

**Michigan County  
Social Services Association  
Annual Business Meeting  
August 14, 2006  
Doubletree Hotel, Bay City, Michigan**



I. Meeting Called to Order at 3:13 PM

A. Quorum Established.

II. Outgoing President's Remarks - Jim said, "Don't let the door hit you ..."

III. Executive Director's Remarks

Mel expressed his pleasure at being the MCSSA Executive Director, and commented on how well the arrangement with the MCMCFC Executive Director, Reneé Beniak is working. She is easy to work with and makes a great office partner.

Mel asked District Presidents to stand and recognition followed. Mel commented on how important district leadership is and personally thanked his District President, Susan Bailey-Carman.

Mel asked Committee Chairs and members to stand and be recognized. He would like to see the whole room stand next year when he asks.

Mel asked for volunteers to serve on the Revenue Enhancement Committee for MCSSA. We need to look at new ways to fund what we do. The association needs your help. He made a strong plea to the membership to volunteer and Madelyn Harris did so.

IV. Legislative Consultant's Report - Fritz Benson

About 85 percent of an election is determined in the primary. Fritz commented on the vote in Detroit and the fact that not one of Kwame Kilpatrick's candidates won.

MCSSA has done pretty well this year, in a very tight budget climate. Between Mel and Fritz every single budget meeting and/or conference hearing was attended. MCSSA was successful on many fronts, including the defeat of the 48-month limit on assistance. There may be an effort this fall to renew the effort, but time will tell.

A letter has been written expressing gratitude for the 51 new Children's Protective Services staff, but points out that DHS is still 136 CPS positions short.

Every month a lawmaker, a key staff person, or a member of the House or Senate Fiscal Agency attends the MCSSA Legislative committee meeting. This is very helpful in the budget process. Kelly Bartlett is Sen. Hardiman's Chief of Staff and has a lot of involvement with the DHS budget and a strong working relationship has evolved with Mr. Bartlett.

Mel and Fritz have discussed being more proactive on legislative issues and Mel presented the issue of the child custody act through which a child can be placed in the home of a convicted sexual abuse perpetrator if the perpetrator is the parent. The language in current law that allows this was discovered by Jay Bortz, Allegan County Board member and MCSSA Immediate Past President during review of legislation in the Child and Family Services Committee. Fritz and Mel have met with Rep. Rick Jones and subsequently HB 6319 has been introduced which removes this provision.

The Single Business Tax has been repealed, effective December 31, 2007. The Single Business Tax passed into law in 1975. It was basically drafted by the legal staff at Ford Motor Company. At the time there were eight different business taxes companies had to pay. Over time various industries were exempted and it became a very difficult tax to understand. Businesses with gross receipts less than \$350,000 do not pay the tax. Every state has a business tax but in many cases it's based on profit. Michigan is 26<sup>th</sup>, right in the middle, in business tax liability.

Jennifer Granholm will keep John Cherry as her Lieutenant Governor. He is a tremendous asset to her.

Ruth Johnson, Oakland County Clerk who served six years in the legislature, has been announced to be Dick DeVos's running mate.

V. Committee Reports - filed as submitted.

Adult and Health Services Committee

The MCSSA Adult and Health Services Committee has chalked up another year of lively discussions on issues of importance to our clients and field staff. We have consistently advocated for policy and process changes that are in the best interest of both.

One of the highlights of the committee is the active participation of so many knowledgeable people:

- County Board members
- Medical Care Facility Administrators
- DHS field staff at all levels, representing all regions of the State
- DHS Central Office Medicaid and Adult Services policy staff
- Department of Community Health policy staff
- MCSSA staff support (which has kept us on track!)

Our group is also enhanced from the regular participation from other key agencies, including representatives from the Office of Services to the Aging and the Area Agency on Aging. Together, we have been able to better understand the needs of the community as well as the barriers to meeting those needs.

This year has been spent reviewing and analyzing much legislation and some major new initiatives, most notably the Governors Long Term Care Task Force Recommendations and the Single Point of Entry (SPE). SPE will likely continue to be a focus for this Committee as the pilot sites become operational and move forward.

The Committee, with the support of Mel Haga, successfully advocated for the elimination of month to month Medicaid deductible (spenddown) determinations for residents of Adult Foster Care homes. Once implemented (there are some technical problems delaying this from occurring) it will be a significant work reduction change for first line staff, and a huge improvement for clients who had to often wait to get medical care and prescriptions filled until their cases were worked each month by their specialist.

