



UP TO THE MINUTE

February
2026

Executive Director -
Danielle Sirianni
The Frederick Group
Contracted Association
Management

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

INSIDE

President's Message
Message from MCSSA President
Manuel Cordova.
Events Calendar
MCSSA monthly meetings and more
important dates.
Meeting Minutes
Legislative Conference – Register!
Listen & Learn Flyer

2025-2026 Officers

Manuel Cordova - Emmet President

Rebecca Pasko - Monroe, Vice-
President

Grenae Dudley – Oakland,
Immediate Past President

Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Secretary

Mark Wolfe – Lenawee, Treasurer

Zoe Lyons – Life Member

District I

Linda Kinnunen – Baraga
Jamie Lemay – Marquette

District II

Naomi Deo – Montmorency
Tammy Emig – Oscoda

District III

Wayne Buskirk – Life Member Yvonne
Hebert - Wexford

District IV

Bob Vanderzwaag – Life Member

District V

Sandy Cook – Life Member

District VI

Sherrie Ross – Oakland
Harry Wilson – Jackson



President's Message: February 2026

Dear MCSSA Members,

As February settles in, winter continues to make its presence known across Michigan. Cold temperatures and challenging travel conditions remind us how important it is to stay safe, stay warm, and look out for one another. Please take time to check in on coworkers, residents, family members, and neighbors, especially those who may be more vulnerable during periods of extreme winter weather.

At the state level, legislative activity continues to shape the work of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Ongoing discussions include MDHHS budget and funding priorities, Medicaid policy considerations, workforce recruitment and retention efforts, and emergency preparedness initiatives. These matters play an important role in how services are delivered statewide, and MCSSA will continue to monitor developments and share relevant updates with our members.

I would also like to take a moment to extend a heartfelt thank-you to **Director Demetrius Starling** for his leadership and service at MDHHS, particularly his work overseeing the Children's Services Administration. We are grateful for his dedication and wish him all the best as he begins his next chapter and new adventures. In his place, we welcome **Tim Click**, who will serve as interim senior deputy director of

Large County Representatives

Bruce McCoy – Kent

Vacant – Macomb

Sherrie Ross – Oakland

Vacant – Wayne

Members at Large

Janice Covey – Mecosta

Twanetta Ingram – Ingham

the Children’s Services Administration, and we look forward to working with him and continuing strong collaboration with MDHHS. Additionally, a sincere thank-you goes to **Lisa Ashley** of Bay Bluffs Medical Care Facility for hosting a Lunch & Learn on January 26. We truly appreciate her time, effort, and willingness to share knowledge with our members. Educational opportunities like this strengthen our professional community and support continued learning and collaboration.

As always, MCSSA is driven by its members. We welcome your ideas, information, and feedback on topics you would like to see addressed, educational opportunities you would find valuable, or issues affecting your organizations. We are also happy to share member announcements, accomplishments, and upcoming events—please feel free to send them our way so we can highlight them with the membership.

As we move through the remainder of winter, thank you for the commitment and care you bring to your work each day. MCSSA values your engagement and looks forward to continued connection in the months ahead.

Wishing you a safe, warm, and healthy February.

Warm regards,

Manuel Cordova
MCSSA President

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

FEBRUARY 2026

2/10 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
2/11 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 10 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am
2/28 – Last Day to Register for Legislative Conference

MARCH 2026

3/17-3/18 – Legislative Conference – The Double Tree by Hilton, Lansing MI

APRIL 2026

4/7 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
4/8 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

MAY 2026

5/12 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
5/13 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 10 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am
5/18 – Tentative Listen & Learn TBA @12:00pm

JUNE 2026

6/9 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
6/10 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

JULY 2026

7/7 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
7/8 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

AUGUST 2026

8/11 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
8/12 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 10 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am
8/14 – Last Day of the Hotel Room Block for the Annual Conference
8/24 – Tentative Listen & Learn TBA @12:00pm
8/28 – Last Day to Register for Annual Conference

SEPTEMBER 2026

9/14-9/16 – Annual Conference – The Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI

Legislative Tracking

Each month, we share a snapshot of MCSSA's legislative tracking highlighting bills that have seen recent action and on which MCSSA's Legislative Committee and Board of Directors have taken a formal position. This at-a-glance update is intended to keep members informed on where priority legislation currently stands.

