



# UP TO THE MINUTE

April 2026

Executive Director -  
Danielle Sirianni  
The Frederick Group  
Contracted Association  
Management

Michigan County Social Services Association  
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## **INSIDE**

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## **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: April 2026**

Dear MCSSA Members,

They say April brings flowers—but this year in Northern Michigan, it definitely started with snow. One minute we're thinking spring is around the corner, and the next we're getting buried under three feet of it. If nothing else, it's a good reminder that you always have to be ready to adjust plans on the fly.

That was certainly the case for our Legislative Conference on the 17th and 18th. I know many of you had to cancel or were unable to make the trip due to the blizzard, which was completely understandable. That said, we still had a strong turnout, and I truly appreciate everyone who made the effort to attend despite the conditions.

For those who attended, it was a great opportunity to connect directly with legislators and have real conversations about the issues that impact our members and the communities we live in. Those conversations reinforced the importance of continued support for funding, workforce development, mental health services, and ensuring access to critical services for the people we serve.

Looking ahead, we're already preparing for our Annual Conference in September. We welcome any suggestions on topics you'd like to see presented. We are also currently seeking engaging speakers to help deliver a meaningful and informative conference experience. If you or

[Large County Representatives](#)

Bruce McCoy – Kent

Vacant – Macomb

Sherrie Ross – Oakland

Vacant – Wayne

[Members at Large](#)

Janice Covey – Mecosta

Twanetta Ingram – Ingham

someone you know has expertise or insights to share, we encourage you to consider participating or reaching out for more information.

I also want to highlight our **MCSSA Scholarship Fund Drive**, which plays an important role in supporting the future of our field. Each May, students across the state apply for the Chuck Higgins-Mel Haga Scholarship. These applicants, connected to MDHHS employees and MCSSA members, are pursuing careers in social work, human services, and juvenile justice—fields that are critically important right now. Thanks to your support, four outstanding students each received \$2,000 scholarships in 2025. This year’s Scholarship Fund Drive runs through May 30, with a goal of raising \$20,000 to continue supporting students and investing in the next generation of professionals our communities rely on.

If you’re able, I encourage you to contribute and be part of that impact. Every donation helps.

**Donate here:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign\\_id=4AGRBA9JH2XU4](https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=4AGRBA9JH2XU4)

Thanks, as always, for your time, your involvement, and the work you do every day to support those we serve across Michigan.

Sincerely,

*Manuel Cordova*

**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

### 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

### OCTOBER 2026

10/13 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm  
10/14 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am  
10/26 – Tentative Listen & Learn TBA @12:00pm

### NOVEMBER 2026

11/10 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm  
11/11 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 10 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

### DECEMBER 2026

12/8 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm  
12/9 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 10:30 am

## 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](mailto:mcssa@mcssa.com). Complete bill language is available at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

Bill #	Sponsor	Description	Date Presented	Stance Board of Directors Took	Status	Last Movement
SB 310	McMorrow	Children: child care; tri-share child care program; establish	6/11/2025	support	Senate Floor	3/24/2026
SB 311	Bayer	Children: child care; adjustments of reimbursements under the child development care program for inflation; require	6/11/2025	support	Senate Floor	3/24/2026
SB 312	McCann	Children: child care; review and appeal process for certain violations of child care organization rules; require the department to establish.	6/11/2025	support	Senate Floor	3/24/2026
SB 313	Anthony	Fire: other; requirements for certain child care organizations and procedures for certain investigations; modify and make other revisions to 1973 PA 116	6/11/2025	support	Senate Floor	3/24/2026
HB 4696	Meerman	Children: guardians; definition of relative under the guardianship assistance act; modify.	8/13/2025	support	House Floor	3/19/2026
HB 5368	Wortz	Tobacco: licenses; nicotine or tobacco product licensee; allow to sell nicotine or tobacco products at an unlicensed location under certain circumstances.	1/14/2026	support	House Committee	3/19/2026
HB 5369	Wortz	Tobacco: licenses; requirement that a person hold a license to sell a nicotine or tobacco product at retail; create certain temporary exemptions to	1/14/2026	support	House Committee	3/19/2026
HB 5370	Slagh	Tobacco: licenses; nicotine or tobacco products; require license to sell at retail	1/14/2026	support	House Committee	3/19/2026
HB 5371	Scott	Tobacco: other; reference to 1915 PA 31 in the age of majority act of 1971; revise	1/14/2026	support	House Committee	3/19/2026
HB 5372	Young	Tobacco: other; minors that purchase, possess, or use tobacco products, vapor products, or alternative nicotine products; sunset criminal penalties and civil sanctions for.	1/14/2026	support	House Committee	3/19/2026
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	Seante Committee	2/24/2026
HB 4697	Young	Children: guardians; eligibility for guardianship assistance payments; modify.	8/13/2025	support	House Floor	2/24/2026
HB 5220	Rigas	Children: protection; continuing education for mandated reporters in child abuse and neglect detection; require	12/17/2025	support	Senate Committee	2/24/2026
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



