



UP TO THE MINUTE

May 2026

Executive Director -
Danielle Sirianni
The Frederick Group
Contracted Association
Management

Michigan County Social Services Association
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Manuel Cordova.
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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: May 2026

Dear MCSSA Members,

May always feels like a bit of a turning point. The weather starts to cooperate (most of the time), things pick up across our counties, and it's a reminder that the busy season is here whether we're ready or not.

This month, we had the opportunity to meet with Erin Frish from DHHS to begin discussions around developing statewide standards for county board roles, responsibilities, and expectations. This is an important step toward creating more consistency across counties while still recognizing the unique needs of each community we serve.

The goal of this work is to provide clearer guidance and support for county board members, strengthen alignment, and help ensure we are all operating as effectively as possible in our roles. These conversations are just getting started, but they represent a meaningful step forward for MCSSA and our continued partnership with DHHS.

I was also able to attend the Office of Father and Parental Engagement Launch in Lansing on Monday, April 27. It was encouraging to see the focus on strengthening family involvement and recognizing the important role parents—especially fathers—play in the well-being of children and families. This work aligns closely with the mission we support, and it was great to see continued investment in these efforts at the state level.

Large County Representatives

Bruce McCoy – Kent
Vacant – Macomb
Sherrie Ross – Oakland
Vacant – Wayne

Members at Large

Janice Covey – Mecosta
Twanetta Ingram – Ingham

As this work continues to develop, we will keep you informed and look for opportunities to gather input. Your perspective and experience are critical to making sure any standards put in place are practical, useful, and reflective of the work happening across the state.

Just a reminder that we are still actively accepting Scholarship donations through May 30. This is a meaningful opportunity to support students pursuing careers in social work, human services, and juvenile justice. If you're able, I encourage you to consider contributing and being part of that impact.

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, SHRM-SCP
President, MCSSA

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.



2026 **CHUCK HIGGINS / MEL HAGA
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Provided by:
Michigan County Social Services Association
through the Consortium for Education
and Training

**APPLY NOW! DEADLINE:
JUNE 30, 2025**

For application & more information visit: www.mcssa.com
OR Email: mcssa@mcssa.com
Phone: 517.371.5303



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 – Listen & Learn – Houda Fawaz – CSA Teaming Model @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. Complete bill language is available at www.legislature.mi.gov.

Bill #	Sponsor	Description	Date Presented	Stance Board of Directors Took	Status	Last Movement
SB 891	Cherry	Law enforcement: reports; communications under the Amber alert act; modify.	4/8/2026	support	Senate Committee	4/28/2026
SB 892	McCann	Law enforcement: reports; Michigan Amber alert act; modify.	4/8/2026	support	Senate Committee	4/28/2026
HB 5739	DeBoyer	Probate: guardians and conservators; powers and duties; modify. Amends	4/8/2026	opposed	House Committee	4/28/2026
HB 5740	Schmaltz	Probate: guardians and conservators; requirements upon discovery of certain assets; provide for.	4/8/2026	opposed	House Committee	4/28/2026
HB 4696	Meerman	Children: guardians; definition of relative under the guardianship assistance act; modify.	8/13/2025	support	Senate Committee	4/21/2026
HB 4697	Young	Children: guardians; eligibility for guardianship assistance payments; modify.	8/13/2025	support	Senate Committee	4/21/2026
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 5537	Cavitt	Crimes: controlled substances; production and sale of kratom; prohibit.	4/8/2026	support	Senate Committee	3/24/2026
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 5684	Green	Crimes: penalties; threats or assaults against department of health and human services designated caregivers; prohibit, and provide penalties	4/8/2026	support	House Committee	3/5/2026
HB 5685	Edwards	Crimes: penalties; threats or assault against employee of family independence agency; expand.	4/8/2026	support	House Committee	3/5/2026



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Development and Education Committee Minutes Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Attendees:

Rebekah Pasko - Monroe	Kitty Packard – Saginaw
Manuel Cordova – Emmet	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Sandy Cook - Ionia/Montcalm	Nancy Peacock - TFG
Christy Hilgers - Houghton	Sean Kelly - TFG

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Rebekah Pasko at 1:03 p.m.

Sandy Cook moved to approve both April 7, 2026, Agenda and February 10, 2026, minutes as presented with second by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried.

