

- Letter to readers
- Mitzi Allen Retires
- Upcoming Events
- Pictures of May Retreat
- Activity Section

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

RICC Summit	1
Walk-A-mile	4
RICC Updates	6
Legislation	9
Committee Updates	10
Workgroups Update	12

Community Update

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

JUNE 2013

RICC Summit July 9th

This year the Council will be focusing on RICC training with the July 9th RICC Summit. It will be held at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center from 9:00a.m.-3:30p.m. This is a great opportunity to improve RICC advocacy and community involvement. There will be three sessions: How to Organize your RICC to Avoid Burnout; Shred the Hate Workshops/Best Practices in Community Outreach; and Using Social Media to Promote Your RICC. Can't wait to see you there!!!!

Below is a brief description of each session.

1. How to Organize your RICC to Avoid Burnout:

Eva Jenson of the Disability Advocates of Kent County (DAKC) will be presenting a jammed packed session full of tips and tricks to avoid burnout. See how you can spice up your advocacy efforts.

2. Shred the Hate Workshops/ Best Practices in Community Outreach:

The Delta and Iosco RICCs have been very active in Shred the Hate Campaign. Learn how to start your own campaign, how to get pledges and other interesting tips from your fellow RICC members.

3. Using Social media to Promote Your RICC:

Are you afraid to create your own Facebook page? Don't worry it's easy!! Meredith Smith, Jen Gossett, Andrea Cotter and Charlene Lizotte will be presenting a session on how to use Facebook to promote your RICC.

Sheryl Kuenzer
Chairperson

Vendela M. Collins
Executive Director

Yasmina Bouraoui
Deputy Director

Meredith Smith
*Editor/Communications
Representative*

Tandy Bidinger
Public Policy Analyst

Dee Florence
Advocacy Secretary

Terry Hunt
*Community Services
Consultant*

Tedra Jackson
Grants Monitor

Tracy Vincent
Resource Analyst

201 Townsend St.
Lansing, MI 48933
517-335-3158 (voice)
517-335-2751(fax)
517-335-3171(TDD)
Mdch-dd-
council@michigan.gov

www.michigan.gov/
ddcouncil



Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

Dear Readers:

I appreciate all the suggestions, support and encouragement! Thank you for welcoming me to the DD Council. I am happy to bring to you our second newsletter!!

The Council would like to let you know that we now have our own email address. If you have any concerns, questions or just want to say hello, please email us at:
mdch-dd-council@michigan.gov.

In this issue of Community Update we will recap: the May Retreat , work group and committee updates. An important legislation update with Medicaid Expansion is also covered in this issue. I am also very excited to announce some new features to our newsletter. We now have a new activity section which includes: trivia, maze and a word search (the answers are located on the bottom of the page, just flip it upside down). Don't hesitate to give me a call or shoot an email if you have any suggestions for articles or thoughts of what you want to see next.

Remember...

“Our Community Includes Everyone!”

Sincerely,

Meredith Smith
Communications Representative
smithm10@michigan.gov
517-335-1542



Allen Retires After 37 Years

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council lost a treasured employee to retirement. After 37 years of valuable service to the State of Michigan, Mitzi Allen retired on April 30th. During her tenure she has provided support for people with developmental disabilities to participate in the work of the Council. Mitzi spearheaded the Shred the Hate campaign, which gained more than 9,000 signatures. She also contributed to a number of council events, workgroups and meetings.

Ms. Allen plans to spend her retirement by walking her dog Chauncey and gardening.

Word from Council Staff:

“Mitzi, I have really enjoyed working with you over the last four years. You’ve been a great resource, teammate and co-worker. Together, with Tracy, we’ve planned some unforgettable events. The July meeting won’t be the same without you. You will be greatly missed.”

-Tedra Jackson



RICCs Participate in Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes Rally

On May 8, 2013 advocates from all over the state participated in the 9th Annual Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes Rally. Community Mental Health (CMH) hosted the walk in order to educate the public about mental health, substance abuse disorders and developmental disabilities, and to end the stigmas attached to them. Advocates did a symbolic walk around the Capitol and read statements about developmental disabilities, substance abuse, and mental health.

