

Volume 2 issue 19 Spring/Summer 2018



Work Requirements

Since January, Michigan Family Voices (MIFV) has been actively informing and educating individuals and families about the proposed Medicaid Work Requirements. As well as facilitating an outreach effort to state-policymakers (including Governor Snyder) on how the proposed Medicaid

Work Requirements will impact them and their families especially those with disabilities and special health care needs. Individuals and families have been sharing their stories through letter writing; meetings at coffee hours, in local and Lansing legislator offices; telephone calls; and even recorded videos. They have been actively using their voices to try to effect the changes in Medicaid policy that could affect over 2.5 million in Michigan

Their efforts have been somewhat effective in bringing changes to the original proposed work requirements.

1. A provision to exempt recipients who live in Michigan counties with high unemployment has been removed as it would have been too difficult to track on a monthly basis and would have helped white residents in rural areas but disproportionately hurt beneficiaries in largely black cities.
2. The proposed 29-hour-a week workforce engagement requirement for able-bodied adults is being lowered to "very close" to 20 weeks. That is in line with the three states that have enacted Medicaid work laws and with Michigan's work requirement for food assistance beneficiaries.

However, the bill still requires an average of 29 hours a week of qualifying work activities to qualify for taxpayer-funded health insurance — employment, education, job training, vocational training, an internship or participation in substance abuse treatment. Those deemed noncompliant during a month would be issued a warning. If they did not become compliant within 30 days, they would be barred from Medicaid for **a year** with exemptions granted to pregnant women, full-time students and some other vulnerable groups.

Many groups involved in this effort including the Arc Michigan and Michigan Family Voices are still opposed to the measure which may pass the House and Senate this week and be on the governor's office by Thursday afternoon. It has been recommended that letters start hitting the governor's office the day the bills pass the Senate since it is likely he will move as quickly as possible to move this controversy from the political table. Updates will be available on our Face book page and website. So, stay tuned.

Talking Points for Medicaid Work Requirements to Governor Snyder

Email: governorsoffice@michigan.gov **Phone:** 517-373-3400, 517-335-7858 (Constituent Services) **Mail:**

The Honorable Rick Snyder Governor, State of Michigan P.O. Box 30013 Lansing, Michigan 48909 **Key**

messages:

- My name is:
- I am asking on behalf of my family that Gov. Snyder to veto Senate Bill 897, which would endanger Medicaid health care coverage for my family and many other families in Michigan.
- This is important specifically to my family because:
- Medicaid is not a work program, it's a health care program.
- This legislation jeopardizes the Healthy Michigan plan and Gov. Snyder's legacy for implementing this important policy.
- It will result in reduced health outcomes for the state as whole and will result in many who are working today losing coverage – and then likely losing their jobs.
- Medicaid is vital to all, including those who already work.
- These requirements will add expensive bureaucracy to the state.
- There is no evidence it will increase workforce participation. It will likely increase poverty as people lose health care.
- It will lead to increases in uncompensated care for hospitals, with a resulting increase in insurance premiums for others. We have seen major reductions in uncompensated care in recent years thanks to Healthy Michigan.
- State insurance premiums for small businesses have been held down since Healthy Michigan was started, with small group rates for Blue Cross network actually decreasing by 0.2 percent for this year and rates for BCBSM customers as a whole up only 2.5 percent. This plan may lead to larger increases for small businesses.
- People with disabilities will fall through the cracks. "Even enrollees who qualify for exemptions will have to provide documentation of their illness during the application and reassessment process, creating opportunities for administrative error that could jeopardize their coverage. No criteria can prevent this problem and the serious risk to the health of our family."
- If the goal is to reduce poverty and increase workforce participation the state needs to boost support for: • *Child care programs • Job training programs • Transportation • Senior care programs*

Will Michigan's Budget Include *Early On* Services?



In 1986 the United States Congress authorized Part H 99-457 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Part H established an early intervention program for infants and toddlers birth to three with disabilities. It allowed states to develop programs according to guidelines outlined in the legislation.

Michigan established its system *Early On*[®] and started serving eligible infants and toddlers in October 1993. IDEA was reauthorized under Part C in 1997 and continues to be Part C today.

Since its inception, *Early On* has operated solely with federal funds. Recognizing a need for more adequate funding, in October 2017, the *Early On* Michigan Foundation formalized an initial request for a state allocation to support early intervention services. Its partners, Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE) and the Michigan Division for Early Childhood (MiDEC) endorsed it. While the estimated need for state funding is more than \$67 million, the initial request asked for \$19.6 million, acknowledging that meeting the need can be incremental.

In February 2018, Governor Snyder allocated \$5 million for *Early On* in the Executive Budget for 2019. This signaled strong and significant support for Michigan's families who have infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities.

