

THE COMMUNICATOR

Annual Report of the Michigan Association of School Nurses

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President Report

As I approach the final months of my first year serving as your president, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to lead MASN and to serve alongside such dedicated professionals. Your commitment to the health, safety, and success of Michigan students continues to inspire me each day.

This year began with our annual Board Retreat in July, where we focused on wellness, collaboration, and updating MASN's 2025–2027 Strategic Plan. This plan serves as our roadmap for the future as we remain committed to being proactive on issues affecting children's health and advancing the practice of professional school nursing.

One of our key priorities is investing in the professional growth of Michigan school nurses. Throughout the year, we have offered meaningful learning opportunities through Safe & Legal Medication training in August; the Pursuit Program with Dr. Natoshia Cunningham at the Fall Conference; a Community of Practice on the newly revised Michigan Health Education Standards with Barb Flis in February; March - Partnership with GVSU for SN Skills Practice Lab; MASN's partnership with the newly created DISH-MI Diabetes in School Health school nurse monthly sessions; the return of our quarterly Special Education School Nurse meetings and lastly our annual conference. By strengthening our profession, we strengthen the care we provide to students.

Another critical priority is ensuring the health and safe care of children and youth. Advocacy remains at the heart of this work. As we look to the future, sustaining—and increasing—the number of school nurses across Michigan is essential. I recently met with several state legislative leaders to advocate for dedicated school nurse funding and to elevate awareness of the vital role school nurses play in keeping students in school, and ready to learn.

Our third priority is the ongoing work of promoting standardized school nursing practice in every Michigan school. Our one-time planning grant to develop standardized documentation practices aligned with NASN's data health set is wrapping up. At our upcoming conference, a team of school nurses will present documentation essentials in a variety of school Student Information Systems in order to collect meaningful school health data.

The future of school nursing in Michigan is strong because of each of you. Together, we are creating healthier schools, stronger systems, and greater opportunities for every child. Please know that, as MASN President, I will continue to advocate for you and for equitable access to a school nurse for every Michigan student. Our best work lies ahead.

Your Partner in School Nursing
Cindy Brummette
MASN President



President Elect Report

My first year as your President-Elect has been a rewarding whirlwind, and an incredible journey of personal growth. From the boardroom to the clinic, I have continued to grow not only as a leader and healthcare professional but also as a school nurse advocate, constantly learning how to better serve our profession. I am honored to work alongside our committed and knowledgeable Board of Directors.

One of my primary duties this year was a comprehensive review of our bylaws. I was fortunate to collaborate with two dedicated members: Cathy Farris, RN, BSN (Supervisor of Medical Services, Novi Community School District) and Lauren Vemuri, BSN, RN (School Nurse, Emerson School). Together, we reviewed our governing documents word-for-word to ensure MASN remains in full compliance with NASN standards.

Beyond bylaw work, my year has been defined by active engagement across several fronts:

- I served on the Conference, Fundraising, and Legislative Committees.
- I participated in MASN's Communities of Practice and Safe & Legal Training.
- I joined the State Asthma and State Diabetes Workgroups
- I represented MASN at the Office of Nursing Programs Summit and
- I attended the NASN conference in Austin, Texas, bringing national insights back to our affiliate chapter.

I am humbled to work with such fierce advocates for children's health throughout the state of Michigan. This year's conference theme—Anchored in Purpose, Intentional Practice, and Bold Leadership—perfectly captures our collective work. Thank you for the difference you make every day in the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of the children you serve!

Respectfully Submitted,
Patrice Williams
MASN President-Elect



Vice President Report

I have learned and grown immensely during my four years serving as Vice President with MASN. This past year, I had the privilege of planning my final Fall Conference, as well as the Annual Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Port Huron, Michigan. Our conference committee has worked tirelessly to bring forward new and innovative educational opportunities that will help shape the future of school nursing practice across the state. I am deeply grateful for their dedication, as they are truly integral to the success of our conferences.

I also extend my sincere thanks to MASN for the many opportunities it has provided me, including opening the door to my new role at Wayne State University. Although I am no longer practicing as a school nurse, I look forward to remaining closely connected to MASN and its members in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Natasha Villareal
MASN Vice President



Treasurer & Fundraising Report

This year provided an opportunity for reflection and steady stewardship as MASN continued to strengthen its financial foundation while supporting the evolving needs of school nurses across Michigan.