Many Regional Inclusive Community Coalitions (RICCs) attended and participated in the event. Grantee Yvette Thomas carried the Flag for Oakland County. RICC members from Eastern Upper Peninsula (U.P.) also carried their county flag and read statements.



Yvette Thomas poses with Oakland County flag at 2013 Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes Rally.



Eastern U.P. members hold Chippewa County flag at the 2013 Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes rally.

May Retreat

On May 21-22, RICCs, Council members, grantees and advocates gathered for the Council's Annual Retreat at the Okemos Conference Center. This two-day Retreat was filled with informational sessions and a spectacular Awards Banquet (See Member spotlight).

The first day of the Retreat covered RICC development with presentations on: self-advocacy, national core indicators, ideal RICC and supporting the RICC network. The day ended with a fantastic awards banquet. Members arrived dress to impress!

The second day ended with overview of Complex Needs Study along with discussion and recommendations. The members learned about how to build a better RICC, self-advocacy techniques and results from various Council projects.



RICC members sit to enjoy the Awards Banquet.

**See pictures on page
15**

2013 Outstanding Advocate Awards



RICC Makes A Difference:
Ontonagon RICC



Trailblazer Grantee:
MDRC, Connections for Community Leadership



Champion:
Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker



Champion:
Sen. Tom Casperson



Community Outreach:
Scott Marvin



Lifetime Achievement:
Cheryl Trommater

Member Spotlight: 2013 Outstanding Advocates

This month instead of focusing on one member in spotlight we have six. At the 2013 Outstanding Advocates Award banquet the following individuals received awards:

RICC Makes A Difference: Ontonagon RICC

The Ontonagon RICC has significantly improved the visibility, influence and integration of persons with developmental disabilities through its successful advocacy for the Village of Ontonagon to adopt and implement a Complete Streets ordinance.

Trailblazer Grantee: MDRC, Connections for Community Leadership (CCL)

This project has been a leader in Michigan, helping participants and partners recognize the often-unacknowledged contribution of disability in history, public education, and the human experience.

Champion: Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker

Senator Schuitmaker worked consistently on SB564, the Medicaid Freedom to Work legislation for several years, until it was finally passed by both state chambers and signed by the Governor in December, 2012.

Champion: Sen. Tom Casperson

Senator Casperson sponsored a bill last year, in series of bills, that created the Regional Transit Authority. He understands the needs of people with disabilities and transportation.

Community Outreach: Scott Marvin

Scott has been very active in the Council's Shred the Hate Campaign. He has single-handedly obtained more than 800 signatures from various people pledging to stop using the R-word and other hate speech.

Lifetime Achievement: Cheryl Trommater

Cheryl was a tireless advocate for people with developmental and other disabilities. She served as Grants Manager for the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council for 23 years. In her role she was the Council's expert in the award, monitoring, and evaluation of DD Council grants to increase the integration, independence, and productivity of people with developmental disabilities.

Upcoming Events

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7	8	9 	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 	19	20
21	22	23 	24 	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

R- I- C- C- U- P- D- A- T- E- S

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Independence Day– July 4th
- ◆ RICC Seminar (p.1)– July 9th
- ◆ IFSEA (p.13)- July 24th
- ◆ Housing (p.12)- July 18th
- ◆ Economic Justice (p.13) – July 23rd
- ◆ RICC Teleconference-25th
- ◆ Council meeting— August 13th

Important News: The Council has a email address!! Please send all inquires to:

Mdch-dd-council@michigan.gov



Medicaid Expansion

Governor Snyder proposed that Michigan expand Medicaid eligibility under provisions of the US Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council supports Medicaid expansion and has been working with RICCs to write letters to legislators urging their support.

The Michigan House of Representatives passed the expansion – HB 4714.

The Council had numerous concerns about the initial version of HB 4714, but thanks to the input of advocates, it was amended in committee hearings to address many of those issues. One major improvement in the House version of this legislation is that newly eligible people (those with income between 100 -133% of poverty) may continue to qualify for Medicaid after 48 months of coverage. This continued eligibility, however, will require a federal waiver because people covered through the expansion will have to pay more for Medicaid (through co-pay, deductible, premium) or buy insurance from the federally-run exchange.

