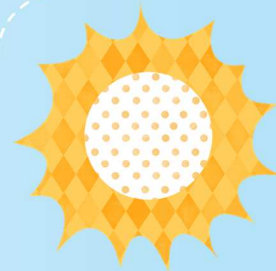


# Community Update

SEPTEMBER 2016 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 14



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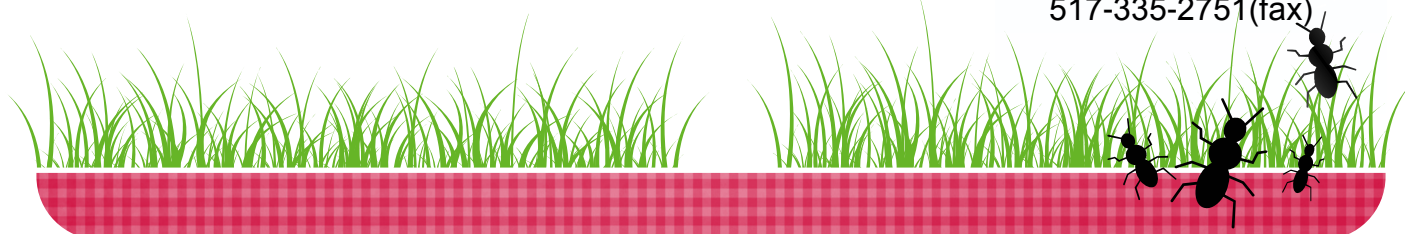
## Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Looking Towards the Future: RICC Summit

On July 12, RICC members from across the state gathered in Lansing to celebrate 43 years of advocacy.

The day began with honoring the past accomplishments of RICCs. Executive Director, Vendella Collins, shared the history of how the Regional Interagency Coordinating Committees (RICCs) were formed in 1973 and were made up of agency staff. Recognizing the need to hear people with developmental disabilities' voice at the table, RICC membership went from heavily agency staffed to the majority of people with developmental disabilities. Now, Regional Inclusive Community Coalitions (RICCs) are spread across the state and are grassroots advocacy groups.

Story continued on page 2.

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## RICC Summit continued

During the event, RICCs were able to celebrate their present by sharing their favorite memories as a RICC member.

“Enjoy[ed] the memories of people being strong, advocating for a better place to live, work, and play. Many of these individuals do not realize how strong they really are!”

-Mark

The afternoon concluded with the Council and RICC members looking towards the future. The new self-advocacy board members were introduced. There are 13 current board members from across the state. The board will work with the Developmental Disabilities Network (Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services, Developmental Disabilities Institute, and the DD Council) as they set the direction of self-advocacy in Michigan.



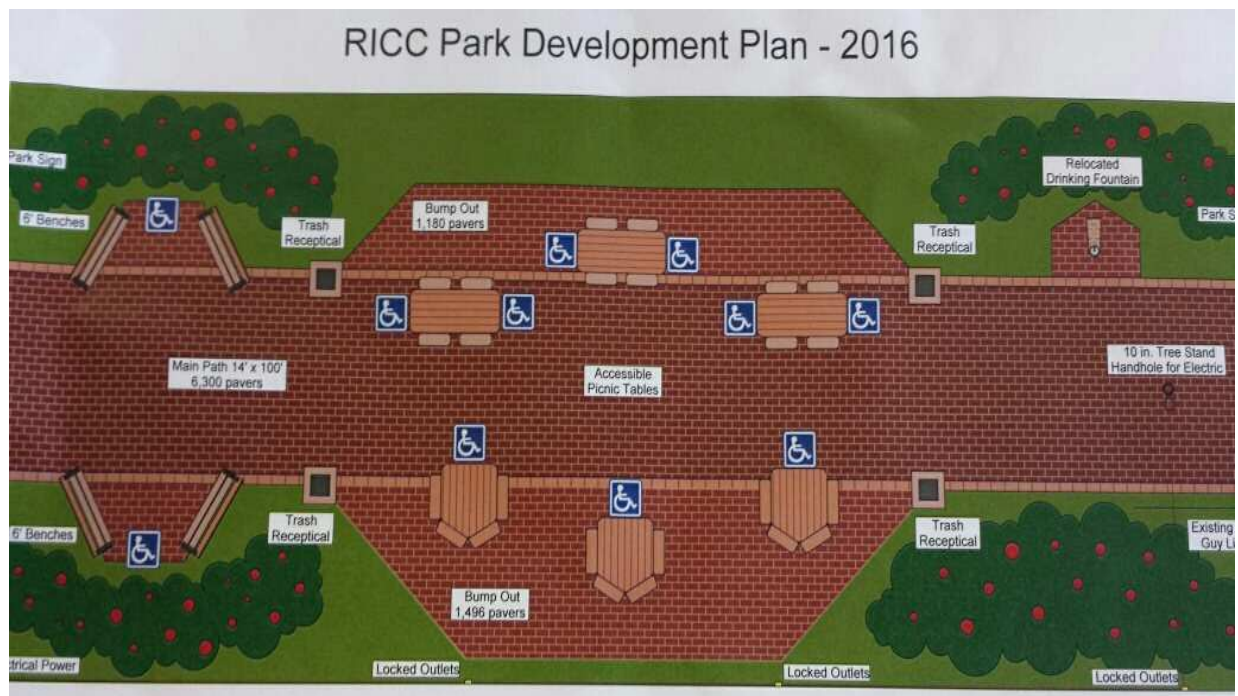
Pictured Left to Right (back row): Lisa Sullivan, Barbara Valliere, Daniel Paul, John Taylor, David Taylor, Blake Perry, and Todd Koopman. Left to right (front row seated): Sheryl Kuenzer, Ryan Brugger, James Ivey, and Shawn Neal. Not Pictured: Angel Irvin and Sara Frisch.