MASN remains in a solid financial position, with balanced growth and careful use of resources guiding our decisions throughout the year. Through thoughtful cash management, stable reserves, and improved interest earnings, the association is well positioned to support both current programming and future priorities. Attention to detail, transparency, and collaboration with Board leadership and Team TRI helped ensure that financial practices remained both responsible and responsive.

As we reviewed the budget across the year, it became clear that flexibility remains one of MASN's greatest strengths. While some areas of revenue performed below projections, others, particularly conference registrations and professional development continued to demonstrate the value members place on connection and learning. These patterns offer helpful insight as we look to refine future offerings, explore new formats, and ensure sustainability without placing unnecessary burden on members.

Fundraising during the 2025–2026 year focused less on expansion and more on alignment. Conference programming, vendor partnerships, and professional development opportunities continued to serve as meaningful sources of support for the organization's mission. Conversations around virtual options, attendance trends, and program design will help guide continued growth in a way that remains accessible, mission-driven, and fiscally sound.

MASN's financial strength is not measured only in balances and budgets, but in the collective trust placed in thoughtful stewardship. It has been an honor to support the work of this organization during a year marked by both stability and forward thinking.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Prentice BSN, RN, NCSN
MASN Interim Treasurer / Fundraising



Secretary & Historian Report

Serving as Secretary and Historian this year offered a unique vantage point. One that connects MASN's daily work with its broader story and long-standing impact.

In the role of Secretary, the focus remained on accuracy, consistency, and clear documentation. Careful recordkeeping of Board and membership meetings supports transparency and continuity, ensuring that decisions reflect shared understanding and that leadership transitions are grounded in a strong organizational memory. These records serve not only as a reference, but as a reflection of the thoughtful collaboration that defines MASN.

As Historian, this year reinforced the importance of preserving our collective work. Maintaining and organizing MASN's record, both digital and archival, helps capture the evolution of school nursing in Michigan and honors the dedication of those who have shaped the association. Each report, meeting, and initiative contributes to a larger narrative of advocacy, professionalism, and care for students.

Together, these roles highlight the value of connection—between past and present, structure and purpose, leadership and membership. Preserving where we have been allows us to move forward with clarity and intention.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Prentice BSN, RN, NCSN
Past MASN Secretary / Historian



Secretary Report

MASN Annual Business Meeting Minutes along with proposed bylaw changes were sent out on April 15, 2026. Please take time to review these in preparation for our Annual Business Meeting on Friday, May 8th after the Awards luncheon.

All members are encouraged to be present at the annual business meeting. This is an opportunity to receive updates from the board.

Respectfully,
Tacoma Corbin
Interim Secretary and Historian Chair



NASN Director Report

This past year was busy with supporting the work of NASN updating their Strategic Plan. I continue to connect with and learn from many other school nurses from across the nation. Below is summary of the work we accomplished over the past year:

- Updated [Strategic Plan](#) and approved at our Board meeting in January 2026 (virtually held due to snowstorm!)
- Updated and approved many [Position Statements](#)
- Attended Board meeting and NASN Conference in Austin, Texas in June 2025. It was great to learn alongside so many other school nurses!
- Established a renewed Governance Committee to align NASN Bylaws and workgroups with the updated Strategic Plan. More to come on how the NASN Board will divide and conquer the work ahead per guidance of this Committee. (Just as a refresher: the [Board of Directors](#) is composed of 50 nurses representing 49 states and Overseas School Health Nurses, it also has an [Executive Committee](#) and over [15 people on staff](#)! The NASN Board meets twice a year, but has several working committees that support the work of the staff.)
- Attended NASN Hill Day in Washington DC in April 2026 and spoke with Legislative Aides for Senator Gary Peters and Representative Hillary Scholten. I was able to speak to the NASN priorities of keeping IDEA in the Department of Ed as well as ask for support for the NURSE Act, a House bill that was introduced to allow for states to gain access to grant funding to increase the number of school nurses in our schools. I am pleased to say that everyone verbalized support of nurses working to support our students. I look forward to continuing to advocate for our students and our nursing workforce in Michigan. You can read more about [NASN Legislative Priorities](#).

Coming up is the NASN Conference to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada in late June 2026. There will be no virtual conference offering this year as NASN works to update its Learning Platform and will be launching several new courses in the Fall. Stay tuned for more info on that to come!