Last week we learned from the Revenue Estimating Conference that there is about \$160 million more for the State School Aid budget than was estimated in January. Which is great news for *Early On*. As legislators were going to the Mackinac Policy Conference and would be finalizing their budget. Michigan Family Voices local leaders especially those whose children were recipients of *Early On* services began contacting their legislators letting them know how important it was to keep *Early On* in mind.

Here were key messages they shared. Thank you for investing \$5 million in *Early On* early intervention supports and services for infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities and their families - it's a great first step and WILL make a difference for families.

- If we increase that to \$11 million, we will be closer to the recommendation for an initial investment in *Early On*.
- *Early On* supports parents who find themselves caring for infants and toddlers with special needs, including mild developmental delays to significant disabilities, who often require services (such as speech therapy, special instruction, or physical therapy) or support (such as strategies to support feeding, learning, and bathing).
- Investment in early intervention supports families of babies when their young minds and bodies are most malleable and helps children become ready for success with friends, in school and in life.

Though we don't know the status of the increase at this time, if you were a local leader who participated in sharing your story regarding *Early On* or the Medicaid Work Requirements, Thank you.

Together, when we use our voices, we can impact policies that effect families of children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs in Michigan.

MOTHER INFANT
HEALTH IMPROVEMENT
PLAN (MIHIP)



TOWN HALL MEETINGS



Approximately 80 women die each year in Michigan during pregnancy, at delivery, or within a year after the end of her pregnancy.

In 2016, 730 infants died before their first birthdays.

Our Vision: ZERO Preventable Deaths. ZERO Health Disparities.

MDHHS and the Maternal Infant Strategy Group (MISG), in collaboration with regional partners, will be hosting town hall meetings to garner community input and support for the 2019-2022 Mother Infant Health Improvement Plan. The meetings will be held in 4 regions of the state, with invitations to anyone invested in improving the health of mothers and infants in Michigan. Goals for each meeting include introducing the plan, collecting feedback from the community to determine priorities and barriers to successful program implementation, and bridging community partners to work together to improve health outcomes.

NORTHERN MI

Wednesday, June 20

4:30-6:00 pm

Kirtland Community College

4800 W 4 Mile Road

Grayling, MI 49738

WEST / SW MI

Wednesday, July 25

6:00-7:30 pm

Frederik Meijer Gardens

100 E Beltline Ave NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

SOUTHEAST MI

Thursday, August 16

6:00-7:30 pm

Henry Ford Health System

1 Ford Place

Detroit, MI 48202

UPPER PENINSULA

Monday, September 10

Time TBD

Upper Peninsula Health Plan

853 W Washington Street

Marquette, MI 49855

To register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MIHIPTownHalls> (all locations)



facebook.com/MichiganMIHIP

If you plan on attending a town hall drop us a note at info@michiganfamilyvoices.org or call us directly at (800) 292-7851 extension 472. We will be attending and would like to meet you.

Public Comment on Title V Block Grant Application

Title V of the Social Security Act of 1935 provides funding to states to improve the health of mothers, infants and children, including children with special health care needs. Michigan's Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program supports a wide range of critical MCH programs and services across the state. Its overarching goal is to improve the health and well-being of the state's mothers, infants, children, and adolescents—including children with special health care needs (CSHCN). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) administers the Title V block grant through the Bureau of Family Health Services (BFHS) which is housed in the Population Health Administration. The Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division, which is housed in the Bureau of Medicaid Care Management and Quality Assurance within the Medical Services Administration, serves as the Title V CSHCN program.

Per federal requirements, a five-year needs assessment was completed in 2015 and a summary is included in the application. Based on the needs assessment, the seven priorities for the state for 2016-2020 are aimed at improving the health of the MCH population by:

- Reducing barriers, improving access and increasing availability of health services for all populations.
- Supporting coordination and linkage across the perinatal to pediatric continuum of care.
- Investing in prevention and early intervention strategies.
- Increasing family and provider support and education for children with special health care needs.
- Increasing access to and utilization of evidence-based oral health practices and services.
- Fostering safer homes, schools and environments with a focus on prevention.
- Promoting social and emotional well-being through the provision of behavioral health services.

These priorities are linked to state and national performance measures across five federally-identified population domains: women/maternal health, perinatal/infant health, child health, adolescent health and children with special health care needs.

Michigan's Title V application is for services from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 and also includes a report on activities and services provided in Fiscal Year 2017.

The Title V draft application and annual report are [available online](#). MDHHS welcomes comments on the application, which must be received by June 15 by 5 p.m., and can be submitted to daviss11@michigan.gov.

Michigan Family Voices will be collecting, compiling and submitting comments from local family leaders. If you are a local family leader and would like to comment or need assistance, please contact us directly at: info@michiganfamilyvoices.org or dial direct (800) 292-7851 extension 472



Michigan Family Voices is a grassroots collaborative that exists to identify and mobilize current and new family member and individual leaders to create a network across the state that will impact and effect positive change in policy. The group maintains a statewide network of leaders to inform, build relationships with and/or work in partnership with decision-makers at all levels. We are continuing to build our Family Leadership Network.

