

MINUTES OF THE MCSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 9, 2008

MCSSA OFFICE

LANSING

<u>Those Participating</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>District</u>
<u>In Person:</u>		
Floyd Rabineau	Chippewa	I
Steve Barnes	Mecosta	III
Wayne Buskirk	Mason	III
Fred Rogers	Emmet	III
Shirley Rybicki	Mason	III
Dave VanHouten	Missaukee/Wexford	III
Susan Bailey-Carman	Allegan	IV
Sue Hoffman	Eaton	IV
Mark Stevens	Isabella/Midland	V
Irene Bazan Waller	Lapeer/Sanilac	V
Velvet Savage	Oakland	VI
Reneé Beniak	MCMCFC	
Mel Haga	MCSSA	
Shelley Jipson-Lomax	MCSSA	
Evert Vermeer	Member-at-Large	
<u>By Phone:</u>		
Jim Beach	Montmorency/Oscoda	II
Abby VanHoeven	MCSSW	

I. Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 AM by President Stevens.

II. Disposition of Minutes of March 4, 2008
Floyd Rabineau moved to approve. Seconded. Motion carried.

A. Agenda Updated.

III. Correspondence Report – filed as submitted

IV. Treasurer's Report – Wayne Buskirk
Accepted as submitted.

V. MCMCFC Report – Reneé Beniak
Reneé reported on several issues of importance to the council including the FY '09 DCH budget. Proposed changes were discussed. The full Senate has completed its work on the DCH budget.

The GPO has a new vendor on board, HPS.

A survey and regulatory issues summary, prepared by HCAM, was discussed. In 2007 Michigan was the first in the nation for the number of terminations and closures; the first for the number of payment denials for new admissions; second for the number of directed plans of correction; third for the number of total enforcement actions; fourth for the number of civil monetary penalties; and fourth for the number of providers affected by enforcement actions. Yet, the family satisfaction scores from an independent survey contradict the above. In 2006 family satisfaction was at 92 percent and family willingness to recommend a specific facility was at 97 percent.

There is a tremendous effort in Michigan to move people from nursing homes to the community and to keep people from entering the nursing home when leaving the hospital. Reneé is serving on a stakeholder's work group to educate legislators about the issues, the concerns, etc. In some cases residents who have lived in the medical care facility or nursing home for several years, and considers the facility home, are being encouraged to move back into the community.

Evert would like to see the Compass newsletter go to all county board members with MCFs. He also suggested that it go to the staff in facilities as well. The council has just made the decision to discontinue using the U.S. Postal Service to mail the Compass to board members with MCFs and use email only. Reneé agreed that there are times when the staff should receive copies of the Compass and administrators can be encouraged to share it with them.

In terms of the swing bed litigation, enforcement action was taken by the State of Michigan against Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital relative to their use of swing beds. The hospital disagrees with action taken by the state and have filed a lawsuit in federal district court asking that the state be blocked from enforcing the swing bed rule. The case was expected to be heard by the federal court in March, either in Marquette or Grand Rapids. More information will be made available as the case unfolds.

VI. Legislative Report – Sue Hoffman

A. Committee Discussion

Fred Rogers commented on the great job Susan and Sue did in their presentation of the priorities at the conference. The conference evaluations were very positive overall. Sue's new board member indicated that he was amazed at what he learned.

Fritz addressed the status of the budget. He has talked with Sen. Mike Bishop and his issues are the budget, Blue Cross reform, a long range energy plan, and a water diversion plan for the great lakes.

B. Legislation

1. SB 1161 – Sue Hoffman moved to support with the recommendation that the funding remain with the state. Seconded. This bill would amend the Public Health Code to delay, for one year, the deadline by which employees of specific types of health facilities and agencies must submit fingerprints to the MSP for a background check. Further, the bill requires that DCH and MSP maintain, rather than develop and implement, an electronic web-based system to assist health facilities and agencies identify individuals who are convicted of offenses disqualifying them for employment. Motion carried.
2. HB 5726 – Sue Hoffman moved to support if the financial institution is required to furnish supporting documentation. Seconded. This bill includes financial institutions in those mandated to report suspected adult abuse/neglect/exploitation. Without this language being in law some banks feel compelled to protect the privacy of individuals rather than to protect them from exploitation. Motion carried.
3. HB 5728 – Sue Hoffman moved to support if the financial institution is required to furnish supporting documentation. Seconded. This bill requires financial professionals and employees of financial institutions to report suspected exploitation. Concern was expressed about the need to increase staffing to meet the mandate in this bill and HB 5726. Motion carried.
4. HB 5418 – Sue Hoffman moved to support with the recommendation that the age of the child be raised and that all minors be included. Seconded. This bill would prevent youngsters of less than four years of age being exposed to passive

