

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council



Letter from the Chair and Executive Director

The vision of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council is that all citizens of Michigan have the opportunities and supports to achieve their full potential. Our mission is to support people with developmental disabilities to achieve life dreams.

Last year the Council, its staff and its many volunteers worked hard to continue to make this vision possible. The many projects that were developed in 2008 had a positive effect on the lives of people with disabilities, providing opportunities and supports to those in our community with developmental disabilities. I would like to personally thank those that were involved in these projects and to commend the hard work and the important changes that resulted from it.

Our Council and its staff, along with all of its committees and workgroups, are committed to upholding our motto, "Our Community Includes Everyone." Those with disabilities have a valuable place in our community, and we are committed to self-advocacy and self-determination. I believe this council has been and will continue to be a valued asset in making Michigan a leading state in the disability community.

Looking back at the successes of 2009 we can begin to plan for our future as well. Events such as our public forums help us to gain valuable information for our 2012 State Plan. It is our mission in 2009 to improve our goal areas even further and to create and implement more supports for the programs and initiatives we set forth in 2008. We have been fortunate to have many hard-working council members, committees, and workgroups that help us to achieve this goal, and we look forward to what 2009 will bring.

With much thanks,

Andre Robinson, Chairperson

Vendella M Collins, Executive Director

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Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

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Andre K. Robinson, Chair
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Goal Area: Community Support

The Council's main self-determination project, *Michigan Partners for Freedom*, worked throughout the state to mobilize demand for the supports for self-determination. They held fifteen day-long community training events providing an overview of self-determination and its tools, mostly for people with disabilities but also for families and other allies. They showed their self-determination video, which highlights the lives of four Michigan citizens who have self-determination arrangements. A Local Leader Training Manual was created and three local leader training events were held, providing self-advocates with the knowledge and supports to advocate locally for self-determination. Supports were provided to thirty-four local leaders who have completed the training. Seven conference presentations were made throughout Michigan. A web site provides detailed information about self-determination and accounts of the project's activities and stories about what self-determination has meant in the lives of several self-advocates. Over 1200 people with DD and 374 family members participated in FY2008. Participants gained confidence and a better vision of how to advocate for themselves for a meaningful life in the community using both natural and paid supports.

Community Support Outcomes

Individuals benefit from community supports as a result of Council efforts:
608

Dollars leveraged for community supports:
\$5,608

Community support programs/policies created/improved
45

People facilitated community supports:
33

People trained in community supports:
966

**Michigan Partners for
Freedom:
www.mifreedom.org**

Goal Area:

Community Support

The “*Did You Know?*” project provided training that informed people with disabilities and their allies about policies and practices that affect their ability to get the supports and outcomes they want and need. Two meetings each were held in Detroit, Baraga, Traverse City, and Ann Arbor with one held in Grand Rapids. Meetings informed participants about the local Community Mental Health (CMH) services system. They were trained on its structure, the eligibility requirements, Medicaid funded services, the relationship between the Department of Human Services and the Community Mental Health system, person centered planning, independent facilitation, self-determination, the recipient rights process, and the Medicaid fair hearing process. They also presented information about advocating at local, state and federal levels. The grantee developed and maintains an interactive website with information resources for individuals with disabilities and their families. 292 people with disabilities and family members attended the meetings as well as about 267 support coordinators. Approximately 400 people accessed the web site following the training.



http://ddi.wayne.edu/did_you_know.php

Our Community Includes Everyone!

Goal Area: Employment

Several grantees focused on employment, with an additional grantee conducting an evaluation of three projects:

At the *Community Employment* Allegan County site, Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) agreed to continue to fund employer provider training. Janitorial crews were disbanded as people obtained community employment. Job developers and provider agencies assisted individuals in starting their own businesses. Grant participants obtained a choice of support people to help with self-employment. Employer provided training was offered as an alternative to job coaches. Many people who started their own business hired their own support staff through a fiscal intermediary.