Ongoing Business

Legislative Conference March 17 & 18, 2026 was held at the Double Tree by Hilton, Lansing Michigan. A major winter storm caused cancellations of conference attendees, 46 registered with 31 attending. Refunded six members due to “Act of God”. They were sent out within a week. Expect that we'll be in the red around \$6000.

There were very positive reviews about the training worksheets developed by Danielle Sirianni that helped focus on topics. Concerns were Inconsistent/inadequate audio system. Some asked about returning to 1 day conference - Danielle Sirianni explained that training is needed before meeting with legislators and they can only meet with us in the morning of the second day. Thus, training has to be the day before. Complaint that the food at the buffet is not warm enough and that another conference was hosting candidates for governor - why not our conference? Danielle Sirianni explained that as nonprofits we cannot engage in political activities.

Thoughts: There was consensus that it is not possible to meet everyone's expectations. Those planning future conferences will take note of concerns.

Planning for 2027: Discussion included observations that meeting with legislators in the first year of their terms (odd numbered years) is not effective. They may not have become active yet with their committee appointments and few bills have been introduced. Motion by Christy Hilgers to forgo the Legislative conference in 2027 and to plan for future Legislative Conferences in even numbered years. Second by Manuel Cordova. Motion passed. This recommendation will be presented to the Board of Directors. Discussion about alternative options for training: 1) Using some time at the annual conference for a short training session; 2) Having a training meeting later in the spring separate from a conference.

Annual Conference will be held Sept. 14-16, 2026, at the Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, Michigan. Danielle Sirianni presented three options for our theme. After discussion Manuel Cordova moved that we select "Vital Signs" for this medical-focused conference with second by Rebecca Pasko. Motion passed.

Annual Conferences 2027 & 2028

Danielle Sirianni reported on the three towns visited this spring. Two facilities in Kalamazoo, one in Cadillac and another in Muskegon. Motion by Manuel Cordova with second by Sandy Cook to plan for the 2027 Annual Conference in Kalamazoo at the Delta. Muskegon was recommended by Danielle as a good facility if they will reimburse over state rate.

Looking ahead to 2028 and 2029: The following options may be explored with more suggestions requested for conference centers with attached hotels: Boyne Mountain, Alpena. The committee requested that we try to get references from organizations who have previously attended conferences at each site about the performance of audio-visual equipment, quality of food and accessibility.

Listen and Learn - Dates and Topics, next one is May 18, 2026: In February Kendra Spanjer was planning to explore a speaker from the from the Children's Services Administration to speak on the new training model being rolled out. Danielle Sirianni will follow up with Kendra Spanjer. Continue to send ideas for potential topics and speakers for future "Listen and Learn" to Manuel Cordova or Rebecca Pasko.

New Business: None

Adjournment motion by Kitty Packard with second by Manuel Cordova. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting - May 12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom or in person.

Legislative Committee Minutes
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Attendees:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Manuel Cordova – Emmet | Christy Hilgers - Houghton |
| Rebecca Pasko- Monroe | Patrick Schaefer - MLPP |
| Bridget Heffron - MDHHS | Danielle Sirianni - TFG |
| Kitty Packard - Saginaw | Nancy Peacock - TFG |
| Laura Linebaugh – Ionia/Montcalm | Sean Kelly - TFG |
| Katie Zeiter - MDHHS | |

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

Kitty Packard moved to approve February 10, 2026, minutes and the April 7, 2026, agenda as presented with second by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried.

Updates and Information: Committee Co-Chair Manuel Cordova explained that his attention has been needed recently to care for his father. He encouraged us to communicate with him if there is something we need him to help with.

Manuel Cordova reported on the Legislative Conference:

- How the winter storm resulted in several cancellations
- How much Danielle Sirianni's training worksheets helped the conference attendees to focus and tie issues back to their own communities' needs.
- The recommendation from the Development and Education Committee to **not** hold a Legislative Conference in 2027, and schedule future conferences every other year (even numbered years).

Updates and Information from External Meeting Participants:

MI League for Public Policy Representative Patrick Schaefer: The legislators are on recess now. It is expected the Senate and House will be working on budgets when they return. He expects there will be impacts on the Department of Health and Human Services.

Representative from MDHHS Katie Zeiter: They continue to work on reducing the error rate. There will be a new "chip" card for Food Assistance clients. The cards will be mailed, so it is essential that DHHS have a current and valid mailing address. The card must be activated when they are received. It is expected that the security features of the new cards will reduce stolen cards being used to commit fraud.

