



**Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee**  
33500 Van Born Road  
Wayne, MI 48184-2497  
(734) 334-1493 or (734) 334-1476  
Fax: (734) 334-1494

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 8, 2025**

**Call to Order**

Celester Johnson called the meeting to order at A quorum of members was present.

**Members Present:** -

Tymesha Bland	Melissa Richardson	Lisa Marie Bailey	Angela Khater
Kara Clarke	Crystle Upshaw	Melissa Adcock	Bertina Thomas
Samara Wolf	Tracee Winston	Megan Wood	Jessica Owulette
Kristina Ginez			

**Members Excused:** Mande Ordaz, Sharene Nathan,

**Guests Present:** Erica Smith

**RESA Representatives:** Theresa Franklin, Celeste Johnson , Vita Lusk, Amber Wade, Barry Aherne

<b><i>Dates to Remember</i></b>	
September 11, 2025	In-Person

**I. Approval of Agenda**

A copy of the April agenda was emailed and posted to the website for members in advance and made available at the meeting. A motion was made by Samara Wolf and seconded by Angela Khater to accept the agenda. Motion was supported by a majority of members present. No objections were made.

Objections: \_\_\_\_\_None\_\_\_\_\_

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A copy of the April meeting minutes from the last meeting was emailed and posted to the website for members in advance. A motion was made by Tracee Winston and seconded by Samara Wolf to accept the minutes. Motion was supported by a majority of members present. No objections were made.

Objections: \_\_\_\_\_None\_\_\_\_\_

**III. Presentation**

**Barry Aherne and Amber Wade, Special Education Consultants, Wayne RESA**

<https://www.resa.net/special-education/assistive-technology/>

Topic: Assistive Technology Playground

#### **IV. Chairperson Report**

If you are aware of a conference that would be beneficial to families of students receiving special education support, please feel free to share that information! Feel free to email Vita, Celeste, or Theresa.

#### **V. Vice Chairperson Report**

If you have not received the link for the Google Drive or if any of your contact information has changed, please contact Vita, Celeste, or Theresa.

#### **VI. Secretary Report**

If you need business cards, please contact Vita, Celeste, or Theresa. Please make sure you sign in at each meeting you attend, not just for minute purposes but also for year-end mileage reimbursement (only applies for in-person meetings).

#### **VII. Treasurer Report**

The account balance is \$1,808.40.

#### **VIII. Subcommittee Reports**

**Election Subcommittee** - Kara Clarke and Samara Wolf

Chair: Angela Khater, Dearborn Public Schools

Chair Elect: Jessica Owulette, Plymouth Scholars

Secretary: Melissa Richardson, Allen Park

Treasurer: Lisa-Marie Bailey, Wayne Westland

A motion was made by Jessica Owulette and seconded by Samara Wolf to accept the nominations and was supported by a majority of members present. No objections were made.

Objections: \_\_\_\_\_None\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Legislative Subcommittee**

This information was provided by Rep Sharon MacDonell of MI's 56th district at the 2025 Mi Dept of Civil Rights Summit on Disability Rights on May 8, 2025.

- The 504 Lawsuit (Texas vs Becerra)- 17 states filed a lawsuit earlier this year seeking to invalidate Sec 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, according to the lawsuit, stating that it's unconstitutional. The lawsuit is currently on indefinite "pause" meaning that the lawsuit is on hold for now. Something that has been discussed by the Attorney Generals involved in this lawsuit is that the reason for the lawsuit has to do with gender dysmorphia, etc. However, there is no language in the lawsuit regarding that. Click on this link for additional information:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f1KxqN92s\\_4eYo\\_bfFcodyZokXcGktFO?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f1KxqN92s_4eYo_bfFcodyZokXcGktFO?usp=share_link)
- 14C Certificates - A 14C Certificate is a permit issued by the US Dept of Labor's Wage and Hour Division which authorizes employers to pay subminimum wages to workers with disabilities. Right now, due to the concern of losing medicaid and cuts, along with the current administration, 14C is not a top priority. The top priority is keeping medicaid for those that depend on it in our state. However, they

are working on making sure that people who are currently paid under the 14C certificates are still provided with opportunities because if they make too much, then they will lose their benefits (ie, social security and medicaid).

- Something to watch:  
The Prescription Drug Affordability Board
- There is also talk about addressing mobility issues on Mackinac Island to make it more accessible (ie, using motors for those who need it).
- Motorized Wheelchair Users Bill of Rights  
This is something that is in the works and they want to hear from people. If you or someone who know uses a motorized wheelchair, please feel free to reach out to Rep Sharon MacDonell's office. She said that you do not have to live in her district, she is looking for input from all users. You can contact her here: <https://housedems.com/sharon-macdonell/>

## IX. **RESA Reports**

We are continuing to work on developing trainings for our **Communities of Practice**

A CoP is a group of individuals who share a common interest or goal, and who learn together through regular interaction and collaboration to improve their practices and outcomes.

- I. Early On COP
- II. Secondary Adult Transition Community of Practice - 4th year
- III. Assistive Technology High and Low Incidence
- IV. School psychologist CoP
- V. SLP CoP-Barry and Laura
- VI. SSW
- VII. OT/PT CoP
- VIII. POHI Task Force CoP
- IX. VI/DHH taskforce
- X. Behavior Specialist CoP
- XI. Resource Fridays

Addressing the Critical Shortage Work to preparing, attracting, and retaining special education staff: 2nd cohort of paras to teachers begins in the fall. GVSU partnership has 11 current teachers enrolled in the Director program.

Developing summer training for staff which range from Assistive Technology, to IEP development and implementation, continued partnership with our educational services department, and training for our general education teachers to support them in providing appropriate IEP support to their students.

## **X. Member Report**

**Reminder:** Kara Clarke is now working for Michigan Alliance for Families:

[kara@michiganallianceforfamilies.org](mailto:kara@michiganallianceforfamilies.org) 734-655-0389

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events/>

Kara Clarke:

The Statewide Independent Living Council (Mi-SILC) is urgently seeking an adult with a significant disability to fill an open seat on the council. The candidate must not be an employee of the state or an employee of Mi-SILC.

If you know someone who may be interested, they should contact Steve Locke, the executive director of Mi-SILC at [steve@misilc.org](mailto:steve@misilc.org), 1-833-808-7452, for guidance on the application process. (Steve is very kind and approachable.) Because this is one of the governor's commissions, applicants will have to go through the governor's appointment process, using the detailed online application and background check.

<https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/appointments>

Serving on one of the governor's commissions is not a paid position, HOWEVER, travel expenses are reimbursed. It is also an amazing learning opportunity and an important way to contribute to the future of adults with disabilities in Michigan

Kara shared upcoming training opportunities that are being offered by Michigan Alliance for Families, including the PAC training which is on 5/15. For more information:

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events/>

Kara also shared a step by step timeline for transition as a tool for families. You can find that here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f1KxqN92s\\_4eYo\\_bfFcodYzokXcGKtFO?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f1KxqN92s_4eYo_bfFcodYzokXcGKtFO?usp=share_link)

## **XI. Public Reports**

None.

## **XII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at p.m. Angela Khater and Tymesha Bland

***The next WCPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in person.***