

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Jan 2017



2016 Year in Review:

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS):

The Council provided feedback on the state's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) transition plan. This plan would allow states more flexibility to design a waiver that meets the needs of more than one target population. The goal for HCBS transition is to provide required services in the most inclusive, integrated settings as possible as well as ensure that waiver participants have the opportunity to live in a community setting of their choice.

Peer Mentoring: Council staff drafted proposed Medicaid language that will include peer mentoring services in the Medicaid Provider Manual. This policy will ensure that all Peer Mentors who provide services to beneficiaries will be trained in the manner established by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The final policy bulletin was issued November 30, 2016 and will take effect January 1, 2017.

Poverty Simulation: A Poverty Simulation and discussion was held by the Council. This experience was designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month.

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2016 Year in Review continued:

14(c) Waivers: At the April 5th Council Meeting, members heard testimony from interested stakeholders on the use of 14(c) waivers. Under the Fair Labor and Standards Act, an entity that files for, and receives a 14(c) waiver from the Department of Labor, is allowed to pay people with disabilities less than minimum wage. After hearing testimony, the council accepted the following motion “The DD Council supports amending current legislation to prohibit the ability under the state law of employers to pay less than the minimum wage to persons with physical or mental disabilities.” This motion was voted on and accepted.

Memorandum Of Understanding: On June 21st, the Lieutenant Governor, the Council and five other state government agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU was created to help increase the number of students with disabilities transitioning from school and post-secondary education to employment.

Self-Advocates of Michigan Board: The new Self-Advocates of Michigan (SAM) board was introduced this year. The board comprises of 13 members who will set the direction of self-advocacy in Michigan.

Take Your Legislator to Work: The Council held its 3rd annual Take Your Legislator to Work Campaign, where participants had their legislator job shadow them. Eleven employees participated from across the state, with jobs including a pizza maker, janitorial, basketball coach, and much more.

Action Plans: The Council moved from workgroups to action plans to better support and engage advocates on what the Council is doing. These plans will help advocates prepare for advocacy efforts around issues in our public policy platform. (*See Advocacy and Committees Update page 7*)

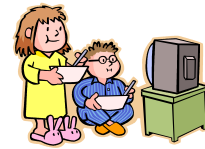
Council Moved: In February, the Council moved to the Lewis Cass Building, 320 S. Walnut Street, Lansing, MI 48913. Council staff enjoys their new digs.

New Staff: In March, the Council welcomed Sheila McCulloch, the new Executive Secretary.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Since 1987, March has been Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month. As March approaches, it is time to start thinking about DD Awareness Month. Here are a few ideas to help get you started:

- Hold a viewing party to watch “Bottom Dollars,” an original documentary from Rooted in Rights. This film is about people with disabilities getting paid subminimum wage. <http://www.rootedinrights.org/videos/employment/bottom-dollars/>



- 31 Days of DD Awareness Month---post content on your Facebook or Twitter each day that sheds light on Developmental Disabilities.



- Ask your Mayor’s office, City Council, or County board for a proclamation.



- Attend coffee hours—This is a great way to follow-up with your legislator from the Legislative Event. Invite them over to discuss issues in your community and to let them know who you are.



To see more ideas visit: www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil
> Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month-March

Preparing for Legislative Event

Self-advocates are invited to attend the 18th Annual Legislative Event. It will be held March 7, 2017 at Anderson House Office Building (Lansing) in the Mackinac Room (on the 5th floor).

To help you prepare for the event, below are **10 steps** to help you get ready for the big day.

Step 1...Find your legislator

- ◆ We are here to help
- ◆ To find your Representative Visit:

www.house.michigan.gov

Scroll down to where it says “Find your Representative”

- ◆ To find your Senator visit:

www.senate.michigan.gov

Click the “Senators” box and select “Find your Senator”



Step 2...Contact your legislator!

- ◆ It is very important to personally invite your legislator
- ◆ Next, send the invitation

Step 3...Follow up with your legislator

Following up with your legislator does several things:

- ◆ Keeps the date in front of them
- ◆ Let's legislators know how important this day is
- ◆ Keeps you in contact with the legislator
- ◆ Make sure to send a letter or email as a reminder

March 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			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	29	30	31	



Step 4...Prepare for the Big Day!

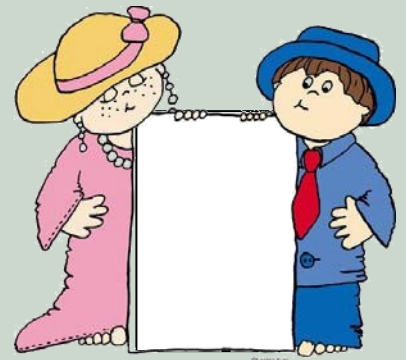
Figure out what you are bringing to the meeting. Find your strengths.

- ◆ Are you going to share a story?
- ◆ Discuss talking points?
- ◆ Make sure to keep the discussion on track

Step 5...Practice...Practice...Practice!

