
Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) - AGENDA

A standing committee of the MW! Southwest Workforce Development Board

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

At the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

If you are unable to attend in person, you may connect virtually at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84497473514?pwd=dUpZT0JpeVbWUG8xaktqTGI1Wm5aQT09>

Meeting ID: 844 9747 3514 Passcode: 672999

Or Dial Toll Free • 877-853-5257; • 888-475-4499; • 833-548-0276 • 833-548-0282

- I. **Welcome and Call to Order** [2 min] Co-Chairs
 - A. Approval of November 12, 2024 Agenda
 - B. Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2024 (*attached*)

- II. **2025 Meeting Calendar** [3 min] (*Draft attached*)

- III. **Agency Introductions and Roundtable Discussion** [50 min] Members

Each agency representative will be given the opportunity to highlight their agency's purpose and services.
Agencies are welcome to bring brochures and/or flyers to share.

- IV. **Emerging Issues Related to Employment & Advocacy** [10 min] Discussion

- V. **Unique Customer Needs – Request for Input & Resources** [10 min] Discussion

- VI. **Collaboration – Partner Matrix – any additional updates?** (*attached*) [5 min] Kathy Olsen

- VII. **Professional Development Opportunities** [5 min]
 - A. Disability Network Southwest Michigan <http://www.dnswm.org/>
 - B. KPL ONEplace <https://www.kpl.gov/oneplace/>
 - C. The Synergy Health Center <https://synergykzoo.org/>
 - D. Incompass Michigan – <https://incompassmi.org/> - see the Education & Training tab
 - E. DART Desktop Training Modules <https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/resources/at-your-desktop-training>

- VIII. **Other Announcements and Upcoming Events** (not covered above)

- IX. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, February 13, 2025 from 2-4 pm – at the Upjohn Institute

- X. **Adjournment** Co-Chairs

The Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) is a standing committee of the Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board.

DART members represent businesses, service providers, advocates, and allies with expertise in assisting individuals with disabilities with their career, training, and employment needs.

DART members will inform, promote, and advise the WDB on strategies to support career pathways, training, and employment options for individuals with disabilities, including youth, to gain and retain employment.

**Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART)
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER – DART Co-Chair, Hank Bostic called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. at the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Barsy (ISKazoo) [∨]

Jackie Bigelow (Upjohn) [∨]

Hank Bostic (DNSM)

Jacob Eagon (Upjohn) [∨]

Rebecca Hill (MRS)

Jennifer Johnson (Goodwill SWMI)

Jeana Koerber (Autism Ctr)

Alvin Little (KRESA)

Ramona Lumpkin (Recovery Inst) [∨]

Katie McCuen (KRESA) [∨]

Michelle Miller Adams (Upjohn)

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)

Emma Reist [∨]

Cherrelle Singleton (BSBP)

Cameron Ulrich (MI-LEO) [∨]

Kathleen Wine (Goodwill SWMI)

[∨] Attended virtually

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The DART meeting agenda for September 17, 2024 was approved by consensus of members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The DART meeting minutes of April 16, 2024 were approved by consensus of members present.

INTRODUCTIONS

Members present in-person and online introduced themselves.

PRESENTATION – Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research

Dr. Jeana Koerber, Executive Director of Autism Services, presented information and distributed brochures pertaining to the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research. She also distributed a flyer promoting an upcoming community event scheduled for Monday, September 23, 2024 at the Douglass Community Association. The flyer was also included in the meeting agenda packet.

AGENCY UPDATES

Recovery Institute – Ramona Lumpkin reported that a Recovery Fair was held the previous Saturday at Bronson Park, and more than 500 meal tickets were distributed.

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) – Cherrelle Singleton reported the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons is wrapping up their summer programs. They also have an open position for a rehabilitation Counselor. She noted BSBP offers unique services for the visually impaired and live-in training is available at the center. Staff also visit individuals in their

homes. Kathy Olsen encouraged members who have not visited the Training Center located on Oakland Drive in Kalamazoo, to do so.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) - Rebecca Hill reported Michigan Rehabilitation Services is wrapping up their summer workplace learning for youth and the program year officially ends September 30, 2024. Work experience positions were available with Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation, local retailers, and the DNR. The program year ends September 30.

Kalamazoo RESA – Kaitlyn McCuen reported that work based learning is available through the MyCITY Program. One attendee requested follow-up regarding dual enrollment in the summer programs offered by MRS and by KRESA's MyCITY.

