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**Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) Minutes**  
**February 11, 2020**

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**Call to Order** – DART Co-Chair, John Fiore, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. at the W.E. Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**Introductions** – Attendees were asked to introduce themselves, including the name of the agency/organization they represent.

**Members Present:**

Pat Angerman (Goodwill)	Sarah Hutchinson-Chee (Goodwill)
Mary Kay Balaguer (MWSW/ES)	Jonathan Kraker (MRC)
Heather Barsy (ISK)	Kathy Lentz (ISK)
Joel Cooper (Disability Network)	Jill Murphy (MRS)
John Fiore (MRS)	Kathy Olsen (MWSW)
Anne Gaertner (Arc Community Advocates)	Christopher Roach (MI BSBP)
Cindy Goss (KRESA))	Sheldon Schwitek (The Arc Kalamazoo)
Ben Hoger (MWSW/PATH)	Lisa Stanley (MI LEO/MRS)

**Members Present via Conference Call:**

Sharmese Anderson (Friends w/Disabilities)	Carrie Headworth (Veterans ES)
Gary Clark (MI LEO)	Kathy Lentz (KCMH)
Jenny Fry (Arc of Calhoun County)	

**Approval of Agenda**

**The February 11, 2020 meeting agenda was approved by consensus of members present.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Kathy Olsen noted one correction to the November 12, 2019 minutes. On page two, the words “Members wishing” should be removed from the end of the first paragraph.

**The minutes of November 12, 2019 with the correction as noted were approved by consensus of members present.**

**Integrated Services of Kalamazoo Presentation**

Kathy Lentz gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the services provided by Integrated Services of Kalamazoo which was previously known as Kalamazoo County Community Mental Health. The presentation covered a summary of the populations served and the multiple locations throughout the Kalamazoo area where services can be accessed. She shared information regarding community mental health specialty programs available throughout the Southwest Michigan region. The presentation also included how the mental health services are funded which included Medicaid. Major grants help to support the Community Certified Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), supported employment, the Children’s System of Care and homelessness outreach. Services can be accessed 24/7 either by appointment or Crisis Services; the Access Center has walk-in hours at the Crosstown location, or one may call the Access Center at 269-373-6000 or toll free 888-373-6200. Services provided include case management/supports coordination, psychiatric services, outpatient therapy and counseling, community living supports, skill building assistance, supported employment, specialized residential, emergency mental health/crisis

intervention, jail diversion/mental health court, and homeless shelter and outreach. ISK works with many community partners. The list of partners included, but was not limited to, Residential Opportunities, Family & Children Services, Interact of Michigan, MRC Industries, Senior Services, Beacon Specialized Living Services, Community Living Options and the Center for Disability Services at WMU. The presentation included specialty services for youth and their families as well as some young adults. Some of the programs offered to them are provided by ISK, while others are offered through contracts with outside organizations. Further details regarding the menu of services available to youth and their families was part of the presentation. Additionally, further details regarding the services for adults with mental illness, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders, as well as the many partners they coordinate these services with was summarized during the presentation. The hub for ISK and its services is located within the Access Center located in Kalamazoo at 615 E. Crosstown Parkway. After business hours, the Access Center is managed by the Gryphon Help and Information Line 269-381-HELP (4357). Gryphon after hours is a direct link to both children and adult emergency services.

Kathy Lentz reported her staff can assist other organizations by providing information regarding the ISK services to their staff. Recently staff from ISK presented information to the Employer Resource Network in Kalamazoo.

### **Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan Presentation**

Sarah Hutchinson-Chee and Pat Angerman presented information regarding Goodwill Industries of Southwest Michigan. The PowerPoint presentation summarized the history of Goodwill Industries; its service area that includes six counties in Southwest Michigan; its mission; the organization's core values of success, collaboration, people and positivity; and retail locations throughout the service area. The presentation also covered businesses within Goodwill that included sorting and knitting services; warehousing and distribution; electronic recycling; and apparel printing. Additionally, they reported that Goodwill currently has a menu of twenty programs to assist customers. These include vocational rehabilitation programs, adult education, programs related to employment and income support, and family programs such as Life Guides. She reported the programs are developed and based on community needs. She highlighted the Life Guides Program that provides assistance, supports and follow-up to families for twenty years. She noted this program does require an agency referral for a family to be considered. She reported Goodwill staff are cross-trained; examples of professional development for Goodwill staff included family-centered coaching and trauma-informed care. The presentation concluded with a review of myths about Goodwill.

