



UP to the MINUTE

April 2025

Executive Director -
Danielle Sirianni
The Frederick Group

Michigan County Social Services Association
115 W Allegan, Ste. 200, Lansing, MI 48933
517.371.5303 | mcssa@mcssa.com

INSIDE

President's Message
message from MCSSA President
Grenae Dudley.
Events Calendar
MCSSA monthly meetings and
more important dates.
Meeting Minutes
President's Challenge Flyer
Annual Conference - Save the
Date
Listen & Learn - Save the Date



President's Message: April 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

Hats off to our Legislative committee and the Frederick Group for once again organizing our Legislative Conference. I was delighted to see our board members and MDHHS staff from across the state join us.

Representative Phil Green joined us in the morning for opening remarks. He represents the 67th House District. He is the chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Health and Vice Chair of the House Appropriations subcommittee on Medicaid and Behavioral Health. Key committees that impact many of the constituents we represent.

We were joined by Representative John Roth from the 104th House District. He is the Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services and serves as the Vice Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education and Community Colleges.

We were able to give a warm welcome to Representative Stephanie Young who represents the 16th House District. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the House Committee on Families and Veterans and Chair of both the Detroit Caucus and House Democratic Caucus. Her passion was evident as she shared her commitment for children, families, and underserved communities. When we shared with her that Detroit had just passed an ordinance to prohibit Marijuana Bills boards within 1,000 feet of sensitive areas, sensitive areas defined as schools, playgrounds, churches or anywhere children and youth gather, she renewed her commitment to circle back for the state!

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

The Mayor of Lansing, Andy Schor also joined us. He is one of just 30 mayors nationwide to serve on the U.S. Conference of Mayors Advisory Board.

Once again, we were joined by MDHHS leadership Demetrius Starling, Elizabeth Hertel, Amy Epkey and Dwayne Hayward.

I am sharing with you all the distinguished speakers that shared their commitment to the work that we do but I did not get to hear them firsthand except for a few snippets here and there. **WHY? You ask!** Because I got in over 10,000 steps visiting the 8 Oakland County representatives that were on my schedule. I --am excited to say 7 out of the 8 met with me personally. I shared MCSSA's legislative priorities and who we are. And explained our joint efforts to support the constituents we mutually serve. I was also able to address some of the concerns that they shared. Suffice it to say I got cell phones and commitments!

At the Legislative Conference I also issued another **President's Challenge**. I am requesting all our board members across the state to participate in the DEA BACK. Take Back allows anyone, no questions asked to dispose of unwanted, unused, and expired prescriptions and over the counter pills at sites across the country. Yes, this also includes veterinary pills! The next Take Back is April 26, 2025, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. I have added a flyer to end of this document that has a link that you can scan to find the closest Take Back site to you. I even got my representatives to agree to put this on their websites and encourage their constituents to participate! I also shared my alterative motive to BEAT OHIO!

Please keep reading because I want to give a shout out to Alison Morrison County Director for Gratiot and Shiawassee Counties and the Gratiot County board members Mary Moomey, Dan Carley, and Marcella Thompson for inviting me to their board meeting to discuss MCSSA. What an absolute delight. I was able to answer their questions and concerns and will look forward to seeing them in September at the Annual meeting!

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)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

5/19 – Listen & Learn – Dr. Tiffany Quinn: Understanding ACEs & PACE's @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

JULY 2025

7/8 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm

7/9 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 9:30 am

AUGUST 2025

8/12 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm

8/13 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & Board of Directors @ 9:30 am

8/18 – Tentative Listen & Learn TBA @1:30pm

8/29 – Last Day to Register for Annual Conference

SEPTEMBER 2025

9/15-9/17 – Annual Conference

OCTOBER 2025

10/7 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm

10/8 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 9:30 am

10/20 – Tentative Listen & Learn TBA @1:30pm

NOVEMBER 2025

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

11/12 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & Board of Directors @ 9:30 am

DECEMBER 2025

12/9 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm

12/10 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 9:30 am



Michigan County Social Services Association

Development and Education Committee Minutes Tuesday, February 11, 2025 @ 1:00 pm

Attendees: Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Grenae Dudley – Oakland
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Rebecca Pasko – Monroe
Nancy Peacock – TFG

