
Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) - AGENDA

A standing committee of the MW! Southwest Workforce Development Board

Tuesday, February 13, 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/89046889961?pwd=dDpyTkM9OYjWXuR2DADsXoQhzzXt0Q.1>

Meeting ID: 890 4688 9961 Passcode: 766027

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

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| I. Call to Order - Welcome and Introductions [5 min] | Co-Chairs |
| A. Approval of February 13, 2025 Agenda | |
| B. Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2024 (<i>attached</i>) | |
| II. Program: Ripple Effects Apprenticeship [25 min] | |
| Nicole DeWitt, Clinical Supervisor – South Haven | |
| III. DART Survey [10 min] | Discussion |
| IV. Agency Updates [15 min] | Members |
| V. Emerging Issues Related to Employment & Advocacy [10 min] | Discussion |
| VI. Unique Customer Needs – Request for Input & Resources [10 min] | Discussion |
| VII. Collaboration – Partner Matrix – any additional updates? (<i>attached</i>) [5 min] | Kathy Olsen |
| VIII. Professional Development Opportunities [5 min] | |
| A. Disability Policy Seminar – Washington, DC April 7-9, 2025 | |
| B. Disability Network Southwest Michigan http://www.dnswm.org/ | |
| C. KPL ONEplace https://www.kpl.gov/oneplace/ | |
| D. The Synergy Health Center https://synergykzoo.org/ | |
| E. Incompass Michigan – https://incompassmi.org/ - see the Education & Training tab | |
| F. 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 – Thursday, April 8, 2025 from 2-4 pm – at the Upjohn Institute | |
| 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)
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – DART Co-Chair, John Fiore called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. at the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sharmese Anderson (FWD) [∨]

John Fiore (MRS)

Sydney Kroll (BSBP)

Kathy Lentz (ISKzoo) [∨]

Alvin Littel (KRESA)

Ramona Lumpkin (Recovery Inst) [∨]

Michelle Miller Adams (Upjohn)

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)

Becky Springett (VB CMH)

Lisa Stanley (MRS BSP) [∨]

Sen Toda (MCTI)

Kathleen Wine (Goodwill SWMI)

[∨] Attended virtually

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The DART meeting agenda for November 12, 2024 was approved by consensus of members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The DART meeting minutes of September 17, 2024 were approved by consensus of members present.

INTRODUCTIONS

Members present in-person and online introduced themselves.

2025 MEETING CALENDAR

The proposed meeting calendar included meeting dates on both Tuesdays and Thursdays and the week of the month varied for each of the meetings.

Members present approved the DART 2025 meeting calendar as presented.

AGENCY UPDATES

Upjohn Institute Research – Michelle Miller-Adams reported a focus of her current research is on disability employment. As a parent of a youth with a disability, access to services for individuals with disabilities is important to her. She noted that an advocacy issue for the Michigan Developmental Disability Council Committee is exploring the possibility of an alternative diploma to address the high school graduation rate.

MI Career Technical Institute (MCTI) – Sen Toda reported the Director of the MI Career Technical Institute (MCTI) has retired and they are in the process of filling the position. Currently MCTI offers training for twelve trade programs. For the Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) Training, MCTI partners with other organizations in Kalamazoo and Benton Harbor.

Van Buren Community Mental Health – Becky Springett reported she works at Van Buren Mental Health and works with organizations for job placements for her customers.

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) – Sydney Kroll reported her work focuses on vocational rehab counseling at the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP).

KRESA Transition Coordinator - Alvin Little reported services he provides are available to all KRESA high school students with documented disabilities. A challenge is coordinating the many services, and he has spent a lot of time updating a list of agencies and resources. A personal goal of his is to restart a transition network where agencies and school districts gather to share information and resources. There is also an annual Transition Fair; and 29 vendors and 70 parents/community members are expected to attend the upcoming event. Additional information regarding KRESA's Transition Services can be found on the KRESA website at <https://www.kresa.org/domain/58>.

Recovery Institute – Ramona Lumpkin reported the Recovery Institute offers peer support to individuals who have mental health and/or substance use concerns. She noted that the recovery process is often strengthened with peer support. Services are provided in a group setting, through classes, one-on-one, and through social outings. Services can be accessed via walk-in appointments as well as referrals. Recovery Institute can invoice insurance for covered expenses and there are also many services that are offered at no charge. The calendar of events is available on the Recovery Institute website at <https://www.recoverymi.org/ri-calendar>.