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## Development and Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

### Attendees:

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

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Manuel Cordova at 1:00 p.m.

Kitty Packard moved to approve both February 10, 2026, Agenda and the January 13, 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.

- Agenda and Speakers - We learned Director Hertl will not be able to attend this year. MDHHS Department staff will not be allowed to attend because in the past there were issues on which MDHHS and MCSSA were supporting different objectives. MDHHS staff cannot participate in support of MCSSA objectives that contradict department positions.
- On day one of the conference, we will receive training to be prepared to present our objectives to our legislators. This may include current legislator(s) and a retired legislator. It was suggested to invite Chardaé Burton, the *Director of Legislative Affairs, for MDHHS*.

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

- Topic: Danielle Sirianni reported on a good variety of potential subjects that could be included. After discussion, Christy Hilgers moved that "Medical" be the topic for the 2026 annual conference, with a second by Manuel Cordova. Motion passed. Manuel Cordova and the Frederick group will continue to research specific subjects and speakers. Contact Manuel Cordova or Danielle Sirianni with your ideas.
- Theme - The goal is to have a theme by the April meeting.

Annual Conference 2027 & 2028

- Sean Kelly, Frederick Group, will be exploring specific conference sites in suggested cities.
- Visits will be planned in the spring

### Listen and Learn

- Tentative for May 18, 2026 - Kendra Spanjer will explore someone from the Children's Services Administration to speak on the new training model being rolled out. Kendra Spanjer stated we could potentially reach out to Houda Fawaz from CSA. The email Kendra Spanjer provided for contact is: FawazH@michigan.gov
- Continue to send ideas for potential topics and speakers for future Listen and Learn to Manuel Cordova or Rebecca Pasko

## **New Business**

- Remember to talk to friends and colleagues about registering for the Legislative Conference. Signing up early improves your chances of meeting with your legislator.

## **Adjournment**

Kitty Packard moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

**Next Meeting** - April 7, 2026, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom or in person.

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## **Legislative Committee Minutes**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

### Attendees:

Manuel Cordova – Emmet

Katie Zeiter - MDHHS ESA

Bridget Heffron - MDHHS Medicaid

Kitty Packard - Saginaw

Mark Wolfe - Lenawee

Christy Hilgers - Houghton

Matt Kuzma - Director MDHHS Kalamazoo County

Danielle Sirianni TFG

Sean Kelly TFG

The meeting was called to order by chair Manuel Cordova at 2:32 p.m.

Christy Hilgers moved to approve January 13, 2026, minutes and the February 10, 2026, agenda as presented, with a second by Kitty Packard. Motion carried.

