

MINUTES OF THE MCSSA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 13, 2008

MCSSA OFFICE

LANSING

Those Participating

County

District

In Person:

Floyd Rabineau	Chippewa	I
Fred Rogers	Emmet	III
Evert Vermeer	Member-at-Large	
Fritz Benson	Michigan Legislative Consultants	
Kelly Bartlett	Sen. Bill Hardiman's office	
Renee Beniak	MCMCFC	
Jamie Cripe	MCSSA	
Mel Haga	MCSSA	

By Phone:

Cindy Pushman	Crawford/Otsego	II
Larry Boitnott	Mason /Oceana	III
Shirley Rybicki	Mason	III
Susan Bailey-Carman	Allegan	IV
Jerry Kooiman	Kent	IV
Jan Skornicka	Genesee	VI

I. Meeting Called to Order at 3:04 PM by Co-Chair, Susan Bailey-Carman.

Those in attendance in person and via telephone introduced themselves.

II. Disposition of Minutes of April 8, 2008

Floyd Rabineau moved to approve. Seconded. Motion carried.

III. Michigan Legislative Consultant's Report - Fritz Benson

Fritz provided a written report.

Kelly Bartlett, Chief of Staff to Bill Hardiman (who is in possession of DHS budget), joined us to talk about his opinions on the budget.

Revenue estimating conference – Kelly saw a report earlier in the day that indicates they expect revenues to be down \$344 million. On the Treasury and Senate sides the repeated comment is that they expect it to not be a good conference. It seems all but certain there will be a decrease. A couple of things are driving that. First, the income tax collection: We saw one-quarter of the impact then. On the business side, speaking from Hardiman's office perspective, people are calling in and talking about liability increases under new Michigan business tax. Right after the increases passed, there was a lot of anger and that has sort of died down, but they are continuing to hear (after the first quarter of filing) where they now have solid evidence that the anxiety is ramping up. There's a half dozen bills that people would like action on to address one or more parts of the economy. It raises the difficult question of whether you tax the strong parts in hopes that it will carry the state through, or does it send a negative message to the remainder of the economy where they pack up and leave? SB 1098 is the leading bill that affects most of the folks at the large percentage increase end – alternative tax goes to a \$250,000 qualifier. If you have a business with less than \$18 million in gross receipts and if your income did not exceed

\$180,000, then you would get the \$250,000 qualifier. If they don't qualify for alternative tax, then their tax rate could triple.

By the end of the week we will know something from the revenue estimating conference. The governor said she desires to have an increase in FIP payments (there hasn't been one since 1990), increase in the clothing allowance, and Director Ahmed and Senator Hardiman have sent out a personal appeal to not leave a third of the population that far behind. The House didn't completely agree with some increases and now it goes to the Senate.

The issue in the Republican caucus and, maybe to a degree in the Democratic caucus, is that at the same time we're raising taxes on these business owners you want to give these people more money. Obviously, it's more complicated than that.

The continued failure of the capital outlay budget doesn't bode well for the outlook on the state budget.

There are lots of areas of the budget that will come together pretty easily. Some of the big issues from last year include increased privatization of foster care, which most likely won't be in this budget. In terms of significant increases of FIP and the clothing allowance, Senator Hardiman remains very concerned about what the department is doing with work participation.

The House took the clothing allowance to \$100. Some people from the House want some accountability on where that money is spent. Fritz said that we do appreciate that, but the department sends out a notice telling people what it's for and where to get discounts, so there is something there as opposed to trying to put something in place that would cost more to administer than the savings in trying to control accountability.

Governor Granholm signed the bill for the twice-monthly payments of food benefits. No other state does that. Kelly spoke with the USDA about a year or so ago and they essentially told him that they would never approve such a policy.

The shift from Maxey to private providers has been delayed. There was an issue with DEQ at one of the facilities where they wanted to relocate some of the boys. On the early-out House bills, Sen. Hardiman did not co-sponsor them although he was requested to. He has met at least once with Director Ahmed on the question about these employees and has stated his strong desire that these employees be taken care of whether with other employment or other means. Some of the positions at Maxey were specialized positions so there isn't a quick transferability.

IV. MCMCFC Report – Renee Beniak

Renee provided a written report. Copies will be emailed to those not in attendance in person.

V. Committee Reports

A. Adult and Health Services – no report

B. Child and Family Services –

1. HB 5984. Evert moved to table for further clarification. Seconded. Motion carried.

2. HB 5836 & 5837. Evert moved to table, sending them back to the committee for further clarification. Seconded. Motion carried.
- 3 Letter to Congressman McDermott asking that he support Investment in Kids Act. Mel wrote a letter in support of his Act and having the association support it. Larry Boitnott moved to support sending this letter to Michigan delegation and Jim McDermott. Seconded. Motion carried.

C. Standard of Living, Housing and Employment Committee –

1. SB 1046 & 1047. Evert Vermeer moved to support. Seconded. Motion carried.
2. HB 5593. Shirley Rybicki moved to support. Seconded. Motion carried.
3. HB 5623 & 5653. Larry Boitnott moved to table until a fiscal analysis is received. Seconded. Motion carried.
4. HB 5930. Cindy Pushman moved to oppose. Seconded. Motion carried.
5. HB 5931. Cindy Pushman moved to oppose. Seconded. Motion carried.
6. HB 5980. Evert Vermeer moved to support committee's opposition. Seconded. Motion carried.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. AARP Liaison – Evert Vermeer

Evert provided a written report.

B. MCSSW Liaison – Jan Skornicka

Jan noted that MCSSW is concerned because all of their resolutions are being stopped at central office after MCSSA has accepted them and sent them over. They are concerned that Louise Wing is the only one who sees them and none of their ideas are being seen by anyone else.

Jan said it was her resolutions chair who brought it up in their last meeting and she is awaiting an email from the chair for more information. It demoralizes them in writing these resolutions.

Jane Johnson sent an email with a report on the resolutions to Mel and Susan Bailey-Carman. Mel went through it and found that one of the resolutions got lost and the other one got lost because we couldn't find a specific response to it. Mel said he will look through it for Louise's specific responses.

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Cripe

MCSSA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MICHIGAN COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION
JUNE 10, 2008 – 3:00 PM
AGENDA

- I. Call to order
- II. Disposition of May 13, 2008 minutes
 - A. Agenda Update
- III. Legislative Consultant's Report – Fritz Benson
- IV. MCMCFC Report – Reneé Beniak
- V. Committee Reports
 - A. Adult and Health Services Committee – Kay Andrzejak
 - B. Child and Family Services Committee – Jim Turner
 - C. Standard of Living, Housing and Employment Committee – Liz Jarzambek
- VI. Liaison Reports
 - A. APHSA Liaison – Susan Bailey-Carman
 - B. MAC Liaison – Sue Hoffman
 - C. NACo Liaison – Sue Hoffman
 - D. AARP Liaison – Evert Vermeer
 - E. MCSSW Liaison – Janice Covey
- VII. Unfinished Business
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Adjournment