

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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- What is the ADA?
- Save the Date
- Sept. 17th ADA celebration

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2015 Legislative Event

The Council held its 16th Annual Legislative Event February 4, 2015 at the Radisson in downtown Lansing. The event had a huge turnout with more than 60 legislators and 130 Regional Inclusive Community Coalition(RICC) members in attendance. RICCs discussed transportation funding, employment, and other issues affecting people with disabilities. Director of Legislative Affairs at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Karla Ruest, gave introductory remarks that included ways RICCs could communicate with Legislators.



Kalamazoo RICC members meet with a legislative aide from Rep. Brandt Iden's office. (right to left: Susan Mumma (RICC member); Reka Holley(aide from Rep. Iden's office); Chris Payne (RICC member).

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Chairperson

Vendela M. Collins
Executive Director

Yasmina Bouraoui
Deputy Director

Meredith Smith
Communications Representative

Wendy Duke-Littlejohn
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2015 Corrie Bair Recipient: David Layne

This year at the Building Michigan Communities Conference on April 27th-29th, David Layne was presented with the Corrie Bair Building Inclusive Communities Award. This award is given to advocates who work tirelessly to make sure communities are inclusive for people with disabilities.

David is recognized for working with people with disabilities and the elderly, getting them to the policy table and making sure their voices are heard. He has championed the Supreme Court's Olmstead Decision that people with disabilities should live in the least restrictive environment.

He is currently a part of the Nursing Facility Transition movement at Macomb Oakland Regional Center (MORC) Home Care, a Medicaid MI-Choice Wavier Agency. It services older adults and people with disabilities in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties.



(Left to right) Norm Delisle and David Layne at the 2015 Building Michigan Communities Conference.



DisABLE the Label

Disable the Label is an Upper Peninsula wide initiative to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March. Events were held in Marquette, Escanaba, Houghton, and Ontonagon throughout the month. Participants without disabilities had the opportunity to experience what it is like to be a person with a disability. For example, some participants were blindfolded to experience visual impairment. The event highlights the contributions that people with disabilities make in their community; educates the community on people with disabilities; breaks down stereotypes; and promotes a more inclusive community.



Delta and Copper Country RICC at their Disable the Label event.



A Copper Country RICC member demonstrating how to use a white walking cane for someone who is visually impaired.



Rep. Edward McBroom (left) and Marlin Moiowczak (right), Delta RICC member pose for the camera.

11th Annual Statewide Walk-a-Mile

On May 6th, advocates statewide participated in the 11th Annual Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes Rally on the Capitol Lawn in Lansing. The Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards (MACMHB) hosted the walk to educate the public about mental health, substance use 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 RICCs participated in the event and met with their legislators.



Iosco RICC at the Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes Rally.



Northern Area RICC at the Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes Rally.



Baraga RICC members holding their flag at the 2015 Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes Rally.

25th Anniversary ADA Celebrations

What is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?

It is an important civil rights law for individuals with disabilities. It bans discrimination against individuals with disabilities in jobs, schools, transportation and other areas of life.

The 25th Anniversary of the signing of the ADA is July 26th. There will be celebrations across the state to commemorate the day. Below you will find a list of events and websites. We hope you can help celebrate this historic day by attending one of the events!

ADA Legacy Tour comes to Detroit Eastern Market
July 21st
10 am—3 pm

For information visit: <https://adamichigan.wordpress.com/>

ADA Celebration in Kalamazoo at Disability Network Southwest Michigan
July 24th
11 am—1 pm

For more information visit: <http://www.dnswm.org/>

ADA Celebration hosted by Disability Network Flint at Powers High School
July 24th
11 am—2 pm

Hot dogs, chips, cookies and water will be available. Vendors might include The League of Women Voters and a demonstration of the AutoMark voting machine by representatives of the City of Flint Clerk's office.

For more information, please contact garyk@disnetwork.org

To learn more about the anniversary and how you can participate, visit
ADA National Network : <https://adata.org/ada-anniversary>

Workgroup/Committee Updates:

Diversity: The committee continues to promote inclusion through such activities as Disable the Label(See story on page 4).

Transportation: The workgroup is working on a Universal ADA card. In July they will be meeting with more than 80 transit providers to discuss criteria and possible implementation of a universal paratransit card.

Housing: Michigan State Housing Authority received 200 HUD 811 Vouchers. These vouchers are exclusively for people with disabilities.

IFSEA: The staff is assisting MI Family Voices in revising the resource toolkit for individuals and families. The workgroup is also refocusing its efforts on self-determination.

Health: The workgroup is monitoring integrated care for people dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

Economic Justice: The workgroup is working with partners to advocate for an Employment First! Policy at the state level through implementation of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) technical assistance grant. Four focus areas are underway: provider transformation, rate reimbursement and restructuring, provider training, and mapping the transition system.



Check out the “What’s New” section of the DD Council website: www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil. Go to public policy committee then *What’s New* to get updates on public policy issues.

Legislation

Legislation	Workgroup/Committee
S1177 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Federal)	IFSEA/Public Policy Committee
Bill-113-HR803enr(enrolled/ signed into law) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (Federal)	Economic Justice/ Public Policy Committee
HB4541, HB4542, HB4543, HB4544, SB359, SB360, SB361, SB362 Achieving Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act (State)	Public Policy Committee
HR927 Keeping All Students Safe Act(Federal)	IFSEA/ Public Policy Committee
SB118 Oral Health Expansion (State)	Health Issues/Public Policy Committee

For more information on these bills, please contact Brett Williams at: williamsb18@michigan.gov or 517-335-3139.



DCH/DHS Merger

On April 10th, the Michigan Department of Human Services and the Michigan Department of Community Health merged to become the new Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The DD Council is housed within MDHHS.

For more information, go to: www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

Save the date: **JULY 17th**

Kellogg Center • East Lansing



RICC SUMMIT



Join us at Kellogg Center in East Lansing
Friday, July 17th, 9:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.

save the date: **SEPTEMBER 17**
Michigan Capitol • Lansing



AMERICANS 25 YEARS • 1990-2015
WITH DISABILITIES ACT

celebrate • educate • advocate

Join us on the Michigan Capitol Lawn in Lansing
Thursday, September 17, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ADA