

2020 Disability  
Policy  
Webinar Series



# WELCOME

June 5, 2020

Michigan  
Government  
Affairs Updates with  
Elizabeth  
Weihl &  
Christin  
Nohner



# Just a few things before we get started...

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- A recording of this webinar will be available on our website at [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org), after June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
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# Sherri Boyd

Executive Director/ CEO  
The Arc Michigan





**RWC ADVOCACY**

A Governmental Affairs Law Firm

Elizabeth L. Weihl  
Partner

Email: [weihlb@rwca.com](mailto:weihlb@rwca.com)

Cell: 517-719-5398



**RWC ADVOCACY**

A Governmental Affairs Law Firm

Christin T. Nohner  
Government Affairs Consultant

Email: [nohnerc@rwca.com](mailto:nohnerc@rwca.com)

Cell: 571-213-1898



# **What Does Advocacy Look Like in Michigan?**

## Executive Branch

- Governor (Executive Office)
- State Departments/Agencies
  - MI Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
    - ~ Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA)
    - ~ Medical Services Administration (Medicaid)
  - Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS)
  - Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

## **MDHHS Leadership Team**

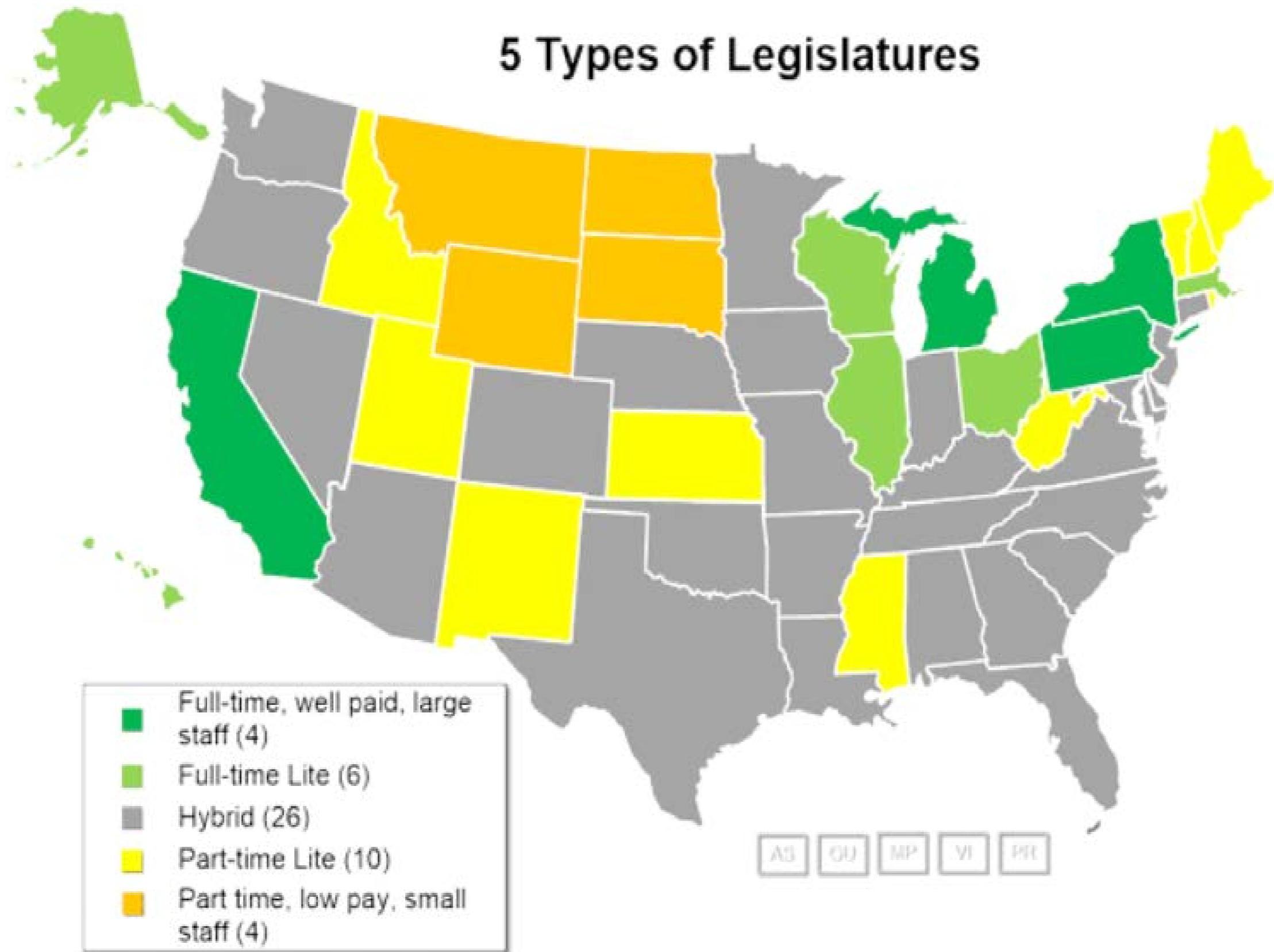
- Robert Gordon – **Director**
- Elizabeth Hertel – **Chief Deputy for Administration**
- Joneigh Khaldun, MD – **Chief Medical Executive**
- Lewis Roubal – **Chief Deputy for Opportunity**
- Allen Jansen – **Deputy Director, BHDDA**
- Kate Massey – **Senior Deputy Director, MSA (Medicaid)**
- Sarah Esty – **Senior Deputy Director, Policy & Planning**