cigarette smoke in automobiles. Jay Bortz, a former pediatrician, gave a very impassioned plea for support of this bill. There was a great deal of pro and con discussion about this bill and the impact on civil rights. The Child and Family Services Committee presented this recommendation earlier in the year and the Legislative Committee rejected the initial recommendation based on the impingement of civil rights. The Child and Family Services Committee took exception to the Legislative Committee's action and has made a second attempt at garnering MCSSA opposition to the bill. Law enforcement will not stop a vehicle if an adult is smoking and there is a child in the car as a primary offense. Following a lively discussion, the motion carried, with one dissenting vote.

5. HB 5669 – Sue Hoffman moved to oppose. Seconded. The bill prohibits a magistrate from refusing to accept a criminal complaint of abuse of an adult because the complaint is filed by someone other than the victim. The Adult and Health Services Committee recommended support. The point was made that not all counties have a magistrate and the bill appears to be specific to magistrates. The reason for the Legislative Committee's opposition is because of a lack of understanding as to the need, and enactment could cause more problems than it solves in that a family member could file a complaint and the individual on whose behalf the complaint is filed is not unhappy with their care or treatment. Adults, if competent, are empowered by law to make their own decisions about their care and/or treatment. Evert Vermeer moved to table. Seconded. Motion to table carried.

VII. Executive Committee Report – Susan Bailey-Carman on behalf of Mark Stevens

- A. MCMCFC Purchase of Service Agreement
The Executive Committee recommended continuing the purchase of service agreement with MCMCFC at the current rate of \$40,000 for one year, with the council paying their teleconferencing costs. Floyd Rabineau moved to approve the contract. Seconded. A question was raised about the instances when the Compass is to be shared with all board members with MCFS. Evert spoke strongly in favor of the board members receiving the newsletter. Motion carried.
- B. Michigan League for Human Services Request
The MLHS has submitted a request that MCSSA become involved in an effort to stop a new "fair tax" proposal. An effort will be undertaken to place an issue on the November ballot, eliminating the business taxes and the state income tax, while greatly increasing the state sales tax. The tax burden in Michigan would be shifted from businesses and high-income individuals to low- and middle-income households. The tax proposed is a very regressive tax. The Executive Committee recommends that MCSSA become involved in the effort and Wayne Buskirk moved to join the MLHS. Seconded. Motion carried.
- C. MCMCFC Spring Management Conference
The Executive Committee recommends approval of Mel's attendance at the MCMCFC Spring Management Conference at Boyne Highlands, May 19-22. Floyd Rabineau moved approval. Seconded. Motion carried.
- D. 2012 Mid Year Legislative Conference
The Executive Committee has accepted a proposal from the Radisson Hotel in Lansing for our 2012 mid-year legislative conference, but with the dates of the conference being

March 13, 14 and 15, thus avoiding a conflict with the NACo conference in Washington, DC.

E. 2009 Mid Year Legislative Conference

The Executive Committee has approved changing the dates of the 2009 mid year legislative conference by one day to Wednesday evening through noon on Friday, the 4th-6th in order to avoid conflict with the NACo conference in Washington, DC.

VIII. Executive Director's Report – Mel Haga

The legislative conference has come and gone and all reports indicate that it was a huge success. Fritz counted about 25 of 38 Senators and lots of Representatives and staffers. Our attendance was down just a little, but the enthusiasm and participation was great. Director Ahmed and Ron Hicks spent the entire reception period with us. Lots of participants had the chance to meet him, some for the first time. Director Ahmed returned on Thursday and met with all attendees for breakfast and stayed until the noon meeting with the County Director's Council. His extended participation was a highlight of the conference.