Disability Network Southwest Michigan – Hank Bostic reported Disability Network Southwest Michigan is seeking volunteers to help build ramps for individuals in need of having them added to their homes. He noted that there is an immediate need to find volunteers to build a ramp for a home located in Sturgis, Michigan. The cost of building materials for the ramps is covered by grants and personal donations. A suggestion was made to contact the instructors for Career Technical Education construction classes in each of the counties.

Goodwill Industries Southwestern Michigan – Kathleen Wine reported that Goodwill Industries Southwestern Michigan has current job openings that includes staff positions for Mission Services, a Vice-President, and an Employment and Training Specialist. Training programs at Goodwill have a strong focus on workforce development, including a manufacturing pathway in Kalamazoo and a Retail Management program in Allegan. Jennifer Johnson reported there are 32 youth in the Goodwill Life Guides program and when the youth and their family members are considered, there are 121 total individuals receiving services in the Life Guides program.

EMERGENCING ISSUES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT & ADVOCACY

Certificate of Completion - It was noted that a Certificate of Completion is not a recognized credential. One attendee reported that members of the Michigan Developmental Disability Council Policy Committee are advocating for a change. One suggestion was that perhaps legislation could be introduced that would create another diploma category.

State ID - Some employers at work experience sites are requesting that students have a State ID. This is a barrier for students without a drivers' license. Individuals can obtain a State ID which costs \$10. Some local agencies can assist with the fee, such as Goodwill's 'Get Help' Program; however, if the youth is under 18 years of age, they need a parent or guardian to sign for them to obtain the ID. A barrier is getting to the Secretary of State office. Members suggested having the mobile Secretary of State office visit schools and agencies where young people and their parents can be gathered together at a convenient location.

COLLABORATION – Partner Matrix – Kathy Olsen requested that members review the partner matrix and to let her know if they have any updates to their agency's listing. Changes reported during the meeting included changing the contact for KRESA's Transition Services and Young Adult Program from Jordan Stripling to Alvin Little. It was also reported that KRESA will no longer be operating a Project SEARCH program.

UNIQUE CUSTOMER NEEDS

Discussion occurred regarding assistance that was needed for having the drivers' education test read to a student. It was reported that the individual in need can drive but the written test is difficult. Information was shared that arrangements can be made for this assistance.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Hank Bostick referred members to the list of professional development opportunities that were listed on the agenda. They were as follows:

- Disability Network Southwest Michigan <http://www.dnswm.org/>
- KPL ONEplace <https://www.kpl.gov/oneplace/>
- The Synergy Health Center <https://synergykzoo.org/>
- Incompass Michigan –<https://incompassmi.org/> - see the Education & Training tab
- DART Desktop Training Modules
<https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/resources/at-your-desktop-training>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next **MiCareerQuest™ Southwest** Michigan will be held on October 24 and 25, 2024 at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. The event is open to the community on Tuesday, October 24 from 3:30-7:00 p.m. Members were encouraged to share the invitation to the community night with friends, family, and colleagues.
- The next **Breaking Barriers Breakfast** sponsored by Disability Network Southwest Michigan will be held on October 3, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. RSVPs are required. Individuals should contact Lisa Brink at brinkL@dnswm.org or at 269-345-1516 x111 to register.
- Disability Network Southwest Michigan is offering a **Take Charge of Your Health** workshop and there is no cost to attend. Individuals should contact Disability Network for more information.

NEXT MEETING

The next DART meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathy Olsen, Quality Assurance/Project Coordinator and WDB Liaison
Michigan Works! Southwest

**Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART)
2025 Meeting Schedule**

DRAFT

2025 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are scheduled from 2:00-4:00 pm
at the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

We encourage in-person attendance; however, if personal schedules are tight, a virtual option will also be available for all meetings.

- Thursday, February 13, 2025
- Tuesday, April 8, 2025
- Thursday, June 26, 2025
- Tuesday, September 16, 2025
- Thursday, November 13, 2025

Agenda packets will be emailed approximately one week prior to each meeting.

DART Purpose Statement

The Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) is a standing committee of the Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board.

DART members represent businesses, service providers, advocates and allies with expertise in assisting individuals with disabilities with their career, training and employment needs.

DART members will inform, promote, and advise the WDB on strategies to support career pathways, training, and employment options for individuals with disabilities, including youth, to gain and retain employment.

Also see online referral trees in Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties or call 211 in the counties where 211 is active.

