



UP TO THE MINUTE

October 2026

Executive Director -
Danielle Sirianni
The Frederick Group
Contracted Association
Management

Michigan County Social Services Association
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2025-2026 Officers

Manuel Cordova - Emmet President

Rebecca Pasko - Monroe, Vice-
President

Grenae Dudley – Oakland,
Immediate Past President

Marcie Thompson – Gratiot,
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

Pat Thompson – Macomb
Harry Wilson – Jackson



President's Message: October 2026

Dear MCSSA Members,

As I write this on the first day of fall, it is hard to believe how quickly another year has gone by. Fall always seems to bring a sense of change and a chance to look back at where we have been while also looking ahead to what is next. For MCSSA, the timing seems especially fitting as we have just wrapped up our Annual Conference and are preparing to close out another fiscal year.

Our Annual Conference, held September 14–16, was a wonderful opportunity to come together once again. I hope everyone who attended the conference learned something new and found the sessions and conversations beneficial to the work you do in your communities. Just as importantly, I hope you had the chance to reconnect with familiar faces, meet some new ones, and enjoy being together with colleagues from across the state. Thank you to everyone who attended, presented, helped organize the conference, or contributed in any way to making it a success.

As we look toward the upcoming year, I would also encourage members to consider becoming more involved with MCSSA. Whether that means serving on the Board or participating on one of our committees, there are many opportunities to contribute. Our organization benefits greatly from members sharing their ideas, experiences, and perspectives. If you have

Large County Representatives

Bruce McCoy – Kent

Vacant – Macomb

Sherrie Ross – Oakland

Vacant – Wayne

Members at Large

Janice Covey – Mecosta

Twanetta Ingram – Ingham

ever thought about getting more involved, please reach out to me or another Board member. We would love to have you participate. We also have some important organizational work planned for the coming year. The Board has approved the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which includes hiring a parliamentarian to work with us as we review and update our bylaws, policies, and organizational procedures. This is an important step in making sure our governing documents continue to meet the needs of MCSSA and provide a strong foundation for the future.

As we close out the current fiscal year, membership dues for the upcoming year will be going out in October. We greatly appreciate your continued membership and support, so please watch for that information.

There is a lot to look forward to in the year ahead. We will continue working to provide valuable educational opportunities, strengthen connections among our members, advocate for the needs of the people and communities we serve, and continue building a stronger MCSSA.

Thank you for everything you do for your counties, your communities, and our organization. It is truly an honor to serve as your President, and I look forward to another great year together.

Sincerely,

Manuel Cordova

President

Michigan County Social Services Association

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.



MCSSA Scholarship Challenge

\$282 raised of \$20,000

Help MCSSA Scholarship Committee meet our goal! Each May, college students across the state apply for the Chuck Higgins-Mel Ha

Donate

PLEASE DONATE TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?campaign_id=4AGRBA9JH2XU4



