



# UP to the MINUTE

February 2025

Executive Director -  
Danielle Sirianni  
The Frederick Group

Michigan County Social Services Association  
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## **President's Message: February 2025**

### **2024-2025 Officers**

*Grenae Dudley-White -*  
*Oakland, President*

*Manuel Cordova - Presque*  
*Isle,*  
*Vice-President*

*Shelley Boehmer - Life*  
*Member*  
*Immediate Past President*

*Christy Hilgers - Houghton*  
*Secretary*

*Sandy Cook -*  
*Ionia/Montcalm, Treasurer*

*Wayne Buskirk - Life Member*

*Zoe Lyons - 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*

The New Year always brings new challenges and potential opportunities. Success or failure rest on the shoulders of those who are committed to making a difference and doing what is necessary to move us forward. As many of you know our beloved Bob VanderZwaag is no longer serving as our Vice President due to health and family commitments. Bob did a stellar job serving as Chair of the Education and Development committee as he helped organize and facilitate our Annual Meeting this past September. His contributions over the years have been invaluable and he has always been a tremendous advocate for MCSSA.

I am pleased to announce as we transition to a new year, Manuel Cordova our chair for the Education and Development Committee and our Co Chair for our Legislative committee has agreed to serve as our Vice President. Manuel is a board member for Emmet County in District 3. According to his Linked in profile Manuel is a dedicated professional with twenty plus years' combined management experience in the Healthcare, Manufacturing and Hospitality fields. Proven ability to deliver substantial revenue, productivity, and quality improvements through well managed on time projects. Efficient organized leader with success in coordinating efforts within internal and external teams to reach and surpass expectations. Accomplished in staff development, including training, coaching, and evaluation, as well as building client relationships. My experience with him has been exceptional and I am looking forward to collaborating with him as we meet the challenges facing us in this new year.

From a management perspective we are finishing our audit with The Frederick Group. For the first time we have a Certified Public Account (CPA)

District V  
Vacant

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

who will review our finances and provide an audit report with recommendations for our finance committee.

Our legislative conference is approaching fast, and The Frederick Group has sent out the registration packets. It is important that we register to give them time to make the necessary connections with our legislators. The committee has offered the option to meet with your legislators at their offices or at the conference center site. This requires a tremendous amount of coordination and timing. The conference is a one-day event and for board members who attend whose counties are MCSSA members their travel, lodging and conference fees are reimbursable. Keep your receipts. Please plan to attend so that you can advocate and educate your representative about our MCSSA priorities and how they impact your respective counties.

**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.

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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, January 14, 2025 @ 1:00 pm

### Attendees:

Kitty Packard – Saginaw  
Rebecca Pasko – Monroe  
Christy Hilgers – Houghton  
Grenae Dudley – Oakland  
Danielle Sirianni – TFG  
Raif Bartling – TFG (intern)

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm  
Manuel Cordova – Emmett  
Kendra Spanjer – Ottawa  
Tiffany Quinn – Genesee  
Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) Call to Order – Manuel Cordova, Chairperson – @ 1:02 pm
- 2) Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2024. Motion to approve minutes was made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion passed.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to approve agenda was made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Kitty Packard, motion passed.
- 4) Ongoing Business
  - a. Legislative Conference 2025 –
    - i. Planning – is underway, looking for speakers, Danielle Sirianni reported that the new legislators are in the Capital, and we are starting to have meet & greet meetings with them. Hertel request form was filled out and sent to her, waiting to hear from her office.
      - Catering is being researched and priced.
      - Registration packets – have gone out and we have 2 registrations as of today. Danielle Sirianni will send weekly updates of the number of registrations. Danielle Sirianni reminded everyone about the early bird drawing for early registrations. There is a specific spot on the registration form for preference of office meeting or meeting in Heritage Hall for Legislative meetings.
  - b. Listen and Learn - dates and topics.
    1. February 24, 2025 – Danielle Sirianni – Inside Legislative Process, flyer was included in the Up to the Minute newsletter.
    2. May Listen and Learn – Dr. Tiffany Quinn volunteered to give a presentation on PACES & ACES programs. May 19, 2025, is the date for this.
  - c. Annual Conference 2025 – Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI – Sept. 15-17
    - i. Topic/theme – Disability empathy, equity in women’s health, walk in my shoes and bridging barriers were some of the topics. Will work with the mile in my shoes and research, Christy Hilgers thought it would appeal to conference attendees to have speakers with disabilities talk about their personal experiences.
  - d. Annual Conference 2026 – The Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI – Sept. 14-16
- 5) New Business- Rebecca Pasko was introduced and welcomed to the committee.

- 6) Adjourn –motion to adjourn was made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 1:48 pm.

The next meeting will be February 11, 2025, at 1:00 pm via Zoom or in person.

