



# UP to the MINUTE

Executive Director  
Danielle Sirianni  
The Frederick Group

Michigan County Social Services Association  
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## 2024-2025 Officers

Grenae Dudley-White – Oakland, President

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 - vacant

District V - vacant

District VI  
Sherrie Ross – Oakland  
Harry Wilson – Jackson



## President's Message: January 2025

We are embarking on a New Year, and I wish to thank you all for allowing me to serve as your President. I wanted to start the year with just a few words as we move forward with our mission to represent the constituents we serve with:

Integrity: *“Live so that when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of YOU.”*

--H. Jackson Brown Jr.

*“Honesty is the fastest way to prevent a mistake from turning into a failure.”*

--James Altucher

*“Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.”*

--Melody Beattie

*And Knowing Failure... Is never Final!*

--Brad Powell

Here's to 2025!

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Large County  
Representatives Bruce  
McCoy - Kent  
Vacant – Macomb  
Sherrie Ross – Oakland  
Vacant – Wayne

**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)**

Members at  
Large  
Janice Covey – Mecosta  
Twanetta Ingram – Ingham

Zoe Lyons – Life Member

Minutes respectfully submitted by Danielle Sirianni, Frederick Group

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **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

### **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  
2/24 – Listen & Learn - Danielle Sirianni: Inside the Legislative Process @1:30pm  
2/28 – Last Day to Register for Legislative Conference

### **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

### **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  
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



# Michigan County Social Services Association

## Development and Education Committee Minutes Tuesday, December 10, 2024 @ 1:00 pm

### Attendance:

Manual Cordova – Emmet  
Sandy Cook – Montcalm  
Grenae Dudley – Oakland  
Danielle Sirianni – TFG  
Nancy Peacock – TFG

Kitty Packard – Saginaw  
Christy Hilgers – Houghton  
Donata Kidd – MDHHS  
Sam Kotas – TFG (intern)

- 1) Call to Order – Manuel Cordova, Chairperson – @ 1:01 pm
- 2) Approval of Minutes – November 12, 2024 – motion to approve made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Grenae Dudley, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to accept made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
- 4) Ongoing Business

**a.** Legislative Conference 2025 –

Planning –Danielle Sirianni stated that planning is ongoing. She showed a preview of the registration packet, changes will be made on a few things. Once corrections are completed, approval to send out was made. Will be sending the registration out before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. The committee agreed on a registration fee of \$175 per person, with non-members paying slightly more and spouses paying less. Catering - looking into different catering companies, will update next meeting. Speakers: mayor of Lansing, Dir. Hertel are some ideas, along with Children and Seniors committee.

**b.** Listen and Learn - Future topics & Dates –

1. February 24, 2025 – Danielle Sirianni – Inside Legislative Process, will go over how to read a bill, etc.
2. May Listen and Learn idea of Implicit Bias, would be a good thing right before the Annual Conference.

**c.** Annual Conference 2025 – Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI – Sept. 15-17

Discussion of topic/theme – Grenae Dudley proposed the theme of "implicit bias" for the annual conference, which would involve understanding and addressing the issue in relation to the populations served. Conference format – full day speakers were discussed and all thought it was better to have 2/3 speakers during the day. Banquet moved to lunch was brought up, most would rather have a dinner with a talent show, to increase attendance and engagement. The possibility of a more casual team-building event like bowling or axe throwing was also mentioned. The team agreed to further develop these ideas for the following year's conference.

**d.** Annual Conference 2026 – The Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI – Sept. 14-16

- 5) New Business – Legislative Priorities need to be reviewed. Will get a meeting scheduled, this is a joint effort by the Legislative and Development and Education Committees.
- 6) Adjourn – motion to adjourn made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 1:45 pm.

The next meeting will be January 14, 2025, 1:00 pm via Zoom or in person.

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### **Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

Attendees:

Manuel Cordova – Emmett	Kitty Packard – Saginaw
Tom Brubaker – Saginaw	Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm	Twanetta Ingram - MDHHS
Ceylon Bettis – Saginaw	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Sam Kotas – TFG (intern)	Nancy Peacock - TFG

- 1) Call to Order –Manuel Cordova called the meeting to order @ 2:35 pm.
- 2) Approval of Minutes - November 12, 2024 – motion to approve made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to approve made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried.
- 4) Updates & Information, Committee Chair –Manuel Cordova to the committee that he is still learning the ropes. Lame Duck session is in full swing. Lots of bills moving.
- 5) Updates & Information from External Meeting Participants
  - MI League for Public Policy - unavailable
  - E & T – unavailable
  - Representatives from MDHHS - unavailable
- 6) Legislative Bills Update, Danielle Sirianni, Mike Frederick – a card of support in for the tobacco bill. Cards of support will go in today for child door lock bill and bills 922-925 (Vulnerable Adult Protection)
- 7) Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates
  - HB 6094 – which proposes requiring senior living facilities to provide training and equipment, including CPR and AED use.
    - Motion to support made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Kitty. Motion passed
  - HB 6025 – expands the definition of guardian and relatives eligible to foster.
    - Motion to support made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Tom Brubaker, motion passed.
    - HB 6234-6235 – regulation of tobacco and nicotine products, approval to submit card of support given, card submitted.
    - Motion to support made by Tom Brubaker, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion passed.
- 8) Unfinished Business – State Appointee approval process, has been challenging. Will follow up and keep each other updated.