More recently, we have been involved in advocating for a liberal interpretation of the Federal Deficit Reduction legislation that will require proof of citizenship for Medicaid. We have been able to voice the concerns of facility administrators, line staff, as well as consumers, in how this one policy change could change their ability to maintain health and safety for vulnerable adults. It is anticipated to continue to be a "hot" topic for our Committee.

Each year our Committee grapples with the reality of too many needs without enough funding. We have wrestled with the downsizing of Adult Services staff with the increase in caseloads, a continuing trend that sees no end. We have watched caseloads in Adult Services rise to the point that staff can barely maintain, while millions are spent in funding pilot programs to service the same population that our DHS staff services daily. We have discussed alternatives to meeting consumer needs with the limitations on Adult Benefit Waiver (State Medical Program) enrollments, proposed elimination of the Under 21 Medicaid Category and Caretaker Relative Category. We have marveled at new program initiatives for families (Plan First, etc), while the vulnerable adult population continue to take reductions. We get frustrated at the fact the Protected Income Limit for Medicaid has not risen in over a decade, maybe two, reducing the ability to truly protect and serve adults with medical needs.

Yes, it's been another year of activity, frustration, and hope for the members of the Adult and Health Services Committee. What we do as a group makes a difference, and for me that is why participation in this Committee has been so rewarding. I have been very happy to serve as co-chair and hope to have the opportunity to do so again next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay E. Andrzejak  
Committee Co-Chair

Automated Systems/Local Management Committee

The only activity to report since the last year end report is one meeting held 2/15/06, at which the chair and one member showed up. At that meeting, it was decided that there would be no in-person meetings unless there was a guest speaker or a site visit. All business will be conducted via e-mail.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Wing  
Committee Chair

## Child and Family Services

First of all, the committee wishes to thank both DHS and DCH central office staff for their generous gifts of their time and knowledge: Jim Hennessey, DHS; Soleil Nagy, DHS; Mary Mehren, DHS; Mary Rossman, DHS; and Connie Kapugia, DCH.

As is always the case, the committee was heavily involved in the development of the legislative priorities presented to the legislature in March 2006, and reviewing proposed legislation on an ongoing basis.

A special thanks to Committee Co-Chair, Jay Bortz for his dedication to the cause to getting HB 6319 sponsored and introduced this year. Thanks to him, language was discovered in current law that would allow, under certain circumstances, children to be returned to a parent who had been convicted to child sexual abuse.

At the September 2005 meeting an in-depth discussion was held on the Foster Care Audit that had recently been released. Another topic of discussion was the roll-out of the new Case Management System (CMS), along with the Child Protection System.

The federal Title IV - E Audit continued to occupy planning and creative thinking. The original schedule of audit and review had the auditors returning to Michigan early in 2006 to begin the re-test. Michigan would have had little time for corrections or program revisions to take effect and actually show in case records, so a request was made to delay the return visit.

Jim Hennessey, newly appointed Director of Children's Services, addressed the committee in September, first describing his background, indicating that his most recent position had been with a private firm called Policy Studies, Inc. As the new Director, his plans for Children's Services included taking a look at the organization to assess whether it is meeting requirements and serving those it needs to serve. He hoped to achieve a shared view of the continuum of services that are or need to be available for children and families, planning to partner with colleagues in the field, making it as efficient as possible to get field input.

In November 2005, DHS Deputy Director Laura Champagne attended to provide an update on numerous issues currently being addressed in central office, including:

- the FY 2007 DHS budget
- Foster Care, advising committee members to expect changes to general and specialized foster care
- the new Staffing Allocation which some members described as "beyond awful". MCSSA Executive Director Mel Haga expressed his concern regarding the adult services staff level indicating that APS referrals are not being made anymore because people in the area know no services are available
- the zones, which took a 25 percent hit in the budget, noting that the plan was to reconfigure zones as "Regional Service Centers"
- Electronic Benefits Transfer which was being transitioned from JPMorgan to ACS, and which BRIDGES will oversee for Food Assistance

- the Single Audit report which was expected to be released by December 5, 2005
- GOOD NEWS in BRIDGES. Representatives of DIT, DMB, and DHS FIS and FIM made site visits and were pleased with what they saw
- the federal budget, which was threatening

Even with filling of all CPS and Adoption vacancies there was still concern about the workload. Committee members discussed TDM (Team Decision Making) which is a useful tool, but which increases the amount of time involved in assessing the case. Used in Family to Family, it even lengthens the time a child is out of the home.