Thank you for what you do and please always feel free to reach out to me and let me know ways in which MASN/NASN can support you.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel VanDenBrink, MSN, RN, NCSN
Michigan NASN Director



Data Coordinator Report

MASN continues to promote NASN's Every Student Counts! data collection initiative. With the support of our State School Nurse Consultant, MASN Region Leaders and in partnership with Corewell Health School Nurse Program, we continue to educate and promote the data collection of every school nurse in Michigan.

The [Every Student Counts! data set](#) is important to help identify best practices, better understand child health, and influence local, state, and national student health policy to support the needs of our students and provide better health outcomes. The goal is to increase the data collection capabilities each year to further address student health support needs.





Make yourself count as a Michigan School Nurse!

Complete the 2026 School Nurse Survey [HERE!](#)

**no collecting of data needed for this survey as it is simply counting you!*



We highlight previous years data results on the [MASN website](#) as well as an overview of 'how-to collect data. We are currently in a new survey cycle of Michigan school nurses and hope that you will Make Yourself Count! as a Michigan school nurse by answering the survey now. There is no need to gather any data – just answer with the knowledge you already have!

Access the 2026 survey via [link](#)



Respectfully submitted,
Rachel VanDenBrink, MSN, RN, NCSN
MASN Data Chairperson

Awards Report

Committee Members: Rhonda Tata, Amy Corcoran, Tim Parks, Mattie Pearson and Jenn Walrath

The awards committee reviewed numerous nominations. After thoughtful evaluation of these exceptional submissions, we extend our sincere appreciation to each nominee for their meaningful contributions to school nursing. Your dedication, compassion, and professional expertise continue to inspire, and we recognize the essential role you play in supporting students and school communities every day.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Tata
Awards Chair



Michigan School Nurse of the Year 2026

Rachel O'Mara, BSN, RN



The Michigan Association of School Nurses is pleased to recognize Rachel O'Mara, BSN, RN, of Grand Blanc Community Schools, as the 2026 School Nurse of the Year. For nearly a decade, Ms. O'Mara has served as a vital resource for over 8,400 students and staff, balancing superior clinical standards with a collaborative, compassionate approach to school health. Her tenure is highlighted by her implementation of emergency protocols including the Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) system. By moving the district beyond basic compliance toward a culture of high-level readiness, her consistent training of hundreds of staff members in CPR and AED use has had a measurable impact, directly resulting in the preservation of multiple lives during critical cardiac and allergic events on campus.

Beyond emergency response, Ms. O'Mara has redefined the management of chronic conditions through her creation of a district-wide support network for students navigating type 1 diabetes. By establishing "diabetes lunch" meetings and peer-mentorship opportunities, she has empowered older students to mentor younger children, fostering a unique sense of community and self-advocacy. Her commitment to these programs has been so profound that multiple students have cited her influence as their primary inspiration for entering the nursing profession, viewing her not just as a medical provider, but as a dedicated advocate for their long-term success. Ms. O'Mara is also an active proponent of student safety and empowerment through her involvement in the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) program. By supporting initiatives that equip students with the mindset and physical skills necessary for personal protection, she ensures they are prepared for challenges beyond the classroom.

As a strategic partner and mentor, Ms. O'Mara's leadership extends across county lines and through every department of the Grand Blanc district. She serves as a cornerstone of support for the broader school nursing community, frequently guiding new school nurse peers in other districts to ensure a high standard of care. Within her own district, she provides the clinical foresight necessary to handle complex health mandates and emerging health trends, establishing herself as a trusted authority for staff through regular communications and an open-door policy.

Rachel O'Mara's selection as School Nurse of the Year recognizes a professional whose visionary leadership and clinical excellence have created a lasting safety net for her community, ensuring every student is healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

Congratulations Rachel!

2026 Sue Zacharski Lifetime Achievement Award

Hendrina Cupery MSN, RN, NCSN

The Michigan Association of School Nurses is pleased to award Hendrina Cupery the Sue Zacharski Lifetime Achievement award for 2026. Hendrina works with Holland Public Schools. Throughout her career, Hendrina has demonstrated an unwavering professional commitment to student health and wellness. She has been a tireless advocate for the belief that every school deserves access to a qualified school nurse, consistently championing the vision of a "nurse in every building." Her advocacy has extended beyond individual districts, as she has actively consulted with lawmakers to increase their understanding of the critical role school nurses play in supporting student health, safety, and academic success. Through this work, Hendrina has helped elevate school nursing as an essential component of public education. Hendrina's service and leadership within the profession are equally exceptional. She has served on the Michigan Association of School Nurses (MASN) Board in multiple capacities, including as President, providing thoughtful, principled leadership during times of change and growth. In each role, she worked to strengthen the organization, mentor colleagues, and ensure that school nurses' voices were represented and respected at both the state and local levels.



