

- Salli Christenson wins Corrie Bair Award
- Council Welcomes NEW Staff member

INSIDE THIS

RICC Summit	1
Walk-A-mile	5
RICC Updates	6
Legislation	8
Committee Updates	9
Workgroups Update	11

Community Update

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2014

RICC Summit July 8th

The RICC Summit will be:

When: Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Where: Crowne Plaza
925 S. Creyts Rd.
Lansing, MI



The sessions will include:

Advising Through Self-Determination: Who Should Attend?

This session is designed for the agency staff that supports the RICC in its day-to-day operations. You should plan to attend this session if you:

- ◆ Help with the development of the workplan or budget
- ◆ Receive information from the Council on behalf of the RICC
- ◆ Serve as the chair or co-chair
- ◆ Help the RICC implement the workplan
- ◆ Help plan or execute RICC events or advocacy activities

Self-Advocacy 101: Who Should Attend?

- ◆ People with developmental disabilities
- ◆ People are new to the new the concept of self-advocacy
- ◆ People who want to learn what it means to be a self-advocate

Kristen Columbus
Chairperson

Vendela M. Collins
Executive Director

Yasmina Bouraoui
Deputy Director

Meredith Smith
Editor/Communications Representative

Wendy Duke-Littlejohn
Executive Secretary

Dee Florence
Advocacy Secretary

Terry Hunt
*Community Services
Consultant*

Tedra Jackson
Grants Monitor

Tracy Vincent
Resource Analyst

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
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



Salli Christenson Wins Corrie Bair Award

This year Salli Christenson was presented with the Corrie Bair Building Inclusive Communities Award at the at the Building Michigan Communities Conference. This award is given to advocates who work tirelessly to promote inclusive communities for people with disabilities.

Salli is recognized for working on policies and programs at the state level to build inclusive housing options as well as helping people with disabilities transition from group homes into their own homes.

She currently is project coordinator for Leaders in Policy Advocacy (LIPA), an intensive leadership training program for adults with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities.

Norm Delisle(left), Director of MDRC ,presents Salli Christenson (right), with the Corrie Bair Award.



Council Welcomes **NEW** Executive Secretary

On May 12th the Council welcomed Wendy Duke-Littlejohn, the new Executive Secretary for the Council. Wendy has worked as an Administrative Assistant for the past 25 years, where she spent the last 16 years with the Ingham County Health Department.

During her time with the Health Department she provided administrative support to a variety of units there including the Office for Young Children, the Power of We Consortium (PWC), Public Health Nursing and the Administration Office. In addition to the units she supported, she also supported a number of committees including the Ingham County Board of Health, the Sanitary Code Board of Appeals and several sub-committees for PWC.

Wendy is a resident of Lansing, and has three wonderful children. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, reading, dancing, Zumba and maintaining a fabulous collection of stylish shoes!

The Council is extremely excited to welcome Wendy to our staff !



Wendy Duke-Littlejohn,
Executive Secretary

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

On May 14, advocates from across the state participated in the 10th Annual Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes Rally. Michigan Association Community Mental Health Boards (MACMHB) 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. Participants did a symbolic walk around the capitol and read statements to dispel stigmas. Many Regional Inclusive Community Coalitions (RICCs) attended and participated in the event and some were able to meet with their legislators to discuss their concerns.



Baraga RICC holding signs at the Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes rally.



Northern Area RICC and CMH members taking a picture with Paws at 2014 Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes rally.

Recap: DD Awareness Month

March was Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Many of the RICCs participated in the month by having events in their community. Here are few links to stories shared by members:

- ◆ Region 5 put together a “Dream” video highlighting the many possibilities of people with disabilities. Click [here](#) to view.
- ◆ Cathy Boissoneau the Northern Michigan Regional Coordinator (Region 4), wrote an article about the passionate advocates in her region. Click [here](#) to read more.
- ◆ Delta County RICC held ‘Walk a mile in my shoes!’ event at their local mall to showcase what it is like to be a person with a disability in Delta County. Click [here](#) to read more.
- ◆ Bonnie and Annette of Delta County RICC were featured in the Daily Press for their work as advocates for a stoplight in their area. Click the links below to read more:

[Bonnie Champeau](#)

[Annette Valerberghe](#)



October is Disability Employment Awareness Month

It's time to begin planning for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This year, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council is campaigning to highlight people with developmental disabilities who have community-based jobs. Individuals will be selected based on the criteria listed below:

- ◆ **Must** have a competitive community- based employment with or without needed supports (*A community-integrated job is a job in the community, not a segregated setting*)
- ◆ **Must** be okay with having pictures, videos and other media taken of them
- ◆ **Must** have a developmental disability
- ◆ **Cannot** work in a sheltered workshop, have a microenterprise, be a peer mentor or work in a segregated setting

Please review and submit the recommendation form by clicking [here](#). Please send to Meredith Smith, smithm10@michigan.gov, by 5:00pm, Friday, July 18, 2014.

Please inform the individual of your recommendation and let them know a formal application will be sent to nominees.

Please contact Meredith Smith, (517) 335-1542 or via email at smithm10@michigan.gov if you have any questions.

R
I
C
C

U
P
D
A
T
E
S

RICC Members Meet with Rep. Stamas in Hometown to discuss VRU Bills

On April 21st members from the Iosco and Midland RICCS, as well as a representative from the Adventure Cycling Association, met with Representative Stamas to discuss the Vulnerable Roadway Users (VRU) bills at Grounds for a Better World coffee shop in Midland.