**Updates and Information:** Committee Chair Manuel Cordova reported that we do not expect to make a profit or break even on the Legislative Conference this year. Discussion included:

- Question about whether a conference has ever been cancelled - one time during COVID
- Possible option - hold the Legislative Conference every other year to focus on times when we are most likely to make an impact on legislators.
- More evaluation and discussion will be needed

### **Updates and Information from External Meeting Participants:**

MI League for Public Policy representative Patrick Schaefer: No report – Not in Attendance

Education and Training - No Report

Katie Zeiter, Representative from MDHHS Economic Stability Administration, reported that she will provide us with information on all changes related to HR1 as soon as they are available. Current information:

- SNAP ED funding has ended and carry-forward dollars will be expended by 9-30-26. By 09/30/2026, the SNAP Ed program will no longer exist.
- MDHHS was required by the federal government to implement Time Limited Food Assistance (TFLA) in most counties in Michigan. There are some counties that are currently still exempt from TLFA. SNAP Employment and Training continue to assist local offices with the implementation of TLFA

- Discussions are underway around whether non-parent caretakers will continue to be required to pursue child support for FIP.
- We are in the process of updating the Cash Assistance Replacement process to include Refugee Cash Assistance.
- State Emergency Relief Crisis Funds are in good shape to maintain the one-assist limit through the end of the fiscal year.
- Applications for Home Heating assistance are available from the Department of the Treasury at [michigan.gov/Treasury](https://michigan.gov/Treasury)

Bridget Heffron from MSHHS Medical Services Administration reported that there will be a lot of changes for Medicaid as a result of HR1, but none have been made yet.

- The first changes are expected with the Medicaid work requirement.
- Then maybe a decrease in retro months - Michigan Medicaid has provided retroactive coverage for up to three months prior to the application month. This is expected to decrease to one or two months.
- Currently attempting to change the definition of who is considered “medically frail” to expand the pool of people considered to be exempt from the new work requirements for Medicaid, noting that it is still very much in the works and is not a guarantee
- For updated information, google Michigan Medicaid Policy

**Legislative Bills Update:**

Nothing has happened in the last three weeks. The Saginaw Senate seat has been vacant for 240 days, with those constituents being without representation. The February 3rd primary election resulted in two candidates: Democrat Chedrick Greene and Republican Jason Tunney. They will face off in the May 5, 2026, special election.

Governor Whitmer will reveal her 2026 budget on 2-11-26. Danielle Sirianni will provide us with an analysis of the impact on MDHHS.

**Pending Legislation Information - Recommendations and Updates**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

Matt Kuzma was asked about potential conference sites in Kalamazoo. He reported that the Radisson is often used, and the county DHHS office also has a large meeting room with the technology we would need.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kitty Packard with a second by Matt Kuma. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Next Meeting April 7, 2026, 2:30 pm via Zoom or in person

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## Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

### Attendees:

Naomi Deo – Montmorency  
Manuel Cordova - Emmet  
Tim Click – MDHHS  
Erin Frisch - MDHHS  
Mark Wolfe – Lenawee  
Yvonne Hebert - Wexford  
Grenae Dudley – Oakland

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm  
Christy Hilgers - Houghton  
Rebecca Pasko - Monroe  
Holly Force MDHHS  
Kitty Packard - Saginaw  
Danielle Sirianni – TFG  
Nancy Peacock - TFG

The meeting was called to order by chair Naomi Deo at 8:00 a.m.

Kitty Packard moved to approve January 14, 2026, minutes and the February 11, 2026 agenda as presented with second by Sandy Cook. Motion carried.

### Economic Stability Administration Updates

Erin Frisch reported that the primary focus remains on reducing the FIP error rate. Two new tools being used are an automated case reader and new interview guidelines. Reaching the goal of an error rate below 6% seems unlikely but it's hoped that the next review shows us below 8%.

The new work requirements will increase the workload for staff. The department is preparing for the new Medicaid work requirements which will be implemented by the end of the calendar year.

The department is focusing on productivity and meeting timelines across all program levels.

