



UP to the MINUTE

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: November 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

District IV
Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

District V
Barb Hanneke – St. Clair

It is always important to address our deficiencies and celebrate our accomplishments. Both move us toward our goals and continuous quality improvement. To get it out of the way I want to address our deficiencies first. To allow our organization to continue to provide the advocacy and change we wish to see we need members willing to step up and get engaged. We need members to actively engage with their District and host the district meetings. The advantage of doing so provides district members with needed information regarding changes in the department and issues impacting our constituents and staff. Board members have the opportunity to learn about the challenges our staff are facing and share community concerns they are aware of from constituents who may have reached out to us.

The challenges in the UP are very different from the challenges we may see in our large urban districts. Having districts discuss those and share opportunities, advantages and disadvantages provides their District representatives with what is needed to be shared with the key leaders in the department, Demetrius Starling (the senior deputy director for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) Children's Services Administration (CSA), where he oversees the state's child welfare system, including Children's Protective Services (CPS), the foster care system, adoption services, family preservation services, and juvenile justice programs) and Dwayne Haywood (the senior deputy director for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' where he oversees the state's food assistance and public assistance benefits. Who better can we share our concerns and accomplishments with? I have shared at our annual meetings and our legislative conferences how both Mr. Haywood and Mr. Starling meet with the MCSSSA advisory committee every month. On the occasion when they are unable to attend in person, they send a representative who shares their report of what is taking place in the department that we may be aware of and listen to our concerns with a promise to get back to us. We cannot facilitate change or celebrate accomplishments if you are not all at the table. My call to action is to make sure each District is represented at the advisory meetings.

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

Zoe Lyons – Life Member

Now onto our accomplishments! Hats off to Naomi who is the chairperson for our advisory committee and the chair of District 2. I had the privilege to be invited to their District meeting where every county in their district was represented! Danielle and I were able to share the benefits of belonging to MCSSA. We received a few suggestions on how to improve our outreach but were able to listen to happenings in the District. Naomi the three-and-a-half-hour drive was totally worth it. I even had a zoom meeting I had to attend with the Center for Disease Control and CADCA before my drive back and they were able to accommodate me. A special thanks to Otsego County DHHS for hosting the meeting and a heartfelt thanks to Director Jody Schlaufman for her attention and accommodation.

Genesee County was the host for the District 6 meeting and invited Stg Victoria Dallas Human Trafficking & Child Exploitation Specialist | Law Enforcement & Intelligence Analyst| Mobile Data & Digital Forensic Examiner with Genessee County Sherrif Department. Stg Dallas shared some alarming statistics and concerns around trafficking in our communities. Most venerable included our youth in and aging out of foster care.

I have to brag about my county, Oakland County! Our board members had the distinct pleasure of celebrating with our public assistance benefit director, **Dr. Ahmad Sabbagh** the recognition of all the staff at our Pontiac office led by our **District Manager Callie Laferney** for their contribution in being a **High Performing Urban UCL District in Productivity, Timeliness, and Accuracy**.

Our board provided a plaque for the Pontiac Office and certificates for over 100 staff for their work and commitment to getting the job done. We have all heard the terrors of adopting a new system, but the Pontic staff not only showed how it could be implemented, albeit with a few tears and challenges, but that it could be implemented well. The Oakland County Board is proud of our staff and understands that the work is not easy but when things come together, we all benefit, especially those we serve. Congratulations Oakland County Pontiac office. Well, Done!



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

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)**

JANUARY 2025

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

1/15 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & **Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**

FEBRUARY 2025

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

2/12 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & **Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**

2/24 – Listen & Learn - Danielle Sirianni: Inside the Legislative Process @1:30pm

MARCH 2025

3/13 – Legislative Conference

APRIL 2025

4/8 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm

4/9 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & **Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**

MAY 2025

5/13 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm

5/14 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & **Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**

5/26 – Tentative Listen & Learn TBA @1:30pm

JUNE 2025

6/10 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm

6/11 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & **Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)**



Michigan County Social Services Association

Development and Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday October 8, 2024, 1:00 PM

Attendees:

Kitty Packard – Saginaw

Yvonne Hebert – Wexford

Manuel Cordova – Emmet

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Sam Kotas – TFG (intern)

