

The



---

# Monday Update

July 2007

Published by the  
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council,  
1033 S. Washington, Lansing, MI 48910  
[www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil)

---

## **Available and affordable housing concerns draw 1,500 advocates to Capitol Building**

People who are concerned about having a place to live, a lot of people, rallied on the Capitol steps May 2 in support of Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund (MHCDF) and its coalition's efforts to change the housing landscape in the state. It was a very vocal and successful gathering titled Lunch On The Lawn.

Lunch On The Lawn took place on Wednesday, May 2, the last day of the Michigan Affordable Housing Conference and included conference-goers and many other advocates who came from across the state. They were there to tell the Legislature to provide money for the Michigan Housing Trust Fund.

Michigan is one of the few states that does not have an operating housing development fund. There is a fund on paper – in 2004 the Legislature created Michigan's Housing Trust Fund – but it has no money.



Advocates by the hundreds watch the proceedings on the Capitol steps at Lunch on the Lawn on May 2.

### ***Members of the coalition***

The rally at the Capitol was the effort of a coalition of advocates for affordable and accessible housing that includes, in addition to MHCDF:

- Habitat for Humanity Michigan
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Michigan Interfaith Housing Trust Fund
- Coalition Against Homelessness
- Area Agency on Aging
- Michigan Housing Council

The idea was to draw attention to the shortfall in financial supports for suitable housing. Financing the fund would help create additional, affordable housing for a community's low-income residents. This will result in an increased tax base, improved neighborhoods, more jobs, and a healthier community.

Basically, money from the Housing Trust Fund, is made available to housing developers, construction companies, and builders through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

With this "seed" money in hand, then, a developer or builder can go to the bank and can borrow less money for a planned apartment complex or neighborhood housing subdivision. In turn, the builder agrees to make the apartment units or houses affordable and accessible for people with disabilities.

Among other members of the MHCDF coalition are:

Michigan Association of Home Builders  
Michigan Association of Realtors  
United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan, and  
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition

...and the more than 1,000 advocates who were at the Capitol on May 2.

Self-advocates and family members are strongly encouraged to join the coalition and lend their ideas and energy to this worthwhile effort. To join, and for more information on MHCDF and efforts to fund the Housing Trust Fund, go to their website: [www.livinginmichigan.org](http://www.livinginmichigan.org).

---

## *Speaking of homes*

# Grantee announces Kalamazoo home ownership info session

Connections for Community Leadership, a Council grant managed by Melinda Haus-Johnson, and the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, have announced a forum for persons with disabilities who are interested in home ownership.

The one-day forum is being held in Kalamazoo on July 20. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and attendance is free to people with disabilities and their personal attendants.

The forum – The Path to Home Ownership – is being held at the Kalamazoo Board of Realtors in Kalamazoo. The session features:

- Information on programs that can assist you in owning your own home.
- A resource fair where you can talk one-on-one with mortgage experts and representatives of various supports programs.
- Methods for teaming with others in your community to help one another on your way to home ownership.

Interested? If so, you're advised to register by July 9. Space is limited and you've got to register if you want the free lunch.

To register and for more information, including directions to the Kalamazoo Board of Realtors, contact Melinda Haus-Johnson, toll-free, at 1-800-760-4600, ext 316. Or email her at [leadership@prosynergy.org](mailto:leadership@prosynergy.org).

---

## **How do people with disabilities get jobs? Council-funded projects work to answer that**

Back in October of 2004, at the start of FY 2005, the DD Council launched three employment grant projects. As the projects near the end of the third year of their four-year run, helping people with disabilities find and keep jobs is proving a challenge with successes.

A fourth grant – Evaluation of Community Employment Partnerships – regularly looks at the other three projects. The idea is to assist the projects in their operations, compare the operations with one another (each of the three is different), and to make available project results to those who might wish to develop similar programs.

### ***Three projects' evaluations***

Managing the evaluation project are Esther Onaga and Cathy Maddalena of Michigan State University's Department of Family and Child Ecology.

The three projects are:

- Community Employment – Allegan Community Mental Health – Beth Durkee.
- Calhoun Partnerships to Develop Communities – The Arc of Calhoun County in Battle Creek – Kim Hommerding.
- Self-Determination Micro Enterprise – Community Mental Health of Central Michigan in Midland – Laurel Bucci.

According to Maddalena at MSU, the three sites are “all approaching employment a little bit differently. She meets regularly with each program's stakeholders to survey them on the project's progress. This helps measure changes at the end of the project.”

Maddalena also talks with consumers who are involved with the grant's activities. She measures their progress and experiences during the life of the program. In addition, Maddalena can provide technical assistance based on her 18 years of experience of evaluating and managing such programs and says grantees do value the input. For example, for the Allegan project she provided a strategic planning session for stakeholders.

Some of the elements that are evaluated are job retention and satisfaction and the value to the jobholder and the community of a particular job itself.

Reports and data from the projects will be sent to the Council and made available for future planning of employment supports.