Erin Frisch will be attending and speaking at the Legislative Conference and asked us to let her know what we are most interested in hearing about. Responses today included:

- How can MCSSA and members help her
- We'd like to know what priorities and changes are anticipated
- We offered to share our legislative priorities, and Erin Frisch will be pleased to get them

### Children's Services Administration Updates:

Tim Click reported on continuing the momentum and focused on keeping children safe and building strong families. Business Service Center reports:

#### BSC 1:

- QIA ICWA Compliance was distributed in December to all counties and agencies in BSC 1.
- This QIA is intended to implement a consistent protocol across BSC1 for improved identification and notice of potential Indian Children on all cases.
- The BSC Protocol began in January 2026, with data reporting requirements beginning as of February 2026.
- Additionally, worker training and ongoing support calls are being offered throughout the duration of the QIA.

#### BSC 2:

- Prevention- Parents as Teachers program capacity is projected to expand in Bay/Arenac, Ingham & Saginaw Counties 2026. This program supports families remaining together safely.
- BSC 2 has decreased the number of youths entering CCLs by 75% since January of 2025, thanks to the thoughtful collaboration between counties, the BSC, IPU and BCCHPS.
- Contiguous County Agreement: Finalized guidance for courtesy assignments & case transfers. Upcoming Trainings are planned.
- Culturally Responsive Hair Care for Foster Care Workers & Caregivers Feb 2026.
- Native American Cultural Awareness - Mar 2026

#### BSC 3:

- A chart was shown that documented a decrease in foster care placements from 99 to 78 in 2025, with a good percentage being placed with relatives. Juvenile justice cases varied from 19 to 26.

#### BSC 4:

- Children's Services: Cohort 2 counties preparing for February-March Tabletop simulations to integrate Teaming model
- Only 4% of youth in CCI; majority in relative or foster placements
- High Motivational Interviewing compliance and decreasing MIC events
- Strengthening prevention efforts with
- Work Force Transformation
- Economic Stability Administration
- Hamtramck: new phone line to serve the Bengali population
- Taylor: first Forgotten Harvest pantry with health screenings
- ESA offices: payment error rate under 6% focus
- Wayne Central: 225,000 texts sent about free tax services

#### BSC 5:

- Director transition: Jen Wrayno concludes tenure Feb 2026; new director to be appointed.
- CCR workgroup: Staff and management from six counties collaborating to streamline processes and ensure consistency.
- SharePoint launch: Centralized site by March 2026 for resources and enhanced collaboration.
- BSC 5 Olympics: Inaugural event in March 2026 to build team spirit and engagement across counties.
- BSC 5 Olympics: Inaugural event in March 2026 to build team spirit and engagement across counties with both physical and non-physical activities.

#### BSC 6:

- A chart was provided that showed the number of Early On referrals received between January and October 2025. A high percentage were referred on to local Early on programs. The chart also documents children's substance exposure for THC and for other substances.

#### Statewide:

Adoption: During FY2025, with the assistance of our Private Agency Partners, 1,257 adoptions were finalized.

#### Juvenile Justice

- Phase 2 represents the evolution of Bed Management Tool moving beyond basic bed counts to support better placement decisions
- Expanded facility-level information, including services offered, exclusions to admissions, and whether programs are secure or non-secure
- Clear distinction between detention and residential settings, helping users quickly understand placement type
- Improved visibility into real availability, showing staffed beds and whether facilities are accepting referrals

#### MDHHS Supervised Youth - Residential Emerging Trends:

- The placement waitlist remains at ~41 youth
- Non-secure placements continue to account for most referrals (28 youth), with demand concentrated among male youth.
- Secure placement requests have decreased (8 youth)
- A small number of youths require both secure and non-secure consideration (5 youth), indicating more complex placement and treatment needs.

#### ICPC Activity Overview show

- Caseload remains elevated at ~1,500-2,000 active cases

- Home studies completion continues to improve (FY 2025- 88%, a three percent increase from 2024) and placements continue at steady levels.
- In May 2025 the department implemented utilization of the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise to ensure alignment with national standards and improve ICPC processing and time frames.

