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## Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) - AGENDA

A standing committee of the MW! Southwest Workforce Development Board

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 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/85015348421>

Meeting ID: 850 1534 8421 Passcode: 999214

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

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| <b>I. Call to Order - Welcome and Introductions</b> [5 min]  | Co-Chairs   |
| A. Approval of April 8, 2025, Agenda   |             |
| B. Approval of February 13, 2025 Minutes ( <i>attached</i> )   |             |
| <b>II. Summer Work Experience Opportunities</b> [5 min]  | Members     |
| <b>III. Program (tentative) Kalamazoo County Ignite Training Program</b>   |             |
| <b>IV. DART Survey Results</b> [5 min]   | Discussion  |
| <b>V. Agency Updates</b> [15 min]  | Members     |
| <b>VI. Emerging Issues Related to Employment &amp; Advocacy</b> [5 min]  | Discussion  |
| <b>VII. Unique Customer Needs – Request for Input &amp; Resources</b> [5 min]  | Discussion  |
| <b>VIII. Collaboration – Partner Matrix – any additional updates?</b> ( <i>attached</i> ) [5 min]  | Kathy Olsen |
| <b>IX. Professional Development Opportunities</b> [3 min]  |             |
| A. Disability Network Southwest Michigan <a href="http://www.dnswm.org/">http://www.dnswm.org/</a>   |             |
| B. KPL ONEplace <a href="https://www.kpl.gov/oneplace/">https://www.kpl.gov/oneplace/</a>  |             |
| C. The Synergy Health Center <a href="https://synergykzoo.org/">https://synergykzoo.org/</a>   |             |
| D. Incompass Michigan – <a href="https://incompassmi.org/">https://incompassmi.org/</a> - see the Education & Training tab   |             |
| E. DART Desktop Training Modules <a href="https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/resources/at-your-desktop-training">https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/resources/at-your-desktop-training</a> |             |
| <b>X. Other Announcements and Upcoming Events</b> (not covered above)  |             |
| <b>XI. Next Meeting – Thursday, June 26, 2025, from 2-4 pm – at the Upjohn Institute</b>   |             |
| <b>XII. Adjournment</b>  | 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.

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**Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART)  
Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2025**

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**CALL TO ORDER** – DART Co-Chair, John Fiore called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. at the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Hank Bostik (DNSW) <sup>∨</sup>

Nikki DeWitt (Ripple Effects)

John Fiore (MRS)

Carrie Headworth (LEO-Veterans ES)

Jamar Herron (MWSW)

Sydney Kroll (BSBP)

Kathy Lentz (ISKzoo) <sup>∨</sup>

Alvin Littel (KRESA)

Ramona Lumpkin (Recovery Inst) <sup>∨</sup>

Michelle Miller Adams (Upjohn)

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)

Rhasheda Shepherd (Arc Community Advocates)

Becky Springett (VB CMH) <sup>∨</sup>

Lisa Stanley (MRS BSP) <sup>∨</sup>

Kathleen Wine (Goodwill SWMI)

<sup>∨</sup> Attended virtually

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The DART meeting agenda for February 12, 2025 was approved by consensus of members present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The DART meeting minutes of November 12, 2024 were approved by consensus of members present.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Members present in-person and online introduced themselves.

**PROGRAM**

Nikki DeWitt, Clinical Supervisor for the Ripple Effects Autism Learning Center shared information regarding the Learning Center, the organization's multiple locations, as well as the Ripple Effects Community Inclusion Center. She reported that the organization provides a broad range of services and support for the autism community and families. Individuals with autism often have behavioral challenges in social situations, and specialized staff work with autistic individuals on behavior modification and change. Ripple Effects also provides parent and caregiver training to help parents learn how to interact and work with their children around their behaviors and help them grow to be successful within the community. Ripple Effects also has an Inclusion Center in Portage that has recreation and meeting space, and it is open to the public. Ms. DeWitt also shared information about Registered Apprenticeship Programming for Registered Behavioral Technicians (RBT) and that they are currently accepting applications. A summary of the Ripple Effects services, the RBT Apprenticeship, and a link to the PowerPoint presentation was sent to DART members following the meeting.

## DART SURVEY

A survey was recently sent to members seeking their input for planning future meetings. Members were also open to ideas as to how to expand participation to include more business engagement. A reminder to respond to the survey will be sent to DART members following the meeting.

