
Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) Minutes

June 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was held virtually via the GoToMeeting platform. DART Co-Chair, Hank Bostic called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Galyn Barnum (HRI)

Hank Bostic (Disability Network)

Dan Dunn (Comerica)

Sarah Hutchinson-Chee (Goodwill SW MI)

Jonathan Kraker (MRC)

Ramona Lumpkin (Recovery Institute)

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)

Sierra Royster (APRIL)

Sheldon Schwitek (Arc Community Advocates)

Amanda Sutherland (KRESA)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The DART meeting agenda for the June 14, 2022 was approved by consensus of members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The DART meeting minutes of April 12, 2022 was approved by consensus of members present.

AGENCY UPDATES/INTRODUCTIONS

Recovery Institute – <https://www.recoverymi.org/> Ramona Lumpkin reported that the Recovery Institute's Power Group is looking for new members. Individuals interested in more information and how to apply, should contact a Recovery Institute staff member. The monthly member event will be Friday, June 24, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. There are only 10 spots available and those who sign up will be getting Dickey's BBQ catered at Recovery Institute and then attendees will be going to Art Bayou. Individuals can sign up at the greeter desk.

Housing Resources - <https://www.housingresourcesinc.org/> - Kathy Olsen shared information received from Galyn Barnum who was not able to join the meeting at the beginning. The application period for the *COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Program* ends June 30, 2022. Michigan renters and landlords are encouraged to apply as soon as possible ahead of deadline. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has announced that it will soon have enough applications through the COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program to encumber all funds available. Applications for CERA [through the online portal](#) will stop being accepted as of Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 9:00 pm. Michiganders with rent arrears should apply immediately for potential consideration. It is likely that more applications will be received than funds available. Applications submitted before the deadline will continue to be processed until all the available funds are utilized. Once the CERA portal closes on June 30, residents who have not applied and are facing eviction should reach out to Housing Resources, Inc. Those seeking legal services can reach out to [Michigan Legal Help](#) for potentially free legal representation. MSHDA is also evaluating other eviction prevention funding options like HOME-ARP and the Housing and Community Development Fund. The *CERA website* is <https://ceraapp.michigan.gov/>

Upon joining the meeting, Galyn Barnum reported there is a huge need for landlords who will accept housing vouchers. There is a flyer with more information available on the HRI website at <https://www.housingresourcesinc.org/be-an-hri-landlord/>

Ark Community Advocates - <https://communityadvocates.org/> - Sheldon Schwitek reported the parent support group meets the second Wednesday of the month. Ark Community Advocates is rebroadcasting presentations from the Inclusion Conference. The Kalamazoo Ribfest is August 5-6, 2022 and proceeds from this event helps to support The Arc Community Advocates. More information regarding the Ribfest is available at <https://kalamazooribfest.com/charitable-partner/>.

MRC Industries - <https://mrcindustries.org/> - Jonathon Kraker reported Chris Ziegler retired and the new CEO at MRC Industries is Dan Pontius. MRC is providing in-person services and they are seeking consumers for some open positions.

Disability Network - <https://www.dnswm.org/> - Hank Bostic reported most appointments at Disability Network Kalamazoo office are virtual. Office doors are open 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Battle Creek Office is open Wednesdays at the Michigan Works! Service Center in Battle Creek. The annual ADA Celebration “Access for All” is scheduled for Friday, July 29, 2022, from 3:00 -5:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Farmers Market. The link for more information and to register is <https://www.dnswm.org/access-for-all-2022/>. The ‘DARE to Impact Change’ publication is available at <https://www.dnswm.org/resources/publications/dare/> and The LINK publication is available at <https://www.dnswm.org/resources/publications/the-link/>. A calendar of upcoming community education and events can be accessed at <https://www.dnswm.org/events/>.

Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan <https://goodwillswmi.org/> - Sarah Hutchinson-Chee reported there are open positions at Goodwill where individuals can gain work experience.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

Curriculum - At Your Desktop Training and Resources

Kathy Olsen reported many of the Desktop Trainings were developed in response to requests from front-line staff and she requested that members let her know of any upcoming needs.

Emerging Issues Related to Employment and Advocacy

None were discussed at this meeting. Members interested in assisting with this work group should contact Sheldon Schwitek at sschwitek@communityadvocates.org or Kathy Olsen at olsen@upjohn.org.

Collaboration

Kathy Olsen reported she included an updated Partner Matrix in the agenda packet. Updates announced during the meeting included the following:

- *Housing Resources* – The Housing Hour for HRI has been discontinued. 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.
- *Veterans Services* – Mike Hoss retired; his replacement is Toni Kennedy. Toni’s contact information is Toni Kennedy, Veteran Navigator, Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health, her cell phone number is: 269-967-9187, and her email address is antonia.kennedy@swmbh.org, website www.swmbh.org.

She requested that members send any additional updates to the Partner Matrix to her at olsen@upjohn.org.

PRESENTATION

The Association of Programs for Rural independent Living (APRIL) – Sierra Royster shared information regarding the APRIL organization. She reported that APRIL has been around since the late 1980’s and the organization is dedicated to advancing the rights and responsibilities at the national level for people with disabilities in rural American by serving as a center of resources and by leading systems change. Currently, there are approximately 260 members that include Centers for Independent Living, Statewide Independent Living Councils, and other organizations representing individuals with disabilities,

transportation, youth, and state programs and partners. APRIL does not provide direct services; however, they do provide training and technical assistance as well as peer-to-peer mentoring. A couple of examples provided include work with LEAD ON which is designed to provide professional development for youth who have the desire to do something more and another was their efforts to help grow middle managers. More information is available on the APRIL website at <https://www.april-rural.org/>.

UNIQUE CUSTOMER NEEDS

Members discussed potential resources to assist an individual with a past conviction who had served twenty-five years and was recently released.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Kalamazoo Juneteenth** – The Black Arts & Cultural Center is hosting a weekend-long Juneteenth Celebration from June 17-19, 2022. There will be dancing, live performances, informational presentations, fireworks, food, and a plethora of other activities all weekend in Kalamazoo, For more information on these events and their locations, visit <https://www.secondwavemedia.com/southwest-michigan/features/Kalamazoo-is-set-to-celebrate-Juneteenth-2022-with-song-dance-and-fireworks-051822.aspx>
- **Battle Creek Juneteenth** – Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18, 2022 at Claude Evans Park. Activities include kickball, a screening of the Disney movie Soul, a 3v3 basketball tournament and live performances. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/battlecreekjuneteenth/>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Disability Network Southwest Michigan – See website for upcoming events <http://www.dnswm.org/>
- APSE Michigan -See website <https://apse.org/chapter/michigan/>.
- Incompass Michigan <https://incompassmi.org/> provides a variety of [education and training sessions](#) addressing current trends and practices in the field of rehabilitation.
- DART Desktop Training Modules <https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/about/board/> (Scroll down to the heading Disability Awareness Resource Team).

NEXT MEETING

The next DART meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2022, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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