Beth Durkee, who is managing the Community Employment project for Allegan Community Mental Health (CMH), says the key portion of the project is going very well. “This is the employer-provided training program,” she explains. “Employers and workers both like it. From the standpoint of grant costs, it’s relatively inexpensive and when the training is phased out, it doesn’t feel like the trainee is being abandon.”

### ***Get the job, then talk coaching***

The employer-provided training portion of the project comes as a result of the CMH’s standard, successful job-seeking program. Once a job has been found, Durkee waits until the applicant actually has the job before discussing such supports as job coaching with the boss. “This is an important part of the process. We wait until a job offer has been made before we tell the kinds of support we can provide to the employer.”

Two of the dozen or so participating employers are a party store and a golf course. Among the others are a bowling alley, Allegan Public Schools, a window cleaning service, carpet store, a tackle shop, and a steakhouse. (persons with disabilities seeking a job should remember that while jobs may seem few, they can also be almost anywhere, any type of business, including local government agencies).

The program started out by having employment seekers hire their own job developer. “The idea was these people would have ties into the network...they’d know the people who knew the people with the jobs.” As important as this was, equally key was the project helping job-seekers learn job-finding skills.

In the micro business department, Durkee reports, the cardboard box recycling operation continues to go well. A start-up business finds the entrepreneur delivering coffee to offices.

One objective of the approaching, final year of the project is to find “a way to offer the employer-provided training beyond the life of the grant.”

The purpose of Calhoun Partnerships to Develop Communities in Calhoun County is also employment and Kim Hommerding reports at least 12 people with disabilities are working as a result of the project’s efforts.

“Ten of the jobs average three and a half hours a week,” Hommerding says. “The average pay is \$7.45 an hour. The highest is \$10 an hour.”

The project is managed by a group of area stakeholders that includes Heartland Goodwill Industries, The Arc, Disability Resource Center and Michigan Rehabilitation Services. The project’s main objective is, says Hommerding, “that 15 people with disabilities will have viable work options with supported self-employment.”

### ***Important tip: get an ID***

An important tip for anyone looking for a job: get a Michigan ID card! Hommerding says one major barrier for a person with a disability getting a job is that he or she does not have an ID card. Thanks to efforts of the grantees, who created a resource guide for job seekers, “it is a priority of area school districts to make sure all kids have an ID.”

Another benefit to come out of Calhoun Partnerships to Develop Communities is benefits planning. “The project trains anyone seeking employment on the subject of benefits; how it affects their Social Security and so on.

In Midland, Self-Determination Micro-Enterprise is under the direction of Laurel Bucci for the CMH of Central Michigan. She says the purpose of the project is to provide funding for “intensive micro-enterprise support to adults with developmental disabilities who have been unsuccessful in mainstreaming their business.” Project funds give the financial means to purchase supports to get the business up and running.

The project presently funds 13 successful micro-enterprise business efforts. Key to this success has been the efforts of the project’s business manager. Main requirement of this manager is the ability to understand and operate a micro-enterprise business.

Another important function is to see that the business is self-supporting before the grant funds are exhausted. Bucci reports this means targeting committed micro-enterprise business owners in advance, writing a good business plan, and maintaining good two-way communications between the business manager and the owner.

---

*Speaking of employment*

## **Why hire qualified people with disabilities? Here are 10 reasons!**

When it comes to hiring people who are both qualified and have a disability, how do you answer a potential employer who asks, “Why should I?”?

Thanks to the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities’ publication, Monday Morning, here are several good reasons why (and some of their sources):

1. Many people with disabilities are educated, experienced and qualified to meet your workforce needs.
2. Employees with disabilities rate equally to their non-disabled peers in terms of performance, quality and quantity of work. (Virginia Commonwealth University)
3. People with disabilities can enhance your diversity initiative.
4. Hiring qualified people with disabilities is good for the economy....reduces the overall tax burden. (Chicagoland Business Leadership Network Educational Toolkit)
5. Research suggests consumers feel positively toward, and prefer to patronize, companies that employ people with disabilities. (University of Massachusetts)
6. There are about 38 million people – more than 14 percent of the U.S. population – with disabilities. That means one in every seven people is either a potential employee and/or customer. (2004 American Community Survey; U.S. Department of Justice’s “Expanding Your Market – Customers with Disabilities”)

7. People with disabilities have \$175 billion in discretionary income and patronize businesses that are “disability friendly” – hiring, welcoming, and accessible. (same as #6)

8. Companies can enhance their bottom line by integrating people with disabilities into their workforces and customer bases. (Solutions Marketing Group)

Thanks to the New Jersey Council and their source for these reasons, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

---

## **DD Council work group and committee meeting minutes**

### **Multicultural Committee**

May 14, 2007

Present:

Terrie Hylton (chair, phone); Tony Wong; Pam Hall; Jacqueline Day; Rick Van Horn; Yasmina Bouraoui; Sophie Baker; Patrick McSherry; Mae Golden (phone); Mitzi Allen.

Call to Order: At 1:15 p.m. by Mitzi Allen.

April meeting minutes approved.

Agenda approved. Chairperson Hylton joins by phone.

#### New business:

A - Allen announced that Committee member Duncan Wyeth, who is also a DD Council member, is now co-chair of the Committee, sharing duties with Hylton. This conforms to a new Council policy appointing a Council member to co-chair duties for each work group and committee.