# RICC Summit Pictures



## Ontonagon Helps to Build a Park

The Ontonagon RICC is making their community more inclusive. They are planning to turn a plot of land, donated by the Ontonagon Village, into an accessible park. The RICC is currently writing grants and looking for funding. They have already received \$4,000 from Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region to start laying a brick path. The new park will have accessible picnic tables and community areas. The RICC is also looking at creating murals on the walls that would highlight the community and the history of Ontonagon.



## MOU Signed to Support Students Transitioning to Employment

On June 21, the DD Council along with Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, the Workforce Development Agency, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the Michigan Department of Education met in Flint to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

This document was created to help increase the number of students with disabilities transitioning from school and post-secondary education to employment. Beyond their agency specific commitments, everyone agreed to joint responsibilities, including:

- Working collaboratively to improve the transition and employment service system
- Identifying and implementing effective transition and employment services
- Pursuing and coordinating resource acquisition
- Promoting and encouraging coordinated transition and employment services at the local and state levels
- Building upon current capacity to provide transition and employment services
- Developing and providing common training and professional development opportunities for transition and employment services personnel
- Sharing responsibility for publication and dissemination
- Giving timely notice to other agency partners of the agreement of proposed rule amendments relating to transition and employment services, along with allowing opportunity to comment on proposed amendments

## MOU Signed to Support Students Transitioning to Employment Continued

The MOU was a result of the hard work of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the interagency employment work group, led by the Council. The interagency team (made up of the departments above) continues systems change work to implement Employment First policies in Michigan.



**Photo Credit:** DarKen Photography

**Pictured Left to right:** Stephanie Comai, Michigan Talent and Economic Development; Lisa Kisiel, Bureau of Services for Blind Persons; Suzanne Howell, Michigan Rehabilitation Services; Shelly Edgerton, Michigan Department Licensing and Regulatory Affairs; Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley; Vendella M. Collins, Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council; Lynda Zeller, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration; and Jane Reagan, Michigan Department of Education.

## New Chapter in Council Advocacy

The Council wants to thank all of its work group members, advocates, and grantees for their service to the Michigan DD Council. Their help makes the advocacy, capacity-building, and systems change work that the Council does possible.

To better support and engage our advocates in ways that help them know when we need them to do something with the information they get from us, the Council is changing the way it interacts with you.

Starting in October, the DD Council will no longer have monthly workgroup meetings. Instead the Council will be mobilizing and developing action plans around issues that are identified in our public policy platform. These plans will help you to prepare your advocacy efforts around these important issues.

In addition to action plans, Council Staff will be sending you information (by e-mail or hard copy in the mail) to give you regular updates on the subject(s) that you are interested in and are helping us to advocate on. The issues the Council will be mobilizing on, which are from our public policy platform (lead staff person is included) are listed below in the chart.

Also, we plan to put information on our website to keep people informed.

If you have questions please contact the lead staff person that is identified below.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Employment First	Yasmina Bouraoui: bouraouiy@michigan.gov
Subminimum Wage	Yasmina Bouraoui: bouraouiy@michigan.gov
Housing	Meredith Smith: smithm10@michigan.gov
Medicaid Spend-Down	Brett Williams: williamsb18@michigan.gov
Oral Health	Brett Williams: williamsb18@michigan.gov
Universal Reduced Fare Transportation Card	Brett Williams: williamsb18@michigan.gov
Home and Community-Based Services	Brett Williams: williamsb18@michigan.gov
1115 Demonstration Wavier	Brett Williams: williamsb18@michigan.gov
Restraint and Seclusion	Tracy Vincent: vincentt1@michigan.gov

# Leaders in Policy Advocacy

## GRAND RAPIDS TRAINING

OCTOBER 2016-MARCH 2017

**Where:** DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Rapids 4747 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

**When:** *(Must commit to attending all 6 weekends.)*

- October 14 and 15, 2016
- November 4 and 5, 2016
- December 9 and 10, 2016
- January 13 and 14, 2017
- February 3 and 4, 2017 *(Lansing)*
- March 4 and 5, 2017



*Eligible applicants are adults with developmental disabilities and parents of minor (under age 18) children with DD.*

More information and application forms are available at:

**[www.arcmi.org/projects/leaders-policy-advocacy](http://www.arcmi.org/projects/leaders-policy-advocacy)**

Apply  
Now!