

Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)



- DRAFT -

Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 10, 2024

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), in-person attendees met at the Anderson House Building, Mackinac Room, 5th Floor, 124 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933, and virtual attendees participated via Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order

Chairperson Carol Bergquist called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m.

Member Roll Call.

Acting Secretary Kelsey Hockaday called the roll, which indicated that a quorum was present.

Attendance

Council Members Attending In-Person:

Carol Bergquist, Kellie Blackwell, Kathy Flagstadt, Karen Wang, and Margi Williams.

Council Members Attending Virtually or by phone conf:

Jessica Brady (Holt, MI), Trina Edmondson (Grand Rapids, MI), and Steve Locke, (Auburn, MI).

Council Members Excused:

Yasmina Bouraoui, Lisa Cook-Gordon, Todd Culver, Bill Ernzen, Kelsey Hockaday, Elham Jahshan, and Shana Lewis.

Council Members Absent:

None

Ex-Officio Members Excused:

Sigrid Adams – Michigan Rehabilitation Services (in-person)

Mike Pemble – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (virtual – Lansing, MI)

DSU Liaisons Present:

Lisa Kisiel – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

Eric Bachmann – Michigan Rehabilitation Services

MCRS Support Present (in-person):

Alicia Kirkey – Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training

Lucas Cairns – Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training

Guests:

Steve Dalton – Michigan Rehabilitation Services (virtual – Lansing, MI)

Voni Booyinga – Michigan Rehabilitation Services (virtual – Eaton Rapids, MI)

James Hull – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (virtual – Lansing, MI)

John Sloat – Disability Rights Michigan (in-person)

Introductions of Members, DSU Representatives and Guests

Chairperson Carol Bergquist attendees to introduce themselves.

Approval of Proposed Agenda of October 10, 2024 Meeting (Attachment 1)

Karen Wang moved to approve the October 10, 2024 Proposed Agenda. Motion supported by Margi Williams. Motion was put to a voice vote with Chair Carol Bergquist calling for council members in favor to say aye and those opposed to state nay. There being a unanimous vote, motion carried. The agenda was approved.

Approval of August 8, 2024 Business Meeting Minutes (Attachment 2)

The draft minutes of the August 8, 2024, meeting was provided to the council prior to the meeting. Chair Carol Bergquist called for any comments or suggested changes. There being no requested changes or further discussion, Kellie Blackwell moved to approve the Minutes of the August 8, 2024, MCRS Meeting. Motion supported by Karen Wang. Motion was put to a voice vote with Chair Carol Bergquist calling for council members in favor to say aye and those opposed to state nay. There being a unanimous vote, motion carried. Minutes of the August 8, 2024, MCRS meeting are approved.

Resource Plan FY2024 (Attachment 3)

FY2024 Resource Plan report was presented by Steve Dalton, Fiscal Manager, Michigan Rehabilitation Services. Steve explained that travel will be condensed into one account going forward. James Hull shared that he has been named Acting State Division Administrator and will be working more with Steve Dalton on the MCRS Resource Plan. There was no further discussion or questions regarding the resource plan.

Partner Reports

Developmental Disability (DD) Council – No representative was present. No report submitted.

Disability Rights Michigan (Attachment 4) – John Sloat attended the meeting on behalf of Elham Jashan and did not have any additions to the written report that was submitted.

Incompass Michigan (Attachment 5) – No representative was present. Written report was submitted.

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF) – While no written report was submitted, Karen Wang shared some great resources regarding transition. The MAF

provides ongoing webinars that are available online. Karen will be representing MAF and presenting at the November 2024 Incompass re:con Conference. In May 2025, she will be presenting at a conference in Livonia for parents, youth and young adults near transition age. Also, that the ARC of Michigan website goes through all transition topics in plain language.

Michigan Interagency Transition Team (MITT) – No written report was submitted. Karen Wang reported that MITT is working on strategic planning with MRS & MDE. More will be shared at a later date.

Michigan Assistive Technology, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (no written report submitted) – Kellie Blackwell reported that MAT has finalized their state plan and submitted for the fiscal year. They have conducted over 1,000 demonstration all over the State of Michigan. Their newsletter is being released today. Anyone wishing to receive the newsletter can email Kellie. They are getting ready for their winter ware drive that will include boots, hats, etc., including adaptive wear with different closures. More information about the winter ware drive can be found in the newsletter.

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) (Attachment 6) – Steve Locke reported that their state plan was approved on 10/01/2024. He gave a shout out to MRS for their assistance. Four SILC members are up for reappointment. One member is not reapplying. The other three plan to reapply. So, there will be one position to be filled. If you know of any potential candidates, forward to Steve or go online.