Employment Outcomes

Adults that have jobs of their choice through Council efforts:
186

Dollars leveraged for community supports:
\$35,000

Employers that provided vocational supports to students on the job:
6

Businesses/ employers that employed adults:
75

Employment programs/policies that were created or improved:
23

People facilitated community supports:
154

People trained in community supports:
79



Goal Area: Employment

Calhoun Partnerships to Develop Community Employment and Entrepreneurial Opportunities developed a manual available online and to every student exiting the school system. Video resumes were used to better portray individual strengths. MRS and the Intermediate School District formed a partnership through shared staff whose main responsibility was students with substantial disabilities. An agreement was reached to work together to provide a range of adult options including employment and volunteer opportunities.

The Self-Determination Micro-Enterprise Project developed 16 micro-enterprises, of which 11 are still active. Inactive businesses have recycled their equipment or product to benefit other people with disabilities that wanted to take over the business.

The Evaluation of Employment Partnerships evaluated 3 sites related to employment outcomes for people with disabilities. MSU hosted a round table discussion where partners from each of the sites met to share successes and discuss barriers to employment. They interviewed and surveyed partners from each site and targeted consumers to determine satisfaction with both processes and outcomes.



Goal Area: Education

All Children, All Together, All the Time!

The *Evaluation of Parent Inclusion Networks* was an evaluation of the Everyone Together initiative, a five year project which ended in the Fall of 2007. The original project was designed to build and strengthen parent networks across the State of Michigan. The goal was for these networks to provide parents with the knowledge and skills needed to advocate for their children with developmental disabilities to be included in general education classrooms. Everyone Together designed and implemented a project that organized parent networks in 12 areas. Networks were clustered in south to mid-Michigan. The project developed an identity through a logo, website, newsletters and events that reached over 4,000 people. Being part of a larger statewide initiative gave many local networks credibility. Participants at statewide and network events reported an increase in knowledge about the benefits of inclusion and how to advocate for it. There are many stories of successfully advocating for inclusion.

“When my daughter was 2, I wanted to place her in a typical preschool, but was told by Early On to place her in the Early Childhood Developmental Delays program. At the age of 3, I did. She rode a bus 1½ hours to school, was in class 2½ hours, and then rode the bus 1½ hours home. My daughter did not speak, and was in a classroom with 9 other non-speaking children and was supposed to be getting the help and stimulation she needed. Because she did not learn to speak there, after a year and a half, I pulled her from that classroom. The local school district would not allow her to enroll in the local school, and after many unfinished Individualized Education Program’s and mediation, an attorney from Michigan Protection & Advocacy Services helped me file a complaint. Finally, after 2 years of fighting, my daughter is getting a free and appropriate education. She now attends school with her siblings and is thriving. She can communicate her wants and needs to her teacher, peers, and family.”

- Parent of a child with Downs Syndrome

Goal Area: Education

Findings from the evaluation:

*Parents report an increase in their skills to ask for inclusion.

*In order to impact on inclusion, parents and the education community need to partner.

*Teachers, school administrators and other special education support personnel, need training and coaching in order to successfully include children with disabilities in general education settings

*One network implemented a model of working collaboratively with school personnel and parents. This is a small rural District and it is likely that inclusion has been increased in this District.

*One network incorporated the education community into their strategy very purposefully. Network leaders report that the project has impacted on the numbers of children included in this school District.



Recommendations of the evaluation report included:

- Building on the recognition of Everyone Together
- Expanding the capacity of the web site
- Developing brochures on inclusion
- Establishing a 1-800 number for parents
- Hosting an annual conference on inclusion
- Reinstating statewide leadership training for parents.

Goal Area: Health

A three-year Health Care Coordination initiative included three local pilot projects and a cross-project evaluation, which were completed in 2007. All three pilots identified lack of dental services as a pressing problem and worked out partial solutions for their communities. All offered health education for people with DD with an emphasis on diet, exercise, smoking cessation and diabetes. They collaborated on a joint handbook for others interested in replicating their work.

The *Washtenaw County* project partnered with the University of Michigan health system. They worked on integrating awareness of physical health needs into the mental health/DD services system.

The *Arenac County* project developed an individual health portfolio and tool kit that supports individual people with disabilities in coordinating their own health care, distributing over 400 copies. This project obtained a grant to continue incorporating health care coordination into their CMH system.

The *Kalamazoo County* project used the portfolio developed by Arenac. They developed partnerships with local providers and others to do training, coordination and prevention activities.

Continued on next page...