April 2006 brought a discussion with Mary Mehren on the IV-E Audit. Mary reported that the program improvement plan (PIP) for title IV-E was complete at least for the time being. The department had done an in-house re-audit, making corrections as errors were found or transferring cases to other funding, such as the Child Care Fund. Problems continued to be primarily in court orders. The Department and the Supreme Court Administrator's office had worked with courts across the state to train judges and staff as to the federal requirements. The feds will return in March 2007 for the next review. If the error rate is such that there is a penalty, it would be assessed at the percentage of error in the case sample (150 cases) applied to the entire IV-E draw. If that were to occur, they would be obligated to recoup money from the counties with errors.

The IV-E waiver was sought to be permitted to provide front-load services to avoid removing children from their homes. It is a five year program with very structured requirements and evaluation in cases having an "imminent risk of removal" of the child(ren). The hope is to show more positive outcomes with this approach.

The committee recommended that the MCSSA Board of Directors approve making a \$100 contribution to Michigan's Children and the donation was subsequently made.

MCSSA received a letter from the Americans for Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) requesting an official endorsement from the organization of an effort to prohibit sentencing of people who commit crimes while under the age of 18 to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The Executive Committee referred the letter to the Child and Family Services Committee for review, which had already been done. The association supported legislation to accomplish what was being sought by the ACLU. As a result of committee action, a strongly worded statement of support to the ACLU regarding this initiative was written.

At this writing, the committee looks forward to a productive and rewarding 2006-2007 year.

## VI. District Reports

Several districts submit their minutes for posting to the website.

## VII. Action on 2006-07 Dues Schedule

In the past six years a dues increase has only been realized twice. Over the course of the association history, the dues and conference

revenue have covered the operating budget, but this is no longer the case. This year the Board of Directors is proposing a three percent increase in the dues. For our Treasurer's own county, Mason County, the amount of increase is only \$32.

Mel explained the large county dues "cap" which is truly no longer a cap, as the largest counties formerly capped now receive the increase that every county sees when dues are increased.

Shirley Rybicki moved to adopt the dues schedule as proposed. Seconded by Bonnie Dalman. The comment was made that the raise appears to be too small and that five percent would be more realistic. Motion carried, with only one no vote.

MEMBER COUNTIES	MCSSA DUES 2005-2006	MCSSA DUES 2006-2007
ALCONA	\$ 799.92	\$ 823.92
ALGER	\$ 593.04	\$ 610.83
ALLEGAN	\$ 2,187.58	\$ 2,253.20
ALPENA	\$ 872.06	\$ 898.22
ANTRIM	\$ 1,168.05	\$ 1,203.09
ARENAC	\$ 699.13	\$ 720.11
BARAGA	\$ 543.18	\$ 559.48
BARRY	\$ 1,230.64	\$ 1,267.56
BAY	\$ 1,937.20	\$ 1,995.32
BENZIE	\$ 884.79	\$ 911.33
BERRIEN	\$ 3,392.76	\$ 3,494.54
BRANCH	\$ 1,003.61	\$ 1,033.72
CALHOUN	\$ 2,199.25	\$ 2,265.22
CASS	\$ 1,230.64	\$ 1,267.56
CHARLEVOIX	\$ 1,235.95	\$ 1,273.03
CHEBOYGAN	\$ 1,033.32	\$ 1,064.32
CHIPPEWA	\$ 918.74	\$ 946.30
CLARE	\$ 874.18	\$ 900.41
CLINTON	\$ 1,256.11	\$ 1,293.79
CRAWFORD	\$ 715.05	\$ 736.50
DELTA	\$ 1,035.44	\$ 1,066.50
DICKINSON	\$ 825.38	\$ 850.14
EATON	\$ 1,870.37	\$ 1,926.48
EMMET	\$ 1,482.08	\$ 1,526.54
GENESEE	\$ 5,008.51	\$ 5,158.76
GLADWIN	\$ 845.54	\$ 870.90
GOGEBIC	\$ 687.46	\$ 708.09
GRAND TRAVERSE	\$ 2,078.30	\$ 2,140.65
GRATIOT	\$ 900.70	\$ 927.73
HILLSDALE	\$ 1,057.72	\$ 1,089.45
HOUGHTON	\$ 758.54	\$ 781.30
HURON	\$ 1,240.19	\$ 1,277.40
INGHAM	\$ 3,697.24	\$ 3,808.15
IONIA	\$ 1,090.61	\$ 1,123.32
IOSCO	\$ 981.33	\$ 1,010.77
IRON	\$ 635.48	\$ 654.54
ISABELLA	\$ 1,058.78	\$ 1,090.54
JACKSON	\$ 2,446.44	\$ 2,519.83
KALAMAZOO	\$ 4,054.76	\$ 4,176.40
KALKASKA	\$ 780.82	\$ 804.25
KENT	\$ 5,008.51	\$ 5,158.76