### **Work Group Updates**

#### ***Curriculum - At Your Desktop Training and Resources***

Jill Murphy reported the Michigan Works! service center staff were surveyed to determine what additional desktop trainings they were interested in. The number one request was a more in-depth training pertaining to anxiety. Copies of the desktop training "When Anxiety Interferes" was distributed at the meeting and emailed to members following the meeting. She reported the next most requested topic is a deeper dive on the topic of depression. Other topics highly requested were service animals and disability etiquette. John Fiore reported the DART trainings have been recognized at the State level and the Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) Business Network has offered to help standardize the format and make them available statewide. An accessibility specialist has begun to review the modules to ensure they are accessible and consistent in presentation. Mr. Fiore reported front-line staff desire to be able to efficiently serve customers and DART wants to be responsive by providing training modules on subjects that are in-demand. He extended appreciation to Ms. Murphy for her leadership regarding the development of the training modules. Kathy Olsen reported the training modules are posted on the Michigan Works! Southwest website.

### **Collaboration**

The Partner Matrix was emailed to members prior to the meeting and printed copies were available at the meeting. Members were reminded to continue to send their updates and changes to Kathy Olsen at [olsen@upjohn.org](mailto:olsen@upjohn.org).

### ***Emerging Issues Related to Employment and Advocacy***

Kathy Lentz reported there are proposed changes to Medicaid funding and reminded members to keep a watchful eye on the activity associated with this.

Joel Cooper reported the annual report for Employment First in Michigan was released. The link [https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550\\_2941\\_4868\\_4897\\_90808---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_2941_4868_4897_90808---,00.html) was emailed to members following the meeting.

Joel Cooper reminded members to also keep a watchful eye on House Bills 5150 and 5151. Both bills address the Reasonable Accommodation Act. Representative Jon Hoadley is one of the sponsors for these bills. Mr. Cooper reported he has a meeting scheduled with Representative Hoadley and is hopeful that the Bills will move out of Committee soon. The links to HB5150 is <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2019-HB-5150> and the link to HB5151 is <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2019-HB-5151>.

Helen Goertler reported Senate Bill 0600 (2019) is related to school code, Michigan Merit curriculum and the certificate of completion. She recommended that members also follow the action related to this Bill.

### **Unique Customer Needs – Resources Needed**

An inquiry was made as to how to access eligibility for community mental health services because agency representatives did not want to send a customer on an unknown path. Kathy Lentz recommended the customer call Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK) and the ISK staff can do a phone screening. Agency staff can also call on behalf of the customer. She also reported that ISK staff could visit an agency and provide more detail via a presentation to staff. Another option would be for agency staff to call ISK to review a specific child or adult scenario. Joel Cooper spoke highly of ISK staff and their intake workers.

Jill Murphy reported she was seeking a Spanish interpreter. Mary Kay Balaguer reported she has a translator resource list that was provided by the State that she could share.

### **Agency and Guest Updates**

*Disability Network* – Joel Cooper reported the traveling exhibition titled ‘Patient No More’ is at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum from February 9 through June 7, 2020. This exhibit focuses on people with disabilities securing civil rights. More information is available at <http://www.dnswm.org/patient-no-more-exhibition/>.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be celebrated in 2020. More information is available at <https://www.adaanniversary.org/>.

Information regarding upcoming Ableism workshops is posted on the Disability Network website at <http://www.dnswm.org/?s=ableism>. Upcoming dates for the Lunch and Learn winter movie series are also posted on the website at <http://www.dnswm.org/?s=movie>.

Disability Network now has an accessible computer lab at the Kalamazoo office; more information is available at <http://www.dnswm.org/accessible-computer-lab-comes-to-kalamazoo-office/>.

Lastly, Mr. Cooper shared copies of the January issue of the LINK newsletter. It can be viewed electronically at [http://www.dnswm.org/wp-content/uploads/LINK\\_Jan2020.pdf](http://www.dnswm.org/wp-content/uploads/LINK_Jan2020.pdf). Previous issues of the LINK and a link to subscribe can be accessed at <http://www.dnswm.org/resources/publications/the-link/>. Following the meeting, the links to all of the information reported on were emailed to DART members.

*The Arc of Calhoun County* – Jenny Fry asked members to save the date of May 7, 2020 for the Arc of Calhoun County’s annual event that is scheduled to be held at the Record Box in Battle Creek. Further information, as it becomes available, will be posted on the Arc website <https://thearcocalhoun.org/> and on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheArcOfCalhounCounty/>.

*Friends with Disabilities* - Sharmese Anderson reported Friends with Disabilities is seeking Board members. She provided a Board member description and application that was emailed to DART members following the meeting. Individuals seeking more information should contact Sharmese Anderson at [sharmese@friendswithdisabilities.org](mailto:sharmese@friendswithdisabilities.org).

*Integrated Services Kalamazoo (ISK)* – Heather Barsy reported Integrated Services Kalamazoo (ISK) is working out the details for the implementation of new supportive services employment.