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Kendra Spanjer – Ottawa

Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to Order – Kitty Packard, step in for Bob VanderZwaag – called to order @ 1:01 pm
- 2) Approval of Minutes – August 13, 2024 – Yvonne Hebert motioned to approve, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion passed.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion passed.
- 4) Ongoing Business
 - a. Annual Conference 2024 – “Assembling the Puzzle of Mental Health” - Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI
 - i. Recap – went over evaluations and it was mentioned by several that the venue isn’t the best for conferences, microphone issues were a distraction, that all day speaker is just too long. Need more participation in the silent auction, low donations, not many counties donated this year. Need to sell 50/50 tickets for the whole conference and change the format of the scholarship recipients. If they are unable to attend, have them send video, it would be more personal and help with a connection to who won.
 - ii. Funds raised = \$1308 is the total with it broken up below:
 - Silent Auction = \$819, 50-50 = \$401 (thanks to Jennifer Shores donating her winnings), donation box/donations = \$88
 - b. Legislative Conference 2025 –
 - i. It will be a one day only conference, March 13, 2025 @ Heritage Hall. Heritage Hall is in the Capital and has been reserved.
 - c. Listen and Learn – Listen and Learn – Tentative date is October 28, 2024. Kitty Packard will reach out to the LGBTQ and see if they are interested in participating. The next Listen and Learn is planned for February 24, 2025, and Danielle Sirianni will present on the bill making process.
 - d. Annual Conference 2025 will be held @ Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI - Sept. 15-17/ The hotel has been booked and we will need to pick a topic and theme soon.
 - e. Annual Conference 2026 will be held @ The Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI – Sept. 14-16. Hotel has been booked.

- 5) New Business – nothing at this time.
- 6) Adjourn – Christy Hilgers motioned to adjourn, seconded by Yvonne Herbert, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 1:28 pm.

The next meeting will be November 12, 2024, 1:00 pm via Zoom or in person

Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 8, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Laura Linebaugh – Ionia/Montcalm
Kitty Packard – Saginaw
Mauel Cordova – Emmet
Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Twanetta Ingman - MDHHS
Patrick Schaefer - MDHHS
Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Sam Kotas – TFG (intern)

Yvonne Hebert – Wexford
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Ceylon Bettis – Saginaw
Katie Zeiter – MDHHS
Bridgette Heffron – MDHHS
Tiffany Quinn - Genesee
Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to Order – Chairperson, Yvonne Hebert @ 2:32 pm
- 2) Approval of Minutes -August 13, 2024, Kitty Packard moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ceylon Bettis, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – Kitty Packard motioned to approve, seconded by Laura Linebaugh, motion carried.
- 4) Updates & Information, Committee Chair – Yvonne Hebert, is standing in as interim committee chair for the next few meetings. She asked for patience while she’s in training. We have 2 co-chairs; they are Manuel Cordova and Dr. Tiffany Quinn. Welcome and thank you for stepping up.
- 5) Updates & Information from External Meeting Participants
 - MI League for Public Policy – no updates, hoping for something in November. Preparing to lame duck in November and 2026 budget.
 - E & T – no updates
 - Representatives from MDHHS – – Katie Zeiter provided updates on the cash and food assistance programs, including an additional \$80 per child under 6 for active FIP (Family Independence Program) cases in September, and the removal of the child support disqualification for food assistance. She also announced the successful implementation of summer EBT payments, providing over 118 million in food assistance benefits to about 1 million students across Michigan.

- 6) Legislative Bills Update, Danielle Sirianni reported that there are a couple of bills, but not much is moving. Lame duck session is coming up.
- 7) Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates
 - SB 906-908 -would allow childcare faculties to add locks temporary locking devices or systems for use in violent emergencies. This would be an option. Motion to support was made by Manuel Cordova, seconded by Laura Linebaugh, motion carried.
 - SB 922-925 - The bill would enhance protections against financial exploitation, abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults by creating a process for the circuit court to enter a personal protection order for them. It would allow local counties or regions to create multidisciplinary teams to protect against and increase awareness of abuse, financial exploitation and neglect of vulnerable adults. It would prohibit courts from refusing to issue a Personal Protection Order order solely because they didn't have a police or medical report. Kitty Packard motioned to support, seconded by Manual Cordova, motioned carried.
 - SB 999 – The department may, on request of the media regarding a specific child abuse or child neglect case, confirm or deny the existence or filing of a written report regarding that case to the media. The department director may authorize release of information to the media under this amendment if the release contributes to the purposes of this act and the media has appropriate controls to maintain the confidentiality of an individual named in a report or record. Some of the cons that were brought up were individual bloggers who learn of the case, would be excluded from this bill and could divulge the identity of those involved. Ceylon Bettis motioned to table this bill for more investigation, Yvonne Hebert seconded the motion. Voted to table this bill. Danielle Sirianni will seek more information for us.
 - HB 5826 - creates a scholarship to support individuals in doula training for childbirth. Ceylon Bettis motioned to support, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
 - HB 5919 - supports a bill to expand Michigan's Amber Alert system to include missing children with special needs. Kitty Packard motioned to support, Laura Linebaugh seconded, motion passed.
 - HB 5915 - that would allow audiologists to prescribe hearing aids, a privilege they were previously not allowed to have. The bill specifies that the audiologist would be required to report signs of injury/trauma to a medical doctor or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. Motion to support by Manual Cordova, seconded by Bridgette Heffron, motion carried.
 - SB 1007 – provides for the establishment of standards of care for childcare organizations. Cannot charge an applicant or employee for a required background check. Checks and clearances required in this bill must be updated at least every 5 years. Manual Cordova motioned to support, seconded by Sandy Cook. Motion carried.
- 8) Unfinished Business – Danielle Sirianni to include any updates on bill SB 999 in the agenda for the November meeting.
- 9) New Business – Danielle Sirianni thanked everyone for participating and to the new chair and co-chairs for stepping up.
- 10) Adjournment – Laura Linebaugh motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned @ 3:39 pm.