Agency	Who to Contact for Services	Resources	Service Area
<p>The Arc Community Advocates http://www.communityadvocates.org/</p>	<p>Located at 814 S Westnedge, Kalamazoo MI</p> <p>Rhasheda Shepherd, Executive Director 269-342-9801</p>	<p>The Arc Community Advocates provide Advocacy Services across the lifespan for individuals that experience an intellectual and/or developmental disability, and their families. Specific focus on Education Advocacy, Transition to Adulthood, Adult Advocacy, Community Education and Resource Connection, Alternatives to Guardianship, Systemic and Policy Change.</p>	<p>Barry, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties</p>
<p>The Arc of Calhoun County https://thearccalhoun.org/</p>	<p>Located at 44 W Michigan, Battle Creek, MI</p> <p>(269) 966-2575 Clare Tanner, Executive Director</p>	<p>The Arc of Calhoun County is a non-profit organization that provides skill-building and community- based services to adults with disabilities, advocacy for special education from birth to 26 years old, and further support to the community as it relates to its citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>Calhoun County</p>
<p>Disability Network of Southwest Michigan http://www.dnswm.org/</p>	<p>517 E. Crosstown Parkway Kalamazoo, MI 49001 269-345-1516 Serving Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties</p> <p>200 W. Van Buren St. Battle Creek, MI 49017 269-345-1516 Serving Calhoun, Barry, and Branch Counties</p> <p>2900 Lakeview Ave. St. Joseph, MI 49085 269-985-0111 Serving Berrien and Cass Counties</p> <p>Call your local office for information or for an appointment.</p>	<p>Disability Network of Southwest Michigan’s vision is a community that values disability as human diversity, free of attitudinal barriers, where all people benefit with full access and inclusion. They educate and connect people with disabilities to resources while advocating social change. Their goal is to help foster a community where people with disabilities are able to participate fully in everyday life with equal opportunities and self-determination. They assist organizations, businesses, and government agencies to understand their rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information and Referral Services - Independent Living Support - Social Security Benefits Planning - Advocacy - Accessibility Accommodations - Plus, More 	<p>Prosperity Region 8 (Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties) + Barry County</p>

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<p>Employer Resource Network (ERN) Michigan Works! Southwest https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/employers/employer-resource-network</p> <p>ERN Michigan https://ern-mi.com/</p> <p>ERN USA https://www.ern-usa.com/</p>	<p>Kelli Adams 269-385-0404 ERN Director – SW MI ERN kadams@upjohn.org</p> <p>OR</p> <p>James Vander Hulst, President West Michigan TEAM SWMERN Administrator 616-454-8738 jvanderhulst@westmichiganteam.org</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Michigan Works! Southwest Ashley Iovieno iovieno@upjohn.org</p>	<p>Employer Resource Networks are an innovative approach to talent development designed to increase employee retention, enhance workplace culture, and improve employee engagement! Southwest Michigan ERNs can provide an on-site Success Coach to assist your employees by engaging them in career pathways, supporting them in skill development, and maximizing their productivity.</p>	<p>Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo & St. Joseph Counties</p>
<p>Friends with Disabilities http://www.friendswithdisabilities.org/</p>	<p>Sharmese Anderson, President/CEO 269-830-1334 info@friendswithdisabilities.org</p>	<p>Mission is to reach out to the community of individuals with physical disabilities in order to educate and promote inclusion. The overall goal is to provide an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to live a gainful life while struggling through daily challenges.</p>	<p>Kalamazoo</p>
<p>Goodwill Industries of Central Michigan’s Heartland https://www.goodwillcmh.org/</p>	<p>Main Number 866-725-0534</p>	<p>Goodwill Industries of Central Michigan’s Heartland is a private, CARF accredited, nonprofit organization that has been serving the community since the 1950s. At Goodwill, we believe in helping individuals with barriers to employment experience the Power of Work. Through workforce development programs, we provide training, support services, and career opportunities.</p>	<p>Branch & Calhoun Counties + others</p>
<p>Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan http://www.goodwillswmi.org/</p>	<p>Main Number for Mission Services 269-382-0490</p>	<p>Goodwill Industries of SW MI provides employment training, job readiness skills workshops, work experience, job placement services, GED preparation services, and services to assist at risk families, all to help individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency.</p>	<p>Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties + donation centers in Richland, Saugatuck, Wayland</p>

Also see online referral trees in Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties or call 211 in the counties where 211 is active.

