee Beniak was unavailable.
- 8) Advisory Committee Report – Naomi Deo highlighted Dwayne Haywood's update redeterminations are roughly 94% completed, with over 3 million to do at the beginning, numbers are about 151,000 left to redetermine. They have extended the finish date from May to June. DHHS staff have been helping with the people that were affected by the tornados, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Cass, and Branch counties were affected.
- 9) Legislative Updates – Sharon Campbell
 - a. Legislative updates, Sharon Campbell reported that there is nothing new, waiting on budget to get passed.
 - b. SB 647-654 The Legislative Committee recommended MCSSA support this package of bills that pertain to licenses to those that sell nicotine or tobacco products by retail, and its packaging and age access of the products. Moved by Sharon Campbell and second by Yvonne Herbert to support SB 647-654 . Motion passed.
- 10) Development and Education Committee – Bob VanderZwaag
 - a. The Legislative Conference wrapped up and all & all was good. Will have summary next meeting. Discussed having a 1-day Legislative conference, and options will be explored.
 - b. 2024 Annual Conference – Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI – Sept 16-18, planning is underway, Guest speaker is set. The topic is mental health, and the theme will be “Assembling the Puzzle of Mental Health”. Registrations are planned to go out to members June 1, 2024. Hotel block cutoff date is August 12, 2024. There again will be an early bird registration prize drawing.
 - c. Future sites for conferences-It was recommended to have the 2025 Annual Conference in Clare, MI @ the Doherty Hotel and the 2026 Annual Conference in Frankenmuth @ Bavarian Inn. Motion to accept both locations for 2025 & 2026 Annual Conferences was made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Naomi Deo, motion carried.
- 11) Scholarship committee update – Christy Hilgers reported that the committee voted to add Mel Haga's name to the scholarship. Moved by Christy Hilgers and seconded by Bob the scholarship to now be Chuck Higgins/Mel Haga Scholarship, motion passed. There were 5 different counties in attendance for the meeting. Date for the Scholarship process will be: OPENED – May 20th – Deadline – July 12th – Committee meeting to determine a recipient – July 23rd. Winners will be invited to the Annual Conference, a motion was made by Christy Hilgers to pay for a 1-night hotel room, so the recipient could attend. Seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion passed.
 - a. Call for donations need to visit different options for raising monies for the Scholarship fund.
Ask for thinking caps to be put on and will bring up at next meeting.
- 12) Committee/Liaison Reports –
 - a. MAC – Bob VanderZwaag chose not to attend the recent meeting at which MAC was updating their priorities, tinkering with the wording. They have a lot of the same ones as MCSSA. Bob VanderZwaag will get us updated.
 - b. MCAH/ Michigan Health Policy Forum – Member Volunteer to attend?
Unavailable.

c. Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee – Grenae Dudley-White was unavailable.

13) District Reports from Advisory Committee Members –

- District I – Christy Hilgers -April 4th meeting was cancelled due to snowstorm, rescheduling.
- District II –Naomi Deo is hoping Grenae Dudley will attend the next meeting which is July 26, 2024. They are encouraging more people to come back to district meetings – pre-Covid there was 90% participation.
- District III – Yvonne Hebert -Next meeting is August 6, 2024, homelessness is the topic, they are creating a panel of speakers.
- District IV – Bob VanderZwaag -Reported that Kalamazoo has joined MCSSA, had a directors meeting with him.
- District V – unavailable
- District VI – Sherrie Ross -unavailable.

14) Unfinished Business nothing currently.

15) New Business –

Consistent start time for Board of Directors meeting. Because the Executive Committee has almost entirely the same information provided as the Board of Directors, it was decided to call Executive Committee meetings only when needed. Motion to have the Board of Directors meeting start at 9:30 am. Motion to accept made by Naomi Deo, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.

Purchase of CANVA for MCSSA, after positive comments about communication, design and graphics from several board members, Christy Hilgers move to buy a year subscription, seconded by Sharon Campbel, motion passed.

16) Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Yvonne Hebert, seconded by Sharon Campbell, motion carried. Adjourned @ 11:26 am.

Next meeting June 11, 2024, **9:30am** via Zoom or in person

SAVE THE DATE

MCSSA/MCSSCET

ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE
& BUSINESS MEETING

Topic: Mental Health



September 16-18, 2024

Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI



Michigan County Social Services Association

Chuck Higgins / Mel Haga Memorial Scholarship

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

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. 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.

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



Deadline: July 12, 2024

For application & more information visit: mcssa@mcssa.com
OR Email: mcssa@mcssa.com | Phone: 517.371.5303