To help you prepare for the day, practice roleplaying.

- ◆ Put together your talking points
- ◆ Go over them one at a time
- ◆ Practice, practice, practice
- ◆ You can practice with anyone



Step 6...Important things to remember when meeting with legislators

- ◆ Stay focused and on track
- ◆ If the legislator goes off topic, get the conversation back on track
- ◆ Never argue
- ◆ Do not interrupt your guest



Step 7...How to greet your legislators

- ◆ Greet them as Representative or Senator
- ◆ Example, Representative Smith or Senator Smith
- ◆ After you greet your legislator, introduce yourself

Step 8...During the meeting

- ◆ Ask to be put on their mailing list
- ◆ Always thank them for their time
- ◆ Take a picture with them



Step 9...After the meeting

- ◆ Remember follow-up
- ◆ Send a thank you note; include the picture of the event
- ◆ If you said you would get back to them with information; do it within 1 week

Step 10...Don't forget too...

- ◆ Add their contact information to your list
- ◆ Make sure you stay in contact with their office
- ◆ Follow-up with them on the points discussed
- ◆ Ask them about any progress on issues discussed



Advocacy and Committees Update

Advocacy

Universal Statewide Reduced Fare Card: The group met with the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) to discuss the implementation and production of the reduced fare card. This universal card would be accepted by all 81 transit providers, allowing Michigan citizens to travel across county lines. At the conclusion of this meeting, the group agreed to explore other options and approaches to implement the card.

Direct Supports Workers (DSW): This October, Direct Support Workers (DSW) were required to start submitting time sheets through Electronic Service Verification (ESV). Realizing that not all DSW's would have the ability to do such, MDHHS will still accept the paper forms.

Oral Health: The group is working on developing talking points and gathering stories on the difficulties of people with disabilities accessing adult dental services.

Housing: The workgroup discussed offering trainings around housing. One idea, would be how to conduct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) site review. Participants would learn what ADA compliant apartments look like.

Medicaid Spend Down: Staff along with the Olmstead Coalition, met with the MDHHS to discuss income disregard in order to try to reduce much of the Medicaid Spend Down requirements.

Restraint and Seclusion: Public Policy Committee (PPC) staff, developed talking points, fact sheets and sample letters for individuals to use when advocating with their legislators. The package of bills passed both the House and Senate. It is now waiting for the Governor to sign it into law.

Advocacy Update and Committees Continued

Employment: Staff successfully reapplied for and was awarded the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program technical assistance grant for 2017. This grant will include provider transformation, capacity building, and rate reform technical assistance. Staff is also working to make sure all individuals with disabilities, in all forms of employment, will be compensated at a rate at least that of Michigan's standardized minimum wage.

Committees

Diversity: The committee is working to increase the diversity of its members. It will hold a "think tank" on diversity outreach. During the Diversity "think tank" session the goal will be to:

- ◆ Identify barriers that prevent individuals from diverse populations with I/DD from being included in the work of the DD Council and possible solutions;
- ◆ Identify cultural brokers within ethnically diverse populations and;
- ◆ Identify best practices to recruit and retain ethnically diverse individuals with I/DD and their families in DD Council activities.

Advocacy and Committees Update

Continued

Program: The Program Committee provides oversight of the DD Council's active grants. It reviewed and provided comments on the 4 Request for Proposals (RFPs) developed and posted during the fall of 2016:

- ◆ *DDLDO-2017:* Leadership Development Opportunities
- ◆ *DDSMD-2017:* Self-Determination in Michigan
- ◆ *DDLEAD-2017:* Leadership, Engagement, and Advocacy Development
- ◆ *DDYELL-2017:* Youth Engaged in Leading and Learning

Two of the grants (DDLDO-2017 & DDSMD-2017) have completed the Review Group process and recommendations will be presented before the DD Council at the January 3, 2017 meeting. The remaining 2 RFP's (DDLEAD-2017 & DDYELL-2017) Review Group recommendations will be presented before the DD Council at the February 14, 2017 meeting.

Public Policy: This chart represents legislation the Council is working on.

State	Federal
HB 5002 and SB 1029– Vulnerable Roadway Users	H.R.188 S2001– elimination 14(c) waivers
SB 1013 – Dental Therapist to practice in Michigan	H.R.927 – Federal guidelines for restraint and seclusion in public schools
SB 1017– Additional penalties to people who assault or assault and batters an individual with a developmental disability	S 2702, S 2703, S 2704 and H.R. 4794, H.R. 4795, and H.R. 4813 – Improvements to the ABLE Act
HB 5409, HB 5418, and SB 835 -838 – Restraint and Seclusion	
HB 6066 – Voters to show picture ID at polls	

Employment Story: Profile



Ben was able to successfully transition from working in the workshop at Community Enterprises St. Clair County to working on the grounds maintenance crew at St. Clair Golf Club - successful and fulfilling community integrated employment