The final two columns show the bill's current location in the legislative process and the date of the most recent activity. Members may request MCSSA's full bill analysis by emailing mcssa@mcssa.com. Complete bill language is available at www.legislature.mi.gov.

Bill #	Sponsor	Description	Date	Stance Board of	Status	Last Movement
			Presented	Directors Took		
SB 433	Polehanki	State agencies (existing): health and human services; educational materials regarding health dangers for youth using high-potency THC and cannabis products; require the department to provide.	8/13/2025	support	Seante Floor	1/27/2026
SB 96	Moss	Construction: other; installation of temporary locking devices or systems in child care centers; allow	4/8/2025	support	PA 0060'25	12/23/2025
SB 97	Hauck	Construction: other; exclusion of temporary locking devices or systems installed in child care centers; update under the fire prevention code	4/8/2025	support	PA 0061'25	12/23/2025
SB 98	McMorrow	Construction: other; installation of temporary locking devices or systems in child care centers; require.	4/8/2025	support	PA 0062'25	12/23/2025
SB 585	Irwin	Probate: guardians and conservators; requirement to have an appraisal for the sale of real property; provide for.	11/12/2025	support	House Committee	12/18/2025
SB 586	Johnson	Probate: guardians and conservators; requirement to state on record reasons for moving ward from residence; provide for.	11/12/2025	support	House Committee	12/18/2025
HB 4696	Meerman	Children: guardians; definition of relative under the guardianship assistance act; modify.	8/13/2025	support	House Committee	12/16/2025
HB 4697	Young	Children: guardians; eligibility for guardianship assistance payments; modify.	8/13/2025	support	House Committee	12/16/2025
SB 462	Singh	Tobacco: licenses; nicotine or tobacco products; require license to sell at retail.	8/13/2025	support	House Committee	12/16/2025
SB 463	Wojno	Tobacco: other; minors that purchase, possess, or use tobacco products, vapor products, or alternative nicotine products; sunset criminal penalties and civil sanctions for.	8/13/2025	support	House Committee	12/16/2025
SB 465	Bellino	Tobacco: licenses; requirement that a person hold a license to sell a nicotine or tobacco product at retail; create certain temporary exemptions to.	8/13/2025	support	House Committee	12/16/2025
SB 466	Cavanagh	Tobacco: other; reference to 1915 PA 31 in the age of majority act of 1971; revise.	8/13/2025	support	House Committee	12/16/2025
HB 4530	Pohutsky	Mental health: other; deadline for mental health professionals to release mental health records or information pertinent to child abuse or neglect investigation to the department; modify.	12/17/2025	support	House Floor	12/9/2025
HB 5220	Rigas	Children: protection; continuing education for mandated reporters in child abuse and neglect detection; require	12/17/2025	support	House Floor	12/9/2025



517. 371. 5303
MCSSA@MCSSA.COM
115 W Allegan Street, Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933
WWW.MCSSA.COM

Development and Education Committee Minutes Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Attendees:

Manuel Cordova – Emmet	Mark Wolfe - Lenawee
Kendra Spanjer - Ottawa	Christy Hilgers - Houghton
Kitty Packard – Saginaw	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm	Nancy Peacock – TFG
Sean Kelly – TFG	

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Manuel Cordova at 1:04 p.m.

Christy Hilger moved to approve both January 13, 2025, Agenda December 16, 2025, minutes as presented with second by Sandy Cook. Motion carried.

Ongoing Business

Legislative Conference March 17 & 18, 2026 at the Double Tree by Hilton, Lansing Michigan.

- Registration Packet - Was sent out December 30th and is on the website.
- Agenda and Speakers - Working to confirm speakers
- RSVP is needed if you want to meet with a legislator. The earlier you register, the easier it will be for us to get meeting with legislators.
- There was a question about whether county directors are signing up for the conference. None have signed up so far.

Annual Conference Sept. 14-16, 2026, at the Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, Michigan.

- Kendra Spanjer reported the following suggestions from directors: medical theme to include up-to-date information on Medicaid RX Kids, insurances; how to work well with government at the local state and federal levels; working with all generations of people; since we'll know the two candidates for governor by September, inviting them to speak; change throughout the department with retirements/many new people
- Homework: By February 10th we are encouraged to bring ideas for topics and speakers to the committee meeting. We can also contact Manuel before then. Manny said 15th but Danielle Sirianni corrected him, February 10th is the next meeting.