#### MISEP 26 Update

Standards: Met/exceeded in 6 areas

#### Highlights:

- Maintained foster home array
- Completed assessments & service plans
- Provided necessary services
- Monthly sibling visits ensured
- Initial medical & mental health exams within 30 days
- Case plans addressed health & dental needs
- Agreement Updates: 2 exited, 1 moved to Structures & Policies
- Next Report/Hearing: Jul 2026 (Jan - Jun 2025)

#### Office of Father and Paternal Engagement - Report Findings

##### 1) Close Practice Gap

- Policies known, inconsistent use
- Action: Standardize workflows & embed father steps

##### 2. End Maternal-Default Bias

- Mothers default, fathers less visible
- Action: Revise forms, guidance, naming

##### 3. Boost Support & Capacity

- Limited training, high workload
- Action: Train, supervise, adjust roles/caseloads

Manuel Cordova indicated his interest in participating in this effort.

#### **MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison Updates:**

Rebecca Pasko reported that she attended the recent CMH Winter Conference. She confirmed that the judge has communicated that the changes in RFP for PHIP would be breaking the law. Now the state is dropping the RFP, but she cautioned that it may reappear in the future, perhaps dependent on election results.

In a separate lawsuit 3 PHIPs have refused to sign a contract with the state based on giving increased funding when the family is designated to manage the child's service as opposed to a case manager.

#### **Open Comments from Members – None**

#### **Unfinished Business – None**

#### **New Business - None**

#### **Adjournment**

Rebecca Pasko moved to adjourn with second by Manuel Cordova. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2026, at 8:00am via Zoom or in person.

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## MCSSA Board of Directors Minutes

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

### Attendees:

Grenae Dudley – Oakland  
Pat Thompson – Macomb  
Christy Hilgers – Houghton  
Rita Hale – Alger  
Manuel Cordova – Emmet  
Rebecca Pasko - Monroe  
Yvonne Hebert- Wexford

Mark Wolfe - Tuscola  
Kitty Packard – Saginaw  
Danielle Sirianni – TFG  
Nancy Peacock – TFG  
Mike Frederick – TFG  
Naomi Deo - Montmorency

The meeting was called to order by chair Manuel Cordova at 10:35 a.m.

Rita Hale moved to approve both the February 11, 2026, Agenda and the January 14, 2026 minutes as presented with second by Kitty Packard. Motion carried.

### Announcements/Correspondence

Frederick Group Update/ What We Have Done

Danielle Sirianni of the Frederick Group reported that not much had happened in the state legislature. The February 3rd primary election for the Saginaw Senate seat resulted in two candidates, Democrat Chedrick Greene and Republican Jason Tunney. They will face off in May 5, 2026, special election.

They are working on booking speakers for the Legislative Conference and meetings for MCSSA members with their legislators. Interim deputy directors for Economic Stability and Children's Services will both attend and speak. They have asked for input from MCSSA about what we would like to hear from them. 31 people have registered for the conference. Some members have reported having difficulty booking rooms for the conference at the \$98 nightly rate in our contract with the hotel. Danielle will work to correct this problem.

50 counties have paid dues. Danielle and Manuel Cordova are visiting counties to provide them with information and encourage them to become dues paying members of MCSSA.

### President's Report:

Manuel Cordova announced that there will be an in-person strategic planning meeting from 12 pm to 5p.m. on March 18th at the Frederick Group offices to look at MCSSA's direction and goals for the next few years. He continues to work with Danielle Sirianni on visits to counties who are not current members or who have requested a visit.

### Treasurer's Report

Mark Wolfe gave a positive report on our current money status. MCSSA has over \$400,00 and MCSSCET has over \$42,00. He noted that we still need to be mindful of careful planning for the future. Christy Hilgers moved to accept the Treasurer's report with second by Rita Hale. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

Advisory Committee report – Naomi Deo reported that MDHHS is working hard to reduce the SNAP error rate. While reaching the goals to be under 6% seems unlikely, they are more confident about reaching 8%. The department is using AI to help identify errors, and this seems to be positive. The SNAP work requirement is resulting in issues for staff.

