

## Recipient Rights Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Members: Sylvia Clark, Phillip (Jo Jo) Hussey, Liz Janovits, Donna Lowe, Elizabeth Martin, Miguel Quintero, Nancy Ristich, Betty Ruoss, Lois Shulman, Judith Summers, Tali Flam Wendrow, Dr. Bijaya Hans, Ursula Bolton, James Diegel

<b>Date:</b>	September 7, 2023	<b>Start Time:</b>	4:05 pm	<b>Stop Time:</b>	5:15 pm	<b>Location:</b>	Michigan
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**Absent:** Phillip (JoJo) Hussey, Sylvia Clark, Lois Shulman, Ursula Bolton

**CMH Staff:** Vicki Suder, Angie O’Dowd

**Guest:** Eddie Brown, Suzanne Weinert

<b>Facilitator:</b>	Liz Janovits	<b>Scribe:</b>	Tiffany Craig
<b>1. Member Attendance</b>	Roll call for the RRAC meeting was completed.		
<b>2. Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public comments: None</li> </ul>		
<b>3. Approval of Agenda</b>	Nancy R. motioned to approve the agenda; Betty R. seconded. Agenda was passed by voice vote.		
<b>4. Approval of Minutes</b>	<p>Amit A. motioned to approve the August meeting minutes and Nancy R. supported. Minutes were passed by voice vote.</p> <p>Nancy R. motioned to approve the August closed meeting minutes and Donna L. supported. Closed minutes were passed by voice vote.</p>		
<b>5. Welcome New RRAC Members-Liz Janovitz</b>	Everyone welcomed new member James Diegel who was approved at last month’s meeting along with Ursula Bolton who was absent.		
<b>6. Rights Team Budget Review-Eddie Brown</b>	<p>Eddie Brown shared brief information about his role as manager of accounting department at OCHN. He has been with the accounting department for 9 years. Eddie reviewed the Righted Team FY24 budget. Vicki mentioned that a new rights specialist position was added to the budget.</p> <p><u>Members Questions &amp; Comments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are new positions usually added during the beginning of the FY?</li> <li>What is an accountant?</li> <li>Is unemployment included in FICA? (Federal Insurance Corporation of America)</li> <li>How does Social Security work into the budget?</li> </ol>		

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. What is the cost of 85% increase in the fringes from FY24?</li> <li>6. Does anything come from grants?</li> <li>7. What is an accountant?</li> <li>8. What is in fringes line item?</li> <li>9. Colors are key for different sections.</li> <li>10. How does the funding from the Rights Team part connect with the budget?</li> <li>11. Could we have a training on how OCHN is funded?</li> <li>12. Suggest we have a presentation about each line items. Have more information before the meeting.</li> </ol>
<p><b>7. Goal 2: Members get to know each other and be understood – Sarah Rukus</b></p>	<p>Sarah Rukus shared about her role in the Rights department and about herself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah started out as a co-op student in 2020 and became a rights specialist in April of 2022.</li> <li>• Sarah likes working with everyone in the community and advocating for them.</li> <li>• The most challenging thing for Sarah is writing the reports. She works with mostly adults in her territory, and she does not see herself ever working outside of OCHN.</li> <li>• She likes hanging out with her cat and practicing yoga.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. OCHN Updates – Christine Burke</b></p>	<p>Suzanne W. the director of communications reported for Christine Burke in her absence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suzanne spoke briefly on the Michigan Legislative updates</li> <li>• The annual plan and budget were presented at the annual community forum yesterday.</li> <li>• There was an \$.85 approved increase for direct support professionals in the State budget.</li> <li>• Suzanne encouraged the committee to come out to the quarterly advocacy workgroup if they not already attending.</li> <li>• Walk a Mile in my Shoes rally will be held September 13, 2023 at the State Capitol. This will be a great opportunity to speak with the legislatures, face to face.</li> <li>• Supported Decision Making is a way that people come alongside a person without taking their rights away and support their life without being appointed a guardian. A few advocates on the Supported Decision Making workgroup along with Kathleen Kovach had been working to draft the new legislative language on supported decision making to get one of the legislatures to support and introduce it.</li> </ul> <p><u>Member Questions &amp; Comments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the best way to advocate for the community with the legislature?</li> <li>2. Now that covid is over has the numbers in mental health grown a lot?</li> <li>3. We can help ourselves but if there is no one out there to help us we still do not have help.</li> <li>4. What is range and wage increase for a direct care worker?</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Are they trying to get up to a certain amount with higher wages?</li> <li>6. What are we doing to educate direct care workers?</li> </ol>
<p><b>9. PHI/Medicaid Reauthorization – Suzanne Weinert</b></p>	<p>Suzanne provide an flier and information on the Medicaid Renewal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suzanne went over completing and updating of the Medicaid form.</li> <li>• OCHN will be hosting an event for individuals to come to the RCC in Pontiac two times a month starting in September to help and assist individuals with the Medicaid renewal process.</li> <li>• Suzanne will find out more information on getting Medicaid letters out to individuals in the mail in a timelier matter.</li> </ul> <p><u>Members Questions &amp; Comments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The letter does not come in a timely matter for us to fill out the information.</li> <li>2. We got the letter a few days before it was due. You need at least 6 weeks to get all the paperwork together. People may need help regarding the additional requests of the State.</li> <li>3. My son got letter one week before it was due.</li> <li>4. Did we think about putting a tab on the website titled Medicaid Renewal?</li> <li>5. What is OCHN doing when people get denied, what is the process?</li> <li>6. If you are denied you have 45 days till you can appeal.</li> <li>7. What is the process you are providing that will help with appeals if someone is denied?</li> <li>8. In the correspondence OCHN have with individuals reminding them that the renewal is important are you also including the information on what to do if a person’s redetermination is denied?</li> </ol>
<p><b>10. Rights Update -Angela O’Dowd &amp; Vicki Suder</b></p>	<p><u>Angie mentioned the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 3 new hires are now fully trained and getting their caseloads.</li> <li>• Another position in the rights department has been filled with Natalie Hall.</li> <li>• The rights department has been approved for an additional rights specialist.</li> <li>• In April the average caseloads for the team was 25 at a time, to be completed within 90 days. Now we will be able to level off with the extra position.</li> <li>• We are waiting for approval to get a co-op student.</li> </ul> <p><u>Vicki Mentioned the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The two new RRAC members attended the new member training in August.</li> <li>• New rights specialist Heather Shepherd introduced herself to the committee.</li> </ul>

<p><b>11. Site Visit Report – Vicki Suder</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vicki reviewed the Site Visit report. 71.5% of service sites requiring a visit have been completed.</li> <li>• As of 8/1/23, 336 out of 470 total number of sites that require a site visit have been completed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. Agenda Items for the next meeting [Oct 5, 2023]</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Site Visit Report</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Goal 2: Members get to know each other and be understood - Dennis Goodman</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Review FY23 Goals</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Discuss FY24 Goals/Recommendations</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Rights Update</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Report Back Information from MDHHS PRR Conference</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Member Re-appointment: Elizabeth Martin</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>13. Public Comments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comments</li> </ul>
<p><b>14. Member Comments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member comments – Amit A. will not be at the October meeting.</li> </ul> <p><i>Reminder to raise hand when you have a question/comment</i></p>
<p><b>15. Meeting Adjournment</b></p>	<p>Tali W. motioned to adjourn, and Elizabeth M. seconded. Approved to adjourn by voice vote.</p>

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 4:00 pm OCHN Facilitator – Liz Janovits, Chair**

*Tiffany Craig*

*10/5/2023*