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Celebrate
Years of
Service
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- Pictures of
Legislative
Event

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Community Update

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

MARCH 2014

2014 Legislative Event



On Feb.11, more than 100 statewide developmental disabilities advocates met with their state legislator during the Developmental Disabilities Council's 15th Annual Legislative Event at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing.

The Event kicked off with Lisa Gigliotti, who is a lawyer and disability advocate, speech about *Corraggio*-Courage- and the power to tell your story to legislators. After her inspirational message, members from Regional Inclusive Community Coalitions (RICC) across the state met with their state lawmakers to discuss policy issues affecting the developmental disability community. Lisa wrapped up the event with a debrief that helped RICC members understand the importance of educating policymakers, following-up with them after the meeting and building relationships. She left everyone feeling: "Alive! Alert! and Enthusiastic!"

more pictures on page 12

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Council Staff Celebrate Years of Service



Yasmina Bouraoui



Terry Hunt



Tedra Jackson

Yasmina Bouraoui has been with the State of Michigan for 20 years and the Council for 7 years as Deputy Director.

Terry Hunt has been with the State of Michigan for 15 years. Terry joined the council staff in 1999 to work with the RICCs as the Community Services Consultant.

Tedra Jackson has been with the State of Michigan and Council for 5 years as Grants Monitor.

Congratulations!!!

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

In 1987 President Ronald Reagan passed a proclamation declaring March National Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. March is here and it is time to celebrate the accomplishments of people with developmental disabilities. Here are a few ideas to help get you started:

- ◆ Hold a viewing party to watch the Possibilities DVD (from Wayne State's Developmental Disabilities Institute) and have a discussion afterwards. <http://ddi.wayne.edu/possibilities.php>



- ◆ 31 Days of DD Awareness Month---post content on your Facebook or Twitter each day that sheds light on developmental disabilities.



- ◆ Trivia or game night event with facts about DD awareness month or this could be an opportunity for the community to meet and interact with RICC members.

- ◆ Ask for a proclamation



- ◆ Hold a "Meet the RICC breakfast" or "brown-bag lunch" — this is a great way to follow up with your legislator from the Legislative Event. Invite them over to discuss issues in your community and to let them know who the RICC members are.



- ◆ Hold a poster contest.



- ◆ Each week send an article to your newspaper about a person in your RICC or community that is doing something positive or feature DD awareness month in your newsletter.



- ◆ Reach out to local media —tell them about what you are doing to celebrate and what DD Awareness Month means to you.

For more ideas check out DD Awareness Month at: www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil

What RICCs are doing for DD Awareness Month

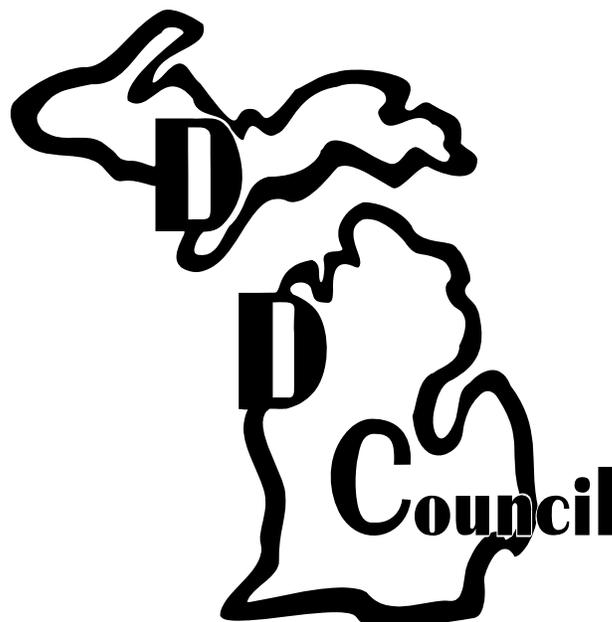
- ◆ EUP will show the “Possibilities” DVD in 3 health classes at a local high school. After the DVD, RICC members will talk about their experiences. Students can earn extra credit if they volunteer with the RICC on an activity.



- ◆ Delta will be publishing a community book on inclusion that will be on display at their local library.



- ◆ Marquette-Alger plans to talk with MarqTran about placing signs on the busses that address DD awareness issues.



Council Starts Pre-Meetings

In order to help members gain a better understanding of the agenda items the Council started having pre-meetings. Any member who has missed a meeting(s), is new to the group or needs more time to better understand the issues being discussed may find it helpful.



Pre-meetings will be held no more than 5 days before the regular schedule meeting.

We hope this change will help members become more active participants in our workgroups and committees.