<p>Housing Resources, Inc. http://www.housingresourcesinc.org/</p>	<p>Main number: 269-382-0287</p>	<p>Housing Resources, Inc. provides services including information and referral for affordable housing, housing stabilization, and permanent housing for families and individuals. Services and support may include housing subsidies, housing search, housing counseling and supportive services to those in Kalamazoo County who are literally homeless and/or in the eviction process. Office hours are 8:30 am – 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. HRI can also be reached via phone 269-382-0287 or electronically via their website at www.housingresourcesinc.org.</p>	<p>Kalamazoo County</p>
<p>Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (Formerly Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services [KCMHSAS]) https://iskzoo.org/</p>	<p>Customer Services 269-553-7000</p>	<p>Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (formerly Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services [KCMHSAS]) provides Supported Employment (including Job Development and Job Coaching) services for enrolled and interested individuals.</p> <p>ISK provides services and supports to individuals with mental illnesses, intellectual/developmental disabilities, or substance use disorders. These include crisis intervention services, psychiatric services, therapy, case management and other evidence-based treatments, as well as support in areas of housing, employment, benefits management and more.</p> <p>ISK is a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) and can serve the public beyond Medicaid recipients. Services focus on wellness, recovery, trauma-informed care, and physical-behavioral health integration. ISK also operates the Behavioral Health Urgent Care locally as part of the CCBHC.</p> <p>Developer/sponsor of The Recovery Institute – “empowering individuals with a mental illness to lead rich and meaningful lives in the community.”</p>	<p>Kalamazoo County</p>

Also see online referral trees in Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties or call 211 in the counties where 211 is active.

<p>Kalamazoo RESA Transition Services http://www.kresa.org/domain/58</p>	<p>Alvin Little (he/him/his) Transition Coordinator Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Office: 269-250-9258 Fax: 269-250-9322 Alvin.littel@kresa.org</p>	<p>Transition is helping students with disabilities and their families think about their life after school and working to identify long-range goals in order to design the school experience to ensure that students gain the skills and connections they need to achieve these goals. This transitional process includes many layers of planning for the future and should be fully understood by everyone involved, each step of the way. Planning for the future is an investment in a student’s well-being!</p>	<p>Kalamazoo County</p>
<p>Kalamazoo RESA Young Adult Program https://www.kresa.org/domain/62</p>	<p>Alvin Littel Transition Coordinator Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Office: 269-250-9258 Fax: 269-250-9322 Alvin.littel@kresa.org</p>	<p>YAP is a continuum of transition services for young adults 18-26 in Kalamazoo County who have completed their high school years, are eligible for special education services, and need opportunities to learn and build life skills through continued special education programming. Provides special education programming for students who are excited about life after school. Instruction is connected to skills that really matter for young adults:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-advocacy • Safety • Social skills • Communication • Adult living skills • Job skills • Transportation planning and use 	<p>Kalamazoo County</p>
<p>Michigan Bureau of Service for Blind Persons (BSBP) http://www.michigan.gov/BSBP</p>	<p>Kalamazoo Regional Office 1541 Oakland Drive Kalamazoo, MI 49008 P: 269-337-3875 F: 269-337-3872</p> <p>Training Center (Kalamazoo) 269-337-3848</p>	<p>The Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) believes in the capacity of people who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employment and independence. The Vocational Rehabilitation Program assists those who are eligible in becoming employed in a career that suits their current or potential skills and abilities.</p>	<p>Statewide – Offices in Detroit, Escanaba, Flint, Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Lansing</p>

Also see online referral trees in Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties or call 211 in the counties where 211 is active.

<p>Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center (BSBPTC) http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-28313_33124-110979--,00.html</p>	<p>Main Number: 269-337-3848</p>	<p>The BSBP Training Center provides training and services to blind and visually impaired residents of the state of Michigan and elsewhere. The Training Center staff believe in the capabilities of individuals who are blind to participate in every activity of daily living.</p>	<p>Statewide – located in Kalamazoo</p>
<p>Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI) https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mcti</p> <p>MCTI Career Assessment Services brochure Career-Assessment-Services-with-EEO-5-26-23.pdf (michigan.gov)</p> <p>Vocational Training Program Information https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mcti/vocational-training-programs</p>	<p>Admissions 1-877-901-7360 269-664-4461</p>	<p>Meeting the demands of today’s industry and workforce, Michigan Career and Technical Institute provides individualized career development, education, training, and support services for individuals with disabilities preparing for and engaging in competitive integrated employment. MCTI offers Career Assessment Services including Comprehensive Vocational Evaluations that help students explore job options. MCTI also offers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical and counseling services • Occupational therapy • Interpreters for deaf students • Classroom and job accommodations • Job readiness training <p>MCTI has 12 training programs. Each program has an active advisory committee made up of people who work in the same business. Our committees help make sure our curriculum and equipment meet business standards.</p>	<p>Michigan</p>
<p>Pine Lake Fund https://pinelakefund.org/</p>	<p>269-664-9271</p>	<p>The Pine Lake Fund a 501 c(3) non-profit organization in partnership with Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI) promotes the training and placement of students attending (MCTI) and establishes business partnerships and resources to support the innovation and expansion of (MCTI). The Pine Lake Fund owns and operates a 20-unit apartment complex which provides an alternative housing option to individuals associated with (MCTI). The Pine Lake Fund administers multiple partnership agreements to provide assessment, accommodation, transition and job placement services throughout the state of Michigan.</p>	<p>Michigan</p>