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
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 Floor	9/23/2026
HB 5685	Edwards	Crimes: penalties; threats or assault against employee of family independence agency; expand.	4/8/2026	support	House Floor	9/23/2026
HB 5686	Roth	Criminal procedure: sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for threats or assaults against department of health and human services designated caregiver; provide for.	4/8/2026	support	House Floor	9/23/2026
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	Returned to Senate	9/22/2026
SB 81	Shink	Courts: other; Michigan indigent defense commission act; expand duties to include indigent defense of youth.	4/8/2025	support	PA 70	7/24/2026
HB 4396	Lightner	Juveniles: juvenile justice services; certain information sharing for research purposes in juvenile justice cases; allow	6/11/2025	monitor	PA 71	7/24/2026
HB 4750	Schmaltz	Children: foster care; department to use or conserve benefits for children in foster care in the best interests of the children in foster	10/8/2025	support	PA 51	7/23/2026
SB 18	Irwin	Children: foster care; conditions on the use of certain benefits for a child in foster care; provide. Amends	2/11/2025	support	PA 52	7/23/2026
SB 456	McMorrow	Law enforcement: reports; notification of the public by text message of a missing senior or vulnerable adult; provide for.	8/13/2025	support	PA 59	7/23/2026
SB 418	Hertel	Children: child abuse or child neglect; child abuse and neglect prevention act; modify	8/13/2025	support	PA 60	7/23/2026
SB 421	Cherry	Children: child abuse or child neglect; reference to the state child abuse and neglect prevention board; update in the vehicle code.	8/13/2025	support	PA 61	7/23/2026
SB 585	Irwin	Probate: guardians and conservators; requirement to have an appraisal for the sale of real property; provide for.	11/12/2025	support	PA 68	7/23/2026
SB 586	Johnson	Probate: guardians and conservators; requirement to state on record reasons for moving ward from residence; provide for.	11/12/2025	support	PA 69	7/23/2026
SB 415	Johnson	Human services: medical services; coverage for group prenatal care services; require.	8/13/2025	support	PA 37	7/22/2026
SB 1114	Johnson	Probate: guardians and conservators; licensing of guardians; provide for.	8/14/2026	support	Senate Committee	7/15/2026
SB 1115	Webber	Mental health: recipient rights; requirements for collection of complaints; provide for.	8/14/2026	Monitor	Senate Committee	7/15/2026
SB 1116	Webber	Mental health: recipient rights; rights violations investigations; modify.	8/14/2026	Monitor	Senate Committee	7/15/2026
SB 1117	Webber	Mental health: other; authority over surveillance for state psychiatric hospitals; grant to the office of recipient rights.	8/14/2026	Monitor	Senate Committee	7/15/2026



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Development and Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Attendees:

Manuel Cordova – Emmet	Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Kendra Spanjer - Ottawa	Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Christy Hilgers - Houghton	Nancy Peacock - TFG
Rebecca Pasko - Monroe	Chloe Parker - Intern TFG
Kitty Packard – Saginaw	

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Manuel Cordova at 1:02 p.m.

Christy Hilgers moved to approve both June 9, 2026, minutes and August 11, 2026, agenda as presented with second by Rebecca Pasko. Motion carried.

Ongoing Business

Annual Conference: Sept. 14-16, 2026, at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Michigan. Theme: “Vital Signs”. Sixty-one people have registered so far. Scholarship recipients Sam Dillard II of Genesee County and Ayame Sullivan of Muskegon County have been invited. Sam Dillard plans to attend the banquet.

- Potential Speakers - We have a good schedule of speakers with final details to be confirmed soon.
- Silent Auction reminder - Several counties have plans to provide silent auction prizes, but details have not yet been provided. We are all encouraged to let Nancy Peacock know about our prizes as soon as possible, so that she can prepare the displays for each prize.
- Last Day to book hotel rooms is August 14th
- Concerns with Reservation Process
 - There was concern expressed by several members who encountered obstacles or confusion when attempting to use their personal credit card to confirm a reservation at the government rate. The reservation clerk had information that was not consistent with what MCSSA had arranged.
 - Others found they were being offered a rate below what was expected or even offered a deluxe room at the government rate for a standard room.
 - Danielle Sirianni and Nancy Peacock will be addressing this issue. To start, the hotel will be provided with a list of all our members currently registered and eligible for the government rate as confirmed in our contract with the hotel.

Annual Conference 2027 – Kalamazoo: Delta Hotel – Sept. 13-15

Annual Conference 2028

- UP Trip Update- Danille Sirianni visited five sites and completed a comprehensive evaluation of each. The priorities of our members were included such as comfortable beds. All the potential sites offered

plans that would not require us to guarantee booking a specific number of rooms or paying for rooms we do not use. All costs for conference rooms, food and bar were extremely lower than what we have been charged in the past. All can arrange for guest rooms to be close to the conference rooms. All but one offered the state rate for guest rooms. All but one was ADA compliant. She presented a slide show of her findings and recommendations.