## AGENCY UPDATES

**Disability Network** <https://www.dnswm.org/> - Hank Bostic reported the following:

- Information regarding a *Translation Services Resource* (including ASL) is available at Boost Lingo <https://boostlingo.com/>
- *Community Education Events* are posted on the Disability Network Southwest website at <https://www.dnswm.org/events/>
- *Ramp Up* – Ramps provide greater independence and safety for people with mobility disabilities and allow them to remain living at home. The Ramp Up program works with funders and coordinates builders and volunteer organizations to provide ramps for those in need throughout Southwest Michigan. These ramps help people connect to resources for constructing ramps on private residences. For more info contact Hank Bostic [bostich@dnswm.org](mailto:bostich@dnswm.org).
- *Disability Network Services* include Advocacy & Education, Information & Referral, Independent Living, Transition, and Peer Support. More information is available on the website at [https://www.dnswm.org/services\\_menu/](https://www.dnswm.org/services_menu/)
- *Hours* – Office hours in Kalamazoo are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Friday's hours are by phone by calling 269-345-1516. The Battle Creek office phone number is 269-345-1516, and the St. Joseph office phone number is 269-985-0111.
- Disability Network Southwest is *hiring a new CEO*. The process is in the beginning stages and the position is posted on the website.

**Van Buren Community Mental Health (VB CMH)** – Becky Springett reported that VB CMH provides assistance to agencies to help customers with Independent Living and the organization is currently undergoing CARF certification. She also reported that she seeks resources to share with customers and finds that the information shared at the DART meetings is helpful.

**Recovery Institute** <https://www.recoverymi.org/> Ramona Lumpkin reported *Peer to Peer Services* are available through weekly meetings which are held at the Recovery Institute, Monday through Thursday, and there is open studio time on Fridays. The *Calendar of Activities* is available online at <https://www.recoverymi.org/ri-calendar>.

**Integrated Services Kalamazoo** <https://iskzoo.org/> - Kathy Lentz reported the following:

- The *Urgent Care and Access Center* is located at 440 W. Kalamazoo Avenue, and it is open 24/7. For more information, call (269) 373-6000 or (888) 373-6200 or visit <https://iskzoo.org/all-services/>.
- *Schedule Appointments* - Customers can schedule appointments for non-urgent routine assessments or drop-in Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. For planning purposes, she recommended blocking two hours for appointments.
- The Crosstown Integrated Services location is a *Psychiatric Center* and information is available at <https://iskzoo.org/?s=psychiatric+center>.

**KRESA Transition Services** <https://www.kresa.org/domain/58> - Alvin Littel reported that the first field trip occurred to take students to the Secretary of State for the students to obtain a Michigan ID that is needed for employment.

**Arc Community Advocates** <https://communityadvocates.org/> - Rhasheda Shepard reported on the following:

- Staff will be participating in the *Disability Policy Seminar* in Washington, DC April 7-9, 2025, The Seminar is “Designed to help both beginners and experts elevate the impact of their advocacy.” More information is available at <https://disabilitypolicyseminar.org/>.
- *The 18<sup>th</sup> Inclusion Conference* is scheduled for Friday, March 14, 2025 at the Delta Hotel & Conference Center, 2747 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. The conference “Aims to bring together a diverse group of professionals, advocates, and thought leaders to explore and promote the principles of inclusivity in various aspects of society, including but not limited to, education, workplace, communities, and policymaking.” More information is available at <https://communityadvocates.org/inclusion-conference>.
- The Arc Community Advocates is seeking new *Board representatives*. Interested individuals can learn more and apply at <https://communityadvocates.org/board-members>.
- In partnership with the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Arc Community Advocates is promoting The Penguin Project Production of *Press Start!* a new children’s musical. More information is available at <https://www.kalamazooarts.org/event/press-start-a-childrens-musical/>.
- *New Employee* - Stephanie Sutton will be working with Integrated Services Kalamazoo (ISK) and her focus will be on adult services.

**Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan** – Kathleen Wine reported Goodwill Industries is working on a *Capacity Building Project* to develop post-secondary pathways in rural counties. The focus for this project will be on Allegan County to develop training for a manufacturing credential. Plans are to launch in the fall 2025.

**Veterans Services** – Carrie Headworth reported Veterans Services has *job openings* and they are posted at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdcs>. She also shared a copy of a booklet published by the Michigan legislature titled “*Veterans Benefits & Services*”. Following the meeting, it was discovered that the publication is available online and per the Table of Contents, it was dated “Rev 9/2024”. The link to the document is <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Publications/VeteransBenefits.pdf>

**Bureau of Service for Blind Persons (BSBP)** <https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/bureau-of-services-for-blind-persons> – Sydney Kroll reported on the services available through the Bureau of Service for Blind Persons. Following the meeting, she provided the electronic links to access the information.