Susan Bailey-Carman and Mel met with Jim Nye regarding the issue of the notice of qualification for the position of county director. When notices of county director vacancies are posted, the education requirement indicates that a Bachelor's Degree is required, but in practice an individual without a BA may apply for the position, request a qualification review by Civil Service, and be certified as a candidate based on education and experience. Jim acknowledged the inconsistency between the notification and practice and indicated that he would look into the problem and design a course of corrective action.

Mel met with Scott Dzurka, Director of United Way of Michigan. He wanted to talk about the department and its programs. He was particularly interested in the JET program. He suggested a visit to a county to learn first-hand and Irene Waller has agreed to host us in Sanilac, one of the original JET counties.

Mel attended two hearings of the House Subcommittee on Appropriations for DHS. He testified at the second one and used our legislative priorities as a handout and as a guide for his testimony. Mel received a good reception with several questions. He attended another meeting of the subcommittee where the Chair, Rep. Spade, presented the House version of the department's budget that was reported out of the committee to the full appropriations committee. His version included many of the items the Governor included in her budget. He supported the grant increases for FIP and SDA, and increased the clothing allowance from the \$75 the Governor had proposed to \$100. Mel felt Rep. Spade's rhetoric this year was more supportive and understanding of the tough job the department has to do and the lack of resources to do it.

One of the issues raised during the hearings was the desire by some committee members to have the department somehow monitor the use of the clothing allowance to ensure that the money is spent on clothes for the kids and not on items for the adults in the family. Mel had a chance to discuss this briefly at the end of the hearing and we are working on this issue. Very difficult to do with the Bridge card, but Mel did find four survey center surveys that included questions about the clothing allowance done in 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006 which provide some good insight into the families' knowledge and utilization of the allowance. The results show that the majority of the recipients knew about the money and the reason it was put in their grant. Hopefully we can use this information to alleviate the concerns raised.

Mel attended the three program committee meetings. Always good discussions and insightful analysis of the legislation presented for their review. The Child and Family Services Committee revisited HB 5418. This bill would ban lit tobacco products in a motor vehicle when children age four and under are present. The committee had recommended to the Legislative Committee that the association support this proposed legislation. The Legislative Committee, after much discussion, voted to oppose the bill on the grounds of the impingement of civil rights. The committee voted to send the bill back for reconsideration.

Mel attended a hearing of the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veteran Affairs. Heard a presentation on senior demographics in Michigan by Dr. Lori Post, Assistant Dean for Research at MSU. Very interesting data that confirms the information we used in our legislative priority on Adult Services.

IX. Advisory Committee Report

Susan Bailey-Carman moved to approve a life membership for Jim Nye. Seconded. Motion carried.

Jocelyn announced that a migrant services coordinator will be hired.

Thanks to Director Ahmed and Stan Stewart, a statewide volunteer coordinators meeting will be held in Mt. Pleasant on April 30 and May 1. Professional development and crucial conversations are two of the topics to be addressed, as well as Mentor Michigan. Six county directors will attend.

The updated 2008 strategic plan was distributed. There are incorrect copies that have been circulated indicating an increase in prevention dollars of 15 percent and the correct amount is five percent for 2008 and 15 percent for 2009.

Two summits are being planned to bring teams of people in from the local community to engage and look at what can be done county-by-county.

Discussion with Director Ahmed addressed several issues:

Children's Rights Lawsuit - Director Ahmed hopes to have a settlement soon, discussions are going well.

The point was made that it is unfortunate that more information can't be shared so the local office directors can begin to prepare the local communities and the judges for changes to come.

DHS View of Governor and Rep. Spade's Budget Proposals - Jim Nye reported that the executive budget supports what we currently have. Seven amendments have been offered by Rep. Spade and his committee. We could refer FIP recipients to undergo drug testing if there is suspicion of drug abuse. They want a website that will tell every detailed expenditures by line item for the public. They would like to see the FIP recipients turn in receipts for the purchases made with the clothing allowance.