Next Meeting: November 12, 2024, 2:30pm via Zoom or in person

Advisory Committee Minutes
October 9, 2024 @ 8:00am

Attendees:

Naomi Deo – Montmorency	Kitty Packard – Saginaw
Christy Hilgers – Houghton	Dwayne Haywood - MDHHS
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Nancy Peacock – TFG	

1. Call to Order – Naomi Deo, Chairperson @ 8:03 am
2. Approval of Minutes – August 14, 2024, motion to accept made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
3. Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to accept made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
4. MDHHS Updates from Dwayne Haywood - He discussed cost reductions and the ongoing efforts to reduce wait times and improve the FAP issuance rate. Dwayne also shared that the FIP grant had been increased by 18%, and that the ineligible grantees had increased. He said that Bridge Card fraud is a problem across the country. They have received authorization for fraud prevention, are working on updating their Bridge Card technology, and that fraud replacement funds have been extended until December 31st. Dwayne reported on the upcoming energy assistance crisis season starting October 1st. Assistance will continue until funds are exhausted. Due to the "one and done" policy for customers with shut-off notices, they are encouraged to apply one time only and when their amount owed is closer to the \$500 cap.
The UCL (Universal Caseload) is improving, and they are expecting smoother launches.
Dwayne apologized for missing the conference and expressed his intention to support county directors by including line staff in future meetings.
5. MDHHS Updates from Demetrius Starling -unavailable
6. District Reports: A motion was made to remove district reports from the advisory committee and discuss them at the Board of Directors meeting. It was suggested that we add a "open comment" section for any updates that need to be announced. Motion to accept by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
 - District I – Christy Hilgers -meeting held October 4th, 8 attendees, MYOI presented. Good idea for Listen & Learn. Two donations were approved unanimously: \$250 to the Chuck Higgins/Mel Haga Scholarship Fund in memory of past member and treasurer Paulette Kivel, and \$250 to Marquette, Alger, Schoolcraft MSO! for programs for youth ages 23-26.
 - District II – Naomi Deo – next meeting will be October 24th, Danielle Sirianni will join Grenae Dudley to give a MCSSA presentation. All are welcome held @ Gaylord DHHS office @ 1 pm.
 - District III – Yvonne Hebert – held the October meeting all went well.
 - District IV – Bob VanderZwaag - unavailable
 - District V – in need of a chair.
 - District VI – Sherrie Ross – unavailable.
7. Unfinished Business – nothing at this time.
8. New Business -Thanks were expressed to Bob and The Frederick Group for the conference.

9. Adjournment -motion to adjourn made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned @ 8:25 am.

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

Board of Directors Minutes

October 9, 2024, 9:30 am

Attendees:

Kitty Packard – Saginaw

Naomi Deo – Montmorency

Rita Hale – Alger

Tiffany Quinn – Genesee

Yvonne Hebert – Wexford

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to order –Kitty Packard, stood in for President Grenae Dudley, @ 9:32 am
- 2) Approval of Minutes – August 14, 2024, motion to accept made by Rita Hale, seconded by Naomi Deo, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of the Agenda, motion to accept made by Naomi Deo, seconded by Rita Hale, motion carried.
- 4) Announcements/Correspondence –
 - a. Frederick Group updates
 - What we have done - the annual conference was well attended, with over 70 participants, and that we are working on closing out the fiscal year. We have sent out due's invoices to all 83 counties, which is earlier than in the last few years. MCSSA is also updating their records and transferring funds from Flagstar. We aim to complete these tasks by November. The scholarship checks were sent out, and the recipients received an award certificate. Kitty Packard asked about the deadline for joining MCSSA, to which Danielle Sirianni responded that they usually try to put it by the end of the year but are flexible.
 - Safe Harbor thanks were given personally and in an email. Nancy Peacock communicated that Safe Harbor was EXTEMELY grateful and have already used some of the donations.
- 5) President's Report – Grenae Dudley-White unavailable.
- 6) Treasurer's Report – Sandy Cook reported that all was okay with reports. Motion to accept report made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Rita Hale, motion carried.
- 7) MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison – Renee Beniak, unavailable. The motion was made by Christy Hilgers to delete this report from the Board of Directors meeting and add to Advisory meeting, seconded by Naomi Deo, motion carried. Danielle Sirianni will inform Renee Beniak of the change.
- 8) Advisory Committee Report – Naomi Deo discussed the increase in the FIP (Family Independence Program) allowance, which now stands at 18%. She also mentioned ongoing issues with fraud on bridge cards, attributing this to outdated programs. The energy crisis, which began in October, has seen lowered caps and one-time assistance for those with shut-