- *Training Center (Kalamazoo)* <https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/bureau-of-services-for-blind-persons/bsbp-training-center>. A virtual tour can be viewed at [Virtual Tour](#).
- Virtual *Meet and Greet* events are scheduled at the Training Center with two dates to choose from: February 20, 2025 at 6:30 pm and March 22, 2025 at 12:00 pm. Additional information can be found on the event [Flyer](#).
- *Referrals for BSBP services* can be made using online forms which are available on their website for– [BSBP Services Referral Form - State of MI](#) and [Referral for BSBP Services](#)
- *Pre-Employment Transition Services* information is posted on their [Website](#) and on this [Flyer](#).
- *BSBP Events* are posted at <https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/bureau-of-services-for-blind-persons/bsbp-events>
- The BSBP *Post Secondary Readiness Program* includes a partnership with WMU.

### **Michigan Rehabilitation Services – Business Network Division**

<https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mrs/businesses> – Lisa Stanley reported MRS Business Services is seeking opportunities to build additional partnerships for On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunities. For more information, interested individuals should contact her at [StanleyL@michigan.gov](mailto:StanleyL@michigan.gov).

**Michigan Rehabilitation Services** – John Fiore reported the following:

- *Summer Work Experience* – He noted that it is not too early to be thinking about Summer Work Experience. This experience is intended to be for one summer; however, it could be for a second, depending on circumstances. The intent is to get the participant into employment. Please refer students to John Fiore at [fiorej@michigan.gov](mailto:fiorej@michigan.gov).
- *Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) Training* – This 10-week training class is provided through a MRS, MCTI, and Northside partnership. Data reflects high pass rates for past classes as well as earning the State certification. Another CNA class is also offered in the Benton Harbor area. Registration is open to anyone with a disability related to employment, as well as individuals who have been in foster care.
- MRS has *Job Openings for MRS Counselors* in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. For more information, contact John Fiore at [fiorej@michigan.gov](mailto:fiorej@michigan.gov).

**WMed Honor Society – Inclusive event: Cupid’s Gala** – Michelle Miller-Adams reported the WMed Honor Society is hosting a Cupid’s Gala on Saturday, February 15, 2025. Registration for this inclusive event was time sensitive, and information was forwarded to all members during the DART meeting.

**MI Works! Southwest** – Carrie Headworth reported that partner organizations are encouraged to share their organization’s literature in the Resource Room at the MW! Southwest Service Centers. She also reported that partner organizations interested in participating as an Employer of the Day, or as a Resource of the Day, should contact a Michigan Works! Service Center. Contact information is available on the Michigan Works! Southwest website at <https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/contact>.

**KRESA** – KRESA staff were not present at the meeting; however, information provided by KRESA regarding programs and services that are offered throughout the year, as well as summer programs was shared with members via two emails following the meeting. In summarizing, career coaching and employment services for youth and young adults are provided by KRESA and include Career NOW, a Career NOW Summer Program, the MyCITY Program, and a 2Gen Summer Career and Family Program. It was noted that the application deadline for young learners interested in participating in the summer internship is March 24, 2025. However, KRESA accepts applications year round for the Career Pathway Planning Programming. The 2025 Career NOW Summer Program runs June 11 – Aug 7 and the application deadline for that program is May 9, 2025. The Career Pathway Planning application is available online at [Application](#) and additional information is available at <https://www.kresa.org/Page/2318>. Questions should be directed to either Katie McCuen at [katie.mccuen@kresa.org](mailto:katie.mccuen@kresa.org) or Amanda Sutherland at [amanda.sutherland@kresa.org](mailto:amanda.sutherland@kresa.org).

### **EMERGING ISSUES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT & ADVOCACY**

Members noted that there are multiple changes being introduced and/or implemented at the federal level, many of which are impacting, or could impact, services to individuals with disabilities. Members were encouraged to continue to contact legislators to advocate for support of programs that affect the most vulnerable. Examples provided included wages for Direct Care workers, Medicare, and Medicaid.



## UNIQUE CUSTOMER NEEDS

Carrie Headworth noted that the Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) brochure at the Michigan Works! Service Center in Battle Creek needs a new contact card and handout.