- Kewadin Hotel and Casino in Sault Ste Marie - Major negative factor: This site first banned smoking in 2024. Guest rooms are clean and odor-free, but some common areas smell of stale cigarette smoke. In general, this site looked a bit worn.
- Holiday Inn in Marquette - Very good guest and conference accommodation with recent updates giving a high-class appearance. Easy access and ample parking. Largest city in the UP with great dining and shopping. Danielle found the staff easy to work with and reported a nice soft bed.
- Ramada By Wyndham in Marquette - Good downtown location and close to waterfront, but limited parking. Not ADA compliant in rooms or common areas. Access to elevators required using stairs. This site was immediately eliminated due to ADA noncompliance.
- Terrace Bay Hotel in Gladstone - Beautiful waterfront location with view from the conference room. Does not offer state rate - instead room cost \$270. Our cost would still be eligible for reimbursement by the state, but this would be an expensive hotel site. There is no place for members to register upon arrival other than right in the conference room where it would create a problem for speakers to be heard.
- Island Resort and Casino in Harris - Large resort with casino, spa, multiple restaurants and bars, and golf on site. RV parking is available as an alternative to staying in the hotel. Scooters are available for those with mobility problems. Award winning local wineries and Lake Michigan beaches. Fifteen minutes from Escanaba's shops, candy stores, and museums. One hour from Wildman Adventure Park (zip line, kayaks, white-water rafting). The conference space is completely adaptable to our needs.
- Danielle Sirriani's recommendations:
Not choosing the Kewadin Casino-Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie or Ramada by Wyndham in Marquette. The Terrace Bay Hotel in Gladstone is a solid option, but pricing is on the higher end.

Top two choices would be the Holiday Inn in Marquette and the Island Resort and Casino in Harris. Danielle Sirianni will present her slide show for the board. Our committee expressed consensus that the Holiday Inn and the Island Resort and Casino are the choices we would recommend to the board.

Listen and Learn

- Listen and Learn – The planned program for August 25, 2026, was Rebecca Pasko presenting on "Stronger Together: Building County and MDHHS Partnerships". Due to upcoming elections and potential changes within MDDHS, we decided to delay this program. Members are encouraged to let contact Danielle Sirrianni or Manuel Cordova if they have any ideas for August. Otherwise, the August date will be skipped.
- October or November suggestion?

New Business- There was none.

Adjournment: Christy Hilgers moved to adjourn the meeting with second by Rebecca Pasko. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on October 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom or in person.

Legislative Committee Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Attendees:

Manuel Cordova – Emmet	Ceylon Bettis - Saginaw
Kitty Packard – Saginaw	Pat Thompson - Macomb
Rebecca Pasko- Monroe	Christy Hilgers - Houghton
Patrick Schaefer - Michigan League for Public Policy	Pat Thompson- McComb
Carey Adrianse – Wexford/Missaukee	Danielle Sirianni - TFG
Bridget Heffron- MDHHS Medicaid	Nancy Peacock - TFG
Katie Zeiter - MDHHS Economic Stability	Chloe Parker -TFG Intern

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

Rebecca Pasko moved to approve both June 9, 2026, minutes and August 11, 2026, agenda as presented with second by Kitty Packard. Motion carried.

Updates and Information: Manuel Cordova reported that things in the legislature continue to be pretty quiet with upcoming elections in this election year.

