

- Letter to readers
- Upcoming Events
- Pictures of RICC Retreat
- Activity Section

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

- Medicaid Expansion 1
- Employment First 3
- New Council members 4
- RICC Updates 6
- Committee Updates 14
- Workgroup Updates 16

Community Update

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 2013

Medicaid Expansion Passes

On September 16, 2013 Governor Snyder signed Medicaid Expansion into law. This bill (HB 4714) will provide more than 400,000 Michiganders with healthcare.

HB 4714 was introduced to the House in early May and passed in June. After leaving the House, the bill spent months in the Senate. The Senate finally passed the bill in late August.

Medicaid expansion will not take effect until March of 2014. The House and Senate did approve immediate effect of Expansion so, the state will lose out on 7 million dollars a day until the program takes effect.

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for health coverage started on October 1, 2013 for the new health insurance marketplace. For more information regarding open enrollment please click the link: <https://www.healthcare.gov/>.



Kristen Columbus
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](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil)



Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

Dear Readers:

I can't believe it is already fall; my favorite time of year! It's time to head out to the cider mills, rake leaves, pick apples and enjoy hay rides. October is an important month for the developmental disabilities community. Not only is it National Disability Employment Awareness Month but it is also National Down Syndrome Awareness Month and Disability History Month. Wow, so much to celebrate in one month!

I encourage all of you to participate in activities this month that recognizes a person with a disability.

Remember...

"Our Community Includes Everyone!"

Sincerely,

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



Employment First

According to the January 2011 Current Population Survey, approximately 17 percent of Americans with disabilities are employed, compared to 63 percent of individuals without disabilities. The low employment rate has forced people who could live independently to depend heavily on others to define and support their choices.

The Michigan Employment First! Initiative is the vision of making competitive employment the first priority and preferred outcome of people with disabilities. The central value is a belief that competitive employment should be at the forefront for service providers, funding sources, and policies related to employment services for persons with disabilities.

Employment First! commonly means expecting, encouraging providing, creating, and rewarding integrated, competitive employment in the workforce; as the first and preferred outcome for working-age youth and adults with disabilities, paying at least minimum wage and benefits.

Michigan's Employment First! Initiative recognizes competitive employment as work that is:

In the competitive labor market, that is performed on a full-time or part-time basis in an integrated setting and for which the individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals who are not disabled.

This initiative includes those with complex and significant disabilities, for whom job placement in the past has been limited, or has not traditionally occurred.

Implementation of Michigan Employment First! would require:

- changes to existing Laws or Executive Orders;
- the development of a new multi-departmental policy on employment; and
- the implementation of policy changes.

On August 13, 2013 the Council adopted a mission and principles statement for an Employment First Policy in Michigan.

New Council Members Appointed

The DD Council welcomed eight new Council members and three reappointments. Below is information on the Council members.

***** Press release from Governor Snyder's office**

Appointed are:

Jill Barker, of Ann Arbor, is mother of two sons with cerebral palsy. She is president of Friends of the Developmentally Disabled. She also sits on the Board of Directors of VOR, a national advocacy organization that supports a full range of services and residential options for people with intellectual disabilities. Barker holds a bachelor's degree from Antioch College. She will represent parents or guardians of a child with a developmental disability and fills a vacancy.

Melanie Brown, of Oak Park, is senior assistant to the director and assistant communications director with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. Brown holds a bachelor's degree from Oakland University. She will represent the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and fills a vacancy.

Justin Caine, of Lansing, is the co-owner of Good Fruit Video, a Lansing-based video production company. He holds an associate degree in media technology from Lansing Community College. He will represent individuals with developmental disabilities and replaces Sheryl Kuenzer.

Lori Campbell, of Mason, is a case manager with the intensive care unit at Sparrow Hospital, where she has worked since 2010. She holds an associate degree in nursing from Lansing Community College and a bachelor's degree in management from Spring Arbor University. She will represent immediate family of an individual with a developmental disability and fills a vacancy.

Debbie Huntley, of Lansing, is employed by Michigan Rehabilitation Services housed within the Michigan Department of Human Services, where she serves as division director for the evaluation and program support division. Huntley holds an associate degree from Lansing Community College and a bachelor's degree in management and organizational development from Spring Arbor University. She will represent the Department of Human Services and replaces Lural Baltimore.

Jeremiah Prusi, of Marquette, is a janitor with Pathways Community Mental Health, where he has worked since 2006. He is a 10-year member of the Regional Inclusive Community Coalition, a grassroots advocacy group of people with developmental disabilities, and is a member of the Aktion Club. He will represent individuals with developmental disabilities and fills a vacancy.