Status of Child Welfare Task Force - Director Ahmed suggested that we set up a meeting with Pat Babcock. Members of the department, 10 young people, parents, legislators, schools of social work, private providers, as well as advocates will serve on the committee totaling about 70 members.

The task force will report back in February. They will meet monthly in addition to the work group meetings; one work group will focus on adoption, one on foster care, one on juvenile justice, one on family permanency, and one on aging out/runaways/others. If you have ideas Director Ahmed suggested strongly that you contact Pat. Beverly Davenport, in Stan Stewart's office, is the lead person assisting Pat. A copy of the task force members will be shared with MCSSA once the announcement is made.

Director Ahmed will have ongoing discussions with his colleagues in other departments, through the Children's Cabinet, which is an interdepartmental group. There will be emphasis on ECIC activity but will look at the whole range of children's services. Pat Caruso, director of Corrections has joined the cabinet. The Department of Corrections Deputy Director for the Office of Planning and Community Development, Dennis Schrantz, is also participating.

Status of Poverty Summit - Director Ahmed announced Jim Nye's retirement. He took a minute to say what a tremendous resource he has been for the department. He is going to be truly missed by everyone who knows him. A temporary appointment will be made. Filling the position can be done but replacing Jim will be impossible.

Chuck Jones is the lead person on the summit. November 13 is the date at Cobo Hall. It would be best if it took place all over the state but that's not practical. Foundation money is being sought so that those in poverty who want to take part can do so. One of the largest priorities is to have those who testified at community action meetings. The Governor and the Cabinet will be taking the food stamp pledge one week before to publicize the issue of poverty. A group of key leaders will be sought from the corporate sector who would be willing to take the pledge as well.

The Summit is one thing, but the larger issue of poverty regionally needs to be addressed. The Summit is the kick-off of a larger effort to raise the issue of poverty to the forefront.

A plenary session will be held which will include the Governor. Martin Luther King III will be asked to speak. If not him, then someone appropriate as a national speaker will be sought. Thematic workshops will then be held to address housing, health care, employment, and a living wage, etc.

Regional discussions will be held on their plan of attack. The community action agencies want to take this approach.

A white paper or action plan will be developed, and in fact, community action agencies are already working on the plan. County offices are encouraged to participate in the regional or local efforts. County offices can help to mobilize the local community to support the participation of those unable to pay for their travel and related expenses. Colleges are being approached to have their students participate.

MCSSA should be on the planning task force. Director Ahmed was very pleased with the idea of counties then holding their own mini-summit to discuss issues specific to the county and engaging the local service agencies and business community to help them understand the issues and needs.

Director Ahmed asked for MCSSA to agree on 10 people statewide, including private business leaders, to serve and share that information with Chuck Jones. The effort to publicize the issue is crucial.

Former achievers of the month could be very helpful.

FAP Error Rate and Sample Size - Julie Horn Alexander has permission to fill a couple of vacancies. Separating MA from FAP reviews will be piloted.

There is a manual that prescribes what must be reviewed and how the review shall be conducted.

We have a high participation rate but also a high negative action. This is contradictory. The notice of missed interview should be automated very soon. The client reporting center starts up in Wayne County next week.

Director's Issues - Good news – a great deal of public interest in the level of food stamp participation rate, which is the highest for any large state in the country. There have been articles in Ireland, England and the New York Times about this.

We have an initiative around civic engagement and registering people to vote in the offices. Michigan is one of the leading states in the country. There is tremendous national interest in our attempts to register voters. The application for assistance no longer includes the voter registration application in the front.

There has been a great deal of public interest in our electronic child support program.

There will be a legislative hearing on the 29th about the cattle prod story. You can expect a lot of public outcry.

Generally speaking, the relationship of the department with the legislature is good and the relationship with the Governor is great.

Bridges is moving along. SWSS will need enhancements.

Director Ahmed noted his appreciation for the work MCSSA does with the department. The intelligence coming from the field is very important to the central administration. Please let Director Ahmed have your suggestions, don't wait for a meeting.

Employment and Participation Goals Update/Meeting Participation Requirements - Statewide last month 84% of all the required workforce participants were connected with an MWA. DLEG and the Detroit MWA have been meeting.