Her influence extends well beyond Michigan. Hendrina has contributed chapters to multiple editions of a nationally recognized school nursing textbook, sharing her expertise with practitioners across the country. She has successfully obtained state grants to advance school nursing practice and has presented extensively throughout the state on topics including mental health and school nursing, helping districts better understand and respond to the increasingly complex needs of students.

One of Hendrina's most lasting contributions has been her leadership in expanding coordination of mental health care among schools, families, and community mental health providers. Her vision and persistence were instrumental in creating a Mental Health Case Manager position, a role that has strengthened systems of care and ensured that students receive timely, coordinated support. This work exemplifies Hendrina's ability to identify service gaps, bring stakeholders together, and create sustainable solutions that improve student well-being. Hendrina Cupery's career is defined by integrity, compassion, and an enduring commitment to both students and the profession of school nursing. Her impact is evident in the policies she has influenced, the professionals she has mentored, and the countless students and families whose lives have been improved through her leadership.

Across every aspect of her work, Hendrina demonstrates exceptional professionalism, advocacy, and leadership. She has consistently sought ways to educate the broader educational community about the essential value of school nurses and has helped move the profession forward through her voice, her vision, and her unwavering commitment to students. Her contributions have had a lasting and meaningful impact on school nursing practice in Michigan, making her a truly deserving candidate for this lifetime achievement recognition.

Congratulations Hendrina!

2026 Distinguished Service Award

Rhonda Tata MSN, RN, NCSN

The Michigan Association of School Nurses is pleased to recognize Rhonda Tata, MSN, RN, NCSN of Genesee ISD as the winner of the 2026 Distinguished Service Award. This award is given out to acknowledge a person or persons who have continually supported or uniquely contributed to the Michigan Association of School Nurses, school nursing, or school health services in the past five years.

Rhonda has been a member of MASN since 2013 and in her current role since 2018. Rhonda has worked as a healthcare liaison in 2011, then in 2017 she stepped into the role of Early childhood Health Supervisor, then the Coordinator of Health Services. In 2023 she started as a special education services school nurse and then a school nurse for early childhood, all through Genesee Intermediate School District.

The Deputy Superintendent of Genesee ISD, Tricia Hill said it best:

“Rhonda Tata has served the Genesee Intermediate School District with distinction as a school nurse since 2011, providing exceptional leadership and care in multiple capacities. The majority of her tenure has been dedicated to early childhood programs, with a particular focus on Head Start, where her impact on students, families, and staff has been profound.

Rhonda’s professionalism and leadership have been instrumental in building strong, trusting relationships with both her health services team and the families she serves. She consistently sought out and secured community resources throughout Genesee County to remove barriers to care for families, ensuring even the most vulnerable children had access to essential health services. Notably, she advocated for and helped implement on-site vision and hearing screenings, significantly improving early identification and intervention for young learners.

Rhonda worked tirelessly with local agencies to connect families with critical health-related services, including physicals and dental screenings. During the Flint Water Crisis, she played a pivotal leadership role in the district’s response—coordinating with community partners, securing resources, and supporting families and children facing unprecedented challenges.

In addition to her direct service to students and families, Rhonda has been a driving force behind the district’s Medical Emergency Response Teams (MERT). She ensured annual training and certification in CPR, AED, and First Aid for GISD staff and extended this leadership by training MERT teams in local school districts as well. Her expertise and dedication have strengthened emergency preparedness across the region.

Rhonda’s leadership in supporting students with complex health care plans has been vital to ensuring student safety and access to education. She consistently trained and supported key staff in implementing these plans with fidelity, allowing many children to attend school safely and successfully. Her exceptional organization, adherence to best practices, and commitment to professional standards have served GISD with excellence.

Rhonda Tata exemplifies dedication, compassion, and leadership in school health services, making her highly deserving of this award.”