# Legislative Branch

- 148 elected members
  - 110 Representatives
  - 38 Senators
- Year-round (full-time) Legislature
- Two-year session schedule
- 100<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2019 - 2020) began on January 1 and will end on December 31, 2020

# 5 Types of Legislatures



Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

## Legislative Branch

- Michigan's legislative term limits are among the strictest in the nation
  - State House – 3 terms of 2 years each (6 years)
  - State Senate – 2 terms of 4 years each (8 years)
    - = 14-year lifetime limit
- Term limits approved in 1992 by constitutional amendment, affecting lawmakers sworn in after January 1, 1993
- Benefits and pitfalls



# **Current Political Landscape**

# Current Political Composition of the Legislature

- **22 – 16** Republican majority in Senate
  - Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey
  - Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich
- **58 – 52** Republican majority in House
  - House Speaker Lee Chatfield
  - House Democrat Leader Christine Greig

## Michigan Women in Government

- Total women in state House = 42 (17 R, 25 D)
- Total women in state Senate = 11 (3 R, 8 D)
- Percentage of Women in Legislature = ~35%, putting Michigan 27<sup>th</sup> among states
- Total of 64 women elected across all statewide races (53 state Legislature, MI Supreme Court, US House, US Senate, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Governor)

## 2020 Election

- November 3, 2020
- Presidential Election Year
- All State House Members Up for Re-election
  - Dems have chance to flip the House
- No election for Senate/Governor
- Congressional Races & One U.S. Senate Race
- Ballot initiatives
- Absentee Voting & COVID-19

# Redistricting

- Republican Majorities Controlled Redistricting Process in 2011
- In 2018, voters approved proposal 2 that allowed for the creation of an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
- Over 6,000 applications to sit on the commission
- The next phase will winnow several thousand applications to just 200 by the end of June.
- Final selection of commissioners will take place in August.



# The Arc's Key Policy Issues

- Behavioral Health Integration
- Direct Care Worker Wages
- Discrimination in Medical Care Settings
- Medicaid Budget
  - Entitlement
  - Essential Services
  - Cost Pressures

## Current Issues

- FY 2020 and FY 2021 Budget
- Challenge of Executive Authority
- COVID-19 Response
  - Appropriations
  - Codification of Executive Orders
  - The Genie in the Bottle Effect

## **Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021**

- Impact of COVID-19
- Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference(s)
- Executive Order Reducing Expenditures
- Finalizing FY 2021 Budget

## **Fiscal Year 2021 Budget**

- House Omnibus Budget Bill: House Bill 5395
- House School Aid Fund Budget Bill: House Bill 5396
- Senate Omnibus Budget Bill: Senate Bill 926
- Senate School Aid Fund Budget Bill: Senate Bill 927



**Your Role (Opportunity +  
Responsibility) as  
Advocates**

## Successful Advocacy (Organization)

- Identify 2-3 key priorities
- Employ a diverse strategy
  - Include both branches of government (legislative and regulatory engagement)
- Plan offensive strategy and anticipate defense
- Be both strategic and properly-timed
- Establish Attainable Short-Term Goals and Expectations
  - Political landscape
  - Issue favorability
- Establish Long-Term Reform Goals

## Successful Advocacy (Organization)

- Effective messaging
- Activating grassroots (constituent contacts)
  - Identify district “champions” (organize site visits)
  - Identify legislative champions
- Meet with Lawmakers
- Testify
- Persistence



The **Arc** promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.



## Successful Advocacy (Individual)

- Research – Get to Know Your Lawmaker
  - Biography
  - Political Party
  - Issues (they champion)
  - Committee Assignments
  - District & Election

## Successful Advocacy (Individual)

- Prepare
  - Research the Issues
    - ~History/Background/Recent Events
    - ~Status of Legislation, Law or Rules
    - ~Review Talking Points and Messaging
- Reflect on Your Own Position

## Successful Advocacy (Individual)

- Execute (Meetings in Lansing)
  - Dress code
  - Flexibility
  - Punctuality
  - Friendly to staff
  - Personal connections
  - Stay on message
  - Brevity
  - Make the ask

## Successful Advocacy (Individual)

- Cultivate Relationships

- Thank you/follow up

- Meetings in district (coffee hours, town hall meetings)

- Continuity is key (phone, email communication)

The good news: Advocacy done right, works!



**BONUS IDEA:**

Have you thought about seeking office yourself?

## Resources

- 100<sup>th</sup> Legislature – Citizen’s Guide to State Government:  
<http://legislature.mi.gov/Publications/CitizensGuide.pdf>
- National Conference of State Legislatures:  
<https://www.ncsl.org/>
- Michigan Constitution:  
<http://legislature.mi.gov/Publications/MICConstitution.pdf>
- State Budget Office: <https://www.michigan.gov/budget/>
- House Fiscal Agency Publications:  
<https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/home.asp>
- Senate Fiscal Agency Publications:  
<https://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa/>



**Thank you!**

Elizabeth Weihl

Partner

Email: [Weihlb@rwca.com](mailto:Weihlb@rwca.com)

Cell: 517-719-5398

Christin T. Nohner

Government Affairs Consultant

Email: [nohnerc@rwca.com](mailto:nohnerc@rwca.com)


Cell: 571-213-1898



Questions?



# Thank You For Joining Us!

See You Next  
Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at  
10am  
with Mark McWilliams  
and Noah Walker from  
 Michigan Protection  
and Advocacy Services

2020 Disability  
2020 Policy   
Webinar Series

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