Participation rate is about 33% statewide. We have about five months left to hit 50%. A few of the larger counties are above 50%.

There is talk of JET Plus. We have TANF contingency funds of about \$150 M. Additional and education and training opportunities may be provided in several locations including Marquette County. Information on JET Plus should be out soon.

Goodwill Industries has a program and has been able to increase literacy levels by a couple of grades, with a 96% rate for those who are able to pass GEDs.

Mental Health Resources for Child Welfare - There is an effort to develop a contractual arrangement in Ingham, Clinton, Eaton, and St. Joseph counties to provide specific services to kids who would be a little bit below severely emotionally disturbed but are presenting behavioral

problems causing displacements and perhaps putting the kids at risk of going to residential placements.

Another change effective in October is that kids in foster care will no longer be in a fee- for- services Medicaid program but will go back to managed care. Managed care does provide up to 20 visits for mental health services.

Mark mentioned the “baby court” program for children 0 – 3. Midland County was able to get Congressman Camp to earmark specific funds to get the program started. Genesee is running a program and Wayne is going to start a program if they are not already on board.

County Director Qualifications - There are ongoing discussions that currently when a vacancy is posted, the ability to request a qualifications review must be part of the posting. There may be an additional 5 points for a bachelor’s degree or 10 points for a Masters. The future may see the requirement that a county director hold a bachelor’s degree.

BACL Investigations - The Bureau of Adult and Child Licensing has recommended moving investigations for abuse and neglect in child care settings from their bureau to local offices. This means an increased need for staffing. When we hear that there are 167 or 168 cases of abuse and/or neglect in child care settings the statistic is skewed because this number does not address the number of children involved, only the number of cases. If you’re talking about a child care center there could be hundreds of currently served children to be interviewed, not to mention the children who are no longer served by the child care center.

There was concern expressed about the number of 167 or 168 mentioned above and that that number is felt to be inaccurate.

X. Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Board Member Development Committee – Shirley Rybicki

The plans for the June retreat have been finalized with a hospitality hour on the evening of the 10th. There will be a luncheon on Wednesday, the 11th, followed by an afternoon program.

B. Child and Family Services Committee – Steve Barnes

Steve’s recent trip to Corpus Christi, TX, with his wife and family was supposed to be a vacation but resulted in a fact finding trip for him. At a truck stop in Arkansas there was a lively discussion about the gas prices.

As a result of conversations on various topics he came to the conclusion that the states with “right to work” programs would have higher unemployment rates were it not for those programs.

C. AARP Liaison – Evert Vermeer

The Blue Cross revisions are on a fast track to passage. Health insurance bills (HBs 5282 and 5283) were written by Blue Cross to cut the Attorney General and the insurance commission out of the health rule-making and rate setting processes. They guaranteed a 30 percent profit for Blue Cross, which is supposed to be a nonprofit entity. They also made new independent customers wait for 12 months for some parts of the coverage while the current wait is 6 months. Their lobbyists had the inside track and the bills passed the House in record time. AARP caught up with the bills in the Senate and started asking questions. Now the bills are with Sen. Tom George’s Health Policy Committee

and the Senator, who is also a physician, has proposed some amendments that Blue Cross does not favor. AARP supports Sen. George's amendments and was prepared to testify last week, but the hearing was canceled. Eric Schneidewind, President of Michigan AARP; Felicia Wasson, AARP staff; and Evert went to the floor of the Senate and met personally with Senators George and Hardiman. They hope to get their amendments adopted, but need letters of support to get the bills out of committee. Write a letter to Sen. George and tell him that you want fair and honest medical reform legislation that serves the people and not Blue Cross. Blue Cross is not hurting financially. It has \$2.4 billion in cash reserves. On April 5, 2008, the Grand Rapids Press had an editorial listing West Michigan Senators and urging people to write to their Senator, P O Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909.

As citizens we should be aware and vigilant on what effect so-called nonprofits of all types can have on us and the people we serve.

"Divided We Fail" is taking up lots of time. Trying to get elected officials to take a pledge to vote for what they promise to do is not easy. AARP wants them to work on health care reform and financial security. AARP is holding a special training college for regular volunteers in Grand Rapids.