Annual Conference 2027 & 2028

- Location recommendations: Kalamazoo is on the list for a visit. We are all encouraged to provide Manuel with information about potential locations plus the hotels with conference facilities.

Listen and Learn

- Next Listen and Learn: Noon on January 26, 2026, Lisa Ashley will present on Medical Care Facilities from her perspective with Emmett County's Bay Bluffs facility.
- We want to see if a change to noon results in more people attending.

- Second Listen and Learn for 2026 is scheduled for May 18th.
- Topic and Speaker Suggestions are welcome and should be sent to Manuel Cordova or the MCSSA office. All tentative dates are listed in the MCSSA Calendar for 2026.

New Business - None

Adjournment - Kitty moved to adjourn the meeting with second by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Next Meeting - February 10, 2026, at 1:00 pm via Zoom or in person.

Legislative Committee Minutes Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Attendees:

Manuel Cordova – Emmet	Christy Hilgers - Houghton
Bridget Heffron - MI Dept. Community Health	Grenae Dudley - Oakland
Kitty Packard – Saginaw	Mark Wolfe - Lenawee
Pat Thompson – Macomb	Danielle Sirianni - TFG
Katie Zeiter - MDHHS	Nancy Peacock -TFG
Sean Kelly - TFG	

The meeting was called to order by chair Manuel Cordova at 2:31 p.m.

Pat Thompson moved to approve both January 13, 2026, agenda and December 16, 2025, minutes as presented with second by Grenae Dudley. Motion carried.

Updates and Information:

Committee Chairs Manuel Cordova and Pat Thompson had no updates at this time.

Updates and Information from External Meeting Participants:

MI League for Public Policy - Patrick Schaefer: Representative not present.

Education and Training - Representative not present

Katie Zeiter, Representative from MDHHS: The main focus is on getting the error rate down. The state is still close to a 9% error rate, and a 6% average is required for the year. The department is working on many approaches to reduce the rate including applying for waivers from the federal department, working with community partners to get accurate information out to everyone, and adding text messages as way to inform those applying for food benefits and those currently receiving benefits to provide accurate information on time.

Bridget Heffron from the Michigan Department of Community Health described a similar focus on meeting expectations of HR1 with eligibility and processing improvements for Medicaid. Having required documentation from those applying and receiving benefits is an issue. Manuel reported that he sees this as a problem for people other than our clients. Some employees in his company are not filling out the paperwork required for insurance coverage and then being dropped by the plan. The first deadline for Medicaid is October 2026 and the next January 1, 2027.

Both Katie Zeiter and Bridget Heffron talked about Michigan's centralized computer system, giving the opportunity for quickly sharing needed information if the applicant/person getting benefits agrees. This can streamline the process for clients and staff. MDHHS staff must meet federal requirements for privacy which includes not contacting clients between 6-month reviews. During that time, many people can have changes in hours worked and income that don't get reported and thus contribute to error rates.

Committee members requested one-page information summaries for both food benefits and Medicaid that we can share with people seeking or receiving benefits, county board members, legislators, and interested community partners and other citizens. The goal is for accurate information to be widely available.

Legislative Bills Update:

Danielle Siriani reported that there is a chart in the "Up to the Minute" newsletter on the website that tracks progress on bills of interest to MCSSA. She noted that in 2025 of the 800 bills introduced, 74 were signed into law. The average is over 300. The governor will release her budget February 12th, 2026, and Danielle is hopeful a final budget will be signed by July. Because everyone is up for election this year, it is hoped legislators will not want to be campaigning and be confronted about their failure to complete the budget process.

Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates:

HB 4969 would create the Kratom Consumer Protection and Regulatory Act, establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework governing the manufacture, distribution, and sale of kratom products in Michigan. The bill is intended to protect consumers, particularly minors—by regulating product safety, restricting access, and creating licensure and enforcement authority under the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill would prohibit the manufacture, sale, or distribution of Kratom products unless the person or entity is properly licensed and in compliance with testing, labeling, and age-restriction requirements.

