
Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART)

A standing committee of the MW! Southwest Workforce Development Board

Tuesday, September 17, 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/88389794671?pwd=VjRzRlphb0FGZWJma25SZFJucy9Mdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 8979 4671 Passcode: 473807

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

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| I. Welcome and Call to Order [2 min] | Co-Chairs |
| A. Approval of September 17, 2024 Agenda | |
| B. Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2024 (<i>attached</i>) | |
| II. Introductions [3 min] | |
| III. Presentation: Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research [20 min] | |
| Dr. Jeana Koerber (Gina Kerber), Executive Director of Autism Services
Community event (Sept 23, 2024) flyer (<i>attached</i>) | |
| IV. Agency Updates [30 min] | Members |
| V. Emerging Issues Related to Employment & Advocacy [10 min] | Discussion |
| VI. Collaboration – Partner Matrix – any additional updates? (<i>attached</i>) [5 min] | Kathy Olsen |
| VII. Unique Customer Needs – Request for Input & Resources [10 min] | Discussion |
| VIII. 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 | |
| IX. Other Announcements and Upcoming Events (not covered above) | |
| X. Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 2-4 p.m. | |
| XI. 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) Minutes

April 16, 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:

Hank Bostic (DNSM)

Jenifer Garver (ISKazoo)[∨]

Rebecca Hill (MRS)

Sarah Hutchison-Chee (Goodwill SWM)

Katie McCuen (KRESA)[∨]

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)

Rhasheda Shepherd

(Arc Comm Advocates)

Shelby Springett (MWSW)

Lisa Stanley (MRS)[∨]

Sen Toda (MCTI)

[∨] Attended virtually

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The DART meeting agenda for April 16, 2024 was approved by consensus of members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The DART meeting minutes of February 27, 2024 were approved by consensus of members present with the following corrections: Under members present, Comm Advocates was changed to Arc Comm. Advocates; under Program, Goodwill Industries Southwest Michigan was changed to Goodwill Industries Southwestern Michigan; and under Agency Updates, Community Advocates was changed to The Arc Community Advocates.

INTRODUCTIONS

Members present in-person and online introduced themselves.

DART HISTORY, PURPOSE, and WORK PLAN

Kathy Olsen reported on the DART history, purpose, and work plan and a two-page summary was included in the agenda packet.

Members discussed potential topics for future DART meetings. This was followed by a more in-depth discussion of transportation barriers which included the high cost of Driver's Training and a Driver's License, as well as the need for a Driver's Training course with accommodations. Information pertaining to the Bus Line program in Kalamazoo County where bus rides can be purchased for \$1.50 per ride for Door-to-Door and Door to a Fixed Route was shared with members.

AGENCY UPDATES

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) – Rebecca Hill reported the MRS summer program for Work-Based Learning is ramping up. There are several participating partners and vendors and there will be lots of opportunities. She also reported that Kalamazoo Northside Association is partnering with MRS and MCTI to offer another Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)

ten-week training program. Interested individuals should contact MRS in Kalamazoo at 269-337-3700 for more information and to make referrals. She further noted that MCTI also has a ten-week CNA training program that is offered at MCTI. MRS is experiencing staff shortages, and they have multiple job openings to be filled.

Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI) - Sen Toda reported the MCTI [training calendar](#) now runs year-round. There are twelve training programs and the wait list for each is reasonable, with the exception of IT. MCTI has transitioned to a hybrid format using a combination of in-person and online. MCTI also hosts an open house for individuals to tour the facility every month except in July. Additionally, they are open to providing private tours. Individuals interested should call the MCTI main number 269-664-4461 to schedule.

The Arc Community Advocates - Rhasheda Shepherd reported on multiple community events that included the [Journey of Hope](#) which will be held on July 27, 2024 at Milham Park and cyclists who are traveling cross county to raise awareness of disabilities will be making a stop in Kalamazoo. Additional events are planned, including a new summer festival and the Arctoberfest on October 24, 2024. She also provided an update on the Technology Assistance Program available through the Michigan Disability Council. Amazon Prime and Arc National are offering free Echo Dots and Tablet devices to individuals with disabilities. The goal is to place these devices into the hands of individuals with disabilities who are low income or income limited, to help improve their day-to-day living. The devices will be distributed throughout a six county area that includes Barry, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties. When the devices are delivered, instructions for using the them will be provided. There is no age limit and on the application, the applicant must state who the device is for, what is their age, and if they have a disability. The [form to apply](#) is available on the Arc website. Following the meeting, this information was also emailed to members.

Kalamazoo RESA – Katie McCuen reported YOU/KRESA has wrapped up the application period for the summer MyCITY program. Youth may still apply for the fall session and the application period for that session will roll out later this summer. These programs are for in school and out-of-school, ages 14-21. However, older youth between the ages of 21-24 who qualify may be dual enrolled in WIOA Adult services.

Integrated Services Kalamazoo (IS Kazoo) – Jennifer Garver reported she was filling in at today's meeting for Heather Barsy.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services – Business Services (MRS) - Lisa Stanley reported MCTI will be hosting an event geared for Michigan Works! partners later this year. Rebecca Hill complemented Lisa Stanley on services provided to a business customer that she referred to MRS. She reported the customer was very pleased with the services provided by MRS business services.