Richard Suhrheinrich, of Okemos, is a principal attorney with Kitch, Drutchas, Wagner, Valitutti & Sherbrook, where he has been a member of the firm's Lansing office since 1998. Suhrheinrich holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Vanderbilt University and earned his law degree and a master of business administration from Indiana University. He will represent parents or guardians of a child with a developmental disability and replaces Vera Graham.

David Taylor, of Ferndale, is a peer mentor and advocate for people with developmental disabilities. He will represent individuals with developmental disabilities and replaces Andre Robinson.

Reappointed are:

Susan Liebetreu, of Bloomfield, is a consultant for the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, Program Accountability within the state Department of Education. Liebetreu holds a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University, a master's degree from Michigan State University and an education specialist degree from Wayne State University. She will continue to represent the Michigan Department of Education.

David Verseput, of Holt, is director of the Division of Community Living within the state Department of Community Health. He holds a bachelor's degree from Calvin College and earned his law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law. He will continue to represent the Department of Community Health.

Marlowe Franklin, of Traverse City, is the Early On service coordinator for the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Ferris State University. Franklin will continue to represent parents or guardians of a child with a developmental disability.

*******To read the full story visit: http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,4668,7-277-57577_57657_59871-310482--,00.html**

RICC Summit

On July 9th more than 130 Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC) members attended the first RICC Summit at the East Lansing Hannah Center. The RICCs started the day with a session given by Eva Jenson from Disability Advocates of Kent County on preventing RICC Burnout. Members broke into their respective groups to analyze how effective their RICC was and areas they could work on. They wrote down member skills, things to delegate, members that could help and what they could offer.

The second half of the day members learned from their fellow RICCs. Delta and Iosco counties talked about the Council's Shred the Hate Campaign, which focused on ending the use of the R-word and anti-bullying techniques. RICCs learned how they could build their campaign in their communities. Later in the afternoon RICCs learned about how to use Facebook to promote their RICCs. DD Council Communicator, Meredith Smith, Andrea Cotter (Central Michigan RICC), Jen Gossett (Region 1 Coordinator), and Charlene Lizotte (Region 2 Assistant Coordinator) lead the session about how to stay safe on Facebook, differences between page and profile, and how to effectively use it. The interactive day ended with an evaluation of flying colors.



Iosco RICC presents Shred the Hate information at the RICC Summit.

*more pictures on page 18. *

RICC Member Spotlight: Arnie Bolo

On September 9, 2013, Arnie Bolo was appointed to the Recreation Commission for the Village of Ontonagon.

The Recreation Commission is a standing committee whose members are appointed by the Village Council. The Commission's role is to advise the Village Council in matters pertaining to the recreational, leisure, and cultural activities that take place within the Village, on behalf of the Village, or involve Village property. Its responsibilities include recommending policies on recreation services and advising in the planning for the acquisition, development, and improvement of parks and playgrounds. In addition, it assists in the facilitation of community events and assists in the coordination of recreation services with other governmental entities and voluntary organizations. The Recreation Commission strives to enrich the lives of the citizens and build a spirit of community within the Village of Ontonagon.

Mr. Bolo has been a resident of the Village for 11 years. He is employed at Ontonagon Baraga Industries and is currently the Secretary of the Ontonagon County RICC. Mr. Bolo was the Chairperson of the Ontonagon County RICC when the Complete Streets project was initiated.

Written by: Tony Smydra

Arnie Bolo from Ontonagon RICC was appointed to Recreation Commission.



Eight Peer Mentors Certified

On September 19th, Network180, located in Kent County, celebrated the certification of eight Peer Mentors that completed their internships through Hope Network. Each of the peer mentors was trained in DD Council's Peer Mentor program. Each successfully completed a 90-120 hour internship and attended additional trainings to increase and build upon their skills. These individuals used their own personal experiences and unique skills to assist others with developmental disabilities in reaching their individualized goals.

The Peer Mentors shared their experiences and talked about how peer mentoring has not only changed the lives of the individuals they mentored, but how they gained self-confidence and leadership skills. The Peer Mentors are seeking referrals through the Network180 system of providers; and they will contract with the provider for mentoring services.



Peer Mentors and staff at Network180.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

LANSING – Statewide, approximately 19 percent of people with a disability in Michigan are employed. To recognize Michigan’s employment accomplishments and to identify the improvements that are needed to obtain a competitive wage in an integrated environment, Governor Rick Snyder has proclaimed October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Michigan.