Congratulations Rhonda!

Communications Report

Serving as the Communications Chair this past year has been an exciting experience. Working with the rest of the MASN Board and our partners throughout the state to bring you the most up-to-date and important information is a very rewarding task. The website has been updated with meeting minutes, a new space for our State School Nurse Consultants and new MASN resources. I have also monitored the MASN email account, directing messages to the correct MASN chairperson, providing prompt and professional responses and maintaining security of the account.

Our social media presence has improved with increased posts and interactions. We are getting the word out about MASN and the great work we are doing! In the last 90 days, our Facebook views have increased 9%, followers have increased 10% and interactions have increased 422%!! Our Instagram activity has increased 123%!! If you aren't following us yet, be sure to like and share!

If you or your district team has news, events or celebrations, please send a picture and caption to michiganschoolnurses@gmail.com. We look forward to celebrating the work you are doing!

Other work that I have been involved with is the DISH-MI planning committee, the Diabetes in School Health State committee and the MACC Trauma Informed Diabetes planning team, working to improve the care and collaboration for our students with diabetes.

Respectfully submitted,
Maribeth Lyons
Communications Chair



Past President Report

Part of my role this past year is in support of our President. I assisted with the role of Treasurer at her request until someone was appointed. I also began the work of revamping Module 4 for the Safe and Legal Toolkit and this work is ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,
Hendrina Cupery
MASN Past President



Thank you, Hendrina, and Congratulations on your retirement!!

Legislative Chair Report

Committee Members: Cindy Brummette, Patrice Williams, Dayna Bennett, Cadie Godfrey, Heather Norman, Jennifer Walrath, Tacoma Corbin, Mary Larsen, and Vanessa Long

The MASN Legislative Committee has continued its work monitoring legislation that impacts school health and advocating for school nursing across Michigan. In partnership with the Michigan Council for Maternal Child Health (MCMCH) and its Executive Director, Amy Zaagman, committee members have been reviewing proposed legislation and meeting with legislators to highlight [what school nurses do](#) and the importance of sustaining and expanding school nursing positions statewide. The committee also continues to share the One-Pager [ASK](#) for budgetary allocations to support school nurses. A key priority is encouraging school nurses across the state to begin or strengthen the partnerships necessary for effective advocacy. We are also working to gather impact stories to share as we meet with legislators; committee members have created a survey to gather stories about [The Power of a School Nurse](#). Every child in school deserves access to a school nurse, and elevating school nurses' voices and impact remains central to this mission.

Legislative Committee members have also been working closely with MCMCH and legislators to increase access to additional forms of epinephrine in schools. We are pleased to share that these advocacy efforts contributed to the unanimous passage of a legislative package including HB 5049–5054 in the House, amending current statutory language from “auto-injectable epinephrine” to “epinephrine delivery system” ([see the Epi First, Epi Fast document here](#)). The committee will continue to collaborate with MCMCH to advocate for Senate and Governor support for this initiative, and we hope to see this legislation pass in the near future.

In addition to the epinephrine legislation, committee members have been working with the State School Asthma Action Group and the School Stock Albuterol Coalition to improve outcomes and access to resources for students with asthma. The coalition is building support for allowing schools to stock albuterol and has ensured that school nurses have a voice in this early planning process. Michigan students are disproportionately affected by asthma, and school nurses play a critical role in daily management and support. Expanding access to stock albuterol would provide an important additional tool to help address the barriers students face.

Respectfully submitted,
Vanessa Long
MASN Legislative Chair



Membership Chair Report

Serving as Membership Chair for the past eight months has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I have truly enjoyed connecting with and supporting our members, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to play a role in strengthening our community.

In this position, I have the privilege of greeting each new member through their first correspondence with MASN. Every new member receives a welcome packet via email that includes a personalized welcome letter, along with valuable MASN and NASN resources to help them get started and feel supported.

I am committed to helping our new members navigate and make the most of this beneficial membership. If there is any way I can support you, please don't hesitate to reach out—I'm always happy to help.

As a member, you also have access to MASN's up-to-date Safe and Legal Training, a valuable resource for training unlicensed school personnel. Be sure to check out the membership benefits [FLYER](#) to learn more about all that's available to you.

Please feel free to contact me anytime—I look forward to continuing to support you!

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Miller, BSN, RN, NCSN
Membership/Mentor Chair



Click here to join today!