B - Hylton discussed the most recent Diversity Focus article that portrayed aging “as an unpleasant fact of life.” Some at the Council meeting thought it

was a disagreeable statement. She said upcoming articles need to be reviewed before publication in the Council's meeting announcement. The event warranted some further discussion at the end of this Committee meeting.

Allen reminded members that the Diversity Focus articles must be submitted to her in time for review before publication. Send the articles to sharp@michigan.gov. She can send samples of past articles to future authors if they will contact her.

Allen noted the next Council meeting announcement to contain a Diversity Focus is the July meeting. May Golden is the author for the July article on Family Support. The balance of the year's meetings, authors and topics:

September – RICCs – Jacqueline Day and Patrick McSherry

October – Health Issues – Patrick McSherry

November – Overview – Terrie Hylton

Hylton had to leave the meeting at this point. Allen took over the proceedings. She will send samples of Diversity Focus articles to Day.

C - Next agenda item was Arab American outreach. Allen suggested inviting two prominent Arab Americans to a Committee meeting to learn ways that might produce successful outreach in the Arab American community. In turn, the two individuals could learn about Committee activities.

D - T. Wong of The Arc Michigan gave a report on his grant project, Include All of Us. He said there wasn't a lot to report at this time. The Grand Rapids staff member who was originally on the project has been replaced. Wong is still working on making a connection with the Lansing Latino community. J. Day and other members offered contact tips and resources to Wong.

In discussing outreach to minorities, Allen recalled the Project of National Significance federal grant some years ago that successfully practice outreach to a variety of minority families in the eastern part of the state. Besides the DDI/Arc Michigan/Council's team, service providers were also at the sessions, but since the Council itself had no services to provide, there was not a lot of interest in the Council itself. No follow-up was

conducted with any of the families, after the grant project had concluded, to attempt to get the consumers and family members involved in advocacy.

What has the Council to offer to minority consumers and families since it doesn't have direct services to provide? Wong suggested the opportunity to impact policies in the long term. Is that something a person with a disability who is also a member of a minority group would be interested in?

If people, said Wong, are not interested in impacting policy on a state level and systems change on a local level, then what is the point of trying to get them interested through outreach? Do the materials we distribute address this? For many people the group presumes to reach out to, they may just want somebody to hang out with.

Allen suggested that instead of lecturing the RICCs and their diversity coordinators about outreach, perhaps the committee should be helping the RICCs to make the RICC friendly and attractive, how to do an effective brochure....and with the success of the meetings and gathering comes interest from all sections of the community.

E - Allen reviewed Committee membership's attendance at other committee and work group meetings. Members will report to the Committee, then, on those other committees' and work groups' activities. Representatives are:

J. Day and P. Hall – *Health Issues Work Group*

Meets 1:30 to 3:30 at Council office, third Tuesday of the month

A. Robinson and J. Day – *Public Policy Committee*

Meets the morning of the second Tuesday of the month

Y. Bouraoui – *Education Work Group*

Meets 10 to noon, Council office, fourth Wednesday of the month

M. Golden and P. Hall– *Transportation Work Group*

Meets 10 to noon, Council office, second Thursday of the month

J. Day and S. Baker – *Housing Work Group*

Meets 1:30 to 3:00, Council office, second Thursday of the month

M. Allen - *Family Support Work Group*

Meets 10 to 1, Council office, third Wednesday of the month

Y. Bouraoui and P. McSherry - *Program Committee*

Meets the morning of the second Tuesday of the month

F - The Committee discussed the new Council DVD on Medicaid. Members agreed to view the program at an upcoming meeting.

G - Bouraoui reported on the poster project. Work by the Poster Committee continues with lots of design ideas being reviewed. Presenter from North Carolina for the last meeting had to cancel but plans call for her to join a future meeting.

H – Golden announced that the diversity training held for the Disability Network in Flint was quite informative.

---

## **Education Work Group**

May 23, 2007

Attendance: Jane Spitzley, Glenn Ashley, Karen Massaro-Mundt, Sandee Koski, Yasmina Bouraoui, Rick Van Horn

Phone: Stacey Diekevers, Patt Clement, Jane Reagan

1.) Jane R moved to accept the April 25, 2007 minutes. Jane S. seconded, and the motion carried.

2.) Review and Discussion of May 8 Council meeting.

The presentations went well.

Some documents were small print, and needed to be larger. The policies from Everyone Together need larger print. The language was abstract and complex. An overview in simpler language could be written. We don't need everything in large print. Small than 12 point is not good. 14 point font helps people with lower reading levels.

We need to push these principles with all presenters.

Jane S suggested that at start of presentation, in addition to asking if everyone can see and hear, invite them to move to the front.

One person questioned Universal Education and the Council's position. They asked whether all the children are better off, and having a positive experience. They suggest that we should check on that with the students.

People who support UE don't believe that we should just dump kids into regular education classrooms. Universal Education is more than just

inclusion. We believe that Universal Design for Learning helps all students learn better. That is one of basic principles of Universal Education.

