

## October - December 2018 Update



In November 2018, The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council hosted a learning opportunity and train-the-trainer sessions for educators, employment professionals, community mental health service providers, support coordinators, Peer Mentors, WIPA Leads, Voc Rehab organizations, Arcs, Disability Network Staff and Seamless Transition pilot partners. The three-day event was facilitated by national guest speakers Sean Roy and Jennifer Turner.

Ms. Turner facilitated two days of workshops focused on Charting the Lifecourse. Charting the LifeCourse is a framework that was developed to help individuals and families of all abilities and at any age or stage of life develop a vision for a good life, think about what they need to know and do, identify how to find or develop supports, and discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live. Attendees learned about their roles in the day-to-day support of individuals with I/DD. Tools were introduced that can be used to specifically plan and problem solve for transition and employment, as well as provide a way to capture a family perspective for employment supports and outcomes.

The workshops included the following topics:

- The significant role families play in their family members with disabilities lives across the lifespan.
- The introduction of the LifeCourse Framework as a foundation for working with individuals with disabilities and their families to achieve a “good life.”
- How to use Charting the LifeCourse framework and related decision making and problem-solving tools for employment outcomes.
- Real life examples and strategies that can be used to impact the trajectory towards a “good life”
- How to use Charting the LifeCourse framework and related decision making and problem-solving tools.

The Michigan Employment First Initiative sponsored the creation of two training resources to build the capacity of educators, employment professionals and advocates on how to better engage families around employment. During the train-the-trainer session, Mr. Roy spoke about the crucial role family's play in the lives of youth and adults with significant disabilities. Engaging families and self-advocates has been proven to improve employment outcomes for individuals with I/DD.

The sessions included discussions on:

- Integrating the principles of Charting the LifeCourse framework into Michigan specific training.
- Promoting high expectations that employment is possible.
- Highlighting ways families can help youth prepare for employment.
- How to help youth create a vision for their own lives.
- How to address concerns before they become barriers.
- Understanding the experiences of families.
- Understanding reasons for apprehension to explore employment.
- Strategies to address that apprehension and make your agency more “family centered”.





### **The Intersection of Employment & Public Benefits**

There is a lot of misinformation and misunderstandings that can hold individuals with I/DD back from considering employment. This includes how working impacts social security benefits. MDDC created an instructional video on the intersection of employment and public benefits and how to find help with benefit planning. Click the image above to watch the video.

# Employment

## A Families Perspective

### Employment: A Families Perspective

The State of Michigan recognizes that competitive employment within an integrated setting is the priority and optimal outcome for persons with disabilities, regardless of level or type of disability (Michigan Executive Order 2015-15). Families play an important role in people with I/DD gaining and keeping employment in the community. A group of parents across Michigan discuss their child's journey to employment in a video created by MDDC. Click the image above to view the video.

### Inclusion Campaign

The DD Council is developing and will implement an awareness campaign with statewide reach and visibility. The campaign will include TV commercials, radio ad and social media posts. The purpose of the campaign is to educate Michigan residents on community inclusion and the many abilities of individuals with I/DD. The campaign shows people with I/DD working, living and learning in their community. The statewide inclusion campaign will kick off in early 2019. For more information visit the [Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council website](#).

### Call for Presentations

Workshop proposal [applications](#) are now available for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Peer Conference being held at the Lansing Center on **May 29-31**. The conference theme is "People, Purpose, and Passion: Celebrating Success" to promote and advance statewide

collaboration, partnerships, and connections. Presenters that are selected will receive complimentary conference registration for the day of their presentation.

Successful proposals will include learning objectives that are clear, address conference goals, and persons with lived experience are leading the presentation. Telephone interviews may be part of the workshop selection process.

Presentations can be in the following format:

- 5-hour pre-conference workshop on Wednesday, May 29, 2019
- 75-minute workshop on Thursday, May 30, 2019
- 75-minute workshop on Friday, May 31, 2019

Please fill out the [application](#) if you're interested in submitting a workshop proposal and **send by email to [billipsr1@michigan.gov](mailto:billipsr1@michigan.gov) or fax it to 517-335-1233 by the deadline of February 8th, 2019.**

\*\*\*The conference is open to anyone interested in attending \*\*\*

The Self Advocates of Michigan and The Michigan  
Developmental Disabilities Council Present...



## SELF ADVOCACY AT THE CAPITAL

Contact Brett Williams for  
more information at  
517-284-7289 or  
WilliamsB18@michigan.gov

More information will be  
available as the event gets  
closer. We hope to see you  
there!

## SAVE THE DATES: MAY 1st & 2nd 2019

### What is advocacy?

- An important way for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to have a voice of their own

### Who should attend this event ?

- People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Allies

### Why should you attend ?

- To meet with State lawmakers to discuss issues that impact people with disabilities
- Meet with self advocates from around the state
- Receive training related to self-advocacy

### Where is the event?

- Lansing, MI