She noted that 1256 children in foster care have been adopted, a very encouraging achievement.

The effort to privatize community mental health using PHIP (repaid Inpatient Health Plan) Rebecca Pasko confirmed that the current proposed plan will violate state law.

**Scholarship Committee Report** – Christy Hilgers reported that the committee is working on a fund-raising plan and preparing for 2026 applications. A statewide fund-raising plan is expected to begin soon. She reported that the Executive Committee has voted to restrict the number of scholarships to two per year and the amount for the 2026 scholarship to not exceed \$2000.

**Legislative Bills Update:** In the past month there has been very little activity, and no bill introduced that affects us.

#### **Development and Education Committee** Manuel Cordova

- Legislative Conference 2026, March 17 & 18 at the Double Tree by Hilton, Lansing Michigan. All members are encouraged to communicate with Manuel Cordova and/or Danielle Sirianni about the issues they would like the interim deputy directors Erin Frisch and Tim Click to address. 31 people have registered for the conference, but it is anticipated we will lose money based on the contract signed anticipating 50 attendees. We should all talk to our friends and colleagues about attending.
- Annual Conference Sept. 14-16, 2026, at the Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, Michigan. The executive committee approved a medical topic for our annual conference. The Frederick Group is researching themes and specific topics and potential speakers. We should tell Danielle Sirianni about the subjects of interest to us.
- Listen and Learn - there is a tentative plan for the May 18th presentation.

#### **Committee/Liaison Reports**

- MAC – Manuel Cordova will try to attend, and we are now on the MAC's affiliate list. Bob VanderZwaag gave Danielle Sirianni information about a group focused on the homeless which may be of interest to us.
- MCAH/ Michigan Health Policy Forum Member - looking for a volunteer to attend.
- Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee: Grenae Dudley-White reported that new data shows a decrease in deaths but an increase in overdoses - the wider distribution and use of Naloxone (Narcan) is saving lives. Grenae Dudley will continue to participate in the quarterly meetings.
- CMHA (Community Mental Health Association) Rebecca Pasko reported that Michigan law states that community mental health is responsible for managing mental health care. A judge has stated that contracts cannot be awarded to private entities.

#### **District Reports.**

- District I – Rita Hale reported that the next meeting is at the Hudson Grill in Marquette at 10:40 a.m. on April 24th. The district continues to work on moving our money out of MCSSA accounts. Rita Hale hopes to have state senator Ed McBroom as a speaker in August.
- District II – Naomi Deo reported that the next meeting will be April 13, 2026, at the Gaylord MDHHS office.
- District III – Yvonne Hebert reported that the district hasn't done anything for a while due to personal and family circumstances for members. They have a history of very well attended meetings with speakers who draw attendance from the community as well as county board members. They are looking to become more active

again and also looking at what to do about their district funds. Yvonne Hebert reported that she had seen some county directors setting very low expectations for their board members - in one case they all came into the office to sign a document separately and then left - no meeting. It was noted that the trend for less involvement at the district level seemed related to the years when a former MDHHS Sate Director made it clear she did not want MDHSS county employees to attend district meetings.

- District IV - No Report
- District V – No Report
- District VI – Grenae Dudley-White reported they will be planning a meeting.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business** – None

**Adjournment** – Rita Hale moved to adjourn the meeting with second by Yvonne Hebert. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2026, at 10:30 am via Zoom or in person.

# Save The Date



MCSSA/MCSSCET 2026

ANNUAL BUSINESS  
CONFERENCE

PLEASE JOIN US THIS  
SEPTEMBER 13-16



**Bavarian Inn**  
FRANKENMUTH, MI

713 S. MAIN STREET  
FRANKENMUTH, MI 48734