The DD Council will continue to work with our legislative partners to address our concerns and expand Medicaid in Michigan.

The Michigan Senate adjourned June 20th for a two month summer break without taking action on Medicaid expansion. The Senate will come back July 3rd and hopefully action will be taken.

The Council will be in contact with RICCs regarding next advocacy steps.

State of Michigan
Capitol Building



Diversity

The committee is discussing what to focus on once support for the Shred the Hate Campaign ends. Discussions have centered around a bigger focus on inclusion and providing Technical Assistance (TA) to RICCs in this area. The committee plans to help RICCs create inclusion activities for DD Awareness Month in 2014, as well as other inclusion activities in their work plans.

Strategy

The Strategy Committee met in January and again in June. They are currently focused on three areas: 1) The committee invited Alison Hirschel and Mark Cody to the January 2013 meeting to discuss Olmstead and the Oregon decision and next steps to addressing least restrictive environments in employment and housing; the development of a position paper around employment was identified as a priority and assigned to the Economic Justice workgroup. DCH data regarding employment placements for individuals with DD was reviewed. 2) Self-Direction and Self-Determination – there is active discussion about how to work with the CMH Board Association to focus on this issue, and how to promote individual assistance; 3) Inclusion of Individuals with Complex needs –the committee is anticipating the study findings and the actions the Council will take.

Program

The program committee is focusing on grants. It will be receiving reports from each grant project. Currently, the committee is reviewing and updating the grant dissemination plan or how to get the word out about our projects.

Public Policy

The Public policy committee is working on a number of key issues. Which include: Medical/Medicaid Non-Emergency transportation. Beneficiaries continue to have trouble getting rides. The committee is exploring the role of PCP (Person-Centered Planning) as a possible tool in finding a solution to the problem.

Employment issues regarding H.R. 831 is about the issuance of special wage certificates for 14(c) employment. This legislation would phase them out over a period of years.

Advocates are hoping to have Civil Rights for Persons with Disabilities Treaty (CRPD) taken up by the Senate, but there has been no action to date.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) required that swimming pools at public facilities be accessible. Many hotels are resisting this modification, but advocates continue to press for ADA enforcement.

Members also discussed guardianship bills in Michigan that would allow guardians to sign a DNR(Do Not Resuscitate) for their ward(s). The Council has taken a position against these bills.

Housing

The MDHWG wrote a position paper on Group Home Reform which was submitted to the Council for review at the June 11, 2013 meeting. The Council rejected the position paper in its current form and will submit comments. The comments will be taken under consideration, shared with the housing work group, and revisions will be made. The WG will bring a revised paper for approval.

The work group has also been working on talking points for scattered sites, relationships with legislators and submitted a letter to Michigan State Housing Developmental Authority (MSHDA) commenting on 2013 Michigan Public Housing Authority (PHA) Plan that focused on Housing Assistance Vouchers.

The work group had a booth at Building Michigan Communities Conference in April of 2013. The booth had many visitors. Frank Lynn, of the workgroup, received the Corrie Bair Award for Inclusive Housing.

Transportation

The work group and Trans4M are addressing Michigan's budget crisis /structural deficit, and the impact on transportation funding. They have looked at the various proposals to increase transportation funding. The proposals were designed to fix the roads and bridges, but nothing has been approved. Recently, a surplus was discovered in Michigan's budget, due to higher than anticipated revenue. Some of the money was given to MDOT's budget as a one-time fix, which means transit will get 10% of the total.

The work group is also working in collaboration with the Public Policy Committee and the Health Issues Work Group, on a potential advocacy initiative to coordinate transportation to and from medical appointments and Medicaid funded transportation.

IFSEA

The IFSEA Workgroup has been focusing on universal education. The workgroup updated the Council's 2003 Policy on Universal Education, which was approved by the Council, and has developed an advocacy strategy to create awareness and education around the issue. A booklet has been created and a distribution plan has been formed.