Kathy Olsen shared an example of a customer needing ASL services at one of the MW! Southwest service centers and staff from MRS were able to assist with a short notice.

**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.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

John Fiore referred members to the list of professional development opportunities that were listed on the agenda as well as other opportunities shared by members. The professional development opportunities were:

- Disability Policy Seminar, April 7-9, 2025 in Washington, D.C.  
<https://disabilitypolicyseminar.org/>
- ARC Community Advocates 18th Inclusion Conference, Friday, March 14, 2025 at the Delta Hotel & Conference Center, 2747 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Kalamazoo, MI  
<https://communityadvocates.org/inclusion-conferenceon>
- 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>
- Michigan Works! Association Professional Development  
<https://www.michiganworks.org/professional-development>
- The Arc @ School - [Special Education Advocacy Curriculum](#) - Get free access to online special education training. Thanks to scholarships provided by Lids and CoBank, the Arc is offering free access to The Arc@School’s [Special Education Advocacy Curriculum](#) for parents, guardians, and other family members of students with disabilities. The training is online, self-paced, and available in both English and Spanish. Scholarship availability is limited, and the Arc will create accounts on a rolling basis until all slots are filled – so submit your request as soon as possible. Click here to [Request Free Access](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no additional announcements.

## NEXT MEETING

The next DART meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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><b>The Arc Community Advocates</b><br/> <a href="http://www.communityadvocates.org/">http://www.communityadvocates.org/</a></p> | <p>Located at 814 S Westnedge,<br/>                     Kalamazoo MI</p> <p>Rhasheda Shepherd, Executive Director<br/>                     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><b>The Arc of Calhoun County</b><br/> <a href="https://thearccalhoun.org/">https://thearccalhoun.org/</a></p>                   | <p>Located at 44 W Michigan,<br/>                     Battle Creek, MI</p> <p>(269) 966-2575<br/>                     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><b>Disability Network of Southwest Michigan</b><br/> <a href="http://www.dnswm.org/">http://www.dnswm.org/</a></p>              | <p>517 E. Crosstown Parkway<br/>                     Kalamazoo, MI 49001<br/>                     269-345-1516<br/>                     Serving Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties</p> <p>200 W. Van Buren St.<br/>                     Battle Creek, MI 49017<br/>                     269-345-1516<br/>                     Serving Calhoun, Barry, and Branch Counties</p> <p>2900 Lakeview Ave.<br/>                     St. Joseph, MI 49085<br/>                     269-985-0111<br/>                     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"> <li>- Information and Referral Services</li> <li>- Independent Living Support</li> <li>- Social Security Benefits Planning</li> <li>- Advocacy</li> <li>- Accessibility Accommodations</li> <li>- Plus, More</li> </ul> | <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.

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| <p><b>Employer Resource Network (ERN)</b><br/> <b>Michigan Works! Southwest</b><br/> <a href="https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/employers/employer-resource-network">https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/employers/employer-resource-network</a></p> <p><b>ERN Michigan</b><br/> <a href="https://ern-mi.com/">https://ern-mi.com/</a></p> <p><b>ERN USA</b><br/> <a href="https://www.ern-usa.com/">https://www.ern-usa.com/</a></p> | <p>Kelli Adams 269-385-0404<br/>                 ERN Director – SW MI ERN<br/> <a href="mailto:kadams@upjohn.org">kadams@upjohn.org</a></p> <p>OR</p> <p>James Vander Hulst, President<br/>                 West Michigan TEAM<br/>                 SWMERN Administrator<br/>                 616-454-8738<br/> <a href="mailto:jvanderhulst@westmichiganteam.org">jvanderhulst@westmichiganteam.org</a></p> <p>OR</p> <p>Michigan Works! Southwest<br/>                 Ashley Iovieno<br/> <a href="mailto:iovieno@upjohn.org">iovieno@upjohn.org</a></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 &amp; St. Joseph Counties</p>   |
| <p><b>Friends with Disabilities</b><br/> <a href="http://www.friendswithdisabilities.org/">http://www.friendswithdisabilities.org/</a></p>  | <p>Sharmese Anderson, President/CEO<br/>                 269-830-1334<br/> <a href="mailto:info@friendswithdisabilities.org">info@friendswithdisabilities.org</a></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><b>Goodwill Industries of Central Michigan’s Heartland</b><br/> <a href="https://www.goodwillcmh.org/">https://www.goodwillcmh.org/</a></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 &amp; Calhoun Counties + others</p>   |
| <p><b>Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan</b><br/> <a href="http://www.goodwillswmi.org/">http://www.goodwillswmi.org/</a></p>   | <p>Main Number for Mission Services<br/>                 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.