Yvonne Hebert – Wexford
Manuel Cordova – Emmet
Kendra Spanjer – DHHS – Ottawa
Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Raif Bartling – TFG (intern)

- 1) **Call to Order – Manuel Cordova, Chairperson – @ 1:04 pm**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes – January 14, 2025, motion to accept made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Sandy Cook. Motion carried.**
- 3) **Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to add and accept with new business addition -date of annual conference, was made by Rebecca Pasko, seconded by Grenae Dudley. Motion carried.**
- 4) **Ongoing Business**
 - a. **Legislative Conference 2025 – Heritage Hall March 13th, Lansing, MI**
 - i. Planning –
 - Catering – Amy’s catering will be doing the meals. Need to be closer to date for better numbers needed.
 - Registration packets – So far 19 have registered for the Legislative Conference. Registration packets have been out for a while. Grenae Dudley and Manuel Cordova will send next reminders, so it come from President and Vice-president. Danielle Sirianni will provide all current email addresses along with a registration packet.
 - Speakers so far include the Mayor, Director Hertel, Demetrius Starling, a couple of the Legislators and hopefully Dwayne Haywood, we are working to get more.
 - b. **Listen and Learn - dates and topics.**
 - i. Listen and Learn - Future topics & Dates –
 1. February 24, 2025 – Danielle Sirianni – Inside Legislative Process flyers have been sent out for event.
 2. May 19, 2025 – Dr. Tiffany Quinn – PACES & ACES programs, is ready for this and flyers will go out after February’s Listen and Learn.
 3. Future topics were discussed, Autism, Resources for special needs, migrant worker programs through the state and Human Trafficking.
 - c. **Annual Conference 2025 – Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI – Sept. 15-17**

- i. Topic/theme – some ideas are disabilities, walk in my shoes, adult side of disabilities, guardianship of the disabled. Interactive programs are recommended by members.
- ii. Banquet -Grenae Dudley likes the idea of a theme, members can dress up. A fun night activity is possible.

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

- 5) **New Business- Date of Annual Conference and DEI conference. Grenae Dudley was concerned that these might conflict, the DEI conference is held the 2nd week in September and MCSSA conference is usually held in the 3rd week. This September 2025 & 2026 hotels are already booked for September.**
- 6) **Adjourn – motion to adjourn was made by Grenae Dudley, seconded by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried, meeting adjourned 1:52 pm.
The next meeting will be April 8, 2025, 1:00 pm via Zoom or in person.**

Legislative Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 2:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Kitty Packard – Saginaw	Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Ceylon Bettis – Saginaw	Dr. Tiffany Quinn – Genesee
Yvonne Hebert – Wexford	Patrick Thompson – Macomb
Katie Zeiter – DHHS	Grenae Dudley - Oakland
Bridgett Heffron – DHHS	Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Manuel Cordova – Emmet	Laura Linebaugh – Ionia/Montcalm
Danielle Sirianni – TFG	Nancy Peacock – TFG
Raif Bartling – TFG (intern)	

- 1) Call to Order – Tiffany Quinn, CO-Chair @ 2:34 pm.
- 2) Approval of Minutes - January 14, 2025, motion to accept minutes 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 Ceylon Bettis. Motion carried.
- 4) Updates & Information, Committee Chair – Manuel Cordova & Tiffany Quinn - nothing at this time.
- 5) Updates & Information from External Meeting Participants
 - MI League for Public Policy - unavailable
 - E & T - unavailable
 - Representatives from MDHHS -Katie Zeiter reported the extension of the time-limit food assistance waver until February 28, 2026, for all counties except Kent, Oakland and Washtenaw. These 3 are exempt until September 30,2025.
- 6) Legislative Bills Update, Danielle Sirianni stated that committee assignments are out. We will be following Family & Veterans Committee and the DHHS budget was divided into three parts.
- 7) Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates
 - SB 18 – a bill aimed at enhancing financial protection or children in foster care.