Goodwill Industries Southwestern Michigan – Sarah Hutchinson-Chee reported Goodwill Industries is wrapping up an in-school program in Allegan. They will also have a work-based learning program this summer that will operate four days each week throughout the summer. She also reported that Goodwill is in the preliminary stages of developing financial opportunity classes where they will be shifting to a class-based format. They are also working with a local college to have social work interns work one-on-one with customers and the hope is to offer

this through pop-up sites in the community. The Goodwill Golf Classic to raise funds for meeting room upgrades at Goodwill's main location will be held on July 29, 2024. Goodwill is also opening a GED Training Center in their workforce development wing at the Kalamazoo location.

Michigan Works! Southwest – Kathy Olsen reported DART members are invited to attend Michigan Works! Partner meetings to share information about their agency and programs. The meetings are usually held using a hybrid model to accommodate both in-person and virtual attendance. She reported that she will email additional information to members regarding the meeting dates, locations and virtual links.

Disability Network Southwest Michigan – Hank Bostic reported Disability Network offers a variety of workshops to help inform and educate the public on many topics related to disabilities. A link to their website to register for these workshops and events was provided on the agenda. He also asked members to save the date on their calendars for Disability Network Southwest's annual ADA Celebration scheduled for July 29, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Farmer's Market and noted that lunch is included. He added that Arc National helped to advocate for and create the Americans with Disabilities Act which is known as ADA. Disability Network is also seeking individuals ages 16-29 with a disability to participate in an [Advocacy Academy](#). The academy is an opportunity to get involved in the disability rights movement and learn the skills of advocacy. Participants will learn advanced leadership in this paid eight-week summer job, which will meet from 1:00-5:00 p.m. three days each week from June 17 through August 14, 2024. Participants in the academy will choose a disability advocacy issue to learn about and then create an advocacy campaign around that issue. Individuals wishing to learn more can [download a brochure](#) on the Disability Network website or contact Holly Baker at bakerh@dnswm.org. Mr. Bostic also reported that the MSHDA Investing in Community Housing (MICH) Program can assist eligible households with accessibility and energy efficiency repairs and upgrades. He distributed postcards with additional information that included a link to the application which was [ARP.Michigan.gov](#) and a phone number to call to learn more which was 517-335-2524. The postcard also included a phone number to call for application assistance which was 844-477-0340. Lastly, Mr. Bostic reported Disability Network has grant funds to aid with building accessibility ramps as well as ramp repairs and upgrades for accessibility.

EMERGENCING ISSUES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT & ADVOCACY

No report.

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. Rhasheda Shepherd reported that the service area for The Arc Community Advocates should be updated to reflect the six Michigan counties of Barry, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties. Kathy Olsen reported that the Parter Matrix will be updated to reflect this change.

UNIQUE CUSTOMER NEEDS

Rebecca Hill asked members if they were aware of resources for small businesses. Resources shared included the following:

- [SCORE](#) – serving Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, and Branch Counties

- [Can-Do Kalamazoo](#) – shared kitchen space and food incubator since 2008.
- [Room 35 Business Consulting](#) - focuses on two main industries, Construction and Mainstreet businesses with diverse ownership. Room 35 also offers 1-on-1 consulting. Read about Room 35 on the MW! Southwest website [Room 35](#)

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

No additional announcements.

NEXT MEETING

The next DART meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. [This meeting was cancelled.]

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

**GREAT LAKES CENTER
FOR AUTISM**

SAVE THE DATE!

**FREE Community-Wide
Informational Event**



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 FROM 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**DOUGLASS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
1000 W. PATERSON STREET**

AUTISM/AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER INFORMATION

VIDEO – “IN A DIFFERENT KEY” – RACE AND AUTISM

**SERVICES: APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA) THERAPY
AUTISM DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATIONS**

Q & A, CONVERSATIONS, AND TOURS WITH PROFESSIONALS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD AND FUN!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 269-250-8200



<https://www.autismtreatmentresearch.org/>

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>

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

<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>Jordan Stripling (she/her) Transition Coordinator Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Office: 269-250-9621 Cell: 517-414-6606 Jordan Stripling Jordan.stripling@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>Jordan Stripling (she/her) Transition Coordinator Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Office: 269-250-9621 Cell: 517-414-6606 Jordan Stripling jordan.stripling@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/</p> <p>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 (KRESA) / Bronson Healthcare https://www.kresa.org/Page/2204</p>	<p>Chad Howard Project SEARCH Coordinator Chad.howard@kresa.org 269-250-9609</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 businesses (Bronson Healthcare and Radisson Plaza Hotel)</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>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>
<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>

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

<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>
<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 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>

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

<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>
<p>Veterans Representatives by County</p>	<p>Branch County - Charles Scott cscott@countyofbranch.com</p> <p>Calhoun County – Aaron D. Edlefson 269-969-6735 aedlefson@calhouncountymi.gov Kristina Higgins khiggins@calhouncountymi.gov</p> <p>Kalamazoo County – Celia Banuelos 269-373-5361 cxbanu@kalcounty.com</p> <p>St. Joseph County - Stoney Summey 269-467-5512 summeys@stjosephcountymi.org</p>		