KEWEENAW	\$	490.14	\$	504.84
LAKE	\$	649.27	\$	668.75
LAPEER	\$	1,798.23	\$	1,852.17
LEELANAU	\$	1,375.99	\$	1,417.27
LENAWEE	\$	1,922.35	\$	1,980.02
LIVINGSTON	\$	3,609.18	\$	3,717.46
LUCE	\$	531.51	\$	547.46
MACKINAC	\$	852.96	\$	878.55
MACOMB	\$	5,008.51	\$	5,158.76
MANISTEE	\$	886.91	\$	913.52
MARQUETTE	\$	1,239.13	\$	1,276.31
MASON	\$	1,092.73	\$	1,125.51
MECOSTA	\$	969.66	\$	998.75
MENOMINEE	\$	706.56	\$	727.76
MIDLAND	\$	2,331.86	\$	2,401.81
MISSAUKEE	\$	683.22	\$	703.72
MONROE	\$	3,481.87	\$	3,586.33
MONTCALM	\$	1,144.71	\$	1,179.05
MONTMORENCY	\$	688.52	\$	709.18
MUSKEGON	\$	2,365.81	\$	2,436.78
NEWAYGO	\$	1,052.41	\$	1,083.99
OAKLAND	\$	5,008.51	\$	5,158.76
OCEANA	\$	872.06	\$	898.22
OGEMAW	\$	831.75	\$	856.70
ONTONAGON	\$	556.97	\$	573.68
OSCEOLA	\$	753.24	\$	775.84
OSCODA	\$	583.50	\$	601.00
OTSEGO	\$	1,019.52	\$	1,050.11
OTTAWA	\$	4,526.86	\$	4,662.67
PRESQUE ISLE	\$	722.47	\$	744.15
ROSCOMMON	\$	1,033.32	\$	1,064.32
SAGINAW	\$	3,070.24	\$	3,162.35
ST. CLAIR	\$	3,425.65	\$	3,528.42
ST. JOSEPH	\$	1,337.79	\$	1,377.93
SANILAC	\$	1,131.98	\$	1,165.94
SCHOOLCRAFT	\$	595.16	\$	613.02
SHIAWASSEE	\$	1,256.11	\$	1,293.79
TUSCOLA	\$	1,131.98	\$	1,165.94
VAN BUREN	\$	1,560.26	\$	1,607.07
WASHTENAW	\$	5,008.51	\$	5,158.76
WAYNE	\$	5,008.51	\$	5,158.76
WEXFORD	\$	897.52	\$	924.45
TOTAL	\$	135,016.67	\$	139,598.82

VIII. Action on 2006-2007 Budget

Even with the approved three percent increase in dues, the proposed 2006-2007 MCSSA budget shows a \$13,000 deficit; however the MCSSCET proposed budget projects revenue over expenditures to cover this deficit. Mary Bradley moved adoption of the budget. Seconded by Phil Larson. Motion carried.

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Proposed FY 2007</u>	<u>Projected FY 2006</u>	<u>Amt of change</u>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Income - Dues*	\$139,606.00	\$134,041.71	\$ 5,564.29
Income - ABM Conference	13,400.00	20,000.00	-6,600.00

Income - Bd Mbr Retreat	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income - Mid Year	13,000.00	26,276.50	-13,276.50
Income - Retiree	0.00	99.00	-99.00
Income - Interest	1,000.00	300.00	700.00
Income - Meetings	200.00	150.00	50.00
Income - MCMCFC	40,000.00	54,635.00	-14,635.00
Income - MCMCFC			
Executive Director	150,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00
Income - Audit Fund	0.00	5,300.00	-5,300.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>357,206.00</b>	<b>290,802.21</b>	<b>66,403.79</b>