Updates and Information from External Meeting Participants:

- MI League for Public Policy; Patrick Schaefer reported that the governor signed a budget of about \$85 billion dollars on July 21st. There was a lot of shifting of dollars in the state budget to compensate for changes in federal spending. There was no plan to increase revenue or taxes. More details are coming in the next weeks, and Danielle Sirianni will forward them to us.
- Katie Zeiter, Representative from MDHHS Economic Stability Administration, reported that new chip cards are being rolled out, and that there is an immediate need for all recipients to make sure that up to date, correct addresses are provided. The new cards should be active by October 30, 2026. Changes due to H.R.1. continue to impact non-citizen residents. Clothing allowances for children went out August 1st. Here are two links for more information:
<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/benefit-updates>
<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/medicaid/medicaid-changes>
- Bridget Heffron from Medicaid reported that they are continuing to work on the changes mandated by H.R.1. as they impact non-citizen residents' and food and cash assistance recipients' eligibility for Medicaid. Healthy Michigan participants will be re-evaluated on a six-month basis instead of the previous twelve-month basis and must meet the work requirements. The most up to date information is found on the website: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/benefit-updates>. A flyer is also available but may not have the most recent updates.
- Rebecca Pasko reported for the Community Mental Health Association. Efforts to implement privatization of Michigan mental health services continue. There are rumors it is being evaluated by the Attorney General's Office. CMHA continues to oppose privatization.

Legislative Bills Update:

Danielle Sirianni reported that we may see as few as 5 legislative sessions before the election.

Please see the legislative tracking page in the MCSSA "Up To The Minute Newsletter" which shows the lists of bills we have supported that were signed into law.

Pending Legislation Information:

SB 1114 amends the Estates and Protected Individuals Code (EPIC) to establish

- a state licensing system through the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) for professional guardians and professional conservators. (increases transparency through public licensing registry)
- application and renewal fees of \$250 for initial licensure and \$100 for renewal.
- professional guardians and conservators must be licensed by LARA beginning two years after the bill's effective date before they may be appointed by a probate court
- establishes education and certification standards
- requires criminal background checks
- creates ongoing oversight to improve accountability and protect vulnerable adults.

Rebecca Pasko moved to recommend that the Board of Directors support SB **1114** with second by Kitty Packard. Motion carried.

SB 1115-1112 is a comprehensive Recipient Rights reform package that updates Michigan's Mental Health Code by strengthening complaint procedures, investigation standards, state oversight, advisory committees, transparency requirements, and protections for individuals receiving public behavioral health services.

- Makes the existing rights system more independent, consistent, transparent, and accountable across community mental health programs, licensed hospitals, and state psychiatric hospitals.

SB 1115

- Standardizes Recipient Rights complaint requirements and acknowledgements
- Requires complaints to be logged within five business days
- Requires complaint collection sites at state psychiatric hospitals
- clarifying investigation procedures and timelines

SB 1116

- Requires investigations involving abuse, neglect, serious injury, or death to begin within 24 hours
- Requires 30-day status reports during investigations
- Clarifies investigation documentation and reopening standards

SB 1117

- Requires audio and video surveillance in state psychiatric hospitals
- Establishes notification requirements when surveillance systems fail
- Requires Recipient Rights investigations to have access to functional recordings

SB 1118

- Requires incident reporting systems within state psychiatric hospitals
- Requires Recipient Rights staff to monitor incident reports for possible rights violations
- Expands state monitoring responsibilities

SB 1119

- Requires annual Recipient Rights compliance reviews
- Requires on-site reviews every three years
- Requires public reporting of review findings and corrective actions
- Increases in oversight of Community Mental Health programs and psychiatric hospitals

SB 1120

- Revises Community Mental Health Recipient Rights Advisory Committee membership
- Prohibits current or former CMH board members and their family members from serving

- Requires annual Recipient Rights training for committee members

SB 1121

- Making similar changes for licensed hospital Recipient Rights Advisory Committees
- Requires annual training
- Prohibits current or former hospital board members and family members from serving

SB 1122

- Strengthens independence of the State Office of Recipient Rights
- Requires annual public reporting, staff training, and continued oversight responsibilities
- Reinforces protections against retaliation and interference with Recipient Rights investigations

Ceylon Bettis moved to table **SB package 1115-1122** with second by Pat Thompson. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business - none

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pat Thompson with second by Rebecca Pasko. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm.