RICC members met with Rep. Stamas to stress the importance of these bills and to encourage him to bring them to the House floor to vote (Rep. Stamas is the House floor leader).

“I have a personal interest [in these bills] I was hit by a car and required stitches. I don’t want to see others go through what I went through,” said Chris Nielsen, an Iosco RICC member.

The Vulnerable Roadway User Bills or HB 4792 and 5080 would increase penalties for individuals who hit pedestrians, bicyclists and power wheelchair users. The bills would also educate motorists about safely sharing the roads. There are still a very high number of pedestrians and

bicyclists being hit even though there are a number of laws in place for traffic infractions. The hope is these bills will make individuals more aware of their surroundings as they drive if higher penalties are put in place.

This was the first time Rep. Stamas heard about these bills and was very interested in learning more. Currently the bills are waiting to be voted on by the House.



Members of the Iosco (left), Ken Irons (middle) Tandy Bidinger (middle), Rep. Stamas (orange shirt), Midland RICC member, and Beth Parent (end pink shirt) meet in Midland

Diversity

What are the issues the Committee is addressing?

- ◆ Focusing on community inclusion
- ◆ Working with RICCs on Developmental Disabilities Awareness activities

For more information contact: Tedra Jackson,
jacksont7@michigan.gov

Strategy

What are the issues the Strategy Team is addressing?

- ◆ Self-Direction and Self-Determination: here is a discussion about this being a core focus of the Council and its Systems Change efforts. There is active discussion about how to work with Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to focus on this issue.
- ◆ Inclusion of Individuals with Complex needs: anticipating study findings and Council's subsequent action
- ◆ The Oregon decision as it relates to Olmstead and its application to employment and how Persons with Disabilities (PWD) spend their time during the day

For more information contact: Yasmina Bouraoui,
bouraouiy@michigan.gov

Program

What are the issues the Committee is addressing?

- ◆ Dissemination of information about grants and grant products
- ◆ Oversight of the Council's active grants

For more information contact:

Tedra Jackson, jacksont7@michigan.gov

Public Policy

What are the issues the Committee is addressing?

Federal

- ◆ Safe Streets Act S. 2004/H.R. 2468
- ◆ Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Rules
- ◆ Minimum Wage Fairness Act S. 2223/ H.R. 3939

State

- ◆ Medicaid Expansion/ Healthy Michigan Plan
- ◆ Cyberbullying
- ◆ H.B. 4792 & 5080 VRU Vulnerable rider Bills
- ◆ Medical Transportation (non-emergency) NEMT Policies
- ◆ S.B. 934 Minimum Wage

For more information contact:

Tracy Vincent, vincentt1@michigan.gov

Housing

What are the issues the Work group is addressing?

- ◆ 2 heartbeats, 1 room: New MSHDA policy
- ◆ Johnson-Crapo bill: Funding from Fannie and Freddie Mac
- ◆ HB4513: First Right of Refusal to move to a unit on a lower floor

For more information contact: Meredith Smith,
smithm10@michigan.gov

Transportation

What are the issues the Work group is addressing?

- ◆ Medical/Medicaid Transportation
- ◆ Regional Transit Authority (RTA)
- ◆ Vulnerable Roadway Users (VRU)
- ◆ Universal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Card

For more information contact: Meredith Smith,
smithm10@michigan.gov

IFSEA

What are the issues the Work group is addressing?

- ◆ Disseminating information to persons with disabilities and their allies
- ◆ Partner with the Council's Public Policy Committee to support individuals and families in developing advocacy
- ◆ Introduce self-determination and disability pride to students and families at a young age
- ◆ Advocate for better transitions across the lifespan

For more information contact:

Tedra Jackson, jacksont1@michigan.gov or
Tracy Vincent, vincentt1@michigan.gov

Health Issues

What are the issues the Work group is addressing?

- ◆ Medicaid funded oral health
- ◆ Transportation to health services
- ◆ Dual eligibility for Medicaid and Medicare

For more information contact: Terry Hunt, huntt@michigan.gov

Economic Justice

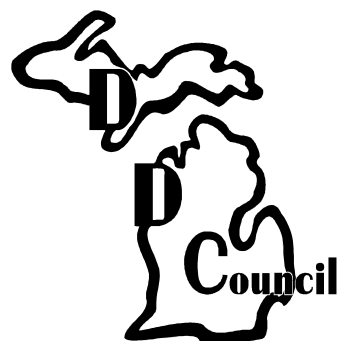
What are the issues the Work group is addressing?

Policy Advocacy, with a current focus on:

- ◆ Implementation/tweaking of Medicaid Freedom to Work Policy
- ◆ Adoption of an Employment First! Policy in Michigan
- ◆ In conjunction with Public Policy Committee, monitoring the federal legislation, H.R. 831, the fair Wages for Workers with Disabilities Act of 2013, which seeks to end issuance of new special wage certificates for workers with disabilities under Section 14 (c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and to phase out existing certificates over three years
- ◆ The work group is concerned with identifying funding for the DB101 website

For more information contact: Yasmina Bouraoui,
bouraoui@michigan.gov

For more information about work groups and committees please visit : www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil



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

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

June 2014