Legislative Bills Update: Nothing has happened for a few weeks because both houses are on vacation. Danielle Sirianni has continued to submit cards of support for the bills MCSSA is supporting. In "Up to the Minute" you'll find 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. We may request MCSSA's full bill analysis by emailing mcssa@mcssa.com. Complete bill language is available at www.legislature.mi.gov.

Pending Legislation Information - Recommendations and Updates

SB 786-788 regulates the sale of vapor products, marijuana accessories, and medical marijuana paraphernalia by requiring that any heating element used to introduce substances into the human body be made of or encased in glass or ceramic.

SB 786

- Prohibits sale or transfer of vapor products with heating elements not made of glass or ceramic
- Establishes misdemeanor penalties for violations
- Provides a "reasonable effort" defense for sellers

SB 787

- Applies similar heating element restrictions to marijuana accessories
- Prohibits sale of tobacco in marijuana establishments

Strengths:

- Facility access controls and restricted areas
- Inspection and audit authority
- Product visibility restrictions from public view
- Child-resistant packaging requirements
- Maintains prohibition on under-21 employment

SB 788

- Applies the same heating element restriction (glass or ceramic) to medical marijuana paraphernalia
- Extends consistency across both adult-use and medical marijuana regulatory frameworks

Action on SB 786-788: Moved by Manuel Cordova with second by Rebecca Pasko to recommend that the Board of Directors support **SB 786-788**. Motion passed.

SB 891 and SB 892 expand Michigan's Amber Alert system to include certain missing children who are not currently covered, specifically children with special needs and children believed to be in danger after a preliminary investigation. Currently, Amber Alerts are primarily limited to confirmed abductions. This package allows earlier activation in high-risk missing child cases. The intent is to close gaps in the current system and allow faster response for vulnerable or at-risk children.

SB 892

- Requires MSP to allow Amber Alerts for:
- Missing children with special needs
- Missing children believed to be in danger
- Defines "child with special needs"

SB 891

- Expands broadcasts to include missing children
- Allows use of social media
- Maintains liability protections for broadcasters

Action on SB 891-892: Moved by Kitty Packard with second by Christy Hilgers by to recommend that the Board of Directors support **SB 891-892**. Motion passed.

HB5537 would prohibit the manufacture, sale, distribution, and possession of kratom and synthetic kratom products in Michigan, making violations a misdemeanor offense. The intent is to address public health and safety concerns by eliminating access to kratom products rather than regulating them.

Key Provisions

- Establishes complete prohibition on kratom (growing, selling, distributing, or possessing)
- Creates misdemeanor penalties, including:
 - Up to 90 days jail / \$5,000 fine (first offense)
 - Increased penalties for repeat offenses
 - Up to 1 year jail for distribution to minors
 - Exempts kratom if approved by the FDA (limited applicability)
 - Defines kratom and synthetic variants in statute

Comparison to HB 4969 (earlier supported by MCSSA) which:

- Establishes a regulated framework for kratom
- Includes consumer protections such as labeling, product standards, and age restrictions
- Allows continued access while improving safety

Discussion revealed that the committee thinks the danger of this substance warrants a complete ban.

Action on HB 5537: Moved by Rebecca Pasko with second by Manuel Cordova to recommend that the Board of Directors support **HB 5537**.

Action on HB 4569: Moved by Christy Hilgers with second by Rebecca Pasko to recommend that the Board of Directors support monitoring HB 4569 instead of supporting it. Motion passed

HB 5586

- Creates the Office of Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Services within DHHS
- Office responsibilities include:

- Administering grants and funding
- Tracking statewide violence data
- Providing technical assistance to community organizations
- Setting statewide reduction goals
- Coordinating violence prevention efforts across the state

HB 5587 creates a Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program and Fund

- Provides grants to Community-based nonprofits and Eligible local units of government (limited share)
- Requires funded programs to:
 - Be evidence-informed and trauma-responsive
 - Focus on high-risk individuals
 - Expand economic and educational opportunities
- Requires reporting, evaluation, and best practice development

Action on HB 5587: Moved by Christy Hilgers with second by Laura Linebaugh to recommend that the Board of Directors table **HB 5587**. Motion passed.