Health Outcomes

People that have health services through Council efforts:

1,027

Dollars leveraged for health services:

\$329,000

Health programs or policies that were created or improved:

17

People improved health services:

131

People trained in health services:

350



Goal Area: Health

The *Evaluation of Health Care Coordination* project tracked 48 people across three years of participation, including their quality of life, use of health care services, and perception of health care coordination.

Smiles Across Michigan, an oral health grant, conducted six dental screenings in clinics across Michigan. At the clinics, they did a survey and distributed dental care information to participating individuals, family members, and staff. They screened 173 people with DD and informed them of their current dental status and their individual treatment recommendations. In some areas, they were able to connect participants with care providers. The project is collaborating with many organizations to develop additions to the comprehensive State Oral Health Plan, the surveillance plan and the Oral Disease Burden document. This will include an action plan, which the project will use to work with disability and dental care advocates to promote responsive public policy and an effective delivery system for adults and children with developmental disabilities.

www.smilesacrossmichigan.org



Goal Area: Housing

The *State-Level Project* housed at Michigan Disability Rights Coalition worked to raise awareness of housing needs and increase the housing resources available to people with disabilities. They found and collaborated with an online resource to connect people with disabilities with available rental housing. They also worked in coalitions with state and national partners to increase funding and the amount of accessible housing. Five local Council housing projects were supported in developing local housing resource centers. These centers increased community knowledge of how to develop housing that meets the needs of people with disabilities. The coordination and awareness of available housing resources, including the personal supports and services they need to live in the community were enhanced. The centers participated in local groups and developed collaborations with local governments and other agencies to include the needs of people with disabilities in local planning and development. Participants included: homeless continuum of care groups, human services collaborative bodies, local planning departments, transition committees, and Homeless Management Information Systems workgroups. Finally, they also developed the resources and connections to help people with disabilities connect with the housing of their choice.

Housing Outcomes

Individuals that have homes of their choice through Council efforts:

775

People that moved from congregated setting to homes in the community:

34

Dollars leveraged for community supports:

\$2,625,000

Banks that made mortgages available to enable people to own their homes:

7

Housing programs or policies that were created or improved:

40

Units of affordable, accessible, housing made available:

170

People facilitated home ownership/rental:

872

People trained in home ownership/rental:

722

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition:

www.copower.org/mdrc/MDRC.htm

From Following Page:

ARC Livingston:
www.arclivingston.org

The Detroit Housing Resource Center:
www.swcds.org

Goal Area:

Housing

The Navigating Choices in Housing project in Kent County increased the ability of adults with Developmental Disabilities in the county to choose where and with whom they live by using an empowerment model. 325 people were trained in housing at four different housing forums and smaller workshops. 25 partnerships were developed with other community agencies. They continue to work with the HCOC and to develop a Housing Resource Center that can serve all the needs of people with disabilities.

The ARC of Livingston County helped 20 people to find the housing of their choice. Many presentations to civic groups, support services providers, governmental bodies and citizens have occurred during the year. Current activities include the writing and publication of a housing resource guide with an emphasis on issues specific to young adults with disabilities, supporting the creation of an independent living forum for people with disabilities and facilitating the development of a memorandum of understanding between local support services agencies.

The Allegan County project found housing for three homeless people with DD and worked to issue 70 HARP vouchers. *The Lakeshore Center* project for Independent Living worked with their ISD to host a workshop on housing for individuals with disabilities, caregivers and professionals. It also partnered with an attorney and financial planner to speak about planning for adult services and supports. The housing database went online and is now on their website along with links to the Michigan Housing Locator and other resources.

The Detroit Housing Resource Center worked with landlords and identified additional accessible rental housing. They helped 33 families and individuals find housing. The project sought out and engaged landlords to expand the housing choice and additional accessible properties have been identified. Intakes from many referral sources have resulted in enrollments. Other sources of intakes include processed referrals from Community Living Services and screened walk-in consumers or families indicating DD that were homeless or at risk of homelessness.

ZeroStep Across Michigan was a two-year state-level project to develop alliances with the construction industry, and to educate them about accessibility, visitability and universal design. They developed standards and created a voluntary program to certify private, open market homes with basic accessibility features in Michigan.

Goal Area: Transportation

The council piloted transportation voucher projects in six sites.

In *Baraga County* 31 active riders used the budgeted miles to obtain a GED, visit family and attend DBT group. Four of these individuals retained a community job. There were many riders that used the program for recreational pursuits and shopping.