Next Meeting, October 13, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom or in person

Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Attendees:

Naomi Deo – Montmorency
Christy Hilgers - Houghton
Regina Branch – MDHHS
Rebecca Pasko - Monroe
Mark Wolfe - Tuscola
Chloe Parker – TFG Intern

Sandy Cook - Ionia-Montcalm
Kitty Packard - Saginaw
Grenae Dudley – Oakland
Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Nancy Peacock - TFG

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

Kitty Packard moved to approve both June 10, 2026, minutes and August 12, 2026, agenda as presented with second by Mark Wolfe. Motion carried.

District Reports & Issues for MDHHS Advisement

This is a new agenda item which recognizes the priority of hearing from members about issues at the county and district level.

- Concern about the stop in funding for the School Success Program and a request supporting reinstatement. Success coaches worked inside their partner schools. Some schools will now lack this kind of service for their students.
- While kinship placements for children are increasing, there is concern that there have been more foster children harmed in the homes of relatives. Maltreatment in foster care continues to be a problem under

the federal lawsuit against Michigan. This contributes to continued federal oversight. Regina talked about the array of programs and support being provided for these caregivers and our professionals.

Children's Services Administration Updates: In the absence of Tim Click. **Regina Branch** gave the following report:

- **MDHHS Commitment to Kinship:** Building a Kin-First System for placements, keeping children connected to family, culture and community.
- **Justice Bureau:**
 - Statewide training courses for counties focused on diversion, screenings, assessments and day treatment programming.
 - Bed Management Tool continues to operate statewide providing real-time data to support capacity monitoring, strengthening strategic planning, resource allocation, and informed decision-making.
 - 8 new secure mental health stabilization beds.
 - PREA (zero-tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment of youth in confinement). The October audit preparation is underway for state-operated facilities.
- **A Home for Every Child (AH4EC)** improvement program - strategies on how best to support improvement to current foster home to children in foster care ratio.
 - Michigan's Three Key Strategies or Lead Measures:
 - Decrease Adverse Placement Scores - means keeping kids in community, with family, with siblings.
 - CSA Teaming Model - improve permanency and reduce number of staff assigned during the life of a case.
 - Prevention - strengthen community and child welfare staff awareness of available prevention services and expand utilization of family resource specialists to increase families access to economic and concrete support to increase the percentage of families with met needs.
 - Children's Bureau requires these 4 "Chaser Measurements" monthly for the AH4EC
 - Maintain Family Connections - Percent of children in care at the end of the month who are placed with relatives or kin.
 - Congregate Care - Percent of days children are placed in group homes/settings instead of living with a family at the end of the month.
 - Recent Maltreatment History - Percent of children harmed after child welfare has already confirmed abuse or neglect at the end of the month.
 - Home Disruption - Percentage of homes where foster placement ends unexpectedly, and children must move at the end of the month.
 - A Home for Every Child (AH4EC)
 - Introduced financial challenge to spark friendly competition during Fiscal Year 2027.
 - 7 million dollars will be awarded to four states with the best 1:1 ratio and most improved ratio.

Father and Paternal Engagement

- Key Meetings and Planning
 - August 10th - Presented a firearms injury/preventing suicide program for PRISM:
 - Upcoming Events:
 - Dad Cafes:
 - July 9th - Lenawee County
 - September 7th- Grand Rapids
 - October 16th- Calhoun County

- Week of October 5, 2026 - Scheduled in-person business process mapping for father and kinship identification and engagement.
- Training & Development
 - June 17th - "The Sacredness of Fatherhood"
 - July 23rd - "Exploring Father Wound"

Economic Stability Administration Updates: Erin Frisch, Interim Chief Deputy Director for the Economic Stability Administration. No report was available.