HB 5660-5661 create and support the “MI Home Program”, a statewide initiative aimed at increasing housing supply and affordability for income-qualified households. The package focuses on incentivizing local governments and employers to support housing development, while expanding the role of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

Key Provisions

HB 5660

- Creates the MI Home Program and related funds
- Provides grants/loans for housing development and rehabilitation
- Encourages zoning and land-use changes
- Establishes “MI Home Community” designation
- Promotes partnerships between local governments, employers, and developers

HB 5661

- Expands MSHDA authority to administer housing programs
- Allows research, financing tools, and program support

Action on HB 5660-5661: Moved by Manuel Cordova with second by Christy Hilgers to recommend that the Board of Directors support **HB 5660-5661**. Motion passed.

HB 5684-5686 **HB: 5684-5686** expands criminal protection for DHHS employees, contracted workers, and caregivers.

HB 5684

- Creates new criminal penalties for threats, harassment, intimidation, and assault against DHHS-designated caregivers (foster parents, kinship caregivers, adoptive parents)
- Establishes misdemeanor and felony penalties depending on severity of harm

HB 5685 Expands existing law to include DHHS employees and contracted private agency workers

- Adds protections for harassment and intimidation, not just physical assault
- Expands existing law to include DHHS employees and contracted private agency workers

HB 5686

- Expands existing law to include DHHS employees and contracted private agency workers
- Adds protections for harassment and intimidation, not just physical assault
- Updates sentencing guidelines to reflect new and expanded offenses

- Ensures consistency in felony classifications and penalties

Action on HB 5684-5686: Moved by Rebecca Pasko with second by Kitty Packard to recommend that the Board of Directors support **HB 5684-5686**. Motion passed.

HB 5739-5740 amends the Estates and Protected Individuals Code to strengthen court oversight and financial safeguards in conservatorships, particularly around bonding requirements and management of a protected individual's assets.

HB 5739

- Requires courts to generally require a conservator bond when estate assets exceed a threshold
- Limits exceptions where a bond is not required
- Clarifies conditions, amount, and oversight of bonds

HB 5740

- Adds safeguards for handling estate assets, including:
- Court oversight for sale or encumbrance of real property
- Requirements to deposit proceeds into monitored accounts
- Additional reporting requirements for newly discovered assets

Action: Moved by Manuel Cordova with second by Rebecca Pasko to recommend that the Board of Directors support **HB 5739-5740**. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business

Laura Linebaugh brought up the compliments the Legislators gave for Danielle's work with them. This committee added their gratitude to her.

New Business

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kitty Packard with second by Rebecca Pasko. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Next Meeting May 12, 2026, 2:30 pm via Zoom or in person

Advisory Committee Minutes

April 8, 2026

Attendees:

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Manuel Cordova - Emmet
Rebecca Pasko - Monroe
Ivana Maplanka – MDHHS
Grenae Dudley – Oakland

Sherrie Ross - Oakland
Christy Hilgers - Houghton
Nancy Peacock - TFG
Danielle Sirianni – TFG

The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Pasko at 8:01 a.m.

Christy Hilgers moved to approve the February 11, 2026, minutes and the April 8, 2026, agenda as presented with second by Sandy Cook. Motion carried with unanimous consent.

Economic Stability Administration Updates

Erin Frisch was unable to attend due to medical emergency.

Children's Services Administration Updates:

Ivana Maplanka reported for Tim Click. She presented updates on the Children's Services Administration, highlighting key developments across different bureaus and regions.

She reported that Michigan completed its fourth Child and Family Services Review. Substantial conformity was reported in 4 out of 7 systemic factors and 1 out of 7 substantial conformity outcomes: Timeliness, placements with relatives, placements with siblings, meeting educational standards, and meeting family visit standards. Updates were shared regarding permanency efforts, juvenile justice reforms, and activities across the Business Service Centers, including BSC1's response to a significant snowstorm and BSC2's implementation of new programs like Baby Court in Saginaw County. The presentation concluded with updates from BSC3 and BSC4, including regional collaboration efforts and improvements in out-of-home care placements, and announced Ivana's Maplanka new role as director of BSC5, effective March 15th. She worked as Deputy Director in BSC5 before moving to BSC2.