If regular ed is an unsafe environment for special ed students, it's not safe for a lot of other students. School safety is essential for parents to support inclusion.

We often miss the social piece of inclusion.

Phil Lancaster from Jackson spoke eloquently about his positive experience of inclusion. He grew up with friends. He has a wide circle of friends as an adult. He talks to families and kids with disabilities. He pointed out that schools can't do everything.

### 3.) Michigan Alliance for Families – Sandee Koski

Sandee passed out a PowerPoint overview, which Rick will send to the workgroup.

The Arc Michigan was awarded the parent information, support and education grant by MDE. The project is directly linked to 2 measures in the MDE state performance plan. Those are part C, indicator 4 and Part B, indicator 8. They are listed in the PowerPoint.

The grant can build capacity in parents to be ready to partner. MDE needs to build capacity in schools for partnering.

Staff from the previous grant in Ann Arbor have been brought in and are doing the Information, Resources & Referral. Jackie Igafo-Te'o, a parent, is designing the website.

Regions are being developed. The project is hiring local people as Regional Parent Mentors as they are developed. They must be a parent of someone with a disability. The regions and training are designed to respect the travel dynamics in their communities, and hold workshops in locations where parents would ordinarily travel.

The first training in Ludington last night had 7 parents, including 4 parents of young children.

The project does not do direct advocacy, but will connect parents to resource people who do advocacy.

The Regional Parent Mentor attends LICC (Local Interagency Coordinating Councils, for Early On) and PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) meetings, and supports parents to attend and get involved.

They will also provide support for parents on SICC (State Interagency Coordinating Council) and CEAC. Most parent representatives have children who have aged out, over 12 years old. So they can no longer be on the Council and the Council has lost many members. The project plans to provide training when parents are appointed by the Governor.

MAISA (Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators) is a member of the coalition, and will encourage local schools and ISDs (Intermediate School Districts) to participate. This has started to help overcome past barriers.

Sherry Boyd has been hired to work on the project.

#### 4.) Administrative Rules for Special Education

The deadline for public comment is July 20.

The public hearings will be in conjunction with teacher tenure rules.

They are:

- Oakland County, Waterford schools, Monday, June 11, 6:30-8:30 and June 12, 9:00-11:00
- Roscommon, Kirtland Community College, Tuesday June 12, 6:30-8:30 and June 13, 9:00-11:00
- Lansing, Ingham ISD, Wednesday, June 13, 6:30-8:30 and June 14, 9:00-11:00

Jane will send a summary and a link about the hearings to Rick, and he will send it to the workgroup.

It includes a statement that an extended school year may be considered for any student, regardless of disability. Elimination of the 230 program for particular categories may put kids at risk of losing services. Currently other students must prove loss of skills.

A key problem is that parents must provide documentation of regression and recoupment (loss of skills, and recovery time.) It is hard for parents to get data to prove them, which would come from the school. They are required to provide it to parents. Schools are not required to track it, and have a financial incentive to not track the data. The school does benefit in helping students make annual yearly progress. You also can't prove the student has lost skills over the summer, unless the student loses the 230 day program first.

It is not clear if regression and recoupment documentation will be required under the new rules, and for whom.

This is an issue that needs public testimony.

Jane S also expressed concern about social isolation of students at home during the summer.

It was proposed that the workgroup ask the Council to submit public comment and draft a letter. It would need to be approved by the Executive Committee. Talking points would be needed soon for the public hearings.

Yasmina will ask Mark if he will have written comments or a talking points draft that the workgroup can use as the basis for our comments.

The link to the rules and proposed changes are [www.arckent.org](http://www.arckent.org).

Rick will forward the department's link in the email from Jane R.

[www.cenmi.org](http://www.cenmi.org) has the current administrative rules in a link on the right side of the page.

We will meet Friday June 1, at 10:00 to noon, at the DD Council office, to write the comments.

5.) Our Work Group's Policy Discussion  
Postponed until the June meeting.

4.) Other business

Symposium on Post-Secondary Education for Students with Disabilities has been scheduled for

Barbara LeRoy and Janice Fialka sent a letter requesting \$5,000 from the Education Work Group / Council to co-sponsor the event and support the program. The total cost is \$42,000, and DDI has committed \$7,000.

The DD Council in Ohio has an Education Workgroup that is very active on this issue.

Glenn moved that the Education Work Group express to the Executive Committee our support for the Symposium, and request that the Council approve \$5,000 to co-sponsor the event. In order for the Council's sponsorship to be included in the brochure, the funding would have to be approved by June 20. Sandee seconded, and the motion carried.

Staff will draft a letter conveying this request.

6.) Announcements

Rick is retiring July 1, and Yasmina will be the staff support person for the immediate future.

7.) Adjournment

Jane R moved that we adjourn. Sandee seconded, and the motion carried.

Next meeting – Wednesday, June 27, 2007 at 10:00

Special meeting, Friday, June 1 from 10:00 to noon, at the DD Council office.

# Family Support Work Group

April 18, 2007

Members Present: Audrey Craft, David Martin, Jackie Igafo-Te'o, Lori Goike

Via Phone: Judy Cerano, Randy Krause, Carolyn Allston-Smith

Staff: Tracy Vincent

Welcome and Introductions were done.