IFSEA continues to distribute information to parents and individuals. The work group created a fact sheet on self-determination and disability pride. The fact sheet will be passed out to parents of young children so the concept is introduced at an early age. IFSEA has been planning for seminars that will be held across the state on a variety of topics. More information to come.

IFSEA continues to monitor legislation that impacts families and individuals with disabilities, including restraint and seclusion, ABLE Act, and cyber-bullying.

IFSEA supports individuals across the lifespan and is looking for young adults and adults with disabilities to participate on the workgroup. If you are interested, please contact Tracy Vincent at vincentt1@michigan.gov or Tedra Jackson at jacksont7@michigan.gov.

Economic Justice

The Economic Justice Work Group is advocating for timely implementation of the Medicaid Freedom to Work policy, which Medicaid has indicated will not happen until 2014 in order to be in compliance with Medicaid rules. The group is also working with partners to advocate for an Employment First! Policy at the state level. Staff is working on a position paper around the status of employment of people with disabilities in Michigan, which will serve as a basis for developing a Council policy on employment. Principles already voiced in the plan include that people with disabilities of all ages value work, should be fairly compensated for their work, are free to choose their work, and should have broad access to competitive employment.

Health Issues

Integrated Care

Update regarding Michigan's Integrated Care proposal

In 2011 the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) was selected by the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to develop a proposal regarding integrated care for people dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Michigan's initial proposal was submitted to CMS in April, 2012. MDCH continues in negotiation with CMS regarding details about this proposal, but we do have the following information to report:

Michigan's project will begin in four regions: the entire Upper Peninsula, Macomb County, Wayne County and southwest Michigan (counties of Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren.) This demonstration project will initially operate for three years, as opposed to a statewide initiative which was originally announced.

MDCH is writing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Integrated Care Organizations (ICOs) for the four pilot sites and this RFP is now expected to be released in the summer of 2013.

The execution of the project has been moved to July, 2014.

Below is a link regarding additional information about Michigan's proposal.

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,4612,7-132-2939_2939_2939-259203--,00.html