DSU Updates

Bureau Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) (Attachment 7a & 7b): Sigrid Adams has been appointed as Director of MRS. In addition to the MRS written reports, Director Adams shared that MRS had a recent visit from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) that went well and was very

positive. There were seven monitors that came to Michigan. RSA has requested additional documentation. Once finalized, MRS should receive RSA's report in 6-8 months. Nothing outstanding to report on the RSA visit. There are some areas that MRS was aware of that needed to be addressed.

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) (Attachment 8): Acting Director Mike Pemble indicated that things are going well at BSBP. The number one priority has been getting new employees on-boarded. This has been very positive. Lisa Kisiel, Field Services Division Director, referred to the BSBP written report and also asked the MCRS to assist with developing a customer satisfaction survey tool. Once developed, the survey would be implemented and managed by the Michigan Office of Internal Audit Services (OIAS). She also reminded council members that the BSBP Excellence Awards are taking place on October 11, 2024, at the BSBP Training Center, in Kalamazoo.

Unfinished Business

Council member appointments, vacancies and term expirations: Carol Bergquist shared that two council members has resigned – Brent Mikulski, who represented Community Rehabilitation Programs, and Karen Schulz. Who represented Business, Industry or Labor. And there are three members whose appointments will expire December 31, 2024 – Kelsey Hockaday, Shana Lewis, and Margi Williams, all of whom indicate they will apply for another term. If they are reappointed, there will be two vacancies on the council due to the resignations.

State of Michigan Email Accounts: Alicia Kirkey introduced Lucas Cairns, LEO-E&T, IT Support Team, who is assisting in the rollout of the SOM email accounts for the members of the MCRS, reported that there have been some difficulties in setting up and maintaining these accounts. The IT staff is looking

into setting up a MCRS site in MS Teams to help facilitate access to council documents and allow collaboration on projects. He also shared that the IT Team will investigate the possibility of using iPads for the council members. Note that the iPad will not solve all the access restrictions of the State of Michigan.

2024 Conferences – Carol Bergquist

Incompass re:con Conference, Nov 6-8, 2024, Traverse City, MI – MCRS will have an exhibitors booth at the conference. And several MCRS members will be attending and presenting at this conference. Attending are Margi Williams, Karen Wang, Kellie Blackwell, Kathy Flagstadt, Carol Bergquist & Kelsey Hockaday. Their presentation will share what the MCRS is about and promote awareness of who we are and what we do.

New Business

MRS Champion Awards – Carol Bergquist shared that the awards ceremony is taking place at 1:30 p.m., after the MCRS meeting in the same location. She encouraged MCRS members to attend as part of the afternoon session.

BSBP Excellence Awards – Carol Bergquist shared that the BSBP awards are held at the BSBP Training Center tomorrow, October 11, 2024, in Kalamazoo. MCRS members are invited to attend.

FY2024 / FY2025 Work Session Planning: Carol Bergquist shared that a planning session was held on September 5, 2024, with BSBP. MCRS plans to schedule a session with MRS at a later date. BSBP has requested the Council's assistance in developing their Customer Satisfaction Survey tool and process.

Public Comment

Vice Chair Kathy Flagstadt read the council guidelines for public comment. She called for public comment three times. There was no response. Public Comment concluded.

Lunch break

Wrap Up – Council Member Share, Announcements: Carol Bergquist asked if anyone had any questions or any further discussion. There were none.

Business Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business, Margi Willims moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Karen Wang. Motion was put to a vote with Chair Carol Bergquist calling for council members in favor to say aye and those opposed to state nay. There being a unanimous vote, the Business Meeting concluded at 11:33 a.m., to break for a working lunch and to allow members to attend the MRS Champion Awards for the afternoon session.

FY2025 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Thursday, October 10, 2024, Anderson House Office Building, Mackinac Room, 5th Floor, 124 N Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933 (MCRS business meeting in morning and MRS Champion Awards in afternoon)
Thursday, February 13, 2025, Disability Network Capital Area, 901 E. Mt. Hope Lansing MI 48910
Thursday, May 8, 2025, Michigan Career & Technical Institute, 11611 Pine Lake Rd, Plainwell, MI 49080
Thursday, August 14, 2025, Disability Network Capital Area, 901 E. Mt. Hope Lansing MI 48910
Thursday, September 11, 2025, Disability Network Capital Area, 901 E. Mt. Hope Lansing MI 48910