Bureau Updates:

- BSC 1
 - Family Resource Specialist (FRS) Live Q&A Panel Sessions
 - ENGAGE Sub-Team Launch: A new extension of our TRUST group (Trauma, Resilience, Unified Support Team).
- BSC 2
 - Training:
 - Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Considerations.
 - MSU Extension's Child & Family Development.
 - Resource Guide.
 - Increasing Permanency
 - FFPSA Family Spirit Program
- BSC 3
 - Fatherhood Engagement
 - Fatherhood Engagement Training in county offices.
 - Support staff.
 - Provide information and resources.
- BSC 4
 - Length of Stay Timeliness
 - In the month of June 17 BSC 4 youth were discharged due to achieving permanency:
 - 7 had a finalized adoption.
 - 4 had a finalized guardianship.
 - 3 were reunified with their parent/primary caretaker.
 - 2 were emancipated.
 - 1 in a PPFWR placement.
 - Out-of-home Care
 - Only 3.7% are placed in a Child Caring Institution Setting
 - 51% of our youth are placed in relative homes.
 - Teaming Model.
 - Trainings.
 - CCR compliance.
- BSC 5
 - Teaming Update
 - Cohort 1
 - Cohort 2
 - Community Events Update
 - Fostering Futures Pizza on the Lawn Event.
 - Financial literacy event
 - MI Family Stronger Together Project Pilot Program

MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison Updates:

Rebecca Pasko gave an update from the Policy and Legislative Committee for the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan. MDHHS officially withdrew the RFP after the judge found legal conflicts. There are now reports that a new RFP is sitting for review in the Attorney General's office in what appears to be an effort to reissue it. CMHAM will fight to keep mental health out of the hands of insurance companies.

Open Comments from Members

Reminder that the room block for MCSSA annual conference will close after Friday August 14th and the cost for conference registration will go up after August 15th.

Unfinished Business - None**New Business** - None**Adjournment**

Rebecca Pasko moved to adjourn with second by Kitty Packard. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on October 14, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom or in person.

Board of Directors Minutes

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Attendees:

Manuel Cordova – Emmet

Grenae Dudley – Oakland

Kitty Packard - Saginaw

Rita Hale – Alger

Nancy Peacock – TFG

Naomi Deo - Montmorency

Pat Thompson - Macomb

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Mike Frederick – TFG

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Rebecca Pasko - Monroe

Chloe Parker TFG

The meeting was called to order by chair Manuel Cordova at 10:33 a.m.

Rita Hale moved to approve both June 10, 2026, minutes as presented and August 12, 2026, agenda with second by Grenae Dudley. The motion was approved.

Announcements/What We Have Done

Danielle Sirianni of the Frederick Group reported that they have been busy with all the details for the annual conference including talking with the speakers, preparing the conference packets, and notifying the scholarship winners.

President's Report:

Manuel Cordova reported plans for an orientation session for new and continuing board members about MDHHS and MCSSA. This will include responsibilities as a county board member. He also continues to work on having MCSSA and MDHHS work more closely together. Genesee County has requested that he and Danielle Sirianni meet with their county about MCSSA membership.

Treasurer's Report:

Finances, balance sheets and profit and loss are in good shape. MCSSA transferred \$10,000 to MCSSCET for conference funding. Some MCSSA funds were transferred from checking to savings and the \$75,000 transferred from savings to a Live oak CD at 4.1% interest. Mike Frederick advised that we look into a brokerage account that might earn more interest. Budget and finances will be discussed at the annual conference.