Key Provisions:

- Requires state licensure for any person or business manufacturing, distributing, or selling Kratom products, including online sales to Michigan residents.
- Prohibits the sale of Kratom products to individuals under age 21.
- Requires laboratory testing of raw materials and submission of a certificate of analysis verifying product safety.
- Establishes detailed labeling requirements, including health warnings and disclosure of alkaloid content.
- Prohibits adulterated, contaminated, synthetic, or high potency kratom products.
- Authorizes administrative fines, civil penalties, license suspension or revocation, and injunctive relief for violations.
- Requires LARA to promulgate rules to implement the act by January 1, 2028.

Overall Intent:

To regulate Kratom products in a manner that improves consumer safety, prevents youth access and establishes enforceable statewide standards for a currently unregulated product market.

Action: Moved by Grenae Dudley with second by Pat Thompson to recommend that the Board of Directors support HB 4969. Motion passed unanimously.

HB 5368-5372

House Bills 5368–5372 are a comprehensive, tie-barred package that significantly revises Michigan's Youth Tobacco Act and related statutes to modernize regulation of nicotine,

tobacco, vapor, and alternative nicotine products. Together, the bills establish a statewide licensure and enforcement framework, clarify age-based restrictions, and align Michigan law with current federal standards intended to reduce youth access to nicotine products. While each bill addresses a different component of regulation, the package functions as an integrated overhaul designed to strengthen enforcement, standardize retailer responsibilities, and provide sustainable funding for oversight, education, and compliance.

Related Legislation Note: This package shares some similarities with **SB 462–466**, which also addresses regulation of nicotine and vapor products. However, **HB 5368–5372** establishes a more comprehensive regulatory framework, including retailer licensing, dedicated enforcement funding, and clearer oversight authority, making these provisions slightly stronger from youth protection and enforcement standpoint.

HB5370 Core Regulatory and Licensing Framework

- Renames the Youth Tobacco Act as the “Nicotine and Tobacco Act.”
- Requires retail licensure to sell nicotine or tobacco products, with a \$500 annual fee per establishment.
- Creates the Nicotine and Tobacco Regulation Fund to support enforcement and inspections, training, and compliance checks.
- Establishes a graduated penalty structure, including fines, license suspension, and revocation.
- Requires annual retailer and employee training and mandates regular inspections and public compliance reporting by LARA.

HB 5371 – Age of Majority Clarification

- Amends the Age of Majority Act to clarify that, although individuals are legal adults at age 18, nicotine and tobacco products remain restricted until age 21. This eliminates statutory ambiguity and ensure consistency across state law.

HB 5372 Minor Possession and Use Provisions update penalties related to minor possession, purchase, and use of nicotine and tobacco products. The bill:

- Maintains fines capped at \$50.
- Emphasizes health promotion and risk reduction programs rather than punitive sanctions.
- Preserves exemptions for undercover operations, compliance checks, and employment-related handling.

HB 5369 Temporary Licensure Exemption During Transition

- Creates a temporary exemption from licensure for retailers lawfully selling nicotine or tobacco products prior to the effective date who have a pending license application. This provision is intended to prevent unnecessary business disruption during implementation.

HB5368 Sales at Fairs, Festivals, and Farmers’ Markets

- Allows licensed retailers to sell nicotine or tobacco products at temporary venues, such as fairs and farmers’ markets, provided they comply with licensing, signage, and enforcement requirements.
- **Overall Intent:** Is to modernize Michigan’s nicotine and tobacco regulatory system, reduce youth access, improve enforcement consistency, and create a sustainable funding structure for oversight and education while providing clarity and predictability for retailers.

HB 5369 creates a temporary exemption from licensure for retailers lawfully selling nicotine or tobacco products prior to the effective date who have a pending license application. This

provision is intended to prevent unnecessary business disruption during implementation.

HB 5368 – Sales at Fairs, Festivals, and Farmers’ Markets

HB 5368 allows licensed retailers to sell nicotine or tobacco products at temporary venues, such as fairs and farmers’ markets, provided they comply with licensing, signage, and enforcement requirements.

The overall intent of House Bills 5368–5372 is to modernize Michigan’s nicotine and tobacco regulatory system, reduce youth access, improve enforcement consistency, and create a sustainable funding structure for oversight and education while providing clarity and predictability for retailers.

It is anticipated that retailers selling nicotine, tobacco, vapor and alternative nicotine products will not be in support of this package of bills.