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| <p><b>Housing Resources, Inc.</b><br/><a href="http://www.housingresourcesinc.org/">http://www.housingresourcesinc.org/</a></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.<br/>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 <a href="http://www.housingresourcesinc.org">www.housingresourcesinc.org</a>.</p>  | <p>Kalamazoo County</p> |
| <p><b>Integrated Services of Kalamazoo<br/>(Formerly Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and<br/>Substance Abuse Services [KCMHSAS])</b><br/><a href="https://iskzoo.org/">https://iskzoo.org/</a></p> | <p>Customer Services <a href="tel:269-553-7000">269-553-7000</a></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> |

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| <p><b>Kalamazoo RESA Transition Services</b><br/> <a href="http://www.kresa.org/domain/58">http://www.kresa.org/domain/58</a></p>              | <p>Alvin Little (he/him/his)<br/>                 Transition Coordinator<br/>                 Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency<br/>                 Office: 269-250-9258<br/>                 Fax: 269-250-9322<br/> <a href="mailto:Alvin.littel@kresa.org">Alvin.littel@kresa.org</a></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><b>Kalamazoo County</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Kalamazoo RESA Young Adult Program</b><br/> <a href="https://www.kresa.org/domain/62">https://www.kresa.org/domain/62</a></p>            | <p>Alvin Littel<br/>                 Transition Coordinator<br/>                 Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency<br/>                 Office: 269-250-9258<br/>                 Fax: 269-250-9322<br/> <a href="mailto:Alvin.littel@kresa.org">Alvin.littel@kresa.org</a></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"> <li>• Self-advocacy</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Social skills</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Adult living skills</li> <li>• Job skills</li> <li>• Transportation planning and use</li> </ul> | <p>Kalamazoo County</p>   |
| <p><b>Michigan Bureau of Service for Blind Persons (BSBP)</b><br/> <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/BSBP">http://www.michigan.gov/BSBP</a></p> | <p>Kalamazoo Regional Office<br/>                 1541 Oakland Drive<br/>                 Kalamazoo, MI 49008<br/>                 P: 269-337-3875<br/>                 F: 269-337-3872</p> <p>Training Center (Kalamazoo)<br/>                 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.

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| <p><b>Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center (BSBPTC)</b><br/> <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-28313_33124-110979--,00.html">http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-28313_33124-110979--,00.html</a></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><b>Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI)</b><br/> <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mcti">https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mcti</a></p> <p><b>MCTI Career Assessment Services brochure</b><br/> <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mcti/vocational-training-programs">Career-Assessment-Services-with-EEO-5-26-23.pdf (michigan.gov)</a></p> <p><b>Vocational Training Program Information</b><br/> <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mcti/vocational-training-programs">https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mcti/vocational-training-programs</a></p> | <p>Admissions<br/>                 1-877-901-7360<br/>                 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"> <li>• Medical and counseling services</li> <li>• Occupational therapy</li> <li>• Interpreters for deaf students</li> <li>• Classroom and job accommodations</li> <li>• Job readiness training</li> </ul> <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><b>Pine Lake Fund</b><br/> <a href="https://pinelakefund.org/">https://pinelakefund.org/</a></p>   | <p>269-664-9271</p>   | <p><b>The Pine Lake Fund</b> 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>                         |

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

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| <p><b>Michigan Works! Southwest</b><br/> <a href="http://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/">http://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/</a></p> <p>Workshops and Hiring events<br/> <a href="https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/events-calendar">https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/events-calendar</a></p> | <p><b>Michigan Works! Southwest Service Centers</b></p> <p><b>Branch County</b> – 517-278-0200</p> <p><b>Calhoun County</b> - 269-660-1412</p> <p><b>Calhoun County – Albion Office</b> – 517-629-9477</p> <p><b>Kalamazoo County</b> - 269-383-2536</p> <p><b>St Joseph County</b> - 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><b>MRC Industries</b><br/> <a href="http://www.mrcindustries.org/">http://www.mrcindustries.org/</a></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><b>Project SEARCH (Calhoun ISD) / Duncan Aviation</b><br/> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IX-LPgSzio">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IX-LPgSzio</a></p>  | <p>Questions should be directed to Sheila Ritsema at 269-317-9656 or <a href="mailto:ritsemas@calhounisd.org">ritsemas@calhounisd.org</a></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><b>Recovery Institute of Southwest Michigan, Inc. - Kalamazoo</b><br/> <a href="https://www.recoverymi.org/">https://www.recoverymi.org/</a></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.