Upcoming Meetings

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Diversity	11 Public Policy	12	13 Transportation	14	15
16	17	18 Strategy	19	20 Housing	21	22
23	24	25 EJ/ Executive	26 IFSEA	27 RICC	28	29
30	31					

We Want to Hear Your Story

- Have you been told you can't have self-determination supports?
- Were you told by your CMH that they don't do self-determination?
- Are you having problems with your self-determination supports?

If so, we want to hear your story. Michigan Partners for Freedom is collecting stories about self-determination

Your story will help us spread **freedom** to all people with developmental disabilities

Call Jill Gerrie at 1-800-292-7851, ext. 114 by Thursday, May 1, 2014



Healthy Michigan Plan

The Healthy Michigan Plan (Medicaid Expansion) is moving forward with federal support of Michigan’s first set of waiver requests. However, Department of Community Health still has extra details to work out carrying out the plan, including the process for actually enrolling people in Healthy Michigan Plan. Eligible people will not be able to get Healthy Michigan Plan coverage until spring.

If anyone has enrollment issues/questions, visit : www.michigan.gov/healthymichiganplan

Legislation	Workgroup/Committee
Conventions for Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD)	Public Policy Committee
H.B. 4792 &5080 Vulnerable Roadway User	Public Policy Committee/ Transportation
H.B. 4478 Signature Stamps and Marks	Public Policy Committee
H.R. 1213 Common Sense Housing Investment Act of 2013	Public Policy Committee/ Housing
H.B. 4513 Housing Development Commissions: Mobility Impaired Tenants	Housing
S.B.0074 Cyberbullying Policy	IFSEA
H.B.4865 Mobile Dental Facility	Health Issues
S.B.564 Freedom to Work	Economic Justice

Diversity

The committee is working with RICCs on activities for DD Awareness Month. RICCs discussed what they are working on. Please see page 4 for ideas for DD Awareness Month and please see page 5 to see what some RICCs are doing for DD Awareness Month.

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 grants dissemination plan on how to get the word out about our projects.

Strategy Team looking for new members

The Council's Strategy Team meets two times a year. It looks at both positive and negative issues that people in the DD community face. Council members, workgroup and committee representatives, outside advocates and staff talk about these issues and come up with suggestions on what actions to take. These suggestions are presented to the Council. If you want to join, please contact Yasmina Bouraoui at bouraoui@michigan.gov or by phone at (517) 335-3142.

Public Policy

- **Medical/Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation:** The brochure would help people understand the process for individuals with Medicaid to get a ride for non-emergency medical appointments.
- **HB 4778 Signature Stamps & Marks:** The bill would help people with disabilities vote independently.

Health Issues

For 3 years the Council funded a grant, Alliance for Michigan Medicaid Access (AMMA), to advocate for improved access to healthcare. The staff person for this grant was Kathleen Johnston-Calati. While the grant has now ended, Kathleen suggested that people:

- Watch the Governor's state of the state
- Look for a revenue estimating conference which will identify the amount of surplus.
- Attend legislative hearings
- Get to know legislators; you don't have to ask them to do something. Invite legislators to RICC meetings.
- Be familiar with the Department of Human Services (DHS) policy regarding Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT). Even though the NEMT policy applies statewide, each county office decides how they will implement.
- Whoever needs NEMT, put the request in writing. If NEMT is denied, the individual should ask for the denial to be in writing and/or should talk to the DHS worker/supervisor/director.
- Advocate for more DHS workers

Housing

The group is working on a paper that would ask for more affordable, accessible housing. The paper will combine all previous papers and thoughts from advocates. The group is also looking at next steps for the housing options paper. The workgroup continues to support the United for Homes Campaign. At the January Council Meeting the Council decided to table the issue until the May Retreat.

Economic Justice

The workgroup is gathering information about employment in Michigan. They are working with the DD network on a report. They are gathering information from other states that have successfully started Employment First policies. The group has also asked MRS for information on how they work.

Transportation

- **Vulnerable Roadway User: *HB 4792 & 5080***: Allow for greater consequences for dangerous or reckless drivers, who injure or kill drivers, walkers, bicyclists, and wheelchairs users. The bills were amended to include power wheelchairs and electric bicycles.
 - **Universal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Card**: Once a person has gotten a pass in their home district they should be able to ride the bus at a discounted rate wherever they travel in Michigan, by showing their pass.
-

IFSEA

The Universal Education booklet has been printed. IFSEA is working on next steps.

IFSEA members were asked to contact their senators about SB0074, Cyberbullying. This bill would make school districts include cyberbullying as a form of bullying in its policy and protect the privacy of an individual who reported an act of bullying. It would also make school districts report events to the Department of Education.

2014 Legislative Event



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 and advocates of people with disabilities; and representatives from state and local agencies who work with people with developmental disabilities.

Our Community Includes Everyone

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