

## Children's Issues Committee, June 17, 2025, 1:00pm

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter

Alan was not available to attend the meeting. He provided a written report to the group. Any questions can be sent to him via email at [abolter@cmham.org](mailto:abolter@cmham.org). Connie spoke briefly about the precarious issues concerning the public system and the hopes that the budget will be passed soon to help alleviate concerns within the system.

Association for Children's Mental Health Update – Carla Pretto, ACMH

Carla Pretto was not available to attend the meeting. She asked that her update be tabled to the next meeting.

Children's Administrators Forum Update – Gwenda Summers, CEI

Gwenda reported that the Department spoke about ICSS stating there would be a new section. The Intensive Crisis Stabilization Services encompasses everything crisis related for adults and kids. Concerns are that many of the services are expensive and need a large catchment area to function properly. BCCHPS will be making site visits, and the group in the Children's Administrators expressed concerns to the Department over costs and building the service array. The link for the Medicaid Bulletin that was shared on May 30<sup>th</sup> regarding this issue can be seen here <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Assistance-Programs/Medicaid-BPHASA/2025-Bulletins/Final-Bulletin-MMP-25-20-ICSS.pdf?rev=d59e81dab8974607ac95cebb5899de57&hash=778267F8C816C48521FC4B3CA52DFE5F>.

Heidi stated that concerns over mild to moderate is another issue as they seem to be going to the Health Plans – and how this will affect children's services. The group discussed a recent press release and discussions with the Department that left more questions than answers. The group agreed to ask the Department questions when they join today at 1:30pm. Connie stated it is getting harder and harder to commit to things when the agencies in our system don't know where they're going to be and how they are going to be operating. Program development and policy movement become more and more difficult with such a fragile infrastructure. Gwenda spoke about new policies increasing ED boarding, reporting that she has informed the Department of this, and staff will likely be resigning in increasing numbers, creating more of a workforce shortage in our system. The group discussed whether MichiCANS was required when in crisis. Gwenda clarified it seems to be required on a discharge plan only – not during intake. The group agreed that these hard discussions need to take place to help in the continuation of program development. Handling the needs of these children as the need arises in the most important thing that needs to take place.

Roundtable Discussion – Workforce challenges, MichiCANS implementation, Other proposed changes in children's services

DHHS Updates – Patty Neitman, Phil Kurdunowicz, Kim Batsche-McKenzie, Justin Tate, Stacy Farrell, Alicia Cosgrove – MDHHS

Patty reported on the former KB Lawsuit. They received preliminary approval of the proposed settlement agreement which also went out to CMHs and PIHPs. This approval is also on the website. Public comment period is ongoing currently, with a court date of August 27, 2025. The judge will address and objections that may be received.

Phil reported on policy bulletins. He spoke about the ICSS bulletin which will be effective July 1<sup>st</sup> and is now finalized. There are training pieces, code changes, and a handbook that will need to be rolled out. Flexibilities offered are 3 who can be on the crisis team and modalities. He then spoke about other policy bulletins related to the Waiver renewal and State Plan amendments. The waiver for SED and CWP saw parent support partners removed from them along with other changes. These will be coming out for public comment soon and the Department encourages all to reply. He then reported that MichiCANS has been added to the CWP, and the public comment period recently closed. Feedback is being integrated into the amendment for a July 1 submission to the feds. He stated that it is the Department's intent to continue moving forward with the MichiCANS tool for eligibility and recommendation of services. Connie stated that she did not feel this was a good eligibility tool for levels of care. The group discussed processes currently in place and asked if there would be a new process with MichiCANS, or would it be in addition to the current process. Phil stated that questions during the normal process, certain responses would 'flag' for further follow up with MichiCANS, and as part of the process, the QIDP would support the determination findings for eligibility. The group briefly discussed how Medicaid requirements in the Children's Waiver would come into play as well. Phil stated that the new version of the DSM – coming out for public comment soon – will be helpful with that. Phil stated that the prescreen tool being removed from the waiver is actually the 10-question scoring method to determine slots by higher scores. Connie wondered how the slots would be determined. Phil stated that the MichiCANS helps to determine eligibility through a tier system, not a ranking system as the previous system would. The group expressed concern that many children may qualify for CWP as it looks to be set up, but they may not be able to obtain a slot and there will be a lot of upset parents. Phil stated that the 3 critical criteria in MichiCANS must be met to be eligible for CWP. Phil stated that all children on the waiting list through June have been cleared for the Waiver Program. Connie then expressed concern over the implementation timelines. Phil clarified that the waivers will be submitted by July 1, and mid-fiscal year implementation is most likely. Patty then spoke about the work that has been done since the beginning of the use of MichiCANS last October. She stated they will take all information gathered – both good and bad – to the table to make adjustments if needed. The Department recognizes the concern that this could over-flag and they will work on it.

Phil spoke about the email notification that went out regarding Mental Health Framework. The Department is working to identify concerns and uncertainties. Connie pointed out that the increase in staff resignations is skyrocketing, and they want the Department to be aware of this spike. The group discussed QMHP, CMH, and QIDP credentials needed for MichiCANS. Phil stated that for children up to 21 – training in MichiCANS is required. Some transitional age staff may need additional certification.

#### Other

Connie will potentially send a survey to create key issues for this group moving forward. She will try to get this done prior to the September meeting. Heidi suggested reviewing the document created with Bob and Alan at the Association at a future meeting.

Co-Chair vacancy – Must be a Board Member

Anyone interested in filling this position should reach out to Monique at [mfrancis@cmham.org](mailto:mfrancis@cmham.org).

The next meeting of the Children's Issues Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 1:00pm. This meeting will be held via Zoom only.

The meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair at 2:15pm.