Action: Moved by Kitty Packard with second by Grenae Dudley to recommend that the Board of Directors support **HB 5368-5372**. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Danielle reminded us that everyone should have their Legislative Conference registration package and remember that "Listen and Learn" on January 26th begins at noon - a new time.

New Business - None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pat Thompson with second by Kitty Packard. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Next Meeting February 10, 2026, 2:30 p.m. via Zoom or in person.

Advisory Committee Minutes Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Attendees:

Naomi Deo – Montmorency

Manuel Cordova - Emmet

Tim Click – MDHHS

Holly Force MDHHS

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Rebecca Pasko - Monroe

Mark Wolfe Grenae Dudley – Oakland

Grenae Dudley - Oakland

Christy Hilgers - Houghton

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Nancy Peacock - TFG

The meeting was called to order by chair Naomi Deo at 8:01 a.m.

Sandy Cook moved to approve both December 17, 2025, minutes and January 14, 2026, Agenda with second by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried.

Children’s Services Administration Updates:

Tim Click introduced himself as the Interim Senior Deputy Director for the CSA. He started his career at MDHHS in 1994 as a Child Protective Services Investigator and since then has had a supervisory role in all areas of Children's Services.

Business Service Center Reports:

Mr. Click provided a comprehensive review of what has been accomplished in each of the Business Service Centers. The slide show that is attached will be provided for everyone in attendance and those on the Board of Directors.

- BSC 1 now includes Mecosta and Osceola Counties. This BSC was active over the holiday season providing for children and families. They have strong community connections and partnered with other organizations. Children organizations are high on their priorities.
- BSC 2: 46 youth left residential settings since June 2025. They are focusing on family-like placements and coordinated efforts driving meaningful change. "Parents as Teachers" program is expanding. Tuscola County leads in quarterly collaboration.
- BSC 3: Journey Home of Ottawa County is helping many youths and families move toward reunification. The BSC had great participation by all staff in holiday programs.
- BSC 4: Children's Services Report included: 100% medical and dental compliance in Livingston. Monroe County CPS achieved 100% face-to-face contacts for the past 3 months. Only 4% of youth placements are in out-of-home care and 53% remain with relatives in the community. Monroe is at 95% and Jackson at 94%. for High Motivational Interviewing Engagement, The Economic Stabilization Report included: Sterling Heights DEI & Green Thumb is planting 100 native trees post-ice storms: Mt. Clemens' Thanksgiving giveaway served 435 individuals and 139 households. 50% of customer issues resolved on first contact across BSC 4; Warren internal food drive supports local families. BSC 4 payment error rates remain below 6%.
- BSC 5: Bi-monthly partnership meetings with the Federation for PAFCs to strengthen collaboration; Macomb 100% Teaming; Wayne and Oakland adding PODs in January 2026; Genesee PODs training early 2026; more PODs added throughout the year; the year; Wayne County Winter Party: 350 attendees, 450 gift bags, 27 community partners

CPS and Redesign Unit and Central Registry

- Processed 4,000+ out-of-state central registry clearance requests.
- Provided customer support for public and internal staff.
- Developing new Central Registry Portal & Dashboard.
- Initial focus: Out-of-state, DCWL, Wyatt's Law, and criminal convictions.
- Enhancing efficiency, transparency, and service delivery.

Available Beds and Placement Efforts - Extracurricular Funding

In 2025 funding reimbursement for youth in foster care: \$100,000 from Legislature plus \$200,000 from other resources. In 2026: \$200,000 from Legislature and \$500,000 from Opioid Settlement Funding. Activities reimbursed as of 10-1-25: basketball, football, baseball, cheer, snowboarding, wrestling, dance, soccer, music (band, lessons, equipment); gym membership, gymnastics, tumbling, horse, school field trips, foreign country field trips, summer and seasonal camps. Not reimbursed: summer school, driver's education, senior expenses, family vacations.

Juvenile Justice Bureau:

Child Care Fund:

- Statewide Reform Alignment: Advancing Justice for Kids and Communities legislative reforms included a presentation to the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan on juvenile-justice research and best practices for the effective use of screening and assessment tools in prosecutorial decision-making.