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| <p><b>Pivotal</b><br/> <b>(formerly St. Joseph County Community Mental Health)</b><br/> <a href="https://www.pivotalstjoe.org/">https://www.pivotalstjoe.org/</a></p> | <p>To access services, call 269-467-1000<br/>                 Crisis Line 24/7: 1-800-622-3967<br/>                 TTY: Michigan Relay Service at 7-1-1<br/>                 Life-threatening Emergency: 911<br/>                 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline 24/7: 988</p>  | <p>From their website:<br/>                 “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):<br/>                 Crisis, Emergency, and Access Services<br/>                 Adult and Children’s Services<br/>                 Substance Use Disorder Services<br/>                 Residential Services</p>   | <p>St Joseph County</p>          |
| <p><b>Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH)</b><br/> <a href="https://www.swmbh.org/">https://www.swmbh.org/</a></p>   | <p>Main Number: 800-676-0423<br/>                 Customer Service: 800-890-3712<br/>                 Compliance Hotline:<br/>                 800-783-0914<br/>                 MI Health Link Customer/Crisis:<br/>                 800-675-7148<br/>                 Substance Abuse Treatment<br/>                 Access: 800-781-0353<br/>                 Veteran Navigator:<br/>                 269-967-9187</p> | <p>Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment - contact SWMBH<br/>                 See website for more information: <a href="http://www.swmbh.org/">http://www.swmbh.org/</a><br/>                 Contact for Veterans: Toni Kennedy, contact 269-967-9187 or <a href="mailto:antonia.kennedy@swmbh.org">antonia.kennedy@swmbh.org</a></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><b>Veterans Employment Services - Michigan</b><br/> <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/ves">www.michigan.gov/ves</a></p> <p><b>Veterans' Employment Services on Facebook</b><br/> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MIVeteransServices">https://www.facebook.com/MIVeteransServices</a></p> <p><b>Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency on Facebook</b><br/> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MIVeterans">https://www.facebook.com/MIVeterans</a></p> | <p>Visit a MiWorks! Service Center</p> <p>DVOP Vet Rep at MiWorks! SW:<br/>                 Carrie Headworth, Battle Creek<br/> <a href="mailto:headworthc@michigan.gov">headworthc@michigan.gov</a> or 269-660-1425</p> <p>Vacant, Kalamazoo 269-488-7293</p> <p>Workforce Development Veterans Employment Services Regional BSP Rep is:<br/>                 Shane Sherer, CBSP<br/>                 (p) 616-752-7805<br/>                 (c) 517-897-1797<br/> <a href="mailto:scherers@michigan.gov">scherers@michigan.gov</a></p> <p>Michigan Veteran Contact:<br/>                 Joseph Swyrtek'<br/> <a href="mailto:swyrtekj@michigan.gov">swyrtekj@michigan.gov</a></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"> <li>• Increasing resume marketability</li> <li>• Improving interviewing skills</li> <li>• Effectively using social networking</li> <li>• Partnering with other service providers and organizations</li> </ul> | <p>Michigan</p>  |
| <p><b>Veteran Engagement Team (VET) Southwest Michigan (formerly VCAT MI Region 8)</b><br/> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/vetswm/">https://www.facebook.com/vetswm/</a></p>  | <p>Southwest Michigan Region 8<br/>                 Jennifer Klempnow, Chair<br/> <a href="mailto:jklempnow@upjohn.org">jklempnow@upjohn.org</a></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> |

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**Veterans Representatives by County**

Branch County - Charles Scott  
[cscott@countyofbranch.com](mailto:cscott@countyofbranch.com)

Calhoun County – Aaron D. Edlefsen  
269-969-6735  
[aedlefsen@calhouncountymi.gov](mailto:aedlefsen@calhouncountymi.gov)  
Kristina Higgins  
[khiggins@calhouncountymi.gov](mailto:khiggins@calhouncountymi.gov)

Kalamazoo County – Celia Banuelos  
269-373-5361  
[cxbanu@kalcounty.com](mailto:cxbanu@kalcounty.com)

St. Joseph County - Stoney Summey  
269-467-5512  
[summeys@stjosephcountymi.org](mailto:summeys@stjosephcountymi.org)

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