**EXPENSES**

Accounting	5,400.00	5,100.00	300.00
Bank Service Charges	250.00	250.00	0.00
Legislative Consultant Fee	31,850.00	31,850.00	0.00
Membership Fees/Dues	650.00	750.00	-100.00
Legal Fees	500.00	2,500.00	-2,000.00
Corporation Filing Fees	20.00	20.00	0.00
Executive Director Salary	36,400.00	53,755.00	-17,355.00
Employer Costs	3,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
Retirement	0.00	1,615.00	-1,615.00
Health Insurance	0.00	3,432.00	-3,432.00
Life Insurance	0.00	295.00	-295.00
LTD Insurance	0.00	735.00	-735.00
Longevity	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Flexible Health Account	0.00	0.00	0.00
Associate Director Salary	47,115.00	47,115.00	0.00
Employer Costs	4,000.00	3,800.00	200.00
Retirement	1,415.00	1,415.00	0.00
Health Insurance	6,000.00	5,700.00	300.00
Life Insurance	225.00	175.00	50.00
LTD Insurance	625.00	615.00	10.00
Longevity	610.00	610.00	0.00
Flexible Health Account	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Executive Assistant Salary**	27,070.00	36,088.00	-9,018.00
Employer Costs	3,000.00	2,900.00	100.00
Retirement	812.00	1,040.00	-228.00
Health Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Life Insurance	350.00	350.00	0.00
LTD Insurance	300.00	280.00	20.00
Longevity	0.00	0.00	0.00
Flexible Health Account	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
MCMCFC Executive Director	150,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00
Retiree's Benefits	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Staff Training/Travel	5,000.00	2,100.00	2,900.00
Office Insurance	600.00	550.00	50.00
Postage	5,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00
Printing	2,500.00	2,200.00	300.00
Telephone	3,000.00	1,900.00	1,100.00
Office Supplies	1,000.00	300.00	700.00
Machine Maintenance	3,000.00	2,600.00	400.00
Website	2,000.00	1,800.00	200.00
Capital Outlay	4,000.00	2,200.00	1,800.00
Rent	19,200.00	19,200.00	0.00
Board Member Awards	0.00	250.00	-250.00
MCMCFC Expense	500.00	350.00	150.00
Audit Fund	0.00	3,250.00	-3,250.00

Meeting Supplies	500.00	500.00	0.00
Conferences	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions	400.00	300.00	100.00
Contingency	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>370,292.00</b>	<b>295,490.00</b>	<b>74,802.00</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>-13,086.00</b>		

\*Reflects a 3% increase in dues

\*\*Reflects an anticipated 30 hour work week as opposed to the current full time status.

IX. Election of Officers - Chris Kadulski

A. President

Nominating Committee Chairperson Chris Kadulski nominated Fred Rogers for the office of President. Seconded by many. Chris called for nominations from the floor three times. Glen Townley moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Fred Rogers for the office of President. Seconded by Oral Sutliff. Motion carried. Congratulations Fred!

B. President-Elect

Chris Kadulski nominated Mark Stevens for the office of President-Elect. Seconded by Susan Bailey-Carman. After Chairperson Kadulski called for nominations from the floor three times, Susan Bailey-Carman moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mark Stevens for the office of President-Elect. Seconded by Phil Larson. Motion carried. Congratulations Mark!

C. Secretary

Chris Kadulski nominated Susan Fulton for the office of Secretary. Seconded from the floor. After Chairperson Kadulski called for nominations from the floor three times, Bob Barr moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Sue Fulton for the office of Secretary. Seconded by Joe Satterelli. Motion carried. Congratulations Sue!

D. Treasurer

Chris Kadulski nominated Wayne Buskirk for the office of Treasurer. Bob Barr seconded. Chairperson Kadulski called for nominations from the floor three times, after which Oral Sutliff moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Wayne Buskirk for the office of Treasurer. Seconded from the floor. Motion carried. Congratulations Wayne!

X. Incoming President's Remarks - Fred Rogers

Fred expressed his pleasure at being able to serve.

XI. Recess for MCSSCET Meeting

Anne Smith moved to recess. Seconded. Motion carried.

XII. MCSSCET Business Meeting Called to Order at 4:18 PM.

A. Recognition of Planning Committee Members

B. Future Conference Sites

The 2007 summer conference will be held September 10-12 at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth.

The 2008 summer conference will be held August 11-13 at the Centerpoint Marriott in Pontiac.

The 2009 summer conference will be held in September (specific dates not yet confirmed) at Mission Point on Mackinac Island.

XIII. MCSSCET Meeting Adjourned.

Motion made from the floor to return to the MCSSA business meeting. Seconded. Motion carried.

XIV. MCSSA Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Jipson-Lomax