- Governance & Policy: In partnership with National Youth Screening & Assessment Partners (NYSAP), MDHHS has developed a statewide policy and procedure template for the MAYSI-2, with statewide training on both the policy and tool launching January 29.
- Diversion & Community Services Expansion: In collaboration with the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center, Diversion Alternative Regional Team (DART) training will provide four regional sessions across the State in February and March to expand diversion alternatives and reduce reliance on detention and residential placement.

Bed Management Tool:

- Phase 2 Launching Pad Feb 2nd: Enhancements include advanced search capabilities, allowing users to filter facilities by services offered, gender served, age range, and other specialized criteria to better align youth with services and treatment.
- Bed Management Reporting: Although reporting is not mandated, efforts continue to increase participation given its value for visibility, efficiency, data reports and treatment-aligned placements.
- Dashboard link: JJ Bed Search Tool - Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

MDHHS - Residential Emerging Trends

- The placement waitlist remains at ~43 youth, reflecting sustained system demand.
- Non-secure placements continue to account for most referrals (28 youth), with demand concentrated among male youth.
- Secure placement requests remain steady (12 youth), with limited movement driven by constrained statewide bed availability.
- A small number of youths require both secure and non-secure consideration (3 youth), indicating more complex placement and treatment needs.

ICPC Activity Overview

- Caseload remains elevated at 1,500 active cases.
- New cases and closures remain relatively balanced.
- Home studies and placements continue at steady levels.

PREA Compliance & Oversight Highlights:

- Juvenile Justice successfully claimed full PREA compliance with the U.S. Department of Justice for calendar year 2025.
- 2 youths are currently engaged in MPHI re-entry services.
- 2 MRS cases opened for youth age 18; 3 additional referrals in progress.
- Community volunteer partnership in development with Macomb County Animal Shelter.

Michigan Youth Treatment Center

- Active partnerships with Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), Michigan Works, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) supporting re-entry, academics, and independent living.
- Ten youth receive MPHI re-entry services onsite.
- Nine youth continue MPHI services in the community.
- Ten students enrolled in MRS programming (work readiness, job exploration, financial literacy, conflict resolution).

Bay Pines Treatment Center

- Ten youth receive MPHI re-entry services onsite.
- Nine youth continue MPHI services in the community.
- Ten students enrolled in MRS programming (work readiness, job exploration, financial literacy, conflict resolution.)

Lincoln & Calumet

- 18 youth participating in MRS workforce readiness programming.

CSA Teaming Model:

- Cohort 1 began implementing the Teaming Model structure in 2025. Cohort 1 consists of four main local offices: Leelanau/Grand Traverse/Kalkaska. Sanilac/St. Clair; Allegan-Barry; and Macomb.
- Cohort 2 launched in late 2025/early 2026 and includes 15 local offices. Cohort 2 is much larger and will therefore provide additional feedback/opportunities to further expand the model and build out the protocol.
- Focus groups continue to identify areas where additional information or support is needed to continue to "stand-up" the model.
- MISEP is meeting and exceeding standards. Progress is being made, next court date 3 is February 3, 2026.
- Father and Engagement conducted workshops and 397 staff responded. survey conducted by Dr. Tamarie Willis, which identified practice gaps in working with paternal relatives. The department is developing targeted training strategies to improve father engagement.

Economic Stability Administration Updates

Holly Force reported that Tim Click has covered all updates.

MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison Updates:

Rebecca Pasko reported - Rebecca provided an update on the CMHAs situation, noting that the judge ruled the RFP process illegal and ordered the state and CMHAs to work together to find a resolution. No negotiations are scheduled as of now.

Open Comments from Members – nothing

Unfinished Business – nothing

New Business -

Legislative Conference registrations are out and available on the website.

Adjournment – Manual Cordova moved to adjourn with second by Rebecca Pasko. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on February 11, 2026, 8:00 a.m. via Zoom or in person.

MCSSA Board of Directors Minutes Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Attendees:

Manuel Cordova – Emmet
Grenae Dudley – Oakland
Rebecca Pasko – Monroe
Naomi Deo - Montmorency
Mark Wolfe - Tuscola
Nancy Peacock – TFG

Rita Hale – Alger
Pat Thompson - Macomb
Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Mike Frederick – TFG
Danielle Sirianni – TFG

The meeting was called to order by chair Manuel Cordova at 10:32 a.m.

Pat Thompson moved to approve both December 17, 2025, minutes as presented and January 14, 2026, agenda as updated with second by Rita Hale. Motion carried.