Goodwill Industries Southwestern Michigan – Kathleen Wine reported that Goodwill Industries Southwestern Michigan offers rehabilitation services, financial coaching, financial literacy, resource navigation, and voucher assistance. They also have a HELP line (269-422-0327) that consumers can call or text for assistance. For the vocational rehabilitation services, Goodwill partners with Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP).

Integrated Services Kalamazoo (ISKzoo) – Kathy Lentz reported the Recovery Institute's peer to peer services previously reported on is a critical piece to recovery. The Action Employment Team at Integrated Services Kalamazoo supports employment for anyone with a mental health condition and her agency has contracts with other organizations such as MRC Industries and Community Living Options for these services. They also partner with MRS and MRC Industries to braid funding to help individuals be successful.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) – John Fiore reported Michigan Rehabilitation Services is a State Agency that provides services to individuals with disabilities to help them prepare for, find, and keep employment. There is an increased focus on obtaining credentials and training to advance individuals in careers. MRS works with customers to create individual plans for employment and helps to build confidence to support each individual's job goal by looking at what services and support each person needs. MRS partners with many other organizations, including Michigan Works! Southwest, to provide services and support.

Friends with Disabilities – Sharmese Anderson reported Friends with Disabilities provides services to individuals with physical disabilities who are age 18 and older. They provide

activities such as events and short trips to help bridge isolation. Past events included a Bronson healthy cooking class, and trips to Cedar Point and Chicago Navy Pier.

FUTURE MEETINGS

John Fiore reported that the DART co-chairs and staff are looking to committee members for agenda topics and/or speakers for future DART meetings. Members shared some suggestions, as well as ideas as to how to get more business involvement. One idea was to have one or two meetings with a business focus and to invite representatives from champion employers that support hiring individuals with disabilities. Potential content for the meeting could include a presentation from the MRS business network on workplace accommodations. Other meeting topics that were suggested included labor market information regarding in-demand and growing occupations in the Southwest Michigan area.

Another suggestion was to send out a brief survey to members to gather feedback regarding the DART meeting format, as well as potential program topics for future meetings. Michelle Miller-Adams offered to assist with the survey.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Michelle Miller-Adams noted that during her research she noticed that there is an extensive list of agencies that provide numerous services. However, it is very confusing as to what agency to contact, and that often parents discover resources accidentally. Another member noted the importance of educating parents sooner than later, especially before their child reaches the age of sixteen.

Kathy Lentz asked members if they would please review the Integrated Services Kalamazoo website <https://iskzoo.org/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/kazoocmh/> and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement to her via email at klentz@iskzoo.org.

Members requested more information regarding the Employer Resource Network®. It was noted that ERNs® are private-public associations whose purpose is improving workforce retention through employee support and training. ERN® membership is open to private sector employers, as well as non-profits. More information is available on the Michigan Works! Southwest website at <https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/employers/employer-resource-network>.

EMERGING ISSUES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT & ADVOCACY

One member mentioned a Southwest Michigan group that provides a Certificate of Completion endorsement for strong attendance as well as strong behaviors and skills that businesses would find to be beneficial. Alvin Littel offered to explore this model.

UNIQUE CUSTOMER NEEDS

Discussion occurred regarding preparing students for competitive employment. A few members noted that they are seeing a trend that many students are not getting work-based learning (WBL) in their teenage years, and those who are participating in WBL do not have the mental and physical endurance for full-time employment. The lack of soft skills was also a concern. John Fiore reported that MRS is trying to do more with WBL and offers a summer paid work experience. He encouraged agencies to make referrals to MRS early in the calendar year so that they are not scrambling in June for placements. Members also discussed a potential partnership for transportation assistance.

Members also discussed the need for young people to have better life management skills. Often agencies put faith in parents to observe and teach; however, many families do not have the skills to do this. Members also shared ideas regarding a model where students could live on a college campus for a couple of weeks prior to a freshman year in college. Sydney Kroll reported that BSBP has a college prep program where students live on campus during the summer to get an idea of what independent living would be like.

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. Kathy Olsen added that the Michigan Works! Association also offers professional development opportunities. The professional development opportunities were:

- 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>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KRESA will be hosting their Transition Network on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at the Kalamazoo RESA Service Center from 8:00-10:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next DART meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2025, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

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

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>

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<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>

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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

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<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>

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

<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
khiggins@calhouncountymi.gov

Kalamazoo County – Celia Banuelos
269-373-5361
cxbanu@kalcounty.com

St. Joseph County - Stoney Summey
269-467-5512
summeys@stjosephcountymi.org