off notices. Naomi Deo also noted that there is no hiring freeze, and allocations for each county are being worked on. She mentioned improvements in UCL and anticipation for new launches and addressed the internal changes in the state appointees process, which is taking longer due to its newness. The county reports have been moved from the Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors for efficiency, a motion was made, seconded and passed.

9) Legislative Updates – Yvonne Hebert, Manuel Cordova & Tiffany Quinn

- SB 906-908 - allowing schools and childcare centers to install temporary locking devices for safety.
 - Board Vote – motion to support was made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Rita Hale, motion carried.
- SB 922-925 – prohibits courts from refusing to issue a Protection of Abuse (PPO) order solely because they didn't have a police or medical report.
 - Board Vote – motion to support was made by Rita Hale, seconded by Naomi Deo, motion carried.
- HB 5826 - creation of a doula scholarship fund with certain conditions
 - Board Vote – motion to support was made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Rita Hale, motion carried.
- HB 5919 – focused on supporting expanding Michigan's Amber Alert system to include missing children with special needs.
 - Board Vote – motion to support was made by Rita Hale, seconded by Naomi Deo, motion carried.
- HB 5915 - allows audiologists to prescribe glasses and hearing aids, eliminating the need for patients to go back and forth between audiologists and primary care doctors.
 - Board Vote – motion to support was made by Rita Hale, seconded by Naomi Deo, motion carried.
- SB 1007 - Cannot charge an employee for a required background check. Checks and clearances required in this bill must be updated at least every 5 years
 - Board Vote – motion to support was made by Rita Hale, seconded by Naomi Deo, motion carried.

10) Development and Education Committee – Bob VanderZwaag unavailable (Brazil trip). Danielle Sirianni gave an update.

- a. Legislative Conference update – Plans are starting to get underway, one-day only @ the Capital in Heritage Hall. Will take place March 13, 2025.
- b. 2024 Annual Conference – wrapping everything up, evaluations have been reviewed, reevaluated the one-day speaker and ways to get more items for the silent auction.

11) Committee/Liaison Reports –

- a. MAC – Bob VanderZwaag - unavailable
- b. MCAH/ Michigan Health Policy Forum – Member Volunteer to attend? – still looking.
- c. Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee – Grenae Dudley-White - unavailable

12) District Reports from Advisory Committee Members –

- District I – Christy Hilgers – Last meeting was October 4, had 8 attendees. MYOI presented and would make a good Listen and Learn presentation. Donated to the Chuck Higgins/Mel Haga scholarship fund in memory of Paulette Kibble and to the Marquette, Alger, Schoolcraft MSO! for programs for youth ages 23-26.
- District II – Naomi Deo – next meeting is scheduled for October 24, Danielle Sirianni will join Grenae Dudley and will be giving a MCSSA presentation. All are welcome, Gaylord MDHHS office @ 1pm

- District III – Yvonne Hebert -They held their October meeting, and all is good.
- District IV – Bob VanderZwaag -unavailable
- District V – Chair Volunteer? Still in need of chair
- District VI – Sherrie Ross -unavailable

13) Unfinished Business -Listen and Learn is scheduled for October 28 and Kitty Packard has volunteered to contact a presenter for the LGBTQ.

14) New Business

- a. Zoe Lyons – Life Member, it was discussed, and the board voted to her recognized her as a life member. Motion to accept was made by Naomi Deo, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.
- b. Discussion on “Who is a MCSSA Member” – A way to increase involvement
 - There was discussion at the conference of executive assistants, or the foster care worker within the county who may be interested. A discussion of the definition of a MCSSA member, with the consensus being that anyone within the county who pays dues and is interested in participating should be considered a member. The board also agreed to form a committee to revise the Bylaws, with Christy and Rita volunteering to be part of the committee.
- c. Looking forward –
 - Legislative Priorities committee – these need to be updated and we need a special committee to update, looking to form the committee by December.
 - Chair for Finance/Audit committee -Audit needs to be completed, Brian DeKraker will be asked to chair this committee. Christy Hilgers and Rita Alger agreed, they also volunteered to be on the committee.

15) Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Rita Hale, seconded by Naomi Deo, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:21 am.

Next meeting November 13, 2024, **9:30am** via Zoom or in person



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

MCSSA'S 2024

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

MARCH 13, 2025

ONE-DAY ONLY
HERITAGE HALL

LOCATED IN THE
STATE CAPITAL