Announcements/Correspondence

Danielle Sirianni of the Frederick Group reported that the Legislative Conference Registration Packet and Listen and Learn flyer were sent out 12-30-25. The state legislature passed 74 public acts in 2025 (average is 300-350). House Bills 96-98 were supported by MCSSA and passed into law. This package of bills allows childcare centers to install temporary locking devices using a specified procedure for use as a safety measure.

Please see "What We Have Done" document on the website for additional information.

Grenae Dudley suggested a presentation on senior fraud by the FBI's Citizen's Academy for a future Listen and Learn. She will explore this for May.

President's Report:

Manuel Cordova reported:

- Visits have been made to counties to present the value of MCSSA and county board roles. More counties are requesting presentations.
- An MCSSA strategic planning committee will be formed.
- He plans to meet with the Interim Senior Deputy Director for the Children's Services administration and new Deputy Director of the Economic Stability Administration.

Treasurer's Report:

Mark Wolfe reported reviewed end of December account balances, profit and loss sheets, and summary balance sheets for MCSSA and MCSSCET. Status is currently strong as dues come in, with more expenses expected later in the fiscal year.

Rita Hale moved to accept the Treasurer's report with second by Rebecca Pasko. Motion carried.

Advisory Committee report

Naomi Deo reported that Interim Deputy Director Tim Click is optimistic about the Michigan Child Welfare Reform Case and federal oversight ending. The next hearing is on February 3rd and hopeful settlement by June.

Scholarship Committee Report – Christy Hilgers reported that the committee needs at least one more Department of Health and Human Services Board member, not currently serving on the Board of Directors. They are making suggestions to Manuel who will appoint additional committee member(s). We currently have \$6162.95 in our account, 50% of which can be used for 2026 scholarships - \$3081.47. Linsey Lasanke, Sherrie Ross and Christy Hilgers volunteered to work on the fundraising sub-committee, and Lindsay will reach out to BSC directors as a first step in involving all counties. Next meeting: Monday February 2nd.

Legislative Bills Update:

Manuel Cordova reported on Pending Legislation Information, Recommendations and Updates:

HB 4969 would create the Kratom Consumer Protection and Regulatory Act, establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework governing the manufacture, distribution, and sale of Kratom products in Michigan. The bill is intended to protect consumers, particularly minors—by regulating product safety, restricting access, and creating licensure and enforcement authority under the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill would prohibit the manufacture, sale, or distribution of kratom products unless the person or entity is properly licensed and in compliance with testing, labeling, and age-restriction requirements.

Key Provisions:

- Requires state licensure for any person or business manufacturing, distributing, or selling Kratom products, including online sales to Michigan residents.
- Prohibits the sale of Kratom products to individuals under age 21.
- Requires laboratory testing of raw materials and submission of a certificate of analysis verifying product safety.
- Establishes detailed labeling requirements, including health warnings and disclosure of alkaloid content.
- Prohibits adulterated, contaminated, synthetic, or high potency kratom products.
- Authorizes administrative fines, civil penalties, license suspension or revocation, and injunctive relief for violations.
- Requires LARA to promulgate rules to implement the act by January 1, 2028.
-

The Legislative Committee recommended that the Board of Directors vote to support HB 4969.

Moved by Rita Hale with second by Naomi Deo to support HB 4969. Motion carried.

HB 5368-5372

House Bills 5368–5372 are a comprehensive, tie-barred package that significantly revises Michigan’s Youth Tobacco Act. Together, the bills establish a statewide licensure and enforcement framework, clarify age-based restrictions, and align Michigan law with current current federal standards.

Overall Intent: To modernize Michigan’s nicotine, vapor, and tobacco regulatory system, reduce youth access, improve enforcement consistency, and create a sustainable funding structure for oversight and education while providing clarity and predictability for retailers.

This package shares some similarities with **SB 462–466**, which also addresses regulation of nicotine and vapor products. However, **HB 5368–5372** establishes a more comprehensive regulatory framework:

HB5370 - Core Regulatory and Licensing Framework

- Renames the Youth Tobacco Act as the “Nicotine and Tobacco Act.”
- Requires retail licensure to sell nicotine or tobacco products, with a \$500 annual fee per establishment.
- Creates the Nicotine and Tobacco Regulation Fund to support enforcement, inspections, training, and compliance checks.
- Establishes a graduated penalty structure, including fines, license suspension, and revocation.
- Requires annual retailer and employee training and mandates regular inspections and public compliance reporting by LARA.