The *UP's Miles with Meaning* project coordinated transportation efforts for persons with disabilities that had been self referred to the program, employing persons with disabilities to facilitate the program.

Shiawassee County formed the Shiawassee Transportation Advocacy Coalition as a result of the transportation advocacy workshops to meet the goal of building community support for public transportation.

In *SE Michigan* a transportation voucher system was developed and implemented, and replication handbook information was developed.

The Jackson project had a large project, maintaining an enrollment of 107 riders.

In *Newaygo County* the project served the targeted population in providing dependable and flexible transportation. In *Muskegon County* many persons with disabilities were given transportation to achieve independence and gain access to the community around them.

Transportation Outcomes

People that have transportation services through Council efforts:

623

Dollars leveraged for community supports:
\$60,025

Transportation programs/policies that were created/improved:

6

People facilitated transportation:

264

People trained in transportation:

281

Goal Area: Transportation

The state wide project *All Aboard* had some exciting accomplishments. They worked with 9 local groups on transportation advocacy, training about 65 people. They made presentations to the townships of Bancroft, Shiawassee, Owosso, Bennington, and Middlebury about joining Shiawassee Area Transit Authority. Several townships and villages have committed general fund money. Trainings occurred with 7 coalition members with disabilities for creating their video stories for transportation Advocacy. Regional Transportation Advocacy Conferences were held in the UP, Muskegon, and Wayne County. The project website was expanded to include advocacy events, video stories, and blogs on transportation advocacy and additional resources.

www.transportationallies.net

All Aboard! Michigan



Transportation Advocacy Training

Goal Area: Quality Assurance

Informing Communities held 4 forums to help people with DD and their families understand public policy issues and advocate for change. The project was presented at the national Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered Conference.

Life in Focus helped people with DD learn to tell their stories using cameras by creating photo essays, slide shows and videos and posting them on web sites. 84 people were in Life in Focus groups, 24 people with disabilities practiced as trainers, and 13 sponsors trained to carry out groups.

Connections for Community Leadership (CCL) held 3 seminars, funded 10 agencies and supported 29 people to increase leadership opportunities. Their database of leadership opportunities has 88 users. CONNECT, an organization that links college students with disabilities across the state, held their 3rd annual conference. Project staff presented at 3 national conferences.

Include All of Us held 14 multicultural gatherings this year to help the DD Council recruit participants from a variety of minority groups.

<http://www.arcmi.org/include/>

Quality Assurance Outcomes

People benefiting from quality assurance efforts of the council:
149

Dollars leveraged for quality assurance programs:
\$31,095

Quality assurance programs/policies that were created/improved:
12

People facilitated quality assurance:
134

People trained in quality assurance
134:

People trained in leadership, self-advocacy and self-determination:
323

People that attained membership on public and private bodies and other leadership coalitions:
9

Number of entities participating in partnership or coalitions as a result of Council efforts:
62

Life in Focus:

<http://lifeinfocus.ucp.googlepages.com/index.htm>

Connections for Community Leadership:

<http://www.copower.org/leader/cclhome.php>

Goal Area: Quality Assurance

The council funds a statewide network of 43 consumer driven community/local advocacy coalitions called Regional Interagency Consumer Committees (RICCs). The RICCs help members advocate for issues important to them through the development of leadership and self-advocacy skills and by working with policy makers to improve services.

Building Alliances for Disability Leadership helped Lansing RICC members learn to participate in meetings, use their voice, organize a meeting, take on responsibility and follow through. They organized a successful rally at the Capitol.