Audrey motioned to approve the February and March minutes, David seconded. Motion approved.

## Announcements

- Planning for the Future seminar June 11<sup>th</sup> at Marriott Troy. Six unique workshops will be offered that includes benefits, housing options, financial, employment, and alternatives to guardianship
- Empowerment Information day is being held May 21<sup>st</sup> at Oakland Schools. Q & A session for family members, self advocates, DD professionals and providers.
- Empowering Fathers presentation is being held May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Ingham County Human Services Building. Session will provide legal and social services consultation.
- Michigan Head Start Parent Education day is May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing.
- Currently there is federal legislation for the Lifespan Respite Act. The Respite Resource Network is meeting monthly to seek ways to funnel the money from the feds to the state level.

## Planning for July 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

The FSWG is responsible for the July Council meeting agenda. The group selected various organizations to present and Tracy will contact them to check availability for that day. Tracy will put together a tentative agenda and review it at the May FSWG meeting.

## Status of Parent Surveys

Parent surveys have been distributed through various venues. We have received approximately 34 surveys. Jackie will put the survey on the Family Support Work Group's website. Jackie will compile and analyze the surveys and will report back to the group.

### Review of Work plan

The committee reviewed the work plan. The group is on track.

### Disability Policy Fact Sheets

The committee reviewed fact sheets that were developed for the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. The fact sheets give suggestions on what the legislators can do to correct the problems. It gives really good sense of where we are at nationally at the various levels.

### Other

Tracy will send out the recruitment letter again to organizations to attract new membership.

---

## **Health Issues Work Group**

April 17, 2007

**Members present:** Jacqui Day, Yvonne Fleener, Judy Webb, Pam Hall, Mary Marin

**Staff:** Terry Hunt, Dee Florence, Yasmina Bouraoui

The minutes from the March 2007 meeting were accepted as presented.

### **Medicaid: Our Neighbors, Our Community**

The video is in the final completion stage and hopefully will be previewed at the May 8<sup>th</sup> DD Council meeting. The discussion guide is being worked on and should be completed by the May meeting.

The video will be a useful tool to educate legislators as to what Medicaid pays for. A copy of the video, along with a cover letter, will be sent to each legislator.

We are exploring sending out the video electronically. This will give us the ability to send it out to an unlimited number of individuals, agencies, etc. We hope to post it on the DD Council's website.

### **Status of Care Coordination Project**

Quarterly meetings are being set up between the HIWG and the Care Coordination Projects. A memo will be sent to the grantees requesting that they participate, either in person or through teleconference, in the May, August and October HIWG meetings. This will give the work group the opportunity to remain abreast to the progress of the grant.

### **April 11, 2007 Networking/Collaboration Meeting**

This goal of this meeting was to ensure that the different work groups and committees are not duplicating efforts. The DD Council's grant money is limited but important to develop cutting edge DD programs. We must use it strategically. A planning meeting took place April 11, 2007 for all work groups, committees and Council members. Leaders and members are encouraged to attend. We explored ways we can collaborate, but no decisions were reached. The dual occurrence of DD/MI is often not diagnosed by CMH.

### ***Status of Oral Health Project***

The deadline to submit grant proposals has passed. There were four (4) proposals submitted. A grant review committee is being organized.

### **State Budget Crisis**

There is a grave budget deficit that legislators are attempting to resolve. The Democrats want tax increases and the Republicans prefer cuts to services. Everyone needs to contact their legislators and let them know that we can't afford any additional cuts to services. It is key to communicate to the that these cuts not only affect individuals receiving the services but it those providing the services will lose their jobs, stop paying taxes, stop buying products and services, etc. This will create a "snowball effect".

The Senate Community Health sub-committee will be holding hearing this month. The first being April 19, 2007 from 2-5. This hearing will be regarding Medicaid Overview. The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2007 2-5 regarding Mental Health Overview. The disability community needs to turn out and testify at these hearings. It is important to tell the legislators your story how Medicaid affects your life.

### **Energy Relief**

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has a plan in place so that individuals who are on respirators or those who must have energy to run

life saving medical devices will not have their services shut off. A letter from your doctor must be provided to PSC. For further details, please contact Pam Hall at hallpamela@michigan.gov.

---

## **Michigan Housing Disability Work Group**

May 10, 2007

ATTENDEES: Jill Gerri, DNM; Tony Wong, ARC of Mi; Nelson Grit, MDRC; Caroline Grawi, AACIL; Joyce Blair, Detroit/Wayne County LTC; Jacqui Day, Michigan DD Council; Cheryl Trommater; Paul Palmer; Mi DD Council, Frank Lynn, ZSAM; Cindy Viers, DAKC; Clark Goodrich, DAKC; Linda Potter, UCP of Michigan; Sandy Kiernan, Lakeshore CIL; Sue Hart; Chris Hodgson; Carl Fenner; Zakiyyah Muhammad; Ed Kibbee, TDN-Flint.

MCOAH:

. Corrie Bair Building Inclusive Communities Award: Habitat For Humanity of Kent County with Pam Doty Nation accepting the award. Pictures were taken.