June 9th is the start date for "A Home for Every Child" aimed at improving outcomes for children and families with:

- Achieving Permanency Outcomes
- Improving Safety Outcomes
- Prevention Strategies
- Permanency Strategies
- Recruitment and Retention of homes that meet children's needs
- Improve Outcomes
- Permanency
- Safety

On April 1st the Out of Home Bureau hosted a Permanency Forum focusing on improvement of permanency in 12/24 months for children as outline in the MiSEP. The teams developed plans based on their individual data to make improvements on permanency metrics. Following the forum, teams will be meeting monthly to share how their plans are going, and to collaborate statewide.

Child Care Fund Key Priorities

- Implementing validated screening statewide
- Expanding diversion and community-based options
- Strengthening quality assurance and outcomes
- Finalizing FY27 Handbook + funding model

State Impact Snapshot

- 600+ trained statewide - 265 MAYSI-2 | 68 YLS:SV | 239 DART
- Diversion templates released
- Diversion Quality Assurance A launching
- CCF (County Child Care Fund) Town Hall - April 30
- NYSAP is National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners who provide juvenile justice programs with technical assistance, research, and expert clinical consulting.

- YLS:SV is the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory: Screening Version, which is a 42 item, gender informed, strength focused risk/needs assessment tool for juvenile offenders aged 12-18.
- MAYSI-2 is the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-2nd version which is a self-report tool used in juvenile justice settings to identify mental health needs in youth aged 12-17.

What's next:

- FY27 Handbook release → April 30
- AP&B opens → May 1
- Ongoing Advisory Council + NYSAP implementation

MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison Updates:

Rebecca Pasko reported that it appears that efforts are continuing regarding Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan. She is noting that while the PIHP situation hasn't fully resolved, CMHA remains prepared with a plan of action

Open Comments from Members – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business - None

Adjournment

Sherrie Ross moved to adjourn with second by Grenae Dudley-White. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom or in person.

MCSSA Board of Directors Minutes

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Attendees:

Mark Wolfe - Lenawee	Grenae Dudley – Oakland
Christy Hilgers – Houghton	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Rita Hale – Alger	Nancy Peacock – TFG
Manuel Cordova – Emmet	Mike Frederick – TFG
Rebecca Pasko - Monroe	

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

Rita Hale moved to approve both April 8, 2026, Agenda and February 11, 2026, minutes as presented with second by Christy Hilgers. Motion carried.

Announcements/Correspondence

Frederick Group Update

Danielle Sirriani reported that to see a complete list it is in the April Up to the Minute newsletter. Highlights include:

- Preparing for the Legislative Conference and making sure everything ran smoothly

- Sending the 6 refunds within 1 week to those who cannot attend the conference due to storm
- Scholarship challenge is in the President's message in the newsletter and on web site. With a quick link for donating
- Danielle Sirianni stated that she has been attending committees and out in cards on bills that are on MCSSA radar
- Have toured and evaluated 3 potential conference cities. Kalamazoo, Cadillac and Muskegon.
- 54 counties have paid dues so far

President's Report:

Manuel Cordova shared that he is now providing care for his father in his own home and has realized the time and effort required for tasks such getting him to all the medical appointments. It is fine if anyone needs to make a request and to remind him about it if needed.

Treasurer's Report

Mark Wolfe reported strong financial standing for MCSSA and MCSSCET at this time. A total audit was done in 2025. CDs are doing well and district funds need to be disbursed back to districts. He will send us the year-to-date comparison of 2025 and 2026 for each month in the future.

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

Committee Reports

Advisory Committee Report – Manuel Cordova gave a summary. Erin Frisch was unavailable and Ivana Maplanka reported for Tim Click. While progress has occurred, MDHHS is still under the consent decree established in 2006. Ivana Maplanka is the new director of BCS5. Please see the Advisory Committee minutes for more details.

Scholarship Committee Report – Christy Hilgers reported that the committee has completed revisions for the application, instructions, and flyer. Danielle Sirianni will be working on making the application fillable and updating the appearance of all documents.

The committee identified areas to improve over last year:

- Linsey Lesanski sent the 2026 Scholarship Challenge information to the administrative assistant of her BSC director, who will make sure it is disseminated to all BSC directors and all County directors in the state. This means many more potential donors will have the opportunity to contribute. She has asked that Danielle send out the 2026 Flyer to all MCSSA participants and county directors now. (Usually sent out May 1st.)
- Danielle Sirianni created a link for on-line scholarship donations that is attractive and easy to use. We believe it will result in increased donations.
- We have allowed more time for The Frederick Group to process applications and redact all identifying information before they are seen by the committee who will select the 2026 recipients.