Naomi Deo moved to accept the Treasurer's report with second by Kitty Packard. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports

- **Advisory Committee Report:** Naomi Deo reported on some highlights from Regina Branch's MDHHS presentation. 68% of foster placements in Michigan are now with family and the department continues to work with the kin-first approach. Dad Cafes are a successful part of the Father and Paternal Engagement program. Much more information can be found in the Advisory Committee Report and slide show presented by Regina today.
- **Scholarship Committee Report** The two 2026 recipients of the Chuck Higgins-Mel Haga Scholarship are Sam Dillard II of Genesee County and Ayame Sullivan of Muskegon County. Currently Sam Dillard II plans to attend the conference banquet. Scholarship Fundraising continues, highlighted by the silent auction at the annual conference. Manuel Cordova encouraged all of us to be active in fund raising.
- **Legislative Updates:**
 - SB 1114: The Legislative Committee recommended that the Board support this bill. Rebecca Pasko moved to support SB 1114 with second by Kitty Packard. The motion was approved.
 - SB 1115-1122 The Legislative Committee tabled this bill package.
 - All are reminded to check the Legislative Tracking page in the "Up to the Minute" newsletter. Many bills supported by MCSSA were recently signed into law by the governor.
- **Development and Education Committee** Manuel Cordova & Rebecca Pasko
 - Annual Conference 2026 – The Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI – Sept. 14-16. Last day to book a room in the MCSSA block is August 14th, and last day of standard rate price for conference registration is August 15th.
 - Annual Conference 2027 – Kalamazoo: Delta Hotel – Sept. 13-15 - All paperwork has been signed.
 - Annual Conference 2028 - UP trip update by Danielle Sirianni: She presented her slide show of the features of the two conference sites recommended by the Education and Development Committee, the Holiday Inn in Marquette and the Island Resort and Casino in Harris. Rebecca Pasko moved to have the 2028 conference at the Island Resort and Casino in Harris, Mi. Second by Pat Thompson. The motion was approved. We will explore expanding this conference to four days to allow time for people to explore and enjoy the UP.
 - Listen and Learn – The planned program for August 25, 2026, was Rebecca Pasko presenting on "Stronger Together: Building County and MDHHS Partnerships". Due to upcoming elections and potential changes within MDDHS, we decided to delay this program. We will try to schedule an August 25th presentation on Dad Cafe and other father and paternal engagement programs.

Liaison Reports

- MAC – Manuel Cordova - No Report
- MCAH/ Michigan Health Policy Forum - We need a member to attend and will check on upcoming meeting dates
- Michigan Overdose Data Action Committee: No Report
- CMHA (Community Mental Health Association): Rebecca Pasko reported the status of the Request for Proposals (RFP) to restructure the state's Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP): Rebecca Pasko reported there has been talk that the proposal is in the Attorney General's office to check for legalities. Others are

saying the MDHHS is not pushing it. Community Mental Health is trying to stay on top of this issue and continues to strongly oppose privatization of services.

District Reports.

- District I: Rita Hale reported that we have received our EIN and are working toward getting bank accounts. Our next meeting is this Friday, August 14th at the Hudson Grill in Marquette. State Senator Ed McBroom will be our speaker.
- District II – No Report
- District III - Manuel Cordova reported they are getting nowhere in their efforts to distribute existing District III funds. The obstacle is that there is no evidence of where the funds came from. Maureen Clore, County Director for Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet Counties, is working on this.
- District IV - Need volunteer(s) to work on getting this district reorganized and active
- District V - Need volunteer(s) to work on getting this district reorganized and active
- District VI - Rebecca Pasko is working on getting the district active

Unfinished Business - None

New Business/Vote on Executive Committee recommendations:

- Christy Hilgers moved to approve the 2026-2027 dues schedule with second by Rebecca Pasko. The motion was approved.
- Rita Hale moved to approve the 2026-2027 MCSSA Budget with second by Rebecca Pasko. The motion was approved.
- Rebecca Pasko moved to approve the 2026-2027 MCSSCET Budget with second by Rita Hale. The motion was approved
- Rita Hale moved to approve the 2026-2027 Ballot with second by Rebecca Pasko. The motion was approved.

Adjournment

Grenae Dudley moved to adjourn the meeting with second by Rebecca Pasko. The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on October 14, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom or in person.