Seeking individuals and families of children and youth with special health care needs/disabilities who have participated in leadership training and/or have experience in changing policies at the local, state or federal level. To participate in informing and educating policy makers, serve on committees, work groups and or providing feedback on the following issues/topics:

1. Policy and Legislation-An individual or family that has input regarding: foster care, health care financing, mental health services, transportation, housing, employment, and transition to adulthood.
2. Medicaid- A Medicaid recipient receiving services that is experiencing barriers in the system: health care, mental health,
3. Children's Special Health Care Services-A family member of a child with a genetic condition, cleft palate, diabetes, severe asthma, cerebral palsy, or hearing impairment,
4. Maternal, Infant, Child Health, or Community Health Services-A recipient or family member of a child receiving or have received services through a home visiting program, maternal, infant, and/or child health program,
5. *Early On* and/or Special Education Services-A family member of child receiving or have received *Early On* services or Special Education services.

Seeking fathers and male role models of children and youth or males with special health care needs/disabilities who have participated in leadership training and/or have experience in changing policies at the local, state or federal level. To participate in a new initiative.

For More Information about Leadership Opportunities and/or the Father/Male Role Model Initiative contact:

Michigan Family Voices directly at (800) 292-7851 extension 472
or Email: info@michiganfamilyvoices.org or
Visit: <http://michiganfamilyvoices.org/leadership-network/>

ADVOCACY/LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

2018 Disability Policy Seminar



8:00 am - 3:00 pm

MSU University Club

3435 Forest Road

Lansing, MI 48910

For More Information Contact: (517) 487-5426

Register: <https://arcmi.org/2018-disability-policy-seminar-registration/>

ADVOCACY/LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITY



[Michigan Disability Rights Coalition's](#) Ninth Annual [Her Power, Her Pride, Her Voice](#) event is August 11th-August 14th, 2018 at [Camp Fish Tales](#). Registration is now open. Curious about this life changing event, watch this short video to learn more!

Registration available online at <http://www.herpowermdrc.org/registration.html>



2018 ACMH Annual Conference

Save the Date for the 2018 ACMH Fall Conference which will be held Monday, September 24th at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing.

Planning for this year's event is underway and it is shaping up to be one of our best yet! You won't want to miss joining ACMH, families, youth and community partners from across Michigan for this premier event in children's mental health ~ so mark it on your calendar today.

Check back soon for additional details and event flyer.

<http://www.acmh-mi.org/events/2018-acmh-annual-conference/>



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

We have additional events scheduled! Check our website:

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

Be sure to view our selection of free On Demand Webinars available for viewing at home

www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/webinar

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Talking to My Child with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs About Their Sexuality

June 9, 2018 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

(Registration Starts at 9:30 am)

Brilliant Detroit

675 Larkins Street

Detroit, MI 48210

**To Register for This Session Online Visit: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TX5MRH6> or
call directly (800) 292-7851 x472**

Who Should Attend Collaborative Learning Opportunities?

Individuals and family members of young children, teen and young adults with special needs/disabilities (including: youth guardians; adoptive, biological, foster and step-parents, domestic parents who co-parent, grandparents, siblings, aunts/uncles, nieces/nephews, cousins, neighbors, religious leaders, and others who person defines as a family member), organizations and service providers of families of young children, teen, young adults, and individuals with disabilities

We encourage individuals and families to invite people who provide support and services to you and your family. Providers are encouraged to invite individuals and families you support and serve. Forming partnerships between people served and those providing services is crucial in building collaboration and partnering in decision-making at all levels with individuals and families of children and youth with special needs/disabilities.

For More Information about Collaborative Learning Opportunities contact:

Michigan Family Voices directly at (800) 292-7851 extension 472 or
info@michiganfamilyvoices.org Visit: <http://michiganfamilyvoices.org/learning/>
for up-to-date schedule

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Michigan Family Voices in the process of developing the 2018-19 Collaborative Learning Opportunities Calendar. We will be reaching out to potential hosts with topics of interest in June. Topics include:

1. Advocacy Through Telling your Story
2. Building Blocks of Pride: Disability Pride
3. Children's Special Health Care Services 101
4. Family Voices on Committees and Councils
5. Health Care Advocacy for Children and Youth with Special Needs/Disabilities
6. Health Care Transition
7. Helping Individuals and Families Develop Their Stories
8. Talking to My Child with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs about Sexuality
9. The Michigan ABLE (MiABLE)
10. Understanding My Mental Health and Medicaid Rights
11. What Every Family and Provider Should Know about Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

If you belong to an organization interested in hosting an opportunity contact us directly at (800) 292-7851 extension 472 or info@michiganfamilyvoices.org before July 1, 2018.