- 9) New Business – Legislative priorities updated – need a committee to see if they are still our priorities. Danielle Sirianni will send an email with priority sheet and ask for feedback, with a deadline of Jan. 7, 2025.
  - 10) Adjournment – motion to adjourn made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Ceylon Bettis, motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned @ 3:10 pm.  
Next Meeting: January 14, 2025, 2:30pm via Zoom or in person
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**Advisory Committee Minutes  
December 11, 2024**

Attendees:

Namoi Deo – Montmorency	Kitty Packard – Saginaw
Yvonne Hebert – Wexford	Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Sherrie Ross – Oakland	Grenae Dudley - Oakland
Demetruis Starling – MDHHS	Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Dwayne Haywood – MDHHS	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Nancy Peacock – TFG	

1. Call to Order – Naomi Deo, Chairperson -@ 8:02 am
2. Approval of Minutes – November 13, 2024 – motion to accept made by Yvonne Hebert, seconded by Kitty Packard. Motion carried.
3. Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to approve made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sherrie Ross, motion carried.
4. MDHHS Updates from Dwayne Haywood - Dwayne Haywood discussed the agency's focus on staffing, technology, and culture messaging, the progress and future for the state's universal caseload system, and the importance of meeting federal metrics. Dwayne Haywood also mentioned a change in the SER program, capping each family at one application for the entire season with \$500 for heat utilities and \$800 for deliverable fuel. He noted that funding for the crisis season would continue until it was exhausted. Dwayne Haywood also announced an increase in the time limit for TANF assistance from 48 to 60 months and a raise in the FIP grant from \$306 to about \$360 for a family of one. Michigan will no longer require recipients of the Food Assistance Program to cooperate with the child support program.  
MDHHS Updates from Demetrius Starling – Demetrius Starling provided updates on the reduction in youth in foster care down from 13,000 4 years ago to 9,442 now. Only 2 youth are in placements outside the state currently. There has also been a reduction in the turnover in foster care staff across the state which has decreased from 29% to 21%. He discussed the department's efforts to reduce staff turnover and combat human trafficking. Demetrius will send Cameron Zwart's contact information to the group for potential listen and learn session on human trafficking. MCSSA supports involving youth in training and workshops to empower them. MCSSA expressed interest in supporting the professional foster care model which enables foster parents to focus solely on caring for the children placed in their home instead of meeting financial needs through employment outside the home. Demetrius Starling confirmed that they are working on training modules for young people in foster care, led by the Governor's office and involving Bella Hounakey, a survivor of human trafficking.
5. MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison from Renee Beniak – unavailable
6. Open Comment from members – Kitty Packard brought up reappointments not getting done. Dwayne Haywood spoke with Cynthia Harkins (asst.), who stated that in the next couple of weeks appointment letters will start showing up. Dwayne Haywood advised that if you are waiting for a reappointment, continue working and be patient.
7. Unfinished Business – nothing currently
8. New Business -nothing currently
9. Adjournment – motion to adjourn made by Sherrie Ross, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 am.

The next meeting will be January 15, 2025 @ 8:00 am via Zoom or in person

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## **Board of Directors Minutes December 11, 2024**