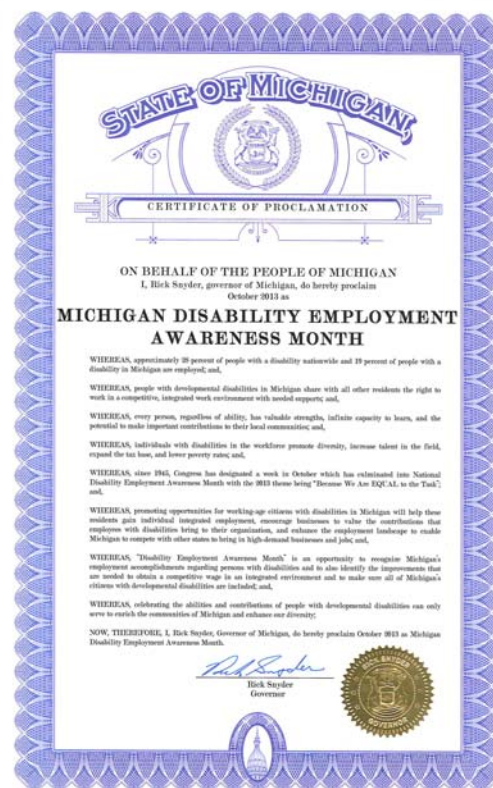
Disability Employment Awareness Month is spearheaded nationally by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), with this year’s theme being “Because we are equal to the task.” This is an opportunity for Michigan residents to be educated about disability employment issues and to celebrate the contributions of its citizens with disabilities.

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council wants to celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities in employment. In preparation for this month, the Council sent out example proclamations to the RICCs as well as ideas on how to promote the month. For a list of ideas see below :

Ideas to Promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM):

1. Submit a proclamation
2. Submit a RICC member’s story in the paper
3. Post social media links about #NDEAM
4. Poster Contest
5. Advocate for better employment for all people.

To see the full proclamation please visit: www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil



RICC member at Work

Troy Connors, member of the Marquette-Alger RICC, celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month by sharing advice on how to get a job: “Volunteer to get a job because sometimes other people can help you get one.”

Connors works for Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL) as a peer mentor. He found out about this position at SAIL while volunteering there through the RICC. He has been working as a peer mentor for a little over a year. As a Peer Mentor he works with the Regional Coordinator and he helps RICCs across the Upper Peninsula with finding information, working with RICC member to improve their skills, and public policy issues.

“Troy is very committed to his job and the people we serve, this is one of the many reasons he is an asset to this grant project as a Peer Mentor and to Superior Alliance for Independent Living,” said Nicki Bush, Region 5 Coordinator.

Troy’s commitment doesn’t end there he also started the Kiwanis Aktion Club and serves as their secretary and is a members of the Eagles a community service group.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month is about celebrating the employment accomplishments of people with disabilities. It is about ability and not disability.

“I believe in what I do. I am a person with a disability. I understand a lot of the stuff they are going through,” said Connors.

Region 5 coordinator Nicki Bush (left) and Peer Mentor Troy Connors (right) smile for the camera at the Annual Council Retreat.



Michigan Transportation Odyssey

Transportation workgroup member George Hanley and Council member Paul Palmer attended the Michigan Transportation Odyssey, hosted by Trans4m, which looks at Michigan's transportation systems. This two-day trip, which was from September 26 and 27th, traveled from Traverse City to Detroit using trains, buses, bikes and foot travel.

Both Palmer and Hanley enjoyed themselves, but they had a little trouble along the way. They had delays on their trip because of accessibility. Eventually, Palmer and Hanley got to their destinations and enjoyed their trip across Lower Michigan.

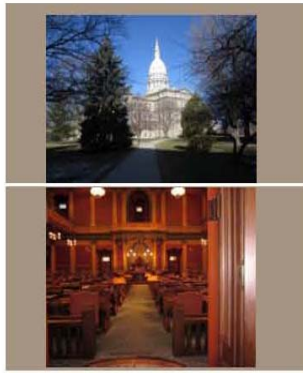
For full story please visit: <http://trans4m.org/2013/09/30/miodyssey13-day-one-recap/>



Council member Paul Palmer on the Michigan Transportation Odyssey.

Upcoming Events

The Council is gearing up for the 15th Annual Legislative Event. This year it will be a one day event that will cover informational session in the morning and a lunch with your Legislator. RICC members will be able to discuss issues affecting the disability community such as, transportation, Medicaid, employment and much more. Mark your calendar for February 11, 2014. You don't want to miss it!!!



Save the Date

Time: 11:30am
@ Radisson Hotel
Downtown Lansing



Legislative Event

FEBRUARY 2014

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
						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	

Workgroup and Committee Meetings October 2013

Diversity Committee

Date: October 14, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Health Issues Work Group

Date: October 21, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Executive Committee

Date: October 22, 2013

Time: 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Economic Justice Work Group

Date: October 22, 2013

Time: 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Individual and Family Support Education and Advocacy Work Group

Date: October 23, 2013

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

RICC Teleconference

Date: October 24, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Kent RICC Event

Kent Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC), co-sponsored Disability Awareness Day Conference on October 7th in Grand Rapids. The Disability Awareness Day (DAD) event is an annual event with the theme centered around common disability agendas.