2013 May Retreat

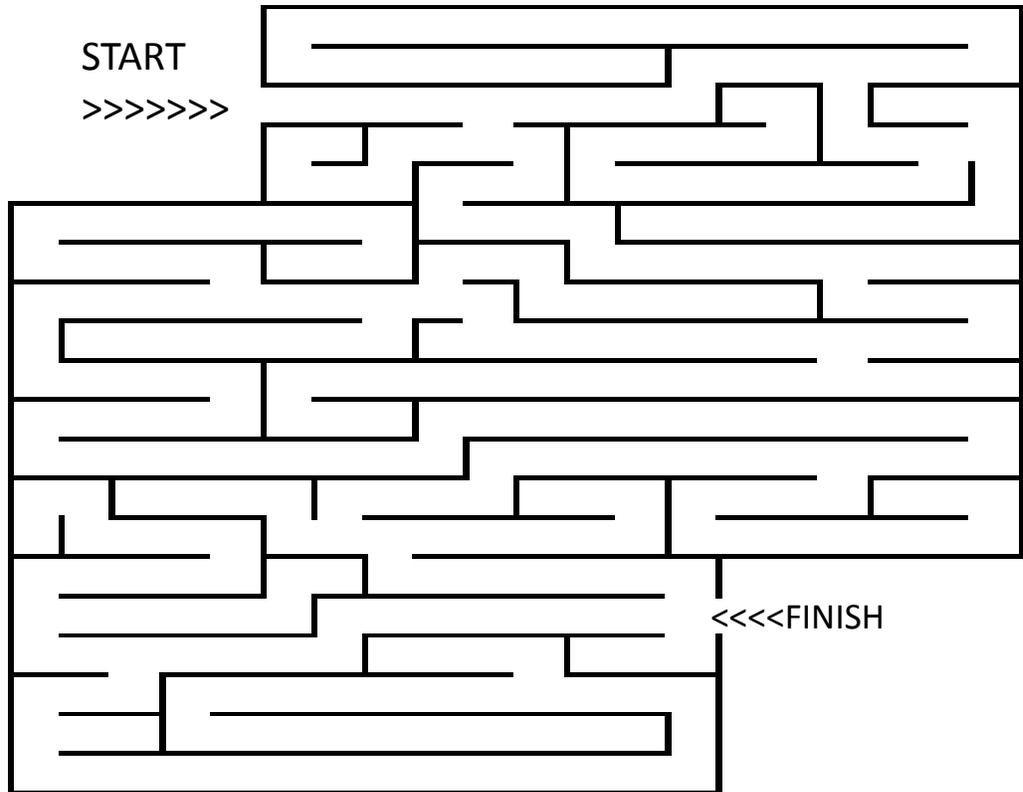


Trivia

Welcome to our new section called Activity! This is opportunity to put your knowledge of self-advocacy to the test.

1. What month is Developmental Disabilities month?
2. When was Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes?
3. What does RICC stand for?

****Turn page upside down for answers.

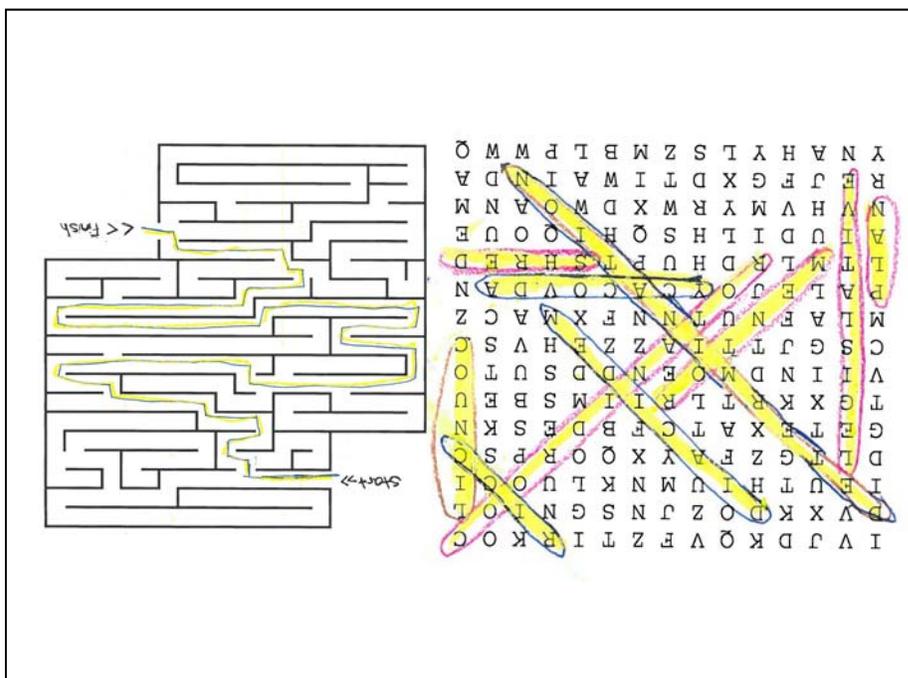


Self-Advocacy Summer Fun!!

***Turn page upside down to see answers

I V J D K Q V F Z T I R K O C
 D V X K D O Z J N S G N I O L
 I E U T H I U M N K L U O C I
 D L T G Z F A Y X Q O R P S C
 G E T E X A T C F B D E S K N
 T G X K R T L R I I M S B E U
 V I I N D M O E N D D S U T O
 C S G J T T I A Z Z E H V S C
 M L A F N U T N N F X M A C Z
 P A L E J O Y C A C O V D A N
 L T M L R D H U P T S H R E D
 A I U D I L H S Q H I Q O U E
 N V H V M Y R W X D W O A N M
 R E J F G X D T I W A I N D A
 Y N A H Y L S Z M B L P W W Q

ADVOCACY
 COORDINATOR
 COUNCIL
 DETERMINATION
 LEGISLATIVE
 MEDICAID
 MENTOR
 PLAN
 RICC
 SHRED



Answers to word search and maze:

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council works to support people with developmental disabilities across the state. The Governor appointed 21-member council consists of people with disabilities; family members, mentors, guardians, and advocates of people with disabilities; and professionals from state and local agencies who assist people with developmental disabilities.

Our Community Includes Everyone

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

June 2013