MASN
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES
specialists in school health

JOIN YOUR PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY TODAY!

Your membership helps to promote improvements in the health of school children and to advance the practice of Michigan school nurses. Through active collaboration with our State School Nurse Consultants and advocacy efforts with leaders in MDHHS & MDE, MASN has grown to be accepted as one of the strongest voices for school health issues in the State.

As a member of MASN, you will be on the cutting edge of practice issues and will benefit from the following:

- Safe & Legal Support of Students with Health and Medication Needs at School**
Access to free training to utilize with unlicensed school staff.
- Michigan School Nurse 101**
Access to online, self paced modules of new school nurse training (earning up to 7 contact hours).
- Conferences and Trainings**
Join us for discounted rates at our Annual Conferences and other trainings held throughout the year.
- School Nurse Community**
Opportunities to connect with local school nurses in your Michigan region that help to mentor and share tools to advocate for your best practice.

Membership includes all the benefits of **NASN** too!

Follow Us Here!!

National Board Certification NBCSN Chair Report

As you are getting closer to the end of the 2025-26 school year, are you thinking about your goals as a district or school nurse for the 2026-27 school year? Why not make this year that you commit to taking the NBCSN exam? Certification acknowledges your experience, your abilities, and your foundation of knowledge that you contribute to your schools every day. Obtaining your NCSN credential is a way to demonstrate your competence in the specialized field of school nursing.

The State of Michigan is home to 42 Nationally Certified School Nurses. Congratulations to all our Michigan school nurses that have joined the ranks and earned NCSN credentials in the 25-26 school year:

- Summer 2025:
 - Isabel Chism of Divine Child High School in Dearborn
 - Kara Clark of Grand Haven Area Public Schools
 - Debby Glazer of Bloomfield Hills Schools
 - Olivia Immink of Holland Public Schools
- Winter 2025:
 - Kati Becker of St. Hugo School in Bloomfield Hills
- Spring 2025:
 - Stephanie Miller of Troy School District

As Michigan's NBCSN Liaison, I hope to provide you with tools, resources and guidance to support you on your path to NCSN. Resources for our State of Michigan NCSN candidates are monthly newsletters provided through the Region Leader updates, information on the MASN website, and management of the Michigan School Nurse Certification Exam Study Group Facebook page. I would love to connect you with other potential candidates, so please reach out with any questions and willingness to collaborate with other NCSN candidates. This is your year to achieve this tremendous accomplishment and showcase all that you do for your students and districts!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Rosbolt, BSN, RN, NCSN
State of Michigan NBCSN Liaison



Region Chair Report



Our state is divided into 23 regions as identified by the Michigan School Health Coordinators Association (MiSHCA). MASN strives to identify region leaders within these same regions to help support the practice of school nursing. These individuals are nurse leaders who work to connect with school nurses in their regions, establish ways to communicate and share with their nurse colleagues (via in-person meetings and/or virtual calls and email communications) and promote the value of school nursing in their area of the state. They also help coordinate professional development opportunities and attend regular meetings with other region leaders and our State School Nurse Consultants (SSNC) to stay informed about current issues that affect the practice of school nursing. Most importantly, region leaders build relationships and collaboration.

Over this past year, region leaders met monthly (virtually) with our State School Nurse Consultants and the MASN board to share information and discuss current topics relevant to school nurse practice in our state. Currently, 20 of the 23 regions have region leaders in place. We are still seeking a region leader for Region 3 (Eastern UP ISD), Region 5 (COP ESD), Region 7 (Gratiot-Isabella RESD) and for an upcoming opening in Region 16 (Genesee ISD). Please reach out to me at hervekar@salineschools.org if you are interested in helping us fill these openings or learning more about the role of region leader. This is a great way to build your leadership skills and to stay informed about issues pertinent to our role as school nurses. We can share more information and provide support as you transition into this position. Come join us and help make a difference in your area and within MASN!

We are excited to partner with all of you!
Respectfully submitted,
Karan Hervey, MASN Regions Chair



Special Education Chair

As we conclude another academic year, the Michigan Association of School Nurses (MASN) is proud to highlight the continued success of the Michigan Special Education Nursing Collaborative (MI-SEN). Now comprised of 62 dedicated members, our collaborative serves as a vital hub for those navigating the complexities of special education nursing.