Also see online referral trees in Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties or call 211 in the counties where 211 is active.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) – Southwest Michigan District Office – Michigan Dept of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO)
www.michigan.gov/mrs

Customer or General Inquiries:
Kalamazoo County, St. Joseph County, Van Buren County –
Kalamazoo Site office
4210 South Westnedge Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-337-3700
877-901-9187 (Toll-free)*

Calhoun County, Branch County, Barry County - Battle Creek Site Office
424 Riverside Drive, Suite 202
Battle Creek, MI 49015
269-968-3311
877-901-9189 (Toll-free)*

Berrien County, Cass County
Benton Harbor Site Office
401 Eighth St. 1st Floor
Benton Harbor, MI 49023-1407
269-926-6168
877-901-9192 (Toll-free)*

*TTY users may contact MRS by dialing 711 and providing the relay operator with the toll-free number.

Business Services
Lisa Stanley – 269-548-7282

Mission: Develop customized workforce solutions for businesses and individuals with disabilities.

Vision: A diverse and inclusive workforce that unites businesses and individuals with disabilities toward a common good.

Individuals with Disabilities

Michigan Rehabilitation Services provides vocational rehabilitation services to support individuals with disabilities to be successful in employment. This may include vocational counseling; assessments; job training; supportive services; job placement; disability restoration; employer supports; and accommodations to address barriers to employment.

Students with Disabilities – Pre-Employment Transition Services

Michigan Rehabilitation Services serves youth with disabilities to help prepare them for success in careers as they exit high school or post-secondary training. Pre-Employment Transition Services can include:

- Job Exploration
- Work-Based-Learning Experiences
- Counseling on Postsecondary Education
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Self-Advocacy Training

Businesses

Partners with businesses to recruit, maintain, and retrain qualified individuals to save time and money while engaging in the interactive process to increase their bottom line and create a truly inclusive workplace culture.

Prosperity Region 8 (Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties) + Barry County

Also see online referral trees in Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties or call 211 in the counties where 211 is active.

<p>Michigan Works! Southwest http://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/ Workshops and Hiring events https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/events-calendar</p>	<p>Michigan Works! Southwest Service Centers</p> <p>Branch County – 517-278-0200</p> <p>Calhoun County - 269-660-1412</p> <p>Calhoun County – Albion Office – 517-629-9477</p> <p>Kalamazoo County - 269-383-2536</p> <p>St Joseph County - 269-273-2717</p>	<p>Michigan Works! Southwest provides employment assistance, including employability skills training, soft skill development, job matching, intensive case management, barrier navigation, and vocational and on-the-job training assistance. Michigan Works! Southwest also provides support to local employers by posting jobs, recruiting talent, providing employee retention services, and assisting with talent-related solution design.</p>	<p>Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties</p>
<p>MRC Industries http://www.mrcindustries.org/</p>	<p>General Information – 269-343-0747</p>	<p>MRC Industries looks to assist individuals in achieving maximum community integration through employment. We provide job placement, job training, employer trainings, and continued support for both people served and our employer partners. Additional services include Clubhouse and Bridgeways Case Management.</p>	<p>Kalamazoo County</p>
<p>Project SEARCH (Calhoun ISD) / Duncan Aviation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IX-LPgSzio</p>	<p>Questions should be directed to Sheila Ritsema at 269-317-9656 or ritsemas@calhounisd.org</p>	<p>Project SEARCH is a Post-Secondary Transition Program for students with disabilities. Students are fully immersed for 1 school year in the host business, Duncan Aviation. The students will develop transferable and marketable skills with the goal at the end of the program - paid competitive employment in the community!</p>	<p>Calhoun County</p>
<p>Recovery Institute of Southwest Michigan, Inc. - Kalamazoo https://www.recoverymi.org/</p>	<p>Main Phone Number: 269-343-6725</p>	<p>Recovery Institute serves Kalamazoo County by offering peer support to people who have mental health and/or substance use concerns. We provide this service in the form of groups, classes, one-on-ones and social outings.</p>	<p>Southwest Michigan</p>

Also see online referral trees in Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties or call 211 in the counties where 211 is active.