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## **Legislative Committee Minutes Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 2:30 p.m.**

### Attendees:

Kitty Packard – Saginaw	Rebecca Pasko-Monroe
Pat Thompson – Macomb	Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Christy Hilgers – Houghton	Laura Linebaugh – Ionia/Montcalm
Katie Zeiter – DHHS	Manuel Cordova – Emmet
Ceylon Bettis – Saginaw	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Nancy Peacock – TFG	Raif Bartling – TFG (intern)

- 1) Call to Order – Manuel Cordova @ 2:34 pm and introduced Rebecca Pasko and Pat Thompson, both new to committee. Welcome and glad you’re here.
- 2) Approval of Minutes - December 10, 2024, motion to approve minutes was made by Laura Linebaugh, 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, Committee Chair – Manuel Cordova reported that last month was quiet, new legislation is starting. Hopefully, bills will be re-introduced, shortly.
- 5) Updates & Information from External Meeting Participants
  - MI League for Public Policy – N/A
  - E & T – N/A
  - Representatives from MDHHS – Katie Zeiter reported on the issue of EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) cards being cloned. The Federal will not replace money stolen from cards from December 21, 2024, on. They are taking precautions to help prevent, such as changing pin numbers, using the APP and ability to block cards.
- 6) Legislative Bills Update, Danielle Sirianni reported that bills will have to be re-introduced. Danielle Sirianni will keep track, there are 12 new Legislators. The new appropriations chair was named Rep. Ann Bollin.
- 7) Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates
  - Legislative Priorities, the feedback MCSSA received was to keep all the priorities and add “tobacco, vaping and alcohol under Substance Use Disorder Service. Motion to approve made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Ceylon Bettis, motion carried.
- 8) Unfinished Business – Danielle Sirianni stated that the Legislative Conference registrations have gone out.
- 9) New Business – nothing currently
- 10) Adjournment – motion to adjourn made by Kitty Packard, seconded by Ceylon Bettis, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 3:10 pm.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2025, 2:30pm via Zoom or in person

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## **Advisory Committee Minutes**

### **January 15, 2025 @ 8:00am**

#### Attendees:

Grenae Dudley – Oakland

Manuel Cordova – Emmet

Rebecca Pasko – Monroe

Demetruis Starling – DHHS

Dwayne Haywood – DHHS

Nancy Peacock – TFG

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Naomi Deo – Montmorency

Sherrie Ross – Oakland

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

1. Call to Order – Naomi Deo, Chairperson @ 8:01 am
2. Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2024 – motion to approve minutes was made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
3. Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to approve agenda was made by Sandy Cook, seconded by Grenae Dudley, motion carried.
4. MDHHS Updates from Dwayne Haywood – Dwayne Haywood discussed the ongoing process of appointing board members, assuring that the process would be smoother in the future. He also mentioned the upcoming rollout of the Universal Caseload (UCL) system, with the aim of improving efficiency and customer experience. Dwayne Haywood highlighted the importance of metrics, particularly the timeliness of services, and the need to improve this area. He also mentioned the potential budget split and the need to stay informed about the budget cycle. Lastly, he addressed the issue of acronyms, offering to provide a list for new members to understand the terminology used.
5. MDHHS Updates from Demetrius Starling –Demetrius Starling provided an update on the department's progress on the consent decree, which has been in place since 2006. He highlighted several areas of improvement, including maintaining enough foster homes, bringing on new kinship care placements, and meeting adoption caseload standards. Demetrius Starling also mentioned that the department has made significant progress in written family assessments and service plans, and in providing timely and effective services. The judge overseeing the case expressed satisfaction with the progress made and optimism for continued improvement. Demetrius Starling
6. discussed the challenges faced in managing psychotropic medication for children in care, particularly when they are transitioned between placements. He highlighted the need for timely medication refills and the importance of ensuring medications follow the child during transitions. Demetrius Starling also addressed the issue of maltreatment of care, emphasizing the need to ensure children's safety in foster care or out-of-home settings. He mentioned the importance of providing training to foster parents and kinship care providers on managing children with high acuity needs and behavioral issues. Demetrius Starling acknowledged the need for improvement in this area and the importance of demonstrating progress to the courts. Demetrius Starling shared a tragic incident that occurred in Northfield Township, where a biological mother and two accomplices broke into the home of a foster family, killing the foster mother and wounding the foster father. The biological mother and her accomplices also kidnapped the foster parents' child and the biological child of the mother, allegedly intending to sell the foster parent's child to a human trafficking ring. Law enforcement was able to track down the children and arrest the assailants. Demetrius Starling expressed concern about the foster parent community's reaction to the incident, with some considering closing their licenses or not engaging with biological parents. He emphasized the need for resilience and not letting one tragic event dictate future actions. Demetrius

Starling discussed the case of a biological mother who had made threats against a foster care worker, leading to her hearings being held on Zoom. Investigators believe the biological mother found the foster home location because the foster father signed in using his full name on a Zoom hearing. Demetrius Starling also mentioned that the biological mother had a history of previous terminations of parental rights and a long criminal history. Demetrius Starling agreed to reach out to MCSSA for potential support.

7. MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison from Renee Beniak –Rebecca Pasko is on this committee and will be the Liaison, she reported that there hasn't been a meeting since November. The next meeting is later today, so she will have something to report on at next month's meeting.
8. Open Comment from members - nothing
9. Unfinished Business - nothing
10. New Business -The facts and figure booklets for the annual conference need updated. Asking all counties for information that they could share with county commissioners. Discuss district meetings and report back. Naomi Deo will send districts an email.
11. Adjournment –motion to adjourn meeting was made by Sherrie Ross, seconded by Grenae Dudley, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:49 am

The next meeting will be February 12, 2025 @ 8:00 am via Zoom or in person

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### **Board of Directors Minutes January 15, 2025, 9:30 am**

#### Attendees:

Grenae Dudley – Oakland	Rita Hale – Alger
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm	Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Naomi Deo – Montmorency	Sherrie Ross – Oakland
Shelley Boehmer – Life member	Tiffany Quinn – Genesee
Danielle Sirianni – TFG	Mike Frederick – TFG
Nancy Peacock - TFG	

- 1) Call to order – Grenae Dudley, Chairperson @ 9:30 am.
- 2) Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2024, motion to approve made by Naomi Deo, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of the Agenda – motion to approve agenda made by Rita Hale, seconded by Sherrie Ross, motion carried.
- 4) Announcements/Correspondence –
  - a. Frederick Group updates, Danielle Sirianni reported that the Legislative Conference registrations are out, and we are contacting speakers and looking at caterers. We have 2 registrations as of today. As of today, 34 counties have paid dues. Membership cards are being mailed as dues checks are received.
- 5) President's Report – Grenae Dudley-White announced that a CPA will be conducting an audit, and the finance committee will review his findings, the date is set for January 31,2025. Bob VanderZwaag has stepped down as vice president and Manuel Cordova has agreed to replace him. Both Grenae Dudley and Danielle Sirianni went to visit Monroe County and gave a presentation. Grenae Dudley is presenting at Wayne County, today.

- 6) Treasurer's Report – Sandy Cook reported that the financials were perfect. Will change Danielle Sirianni to an authorized signer for MSUFCU and Sandy Cook will be a “responsible person and authorized signer”. Christy Hilgers moved to approve changes, seconded by Sherrie Ross, motion carried.
- 7) Advisory Committee Report – Naomi Deo discussed the challenges faced in managing medications for children when they are moved between foster homes. Naomi Deo also shared the tragic news of a foster mother and her father being killed, and her husband being injured by the biological mother of a foster child placed in their home. The biological mother then took her own child and the child of the foster parents. The reported intent was to sell the child of the foster parents via human trafficking. The biological mother was able to track down the foster family because the foster father revealed his full name during Zoom court proceedings. The issue of safety and recruitment of foster parents was identified as a significant concern. She also reported on the recent decision by the House to split the DHHS appropriations budget into three separate committees and discussed the addition of six counties to the UCL and the need to meet federal compliance.
- 8) Legislative Updates – Manuel Cordova & Tiffany Quinn
  - a. Legislative Priorities were discussed and recommended adding tobacco, vaping and alcohol to the priorities, and it will go under Substance Abuse, the date will also be changed to 2025 -2026 Priorities.
- 9) Development and Education Committee – Manuel Cordova
  - a. Legislative Conference update – March 13 – Heritage Hall, Manuel Cordova informed the board that registration packets have gone out, speakers are being booked, and the catering is being researched.
  - b. Annual Conference – September 15-17, 2025 – Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI
    - Theme and topic -working on the theme for disabilities. More details to come.
- 10) Committee/Liaison Reports –
  - a. MAC – Member Volunteer to attend is needed.
  - b. MCAH/ Michigan Health Policy Forum – Member Volunteer to attend is needed.
  - c. Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee – Grenae Dudley-White reported that the next meeting will be in February.
- 11) District Reports from Advisory Committee Members –
  - District I – Christy Hilgers – no report.
  - District II – Naomi Deo – next meeting is January 23, 2025 @ Gaylord DHHS office.
  - District III – Yvonne Hebert -no report.
  - District IV – Chair Volunteer - no report.
  - District V – Chair Volunteer - no report.
  - District VI – Sherrie Ross -next meeting is February 2025.
- 12) Unfinished Business
  - Chair for Finance/Audit committee- working on a chair for this committee.
    1. Audit with in person CPA is scheduled for January 31, 2025.
- 13) New Business
  - a. Policy & Procedures – updates have been voted on and will be made.
  - b. Nominating committee – nothing reported on this.
- 14) Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Rita Hale, seconded by Sherrie Ross, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 10:19 am.

Next meeting February 12, 2025, 9:30am via Zoom or in person





# **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)

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PRESENTED BY:  
DANIELLE SIRIANNI