Legislative Bills Update: Manuel Cordova and Danielle Sirianni reported:

- SB 786-788

The Legislative Committee recommended support. Moved by Rita Hale with second by Christy Hilgers to support SB 786-788. Motion passed.

- SB 891-892

The Legislative Committee recommended support. Moved by Rita Hale with second by Christy Hilgers to support SB 891-892. Motion passed.

- HB 5537

The Legislative Committee recommended support. Moved by Grenae Dudley with second by Rita Hale to support SB 5537. Motion passed

- HB 5586-5587

The Legislative Committee recommended tabling this bill. It was not considered by the board.

- HB 5660-5661

The Legislative Committee recommended support, moved by Manuel Cordova with second by Mark Wolfe to support SB 5660-5661. Motion passed with one dissenting vote.

- HB 5684-5686

The Legislative Committee recommended support, moved by Rita Hale with second by Manuel Cordova to support SB 5684-5686. Motion passed.

- HB 5739-5740

The Legislative Committee recommended opposing this bill. Main concern was that expecting individual citizens to afford a bond could reduce an already small pool of people willing to be conservators or guardians. Moved by Christy Hilgers with second by Manuel Cordova to oppose SB 5739-5740. Motion passed.

Development and Education Committee

Manuel Cordova reported that the Legislative Conference 2026, March 17 & 18 was held at the Double Tree by Hilton, Lansing Michigan. He brought up the weather, cancelations and meeting with Legislators. The committee voted to plan future Legislative Conference on even numbered years. Christy Hilgers motioned to accept even year conference, Rita Hale second. Motion passed. Options for education and training will be considered for odd years separate from conferences.

Annual Conference Sept. 14-16, 2026, will be at the Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, Michigan. The theme will be "Vital Signs". Danielle Sirianni is going to have a rough bare bones draft of registration at the next meeting, for the committee to view. MCSSA members are encouraged to contact the MCSSA office soon to propose speakers and topics for the conference. The conference packets will be sent out June 1st.

- Annual Conferences in 2027 and 2028: The 2027 conference will be in Kalamazoo. Options for 2028 conference sites with attached hotels now under consideration include Boyne Mountain, Muskegon, Alpena, and Marquette. Additional suggestions are welcome.
- Listen and Learn - One topic is being explored. MCSSA members are encouraged to call the MCSSA office whenever they have an idea about a potential speaker or topic,

Committee/Liaison Reports

- MAC – Manuel Cordova got MCSSA affiliated with the Michigan Association of Counties. He will continue to monitor MAC, speak for MCSSA priorities when needed, and to inform us of MAC's decisions and priorities.
- MCAH/ Michigan Health Policy Forum Member volunteer needed to attend? No report

- Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee: Grenae Dudley-White reported that she will keep us informed about what the committee has learned and what they are doing. DEA "Take Back" Day is October 25th. We will have an opportunity to say where we first heard about "Take Back" day, and we should indicate MCSSA. Grenae Dudley-White reminds us to take all our unused and outdated drugs to the State Police so we can beat Ohio.
- CMHA (Community Mental Health Association) Rebecca Pasko reported that she missed the last meeting because she was at the Legislative Conference.

District Reports.

- District I – Rita Hale reported that our next meeting will be at the Hudson Grill on May 8th with a speaker from the Women's Center. We will help the Women's Center by bringing a new or gently used purse with items such as socks and hygiene supplies to be given to assault victims in the Munising area. Christy passed on information from District 1 President Matt Yohe about unsuccessful efforts to open banking accounts. Numerous suggestions were discussed. This will be on the agenda at the May 8th District meeting.

No other Districts reported.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business – None

Adjournment – Rita Hale moved to adjourn the meeting with second by Manuel Cordova. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2026, at 10:30 am via Zoom or in person

MCSSA

LISTEN & LEARN

The New Children Services

Administration Teaming Model

Recent changes are transforming the Children Services Administration (CSA) through a new, collaborative teaming model!

This new system aims to help improve the permanency rate for families, decreasing handoffs within the child welfare system and increasing stability for children.

Join us to learn about the old CSA and what the new model means for communities, families, and DHHS staff members across Michigan.



Presented By: Houda Fawaz
Special Projects Manager, Executive
Office - MDHHS

To attend the meeting
via Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 456 547 6684

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



May 18th, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

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