<p>Pivotal (formerly St. Joseph County Community Mental Health) https://www.pivotalstjoe.org/</p>	<p>To access services, call 269-467-1000 Crisis Line 24/7: 1-800-622-3967 TTY: Michigan Relay Service at 7-1-1 Life-threatening Emergency: 911 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline 24/7: 988</p>	<p>From their website: “Pivotal is proud to be St. Joseph County’s premier Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). At Pivotal, we enhance the lives of the individuals we serve by delivering integrated services that jointly address medical and behavioral health needs including substance use disorder and primary care screening services.”</p> <p>List of Services (see website for details): Crisis, Emergency, and Access Services Adult and Children’s Services Substance Use Disorder Services Residential Services</p>	<p>St Joseph County</p>
<p>Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) https://www.swmbh.org/</p>	<p>Main Number: 800-676-0423 Customer Service: 800-890-3712 Compliance Hotline: 800-783-0914 MI Health Link Customer/Crisis: 800-675-7148 Substance Abuse Treatment Access: 800-781-0353 Veteran Navigator: 269-967-9187</p>	<p>Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment - contact SWMBH See website for more information: http://www.swmbh.org/ Contact for Veterans: Toni Kennedy, contact 269-967-9187 or antonia.kennedy@swmbh.org</p> <p>From their website: “Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) is the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) for eight Michigan counties, and is in partnership with the Community Mental Health (CMH) agencies of these counties. SWMBH, in partnership with the CMH’s and local providers, provides mental health services to adults with severe and persistent mental illness, children with severe emotional disturbance, individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, and individuals with substance use disorders.”</p>	<p>Southwest MI – 8 counties</p>

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<p>Veterans Employment Services - Michigan www.michigan.gov/ves</p> <p>Veterans' Employment Services on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/MIVeteransServices</p> <p>Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/MIVeterans</p>	<p>Visit a MiWorks! Service Center</p> <p>DVOP Vet Rep at MiWorks! SW: Carrie Headworth, Battle Creek headworthc@michigan.gov or 269-660-1425</p> <p>Vacant, Kalamazoo 269-488-7293</p> <p>Workforce Development Veterans Employment Services Regional BSP Rep is: Shane Sherer, CBSP (p) 616-752-7805 (c) 517-897-1797 scherers@michigan.gov</p> <p>Michigan Veteran Contact: Joseph Swyrtek' swyrtekj@michigan.gov</p>	<p>Michigan Veterans Career Advisors provide intensive and individualized employment services to eligible veterans and spouses assisting them with overcoming significant barriers to employment.</p> <p>These services include (but are not limited to) guiding the program participant through the process of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing resume marketability • Improving interviewing skills • Effectively using social networking • Partnering with other service providers and organizations 	<p>Michigan</p>
<p>Veteran Engagement Team (VET) Southwest Michigan (formerly VCAT MI Region 8) https://www.facebook.com/vetswm/</p>	<p>Southwest Michigan Region 8 Jennifer Klempnow, Chair jklempnow@upjohn.org</p>	<p>The Veterans Engagement Team includes representatives from federal, state, local and faith-based organizations that support veterans in the communities where they live and work. The Veterans Engagement Team focuses on identifying solutions for gaps in veteran services, reducing duplication of efforts and simplifying connections with local resources. This community-based system of care allows networks of service providers to employ best practices, share information and tools and connect more quickly with veterans.</p>	<p>Region 8 (includes Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties)</p>

Also see online referral trees in Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties or call 211 in the counties where 211 is active.

Veterans Representatives by County

Branch County - Charles Scott
cscott@countyofbranch.com

Calhoun County – Aaron D. Edlefsen
269-969-6735

aedlefsen@calhouncountymi.gov

Kristina Higgins

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Kalamazoo County – Celia Banuelos
269-373-5361

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St. Joseph County - Stoney Summey
269-467-5512

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