This year, our quarterly meetings focused on critical infrastructure and advocacy tools essential to our practice. Highlights included in-depth discussions on the Acuity Rating Tool to better quantify student needs and staffing requirements, as well as navigating the evolving landscape of Medicaid billing to ensure sustainable health services within our schools.

As we look toward the 2026-27 school year, our goal is to expand our reach even further—providing more resources, mentorship, and professional advocacy for nurses across the state. We invite all MASN members involved in special education to join our quarterly sessions and help us shape the future of specialized school health.

Respectfully submitted,
Demetria L Friberg
Special Education Chair



Whole Child Advisory Chair Report

As Whole Child Advisory Chair for the Michigan Association of School Nurses (MASN), I focus on identifying and addressing health-related factors that influence students' well-being and their ability to succeed in school.

In this role, I represent MASN on several key statewide committees, including the School-Based Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council and the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Children's Mental Health (CMH) Network. Through active collaboration within these groups, MASN contributes to important conversations that shape policies and practices supporting a Whole Child approach.

This work underscores the vital role school nurses play on interdisciplinary teams dedicated to supporting the physical, social, emotional, and mental health of all Michigan students. By maintaining a strong presence in these spaces, we strengthen our ability to advocate for comprehensive, student-centered health strategies.

Interested in learning more about the Whole Child Advisory Committee? Please reach out! We'd love to expand the group!

Respectfully Submitted,
Terri Czerwinski, MSN, RN
Whole Child Advisory Chair
czertlc@aol.com



Michigan State School Nurse Consultant Report

Greetings fellow nurses,

It is no secret to those of us working in school health the challenges school nurses face on a regular basis. Our purpose is to serve those in need and help ensure every student has safe access to the education and socialization necessary for growth and development. Given our state does not have legislation or mandates in place to address school nurse staffing, we are aware that school nurses in Michigan may feel lonely or unsupported in the work they are doing and so, one of our main objectives this year has been strengthening the school nursing community in Michigan by offering a variety of opportunities for networking, communication, education, and professional development.

Our offerings of Summer and Winter School Nurse Institutes will carry on into the 26/27 school year and will be supplemented with our monthly State School Nurse Consultant Office Hours: Morning Break Connect & Learn. We trialed a new day and time for office hours this past year, yielding increased attendance and wonderful collaboration and discussion. Our work with school health partners in areas of Tobacco, Asthma, Mental Health, Cardiology, Opioid Task Force, Medicaid Reimbursement, and Diabetes are ongoing and stronger than ever. We will continue to offer training and educational opportunities such as Open Airways, Diabetes in School Health (DiSH-MI) Programming, MIHEART Safe Schools, and Medical Emergency Response Teams (MERT) so that you have the tools necessary to support the safe school environment students across Michigan deserve.

In terms of professional recognition and support, we will continue to review and update reference documents through partnerships with colleagues at MASN, MDE, MDHHS, National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC), NASN and content experts within the state and nationwide. We hope to build stronger research and datagathering efforts that will fuel advocacy and promote meaningful progress for school nurses statewide. As you may know, a temporary waiver was granted this past year to allow time for school nurse certification language work to officially begin, with the goal of streamlining the process and enabling all school nurse professionals to be held in the same regard as fellow professional colleagues working in Michigan Schools.

School nursing is for the resilient and dedicated. It requires one to be adaptable and prepared for anything. Our schools are safer when a school nurse is present and our sincerest hope is that you feel supported in the valuable work you are doing every day.

With Gratitude,

Cadie Godfrey, MSN, APRN, FNP-C

Dayna Bennett, MSN, APRN, FNP-C



MHEF Grant Project Update

MASN Grant Project Highlights: Strengthening School Nursing in Michigan

As my tenure as MASN Grant Project Manager comes to a close, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, our partner and fiduciary Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, and the MASN Leadership for entrusting me with this work.

The dedication of school nurses across Michigan to their students and communities has been the driving force behind my continued commitment—even after relocating to New York. There is something distinct about Michigan school nurses: when you are asked to consistently advocate for your role and your students, it builds a deeper level of resolve and purpose.