No fault auto insurance is one big fight. One big issue is the medical insurance. Who pays? In some situations we are paying three or four times for the same coverage. In times of need the insurance companies fight over who is responsible to pay. They all received your premium dollar. No one seems in a hurry to find a solution. Evert's simple solution is to have them all pay and let the premium payer keep the extra.

MCSSA supported HBs 5282 and 5283 and opposed 5284 and 5285. The Legislative Committee is directing the Adult and Health Services Committee to meet ASAP on these bills to review the amendments and potentially issue a new position. Our position will then be communicated to Sen. George and all members of his Health Policy Committee.

- D. MCSSW Liaison – Janice Covey submitted a written report in her absence. Janice met with MCSSW at their last board meeting during the Legislative Conference. Their main concerns are: 1) staffing; 2) caseload sizes; and 3) most importantly the lack of attendance at their meetings. They mentioned that the state director has made travel money available so they will be able to attend the summer conference in Pontiac.

Please be aware that all county directors need to be reminded of the importance of MCSSW involvement.

Susan expressed agreement with the issues raised by the council at their meeting. The point was made that very few workers have been attending the district III meetings. This is due in part to the travel restrictions, but more than that it is the workload.

We can ask Janice to expand on her report on the participation issue and use it as an article in the Advocate.

Rather than the department making funds available for conference attendance, the travel restrictions have been lifted.

XI. District Reports

- A. District I meets on 4/23 in Marquette with Director Ahmed.
- B. District II meets 4/24 at White Pines Golf Course on Hubbard Lake with Shaun Culp.
- C. District III meets on 4/18 with Rep. Darwin Booher
- D. District IV – Jane Johnson is working to develop a meeting agenda
- E. District V meets on 4/24 with Lapeer and Sanilac hosting in Frankenmuth. The Sanilac County Kids Connection Director is speaking.

XII. Unfinished Business

“If you can’t or don’t measure it you can’t manage it.”

XIII. New Business

- A. Ontonagon County’s Standings
It is unclear as to whether or not they are making the choice not to pay or if they are not paying because of a lack of funds.

Before we take action we need to know what their situation is. Dave VanHouten offered to call the newly-appointed county director. Velvet Savage moved to table the issue of Ontonagon’s dues. Seconded. Motion carried.

XIV. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Jipson-Lomax

MCSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 14, 2008 AGENDA

- I. Call to order at 10:00 a.m.
- II. Disposition of the Minutes of April 9, 2008
 - A. Agenda Update
 - B. Announcements
 - C. Correspondence Report
- III. Treasurer's Report – Wayne Buskirk
- IV. MCMCFC Report – Reneé Beniak
- V. MCSSW Report – Jan Skornicka
- VI. Legislative Report – Susan Bailey-Carman & Sue Hoffman
- VII. Executive Committee Report
- VIII. Executive Director's Report – Mel Haga
- IX. Committee/Liaison Reports
 - A. Adult and Health Services Committee – Kay Andrzejak
 - B. Automated Systems/Local Management Committee – Louise Wing
 - C. Board Member Development Committee – Don Arquette & Shirley Rybicki
 - D. Child and Family Services Committee – Steve Barnes & Jim Turner
 - E. Conference Planning Committee – Jane Ritter & Shirley Dietlin
 - F. Standard of Living/Housing/Employment Programs Committee – Liz Jarzambek
 - G. APHSA Liaison – Susan Bailey-Carman
 - H. MAC Liaison – Sue Hoffman
 - I. NACo Liaison – Sue Hoffman
 - J. AARP Liaison – Evert Vermeer
 - K. MCSSW Liaison – Janice Covey
- X. District Reports
 - A. District I
 - B. District II
 - C. District III
 - D. District IV
 - E. District V
 - F. District VI
- XI. Unfinished Business
 - A. Ontonagon County's Dues Status
- XII. New Business
 - A. Sample CFJ Organization Resolution
 - B. Michigan Campaign for Justice – Michelle Weemhoff
 - C. Resignation from Steve Barnes
- XIII. Adjournment