- Recommendation – motion to support reintroducing this bill made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Kitty Packard. Motion carried.
- 8) Unfinished Business –nothing at this time.
- 9) New Business – Social work 5184 & 5185 discussion. Topic in line with MCSSA, committee to pursue. Motion to accept made by Pat Thompson, seconded by Manuel Cordova. Motion carried.
- 10) Adjournment – motion to adjourn made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Laura Linebaugh. Motion carried, meeting adjourned 3:19 pm.
Next Meeting: April 8, 2025, 2:30pm via Zoom or in person

Advisory Committee Minutes February 12, 2025 @ 8:00am

Attendees:

Naomi Deo – Montmorency	Grenae Dudley – Oakland
Manuel Cordova – Emmet	Rebecca Pasko- Monroe
Faith Redwine-Otieno -Washtenaw	Sherrie Ross – Oakland
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm	Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Dwayne Hayward – DHHS	Yvonne Hebert – Wexford
Danielle Sirianni – TFG	Nancy Peacock - TFG

1. Call to Order – Naomi Deo, Chairperson @ 8:02 am.
2. Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2025, motion to accept minutes made by Sherrie Ross, seconded by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried.
3. Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda – motion to approve the agenda made by Manuel Cordova, seconded by Sherrie Ross. Motion carried.
4. MDHHS Updates from Dwayne Haywood reported that the FIT team is expanding, with the goal to have this program in every county in Michigan. They are “freezing” Path & Potential. Trying to eliminate barriers to keep families together. Emergency housing increased by 5 million and will partner with MSHDA. Dwayne Haywood informed members that the DHHS office across the state has free gun locks available. He updated us on the board assignments, reporting that the process is working and should be smoother here on out. Dwayne Haywood told the tragic story of the 2 children that froze to death in the Detroit area. The number to call for emergency housing is 211. People needed to specify if they are a family with children. If the first shelters have no openings they need to keep trying. Additional options include churches and vouchers for motels.
5. MDHHS Updates from Demetrius Starling –unavailable
6. MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison from Renee Beniak / Rebecca Pasko – unavailable
7. Open Comment from members – Sherrie Ross informed group that District 6 next meeting is February 25, it is a zoom meeting. The speaker is Lynn Nee, a homeless topic. All are welcome. Please, spread the word to register to the conference, only 19 so far. Brought to groups attention that Don Bartosh from Alpena passed away. MCSSA will send a card.
8. Unfinished Business – nothing currently.
9. New Business -Naomi reported that Don Bartosh, a member of the Alpena County Human Service Board, passed away this month. Recommend that minutes get emailed to committee members as soon as they are completed. Then it will still be published in the Up to the Minute newsletter.

10. Adjournment –motion to adjourn made by Faith Redwine-Otieno, seconded by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried, adjourned -8:39 am.

The next meeting will be April 9, 2025 @ 8:00 am via Zoom or in person

**Board of Directors Minutes
February 12, 2025, 9:30 am**

Attendees:

Grenae Dudley – Oakland	Manuel Cordova – Emmet
Rita Hale – Alger	Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm	Sherrie Ross – Oakland
Naomi Deo – Montmorency	Yvonne Hebert – Wexford
Danielle Sirianni – TFG	Mike Frederick – TFG
Nancy Peacock – TFG	

- 1) Call to order – Grenae Dudley, Chairperson @ 9:32 am
- 2) Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2025, motion to approve the updated version by Christy Hilgers made by Sherrie Ross, seconded by Rita Hale. Motion carried.
- 3) Corrections/Additions/Approval of the Agenda – motion to accept made by Manuel Cordova, seconded by Sherrie Ross. Motion carried.
- 4) Announcements/Correspondence –
 - Frederick Group updates Danielle Sirianni shared what we have done sheet that was mailed to all. The audit has been conducted, planning for the annual conference is underway, and the Legislative conference cater has been found, meetings are being scheduled, and speakers are being booked. So far 47 counties have paid dues, and a 2nd notice will go out soon. Every member received an email from Danielle Sirianni about the Governor budget. Both Danielle Sirianni and Mike Frederick are meeting with new legislators for a meet and greet.
- 5) President’s Report – Grenae Dudley-White reported that the required audit has been completed, and report is coming soon. She announced Manuel Cordova as Vice President, and he will chair the committee to revise Policy and Procedures. They have been working together to re-vamp the policy and procedures, and job description of offices. Both she and Manuel Cordova will be sending conference invites to see if more will participate.
- 6) Treasurer’s Report – Sandy Cook reported that treasurer’s report looked good. Motion to accept made by Rita Hale, seconded by Sherrie Ross. Motion carried.
- 7) Advisory Committee Report – Naomi Deo reported that the FIT team is expanding. They are “freezing” Pathways to Potential. Trying to eliminate barriers to keep families together. Emergency housing increased by 5 million and will partner with MSHDA. Dwayne Haywood informed members that the DHHS office across the state has free gun locks available. He updated us on the board assignments, reporting that the process is working and should be smoother here on out. Dwayne Haywood told the tragic story of the 2 children that froze to death in the Detroit area. He did let us know that they do use hotels when needed and the state will pick up the bill.
- 8) Legislative Updates – Manuel Cordova & Tiffany Quinn