LEGISLATION

Legislation

Workgroup/Committee

Conventions for Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD)

Public Policy Committee

Vulnerable Roadway User: HB 4792 &4799

Public Policy Committee/
Transportation

H.R. 831, the Fair Wages for Workers with Disabilities Act of 2013.

Public Policy Committee/
Economic Justice Workgroup

H.R. 1213 Common Sense Housing Investment Act of 2013

Public Policy Committee/
Housing

Public Policy

The Public policy committee is working on a number of key issues, which include:

Advocacy Support for RICC members:

We are training RICC members on advocacy and have begun a new round of regional meetings. The focus is on public policy and interaction with legislators, which is a year round process.

Medical/Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation:

Beneficiaries continue to have trouble getting rides. We have increased the group to gain more knowledge and now have a transit provider, and several members from the various transit provider associations who've also been meeting on this topic.

For more information contact Tandy Bidinger at:
bidingert@michigan.gov

Diversity

The committee is discussing different ideas to help the RICCs promote diversity. 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.

For more information contact Tedra Jackson at:
jackson7@michigan.gov

Program

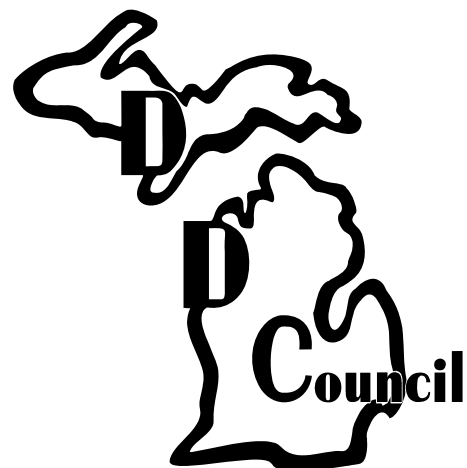
The program committee is focusing on grants. It will be receiving reports from each grant project. Currently, the committee is reviewing and updating the grant dissemination plan on how to get the word out about our projects.

For more information contact: Tedra Jackson at: jackson7@michigan.gov

Strategy

The committee reviewed Department of Community Health data related to people with developmental disabilities who receive services from Community Mental Health Service Programs at the June 4, 2013 meeting. Data was around the percent who were employed, the setting they were employed in, and the percent making minimum wage or better was reviewed. Of those employed, over half worked in sheltered workshops, and about 70 percent make below minimum wage; this was alarming to members. The Economic justice workgroup has been asked to develop a report on the topic of employment for persons with disabilities in Michigan.

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



Housing

The workgroup has been working on the United for Homes Campaign which aims to end the shortage of affordable rental homes for people with the lowest income. The workgroup has also finished the “Housing Options for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities” paper which was presented to the Council at the October 8th meeting and adopted.

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

Transportation

The workgroup 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 percent of the total.

For more information please contact Tandy Bidingert at:
bbingert@michigan.gov.



IFSEA

Final edits have been made on the Universal Education booklet and will be ready for dissemination in October.

The 'Create the Change' Toolkit subcommittee will meet mid-September. This committee is charged with developing a toolkit to assist young adults, RICC members, families and siblings in writing testimony and advocating with policymakers.

For more information please contact Tedra Jackson at jackson7@michigan.gov or Tracy Vincent at vincentt1@michigan.gov.

Economic Justice

The Economic Justice Workgroup 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. A Mission and Principles Statement was approved by the Council at the August 13, 2013 meeting.

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

Health Issues

The workgroup is monitoring integrated care for people dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. Michigan is waiting for Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) response to the proposal submitted. The Department of Community Health (DCH) announced that it will not implement the project on a statewide basis; Instead it will establish 4 pilot sites (U.P., Southwest Michigan, Wayne and Macomb counties). DCH is writing an Request For Proposals (RFP) for Integrated Care Organizations for the four pilot sites and this RFP is now expected to be released in the summer of 2013. The implementation of the project has been moved to July, 2014.

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

2013 RICC Summit



October is Disability History Month can you guess which famous person accomplished these tasks. (*Answers are below upside down*)

- 1) After being hit in the head by an overseer, this person who had a form of epilepsy went on to free hundreds of slaves from the south through the Underground Railroad. Who is she?

- 2) This person who had a hearing impairment went on to create hundreds of inventions, including the light bulb. Who is he?

- 3) This person was deaf and blind, but went on to become an activist, author, lecturer and first person to be deaf and blind to receive a Bachelors of Arts degree. Who is she?

- 4) This American President had polio, which left him in a wheelchair. He led the country through World War II. Who is he?

- 5) This music artist is blind and is a Grammy Award winner. His work includes hit songs like, "Superstition" and "I Just Called to Say I Love You." Who is he?

1. Harriet Tubman
2. Thomas Edison
3. Helen Keller
4. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
5. Stevie Wonder

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 3

October 2013

