

MINUTES

MICHIGAN SCHOOL SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

June 28, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building, Fourth Floor
608 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan

Present: Dr. Daveda J. Colbert (virtual) Dr. Jennifer Taiariol (virtual)
Mr. Patrick R. Green (virtual) Mr. Jason Russell (virtual)
Dr. Alyse F. Ley (virtual) Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske (virtual)
Ms. Rosa M. Thomas (virtual)

Staff Present: Dr. Diane Golzynski (virtual) Ms. Janice Dixon (virtual)
Kimberly Root, MSP (virtual) Nancy Becker Bennett, MSP (virtual)

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Colbert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Colbert asked that the Commission members introduce themselves and the sector they were nominated to represent. Each Commissioner present introduced themselves and stated which sector they were representing.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

With the meeting being held virtually, there is no quorum, and no actions can be voted on. Meeting will proceed without taking any action.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation on Overview of MDHHS Recruitment and Retention Efforts - Amber Myers, Manager of the Workforce/Access Section and Reanna Kathawa, MIKids Now Loan Repayment Analyst, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

This unit of MDHHS touches several behavioral health programs, including provider recruitment and retention and shortage designations. A shortage designation is defined as a federally designated geographic area, population group, or facility that is experiencing a shortage of health services and/or providers. There are several types of shortage designations, each linked to federal and state programs. 226 providers are needed to fill the health professional vacancies in Michigan.

The Michigan State Loan Repayment Program (MSLRP) is administered by MDHHS and helps recruit and retain healthcare providers. The program provides loan repayment of up to \$300,000 in tax-free funds to repay education debt for those entering into a vacancy in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). Certain eligibility must be met, including having a Masters degree. MDHHS also offers the MI Kids Now Internship Program for those enrolled in a bachelor or graduate level behavioral health degree program. Eligible recipients receive \$25 for each hour spend as an intern up to \$15,000. In the 2022 enrollment cycle, 1,100 applications were received with 310 placed. So far this enrollment cycle, 500 applications were received.

Ms. Meyers and Ms. Kathawa took questions from Commissioners and discussion took place.

Discussion on School Safety Website and possible funding options to spend Commission's fiscal budget funds.

Commissioners discussed resources and links that may be able to be housed on the Office of School Safety website. Also, Lt. Col. Kelenske presented opportunities within MSP that could use funding, including additional Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) trainings, Emergency Operations Procedures (EOP) updates, and the School Safety Academy, which would include training for school safety liaisons. Discussion took place. A presentation will be sent to Commissioners prior to the July meeting for further discussion and possible action. Suicide Commission, as well as other agencies/programs that had previously presented to the Commission could be potential recipients of funding. Any funds not spent in this fiscal year will be lost, so the Commission is adamant that the funds need to be spent on school safety and school mental health services. The 2022-23 budget included \$2 million for the Commission, which will be lost if not spent by September 30, 2023.

Talent Pipeline discussion took place among the Commissioners.

The Commissioners revisited last month's discussion on Office of Retirement Services (ORS) rules regarding reducing the separation time allowed before a retiree could return to work for a school district. Discussion took place. Dr. Taiariol will provide Commission with a draft letter to send to ORS.

Update on Commission business by Dr. Diane Golzynski, Deputy Superintendent, Finance and Operations at the Michigan Department of Education. Dr. Colbert discussed whether the Commission will be included in the upcoming fiscal year's budget. Commission may be funded by School Aid Funds, rather than General Funds. If that is the case, the fiduciary would have to change to an ISD or local district, rather than MDE. Wayne RESA would then serve as the fiduciary for the Commission. Meetings would be mandatory to meet quarterly, although Commission could meet more often.

Dr. Golzynski stated that the vote is planned for Saturday, July 1. She will share any information she receives at that time.

V. ACTION ITEMS

With the meeting being held virtually, there is no quorum, and no actions can be voted on. Meeting will proceed without taking any action.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No Commissioners provided comments.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one requested the opportunity to provide public comment.

VIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the School Safety and Mental Health Commission is Wednesday, July 26 at 10:00 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dixon
Executive Secretary
Office of Health and Nutrition Services