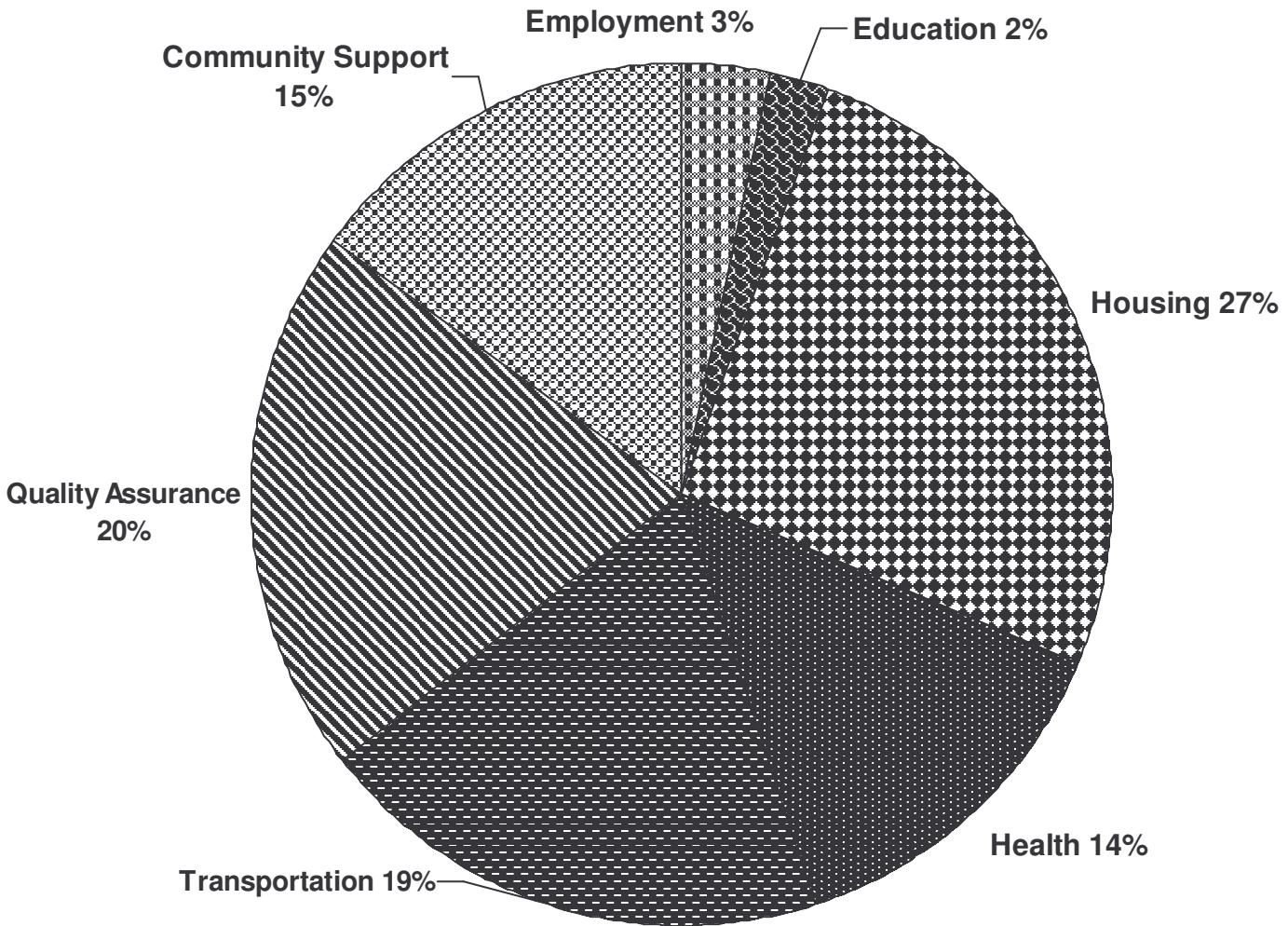
Life without Limits held an Assistive Technology Boot Camp, and completed an AT survey. They scheduled the 2008 conference and meet monthly for planning.
http://www.ucp.org/ucp_general.cfm/1/16243

The *Northern Outreach Project* reached over 250 people with social, recreational and cultural events. They also provided learning opportunities and presented at conferences.

Advocacy in Motion offered training to reach a variety of people and learning styles. They provided information about diversity, cultural competence and leadership, and strengthened self and group advocacy skills.



2008 Project Expenditures



Employment	\$71,401
Education	\$40,411
Housing	\$536,161
Health	\$280,891
Transportation	\$400,404
Quality Assurance	\$ 421,994
<u>Community Supports</u>	<u>\$ 309,529</u>
Total	\$2,060,791

Council Internal Activity and Participation

The Council is active with a variety of committees, coalitions, stakeholders groups, and other entities to comprehensively advocate for persons with developmental disabilities.