. Action Day: MCDHF 1,600 people attended. Group wanting to see how unified, strong, and follow up will be. Get Active campaign was used and not many people had joined.

. PA 182 presentation: went very well. Paul was able to pull all the different partners together in a concise, informative, and interesting presentation. Paul will call Jim Davis and Sue will follow up with Rick Ballard concerning the PA 182 trainings for the future. Caroline said that the West construction architects won the RFP for the blueprints that are going to be put on their website along with technical assistance.

Linda Potter discussed some housing called the Virginia project that is going up in East Lansing. Tony and Linda are going to look into it.. They are owner occupied homes.

. Healthy Neighborhoods and NIMBYism workshops went well except George Galster did not attend according to Linda Potter.

ZSAM:

Booth and presentations went well at the conference. Next meeting is 5/16/07 at DAKC. Midyear reports are done and are working on standards for the Code Commission.

MDRC Steering Committee: next steering committee meeting is 5/30/07. Homeownership Workgroups have gone well.

DNM HAT retreat: for CIL employees, Use Strategy Charts for Housing Access, and Transportation advocacy groups. Is on 6/26/07 at the Ketternun Center in Cadillac, Mi

ADAPT: 90 people arrested. Secretary Jackson is standing behind the letter he wrote to give preferences and HCV to those exiting nursing homes. Mi has MFP which would be a collaboration with MSHDA and DCH. Sue, Nelson, and Paul are attending the "Housing: a Matter of Justice" conference in Chicago over the weekend and will bring back more information. The State LTC group will be meeting with us at our next meeting which is Thursday, June 14th, 2007 at 1:00 pm.

---

## **Public Policy Committee**

May 8, 2007

### Present

Jacqui Day, Jane Spitzley, Andre Robinson, Theresa Squires, Robyn Sefton, Vera Graham, Jane Reagan, Rob Lewakowski, Cynthia Farrell, Pam Hall, Paul Palmer, Karen Massaro-Mundt, Terry Hunt, Vendella Collins, Tandy Bidinger, Dee Florence

### Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Chair Andre Robinson welcomed everyone.

### Approval of Minutes from April meeting

Jacqui Day moved that the minutes from the April meeting be accepted. Jane Spitzley seconded. CARRIED.

### Federal Updates

#### Budget

Funds going for defense are continuing to drain a large portion of the federal budget. Other programs are suffering because of the large debt being created by the war (in Iraq).

### DD Act Reauthorization

In an attempt to create a sense of urgency with Congress, Councils from all the states are gathering stories from consumers about how advocacy has helped improve their lives.

No new draft of the DD Act has been released. PPC members will get the draft as soon as it is received. We will then need to make comments.

Contact your U.S. legislators and let them know that we need to keep all the funding for the DD Act. Due to their young age, there are many injured veterans returning home with new developmental disabilities and any funding cuts could be disastrous. More people with developmental disabilities will likely create a higher need for our advocacy services.

### State Updates

#### Legislative Action

The state budget crisis is still not resolved. In an effort to address budget shortfalls identified for fiscal year 2007, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is implementing 6% provider/fee reductions for Medicaid effective on and after June 1, 2007.

The Senate Community Health Subcommittee will be holding a hearing on May 17, 2007 to determine decisions on FY2007-08. All hearings will begin at 2:00 pm in the first floor hearing room of Boji Tower, 124 W. Allegan, Lansing.

It is of utmost importance that individuals turn out at the hearing to let the legislators know the disability community is keeping track of the decisions each legislator makes.

**ACTION ALERT:** Communicate with your legislators. Let them know what cuts to services would mean to you and your quality of life. If you are willing to pay a small tax increase for quality of life, let them know.

### *Mental Health Issues*

Mental Health Parity – This legislation will be reintroduced but is unlikely to pass this year, due to budget cuts.

### *Create PPC Platform*

The Council is in the process of creating a public policy platform. The platform will be issue driven and should revolve around the issues that the council will be involved in. The talking points developed for the legislative day is a good starting point to identify key issues. Each work group and committee is asked to review the talking points and bring any suggested changes to the PPC.

### *Legislative Event - Update*

Due to the Governor's Executive Directives, designed to reduce the budget deficit, we were unable to sign the contract with the Radisson hotel to hold the date for 2008. We will keep you informed as further developments occur.

### *Grant Update*

#### *Informed Communities*

#### *Housing Forum Plans*

This will be the first forum: a housing forum will be held in Kalamazoo July 20, 2007 from 9:00 am -4:00 pm. A location has not yet been set.

### *List of Other Possible Topics*

A survey is being done to determine other topics. Topics will be chosen from the responses. The Steering Committee is finalizing this process.

### Education Update

Plans are being made for a joint meeting between the Education Work Group and the Public Policy Committee to discuss education topics.

### DDC Awards Update

Three awards will be presented today. The awards will be given for *Unsung Advocate*, *RICC that Made a Difference*, and *Multicultural Outreach*.