Grant Highlights:

- Michigan School Nurse 101: 393+ users; 180+ nurses earned 6 contact hours
- Conscious Marketing Training: 54 participants supporting leadership, advocacy which drove new nurse hires and wellness initiatives
- MASN Administrator Training: 240+ participants on roles, laws, and funding
- Engagement across 15+ conferences and quarterly meetings with 20+ partners
- Statewide resource sharing to strengthen nurse–provider collaboration
- Workforce survey and PR campaign generating 40+ media features
- Analysis of documentation practices and development of best-practice tools and templates
- Annual MASN Conference updates and documentation training
 - Upcoming: Sync or Swim: Harmonizing Safe Nursing Care and SIS Systems

Michigan School Nurse 101 has been updated with a dedicated documentation module offering up to 7 contact hours, relaunching **May 6, 2026**. Be among the first to check it out!

Much appreciation to all who contributed, participated, and continue to strengthen school nursing in Michigan.

Let this only be the beginning of something even greater.

Anna Whitaker, MAEd, BSN, RN, NCSN



May 6, 2026: School Nurses Day

WHEREAS, students are the future leaders of our state, and parents or guardians deserve to feel confident that their children will be cared for at school; and,

WHEREAS, all students have a right to have their physical and mental health needs met while at school; and,

WHEREAS, students today may face complex and life-threatening health problems that require care in school; and,

WHEREAS, school nurses have played a critical role in improving public health, protecting student health, and advancing academic success for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, school nurses are aware of the home and community factors that impact students' health; and,

WHEREAS, school nurses act as a bridge between the school, families, health care providers, and the community on behalf of children's health by promoting wellness and improving health outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, school nurses support the health and educational success of children by providing accessible care when children's cognitive development is at its peak; and,

WHEREAS, school nurses are members of the school health teams, which include school health services, MTSS/504/IEP plans, mental health support services, and disaster or emergency planning, to address the school population; and,

WHEREAS, school nurses understand the link between health and learning, making a positive difference for children every day; and,

WHEREAS, by recognizing school nurses and their important contributions to our school communities, there is greater hope that more people consider a career in school nursing to help address the shortage of these caring and compassionate individuals working in Michigan schools; and,

WHEREAS, on this day, we recognize school nurses across Michigan and their efforts to meet the needs of today's students by improving the delivery of healthcare in our schools, contributing to communities by helping students stay healthy, and ensuring parents and guardians know their children are safe and cared for;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2026, as School Nurses Day in Michigan.



MASN Annual Business Meeting - DRAFT

May 9, 2025

Double Tree Hotel

One Wenonah Park Place

Bay City, MI 48708

Minutes

1. Call to order The meeting was called to order by President, Hendrina Cupery at 1:02 pm
2. Approval of Agenda Motion to approve the Annual Business Meeting Agenda by Carol Mackey, seconded by Cindy Brummette, no discussion, motion carries.
3. Approval of minutes from 2024 Annual Business meeting Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the 2024 Annual Business meeting by Marybeth Lyons, seconded by Mary Larson, no discussion, motion carries.
4. Board introductions
 - a) President -Hendrina Cupery
 - b) President Elect- Cindy Brummette
 - c) Vice President- Natasha Villareal
 - d) Treasurer- Patrice Williams
 - e) Secretary- Lindsey Prentice
 - f) NASN Director- Rachel VanDenBrink
 - g) Immediate Past President- Rachel VanDenBrink
 - h) National Board of Certification of School Nurses- Becky Rosbolt
 - i) Communications- Open
 - j) Legislative- Vanessa Long
 - k) Membership Allena Mrzlack
 - l) Data Coordinator- Rachel VanDenBrink
 - m) Regions- Karan Hervey
 - n) Whole Child Advisory Chair- Terri Czerwinski
 - o) Special Education- Open
 - p) Awards- Rhonda Tata
 - q) State School Nurse Consultant- Dayna Bennett
5. Board of Directors reports - are available in the MASN Communicator
6. Installation of officers
 - a) President – Cindy Brummette
 - b) President-Elect-Patrice Williams
 - c) Secretary – Lindsey Prentice

7. New Business

- a) Presidents Appreciation Awards
 - presented to Cindy Brummette and Vanessa Long

8. NASN Conference

- a) In person in Austin, TX June 26-June 29 2025
- b) Virtual July 7-July 9, 2025

9. Call to membership

10. Adjournment Motion to adjourn by Sharon Black Johnson, seconded by Patrice Williams, no discussion, motion carries, meeting adjourned at 1:11pm.

Check out MASN's Monthly Newsletter