- a. SB 18 – protects children in foster care, DHHS eligibility in service monitoring and apply benefits. At age 14 they would start financial training. The money the Foster Children receive will go to them at 18 years old.
 - 1. Recommendation to support was made by Naomi Deo, seconded by Sherrie Ross, motion carried.
 - b. Committee Voted to support Social Work licensure legislation - to have lobbyists pursue Legislators and stakeholders in support of getting it done. Find out where DHHS stands on this. Not a bill but will be pursued. Motion to get more information was made by Manuel Cordova, seconded by Sherrie Ross, motion carried.
- 9) Development and Education Committee – Manuel Cordova
 - a. Legislative Conference update – March 13 – Heritage Hall is taking shape.
 - Catering – we are going with Amy’s Catering.
 - Registration packets have been sent a few times, 19 registrations so far. Manuel Cordova and Grenae Dudley will send out invites from them.
 - Speakers are being booked, so far Director Hertel, Mayor Schor, Rep. Roth are set.
 - b. Annual Conference – September 15-17, 2025 – Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI
- 10) Committee/Liaison Reports –
 - a. MAC – Member Volunteer to attend, no current report.
 - b. MCAH/ Michigan Health Policy Forum – Member Volunteer to attend no report.
 - c. Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee – Grenae Dudley-White stated that the Outcome report on Opioids “surveillance” with zip codes and counties is due out. O.C.A. from start to finish to create change in our communities.
- 11) District Reports from Advisory Committee Members –
 - District I – Christy Hilgers -next in person meeting in April, will be held in Marquette.
 - District II – Naomi Deo – no meeting last month. Will keep meetings in Gaylord and informed board that Don Bartosh passed away.
 - District III – Yvonne Hebert -nothing to report.
 - District IV – Chair Volunteer – needed, no report.
 - District V – Chair Volunteer - needed, no report.
 - District VI – Sherrie Ross – Next meeting will be February 25 @ 11 am, this is a virtual meeting. The speaker is Lynn Nee, speaking on Homeless Awareness.
- 12) Unfinished Business
 - Chair for Finance/Audit committee
 - 1. Audit update, Grenea Dudley reported that the report is due soon. Will go to Finance committee and Board of Directors.
- 13) New Business-no new business.
- 14) Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Sherrie Ross, seconded by Rita Hale, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 10:30 am.

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



Michigan County Social
Services Association



President's Challenge

Do you have unused, unwanted, or expired medications?



Dispose of them safely during the DEA Takeback.



Scan to find your
nearest DEA
Takeback location

**Sunday,
April 26
10am – 2pm**

**53% of misused
prescription drugs
come from friends
or family. Keep
your loved ones
safe by properly
disposing of your
medications.**

Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.

Visit DEATakeBack.com or scan the QR code above
to find a collection site near you.



MCSSA LISTEN & LEARN



MAY 19
1:30PM



Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) & Positive Childhood Experiences (PACES)

Listen and learn sessions exploring the impact of childhood experiences on mental and physical health. Learn how ACEs can affect lifelong well-being and how PACEs can build resilience and healing.

What You'll Learn:

- ✓ The science behind ACEs & PACEs
- ✓ How childhood stress impacts brain development

PRESENTED BY:
DR. TIFFANY QUINN



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4565476684>

Meeting ID: 456 547 6684

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,4565476684# US

+13126266799,,4565476684#

US (Chicago)

SAVE THE DATE

MCSSA/MCSCCET 2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

September 15 - 17, 2025

**PLEASE JOIN US
THIS SEPTEMBER:**

The Doherty Hotel
604 N McEwan St,
Clare, MI 48617