In FY 2008, this included the following groups:

Arc Government Affairs	Michigan Family to Family Health Information & Education Center
Advocate's Summit	Michigan Partners for Freedom Steering Committee
Building Alliances for Disability Leadership (BAD-L) Advisory Group	Michigan Rehabilitation Conference Program Committee
Common Disability Agenda	Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion
Consumer Task Force	Michigan State University Kinship Care
The Disability Caucus	Michigan Job Coalition
Deaf-Blind Central	Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force
The Disability Voice	Michigan Transportation Research Board
The Howell Group	NACDD Public Policy Team
Let's Get Moving Coalition	Oral Health Coalition
Long Term Care Commission	Olmstead Coalition
Long Term Care Forums	Transit Caucus
Michigan Department of Community Health: Health Promotion for People with Disabilities	
Michigan Department of Community Health: Diversity Workgroup	
Michigan Department of Community Health: Health Disparities Reduction and Minority Health	

2008 DD Council Grantees

Housing

Statewide TA for Systems Change
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
East Lansing, MI

Navigating Choices in Housing
Disability Advocates Kent County
Grand Rapids, MI

Unlocking the Doors in Livingston
County
The Arc of Livingston County
Howell, MI

Housing Unlimited
Allegan County CMH
Allegan, MI

Finding Our Way Home
Disability Network Lakeshore
Holland, MI

Detroit Housing Resource Center
Southwest Counseling Solutions
Detroit, MI

ZeroStep Across Michigan
Disability Advocates Kent County
Grand Rapids, MI

Community Support

Michigan Partners for Freedom
The Arc of Michigan
Lansing, MI

Did You Know?
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI

Education

Universal Education Summit Coordination
United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan
East Lansing, MI

Evaluation of Parent Inclusion Networks
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI

Transportation

Muskegon-Newaygo Transportation
Disability Connection Muskegon
Muskegon, MI

Access Baraga County
Copper County CMH
Houghton, MI

Community in Motion
disAbility Connections
Lansing, MI

Miles with Meaning
Resource One
Kewadin, MI

Supporting Inclusive Transportation
The Arc of Shiawassee
Owosso, MI

Transportation Resource Network
Community Living Services
Wayne, MI

All Aboard! Michigan
United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan
East Lansing, MI

Quality Assurance

Getting Active Informing Communities
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
East Lansing, MI

Life in Focus
United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan
East Lansing, MI

Connections for Community Leadership
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
East Lansing, MI

Include All of Us
The Arc of Michigan
Lansing, MI

RICC Endorsed Mini Grants

Northern Outreach
Resource One Inc.
Kewadin, MI

Building Alliances in Lansing
Statewide Independent Living Council
Lansing, MI

Advocacy In Motion
Disability Network of Mid-Michigan
Midland, MI

Life Without Limits
United Cerebral Palsy Detroit
Detroit, MI

Employment

Evaluation of Employment Partners
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

Community Employment
Allegan County CMH
Allegan, MI

Calhoun Community Employment
The Arc of Calhoun County
Battle Creek, MI

Self-Determination Micro-Enterprise
CMH for Central Michigan

Midland, MI

Health

Consumer-Directed Health Care
Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health
Bay City, MI

Kalamazoo Coordinated Community
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI

Oral Health Needs Assessment
Community Living Services
Wayne, MI

Evaluation of Health Care Coordination
Resource One, Inc.
Kewadin, MI

Washtenaw Health Care Coordination
Washtenaw Community Support and
Treatment
Ypsilanti, MI

Resources

Michigan Partners for Freedom: www.mifreedom.org

“Did You Know?” Project:

http://ddi.wayne.edu/did_you_know.php

***Smiles Across Michigan* project:** www.smilesacrossmichigan.org

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition:

<http://www.copower.org/mdrc/MDRC.htm>

The ARC of Livingston County: www.arclivingston.org

Detroit Housing Resource Center: www.swcds.org

All Aboard! Michigan: www.transportationallies.net

Life in Focus: <http://lifeinfofocus.ucp.googlepages.com/index.htm>

Connections for Community Leadership:

<http://www.copower.org/leader/cclhome.php>

Include all of Us: <http://www.arcmi.org/include/>

Life without Limits:

http://www.ucp.org/ucp_general.cfm/1/16243

*Michigan Department
of Community Health*



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