### Contributing to the PPC Meeting

The PPC would like to have more active participation from meeting participants and get more RICC Public Policy Advocates involved in attending the meetings. Our goal is for participants to give comments and speak on agenda items.

### April Collaboration Meeting

April 11, 2007 was the first collaboration meeting between all of the committees and work groups. This is the first step in creating a new PPC work plan. We are still in the talking phase. The PPC will collaborate with all groups and look at the issues in their work plans. The goal is to create work plans with policy issues included.

---

## **Transportation Work Group**

May 10, 2007

PRESENT : Jacqui Day, Diane Kempen, Paul Palmer, JoAnn Lucas, MaLissa Shutt, Pam Hall

### Staff

Tandy Bidinger, Dee Florence

### VIA PHONE:

Ontonagon: Sue Ernest, Dale Kempen, Amanda Paveglio, Carl Mantila

Washtenaw: Erin McMahon, Robin Sefton, Sherri Fernandez

Eastern UP: Kori Horrom, Jon Browicheski, Charlene Klip

Kent Co.: Rob Lewakowski

Wayne: Hank Johnson, Charles Stedman, Tommy

Genesee: Meadows, Robert Robleski, Charles Martinez,  
Sharon Jablonski, Gary Yeskey  
Kathy McGeathy, Gary Conway, Gordon  
Silvia, Tiffany McIntire, Carl Fenner Chris  
Hodgeson  
Midland: Mark Oliver, Vera Graham  
Tuscola: Ralph Moore, Rita Wall

### Approval of Minutes

Hank Johnson moved that the April 2007 minutes be approved as presented. Rob Lewakowski seconded.

### Legislative Update

#### *Michigan Budget Crisis*

The MI budget issue is still not resolved. Each day the deficit gets larger and larger. Please contact your legislators and tell them you want no more cuts to public transportation! There have been budget hearings in both the House and Senate.

A bill has been introduced that would put a 9 cent tax increase on gas and would also increase by 50% the cost of a vehicle registration. Most of the funds generated would be used to improve roads, but a small amount would be for public transit. While the DD Council has not taken a position on his proposal, the TWG is against the gas tax increase. The TWG will send this information to the full Council for their recommendations on taking an official position on this proposal.

#### *Public Transit Caucus*

The transportation caucus met for the first time this morning. Rep. Gabe Leland is the Chair and a strong transportation advocate. Seven legislators attended. There were also many in attendance from the "Let's Get Moving Coalition". The Michigan Municipal League gave a presentation on visibility.

### Federal Update

#### *Federal Budget*

Transportation is not an issue that is being debated right now. The main budget focus is on the defense budget.

#### *DD Act Reauthorization*

The DD Act is up for reauthorization. This is considered a discretionary item at the federal level. Right now the DD Act is “under the radar” (not considered a high priority). Contact your legislators and let them know that we need to keep all the funding for the DD Act. Due to their young age, there are many injured veterans returning home with developmental disabilities and any funding cuts would be disastrous. More people with developmental disabilities will create a higher need for our advocacy services.

#### Review of the April Transportation Themed Council Meeting

Many positive responses were received regarding the meeting. There was lots of involvement and interaction which added interest for the RICC members in attendance. One thing we need to keep in mind for the next meeting is to make sure that all of the information is prepared in an accessible format.

#### Common Disability Agenda Document

The Disability Agenda is being updated and the DD Council has had the opportunity to submit comments regarding the public transportation section.

#### LAC Updates

##### BATTLE CREEK

The LAC only meets once a year. The RICC went to the LAC and requested that there be more LAC meetings. The LAC is now meeting quarterly with the next meeting being in July.

##### HURON

A consumer member of the Huron RICC has been appointed to their LAC.

#### MDOT State Long-Range Transportation Plan

MDOT’s Long-Range Transportation Plan will establish a vision and policy framework for Michigan’s transportation system through the year 2030. The proposed plan is posted on MDOT’s website. Consumers are asked to read over the plan and submit comments. You may review, and comment on the plan at [www.michigan.gov/slrp](http://www.michigan.gov/slrp). The deadline to comment is May 14, 2007. We will also be submitting DD Council (& TWG) comments to the plan.

#### TWG Work Plan

A new simplified template has been created. This should make it easier to create our next work plan. Next month the entire meeting will revolve around creating our work plan for FY 08. Please look over last year's plan and think about what we want to achieve in the upcoming year. Be prepared to brainstorm!

### August TWG Traveling Meeting

Tentative plans are being made to hold the meeting in Gaylord on August 6, 2007. We are currently looking for a location. However, due to state budget cuts the meeting may be canceled. We should know by the next TWG meeting whether we will be able to hold the Gaylord meeting or not.

### TWG T-shirt

The money for the T-shirts were due today. If you have not already paid for your T-shirts please submit the money today. The cost of the shirts are as follows; consumers will be charged \$2 and professionals \$10 per shirt. RICCs are asked to collect the funds for their RICC members and mail in everyone's money on one check. The check should be made out to "Northfield Human Services" and mailed to the DD Council Office at:

Michigan DD Council  
Attn: Dee Florence  
1033 S. Washington Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48909

We can also accept cash, if it is hand delivered.