### Attendees:

Grenae Dudley – Oakland	Yvonne Hebert – Wexford
Sherrie Ross – Oakland	Shelly Boehmer – Life member
Kitty Packard – Saginaw	Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Christy Hilgers – Houghton	Naomi Deo – Montmorency
Brian DeKraker – Ionia/Montcalm	Manuel Cordova – Emmett
Tiffany Quinn - Genesee	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Mike Frederick – TFG	Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to order – Grenae Dudley, Chairperson @ 9:33 am
- 2) Approval of Minutes – November 13, 2024 – motion to approve made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of the Agenda – motion to approve with following corrections, remove contract under Announcements/Correspondence, remove Legislative Priorities committee from Unfinished Business and add policy and procedure revisions under new business. Motion made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Shelly Boehmer, motion carried.
- 4) Announcements/Correspondence –
  - a. Frederick Group updates
    - What we have done – Danielle Sirianni reported that Legislative Conference planning is well underway. Keeping up with the Bills that are moving, Great Wolf Lodge check is going out this week, hotel finally sent correct invoice. As of today, 24 counties have paid their 2024/25 dues.
    - Contract -removed
- 5) President’s Report – Grenae Dudley-White stated that a fiscal audit will be conducted, Brian DeKraker will chair, and a CPA was recruited to lead the audit at no cost to the team. January will be when the meeting will take place. Brian DeKraker stated he was unable to hold a meeting from January 23 through January 25, 2025. Board members to attend the closed session meeting at 11:00 AM to discuss upcoming challenges.
- 6) Treasurer’s Report – Sandy Cook reported that the reports were good. Motion to accept was made by Naomi Deo, seconded by Brian DeKraker, motion carried.
- 7) Advisory Committee Report – Naomi Deo discussed the increase in the Family Independence Program (FIP) by 18%, which would see a family of one's benefits rise from \$306 to \$360. She mentioned that food assistance would not be impacted by any sanctions. There will be a new "professional foster care parent" model which will pay foster parents adequately for caring for the children in their homes without having to hold any additional employment. She also noted the new State Emergency Relief Program (SER) has a one-time allocation policy for families, which is capped at \$500 and \$800 for delivery of wood or oil. Naomi Deo also mentioned the Governor's additional \$300 million investment in the summer food program.
- 8) Legislative Updates – Manuel Cordova & Tiffany Quinn – Manuel Cordova stated that the Legislative committee recommended supporting HB6094 requiring senior living facilities to have CPR training and an AED on site. The committee also discussed the potential financial

impact on smaller facilities, such as AFC type homes, due to the high cost of AEDs. The bill, if passed, would require facilities to have an AED and be trained in its use by February 2026. The bill, if passed, would require facilities to have an AED and be trained in its use by February 2026. Moved to support by Yvonne Herbert and second by Kitty Packard. Motion passed. The committee also discussed HB6235-6235, related to nicotine and tobacco, which are moving forward with our support. The Legislative committee recommended support of HB6024 an HB6025 (Guardianship Assistance Act) allowing children to be placed for care with a wider definition of relatives or non-related individuals and also making provisions for Indian children.

- 9) Development and Education Committee – Manuel Cordova  
Legislative Conference update – March 13 – Heritage Hall, Manuel Cordova stated that the committee agreed to reduce the event to a one-day conference from the previous two-day format, with member registration set at \$175 and non-member registration at \$200. The early bird registration deadline was set for January 31st, with a \$50 gift card prize for early registrants. You need not be present to win. We will not have a block of hotel rooms reserved for MCSSA. Each person must make their own reservation, and we are providing a list of hotels who will charge the state rate. Your MCSSA Membership Card must be presented to get the state rate.  
We will not have a block of hotel rooms reserved for MCSSA. Each person must make their own reservation, and we are providing a list of hotels who will charge the state rate. Your MCSSA Membership Card must be presented to get the state rate.
- 10) Committee/Liaison Reports –  
a. MAC – Member Volunteer to attend? unavailable  
b. MCAH/ Michigan Health Policy Forum – Member Volunteer to attend? - unavailable  
c. Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee – Grenae Dudley-White reported that Opioids were the topic, and they have increased the free Narcan from the state but over the counter Narcan has a cost. The Michigan Opioid Coalition Academy will meet in Novi in 2025.
- 11) District Reports from Advisory Committee Members –  
• District I – Christy Hilgers - A special meeting was held December 6, 2024. and the members approved the rollover of their Live Oak CD as facilitated by Mike Frederick. Next meeting will be in April.  
• District II – Naomi Deo – next meeting to be held January 23, 2025, in Gaylord at the MDHHS office.  
• District III – Yvonne Hebert - nothing scheduled.  
• District IV – Chair Volunteer - unavailable  
• District V – Chair Volunteer - unavailable  
• District VI – Sherrie Ross – next meeting will be February 25, 2025. Last meeting was a zoom presentation on human trafficking, and they discussed the spend down.
- 12) Unfinished Business  
• Legislative Priorities committee -removed  
• Chair for Finance/Audit committee – Brian DeKraker will chair the audit; a CPA will also be joining.  
Audit meeting will be held in January 2025.
- 13) New Business  
• Nominating committee  
• Policy & Procedures – Christy Hilgers addressed the need of revisioning the policy and procedures. A lot of things need updating. Danielle Sirianni to send out policy & procedures to board members, to get feedback. Will report at the January meeting.
- 14) Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Sherrie Ross, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 10:37 am.



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**MCSSA'S 2024**

**LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 13, 2025**

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ONE-DAY ONLY  
HERITAGE HALL

LOCATED IN THE  
STATE CAPITAL

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# MCSSA

## LISTEN & LEARN

FEBRUARY 24  
1:30PM

### INSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Learn the ins and outs of the legislative process, how to find information online, how to read a bill, and an open format for questions & answers.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING  
[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/4565476684](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4565476684)

MEETING ID: 456 547 6684  
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PRESENTED BY:  
DANIELLE SIRIANNI