HB 5371 – Age of Majority Clarification

- Amends the Age of Majority Act to clarify that, although individuals are legal adults at age 18, nicotine and tobacco products remain restricted until age 21. This eliminates statutory ambiguity and ensures consistency across state law.

HB 5372 Minor Possession and Use Provisions update penalties related to minor possession, purchase, and use of nicotine and tobacco products. The bill:

- Maintains fines are capped at \$50.
- Emphasize health promotion and risk reduction programs rather than punitive sanctions.

- Preserves exemptions for undercover operations, compliance checks, and employment-related handling.

HB 5369 Temporary Licensure Exemption During Transition

- Creates a temporary exemption from licensure for retailers lawfully selling nicotine or tobacco products prior to the effective date who have a pending license application.
- This provision is intended to prevent unnecessary business disruption during implementation.
-

HB5368 Sales at Fairs, Festivals, and Farmers' Markets

Allows licensed retailers to sell nicotine or tobacco products at temporary venues, such as fairs and farmers' markets, provided they comply with licensing, signage, and enforcement requirements.

HB 5369 – creates a temporary exemption from licensure for retailers lawfully selling nicotine or tobacco products prior to the effective date who have a pending license application. This provision is intended to prevent unnecessary business disruption during implementation.

The Legislative Committee recommended that the Board of Directors vote to support HB 5368–5372. Moved by Pat Thompson with second by Rita Hale to support HB 4969. Motion carried.

Development and Education Committee

Manuel Cordova or Pat Thompson reported on plans for the Legislative Conference taking place on March 17 & 18, 2026 at the Double Tree by Hilton, Lansing, Michigan.

The Annual Conference will be September 14-16, 2026, at The Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Michigan. We are work considering speakers for a variety of topics including Medical Care Facilities and RX Kids. Please email Manuel Cordova or Danielle Sirianni with your ideas for topics and speakers.

Listen and Learn on January 26th at noon, Lisa Ashley will present on Medical Care Facilities from her perspective with Emmett County's Bay Bluffs facility, described as #1 in the state and in the top 2% in the nation.

Rita Hale reported that for the first time since attending MCSSA conferences, she had difficulty getting approval for reimbursement. It seems that some counties file for their board members' reimbursement, and this seems to go smoothly. Manuel Cordova emphasized that the state would reimburse any county board member for mileage, hotel room, and conference fees in 2026. Contact him if you have difficulty,

Planning for 2027 and 2028: Contact Manuel Cordova or Danielle Sirianni with ideas for potential sites with hotel/conference room facilities.

Committee/Liaison Reports

- MAC – Danielle Sirianni has sent an email to Bob VanderZwaag about who to contact at the Michigan Association of Counties to arrange having an MCSSA member attend. Bob was our most recent representative to MAC,
- MCAH/ Michigan Health Policy Forum – No report.
- Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee: Grenae Dudley will report to us about their quarterly meetings.
- CMHA (Community Mental Health Association): Rebecca Pasko spoke about the current court status regarding PHIPs. The judge appears ready to rule against actions that would remove local control of mental health services.

District Reports.

- District I – Christy Hilgers reported that they are still working on arrangements to open an account for District 1 funds, and a decision on a bank or credit union will be made by a vote of the members.
 - District II – Naomi Deo reported they will meet on January 23rd for elections and guest speakers.
- District III – Seeking a volunteer to serve as district chair
- District IV – Seeking a volunteer to serve as district chair
 - District V – Grenae Dudley will speak with Sherrie Ross about chair position
- Grenae Dudley and Rebecca Pasko are willing to work together to strengthen MCSSA districts.

Unfinished Business: nothing.

New Business –nothing.

Adjournment - Rita Hale moved to adjourn the meeting second by Grenae Dudley. The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.

The next meeting will be held on February 11, 2026, at 9:30 am via Zoom or in person.



REGISTER TODAY!

- +517-371-5303
- mcssa@mcssa.com
- www.mcssa.com



MCSSA

Legislative Conference

The Double Tree By Hilton
111 N Grand Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

MARCH | 17 & 18th | 2026

www.mcssa.com