*Bureau of Services for Blind Person (BSBP)* – Chris Roach reported the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) will be hosting two-day trainings for community partners at the Kalamazoo Training Center. For more information regarding dates, time and agenda, contact Christopher Roach, MA, CRC, Rehabilitation Counselor for the Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, West Regional Office. Cell: (269) 330-5336, Fax: (269) 337-3872 or Email [roachc1@michigan.gov](mailto:roachc1@michigan.gov).

*Veterans Services* – Carrie Headworth reported on veteran labor statistics and offered to send the link to the labor market information so that it could be shared with DART members following the meeting. The link to the information on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website for the veteran employment stats for the past ten years is <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS14000000>

*Michigan Works! Southwest* – Mary Kay Balaguer reported Michigan Works! Southwest and the United Way of the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek Region are hosting another Career.Life.Expo. on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. Transportation assistance will be offered again this year with pick-up and drop off at the MW Service Centers in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. The scheduled times were posted on the flyer that was emailed to DART members following the meeting. She encouraged members to follow the United Way on Facebook for regular update pertaining to the event. Staff are still seeking additional volunteers to assist the day of the event and asked members to consider volunteering or having other members of their staff volunteer. Individuals can sign up to volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044fa5ab2baaf94-volunteer>.

Ms. Balaguer reported an electronic intake has been implemented at the four service centers in the Michigan Works! Southwest Service area. Staff are working with researchers at the Upjohn Institute and the University of Illinois regarding data that is collected. The intake questionnaire is also available on the computers and through the accessible JAWS software.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited and Michigan Works! staff are preparing for another MyCITY Summer Youth Employment program and the application period is now open for MyCITY Kalamazoo, MyCITY Battle Creek and MyCITY Albion. All three can be accessed at [www.kresa.org/mycity](http://www.kresa.org/mycity). Contact information for further information is as follows: MyCITY Kalamazoo [mycitykzoo@kresa.org](mailto:mycitykzoo@kresa.org) or 269-775-1660; MyCITY Battle Creek [mycitybv@kresa.org](mailto:mycitybv@kresa.org) or 269-762-2261; and MyCITY Albion [mycityalbion@kresa.org](mailto:mycityalbion@kresa.org) or 269-716-7841. Staff are holding outreach events at locations throughout the community. One event will be held this evening at the Douglass Community Center. Staff will also be conducting outreach at some of the local schools’ parent-teacher conferences.

Ms. Balaguer also reported that Michigan Works! staff are collecting donations for personal hygiene kits and noted that items can be dropped off at the Michigan Works! Southwest Kalamazoo Service Center, 1601 S. Burdick St, Kalamazoo, Michigan to the attention of Ben Hoger. For more information, individuals

may also contact Ben Hoger at [BHoger@miworkssw.org](mailto:BHoger@miworkssw.org). Chris Roach reported he is connected to a local Boy Scout troop and is interested in helping out with this project.

Ms. Balaguer further reported she will email the interpreter resource list mentioned earlier in the meeting to Kathy Olsen so that it can be shared with DART members. The list was emailed to DART members following the meeting.

*Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)* – Jill Murphy announced 2020 is the 100-year anniversary for Vocational Rehabilitation. More information is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/leg/rehab/vr100/index.html>

*The Arc Community Advocates* – Anne Goertler reported the new director at The Arc Community Advocates is Sheldon Schwitek. The Arc also hired a new part-time staff. The organization is looking to expand adult services.

Upcoming Arc events include a training titled Fundamentals of Developmental Disabilities & Dementia, which is scheduled for February 27, 2020 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the Arc, 3901 Emerald Drive, Kalamazoo, Michigan. More information is available on their website at <https://communityadvocates.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/events/603973096840079/>

Another Arc event, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Inclusion Conference is scheduled for March 11, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the WMU Fetzer Center. The registration fee is \$15 per person or \$25 per person for individuals who want CEU credits. Individuals may purchase tickets at [www.communityadvocates.org](http://www.communityadvocates.org) or contact Lataynia Conant at [lconant@communityadvocates.org](mailto:lconant@communityadvocates.org) or 269-342-9801 ext 105. The website link for the conference is <https://secure.givelively.org/event/the-arc-community-advocates/13th-annual-inclusion-conference> and the link to the Facebook event page is <https://www.facebook.com/events/2528211613943199/> Following the meeting, the event flyer was emailed to DART members.

### **Professional Development Opportunities**

It was noted that professional development opportunities could be found on the websites listed below. Some opportunities may offer continuing education credits.

- Disability Network Southwest Michigan – See website for upcoming events <http://www.dnswm.org/>, and
- APSE Michigan -See website <https://apse.org/chapter/michigan/>.

### **Next Meeting**

The next DART meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Members agreed to include presentations from the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons and Michigan Rehabilitation Services at that meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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