### Success Stories

#### Wayne

Consumers are attending meetings at the Arc in the evening and at times the busses are not picking them up. Complaints have been filed with the transit provider and last week 3 RICC members were left again.

Fortunately, a supervisor from the transit provider was parked across the street, saw what happened and gave all 3 individuals a ride home. Upon checking the bus roster, all three members that had been left were indeed on the roster to be picked up.

The Detroit Disability Task Force (DDTF) will now meet right before the TWG meeting so that DDTF members can also attend the TWG meeting.

## Jackson

The JTA small bus was parked out front of the Hannah Center during the May DD Council meeting because an inter-local agreement was made between Jackson and Lansing to allow JTA to come into Lansing for specific purposes and visa versa. This is exciting, because it was (in part) due to TWG efforts! Consumers are able to attend Council meetings and other events as a result.

## Genesee

A grant has been received to do bus stop evaluations. The RICC members are doing the evaluations and gathering lots of information for the local transit provider. This will allow the transit provider to see the real picture of how accessible the bus stops really are.

## Shiawassee

Township officials have asked RICC members to attend to give their stories.

## Bulletin Board

The bulletin board is near the finishing point. However, a few legal issues have been raised regarding keeping personal information confidential (such as consumer's names). An attorney from DCH has been contacted. Can the members of the TWG post their names, if they have a guardian? How would we know who has a guardian?

## Teleconference Rules:

All RICCs are encouraged to participate in the TWG teleconference. Due to the large number of individuals interested in calling in, and the limited funding allocated to the TWG, ground rules have been set. They are as follows:

- The Teleconference site must be at a public place.
- There should be at least two consumers participating in the call.
- RICCs must RSVP in advance so that meeting materials can be sent to you in before the meeting, and that we can let others from your area know where the phone site is.
- RSVP to Dee Florence at 517-334-6123 or florenced1@michigan.gov
- Questions about this policy (or to set up a new phone site), contact Tandy Bidingert at (517) 334-7355 or email bidingert@michigan.gov.

# Program Committee

May 8, 2007

**Present:** Melissa Anderson, Glenn Ashley, Sandee Koski, Randy Krause, Carolyn Lejuste, Don Trout, Theresa Arini

**Staff:** Cheryl Trommater, Tracy Vincent, Yasmina Bouraoui, Rick Van Horn, Mitzi Allen

---

**Issue:** Welcome, Introductions.

**Action:** N.A.

---

**Issue:** Housekeeping: Minutes of the April 10, 2007 meeting.

**Action:** Minutes were approved by consensus.

---

**Issue:** Draft Revisions

**Action:**

A. RFP Boilerplate: This contained minor editorial changes.

B. Grant Proposal Package: The following proposed changes were discussed.

B1. Under Target groups, add request for demographic information about the applicant's area.

- Information about the community – census data on total population, and racial composition of the target area. Other information, as relevant to the project, such as ages, should be included. A link to the census data Could be included in the *Information and Tools*. This should be easy to provide, and be helpful to reviewer.
- Information about the disability population. This is difficult to find, especially broken out based on developmental disabilities. Places to find information about the disability population include schools and CMH, both of which are incomplete. Consensus was to not request this.

B2. Change the Target Group table “1.a: People with Disabilities” to percents instead of numbers for levels of support. This would mean that people who exceed the target number of total people would also need to increase the number of people with

high support needs. Then an overall target number will be needed.

B3. There was discussion about whether the economic level of participants needs to be included. It would be impossible to get this information for a proposal, and intrusive to track on participants. The vast majority of people with disabilities have very low income. It was agreed not to ask for this information. A statement could be added somewhere that says “We target people from all economic levels.” We could ask about socio-economic status of community in demographic data. Or reflect on ways to go about this for future revisions.

B4. On Target Group tables 1.b and 2. Delete all references to the forms being an example.

B5. Budget Narrative is an added piece that reviewers have asked for. We should ask for review from other applicants, and look at how other grantors do this. Some items may not need narrative. Others we may need to specify what we want to know. Several suggestions were made.

C. Materials on logic models for workplan. Cheryl reviewed two well-known logic models. The Kellogg Foundation model is similar to the PATH person centered planning model. University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX) has an online course on logic models.

She explained the background of the current workplan, which were developed in an attempt to simplify the previous forms. The current workplan form folds the previous workplan, timeline, and evaluation into one form. Those items need to be included in any new form.

Cheryl extracted the workplan-type tables from the descriptions of the logic models. Actually following the entire process of either model would create large stacks of tables. The issues raised by the RFP survey call for simplification, and the logic model appears to complicate the process. Some of the terminology – inputs, outputs and impacts – are not well understood.

The elements of the Council’s current workplan form appear in some of the tables used by the logic models, but in a different sequence. One option is to change the sequence of our form to

closer resemble logic model forms. (An example was included in the handouts.)

Carolyn recommended looking at other models. We agreed to spend some time this summer exploring options and gathering information from other people.

Carolyn, Theresa, and Glenn agreed to serve. Cheryl will recruit other people.

---

**Issue:** Staff Report: Health Care Coordination.

**Information:** There was not enough time to discuss this item.