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## **Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) Minutes September 13, 2022**

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**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:**

Sharmese Anderson (FwD)	Kathy Lentz (ISK)
Galyn Barnum (HRI)	Ramona Lumpkin (Recovery Institute)
Hank Bostic (Disability Network)	Kathy Olsen (MWSW)
Gary Clark (MI LEO-WD)	Rep. Julie Rogers (MI 60 <sup>th</sup> District)
Ben Hoger (MWSW)	Lisa Stanley (MRS)
Sarah Hutchinson-Chee (Goodwill SW MI)	Jordan Stripling (KRESA)
Jonathan Kraker (MRC)	

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The DART meeting agenda for the September 13, 2022 was approved by consensus of members present.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The DART meeting minutes of June 14, 2022 were approved by consensus of members present.

### **WORK GROUP UPDATES**

**Emerging Issues Related to Employment** – No new issues were brought before the DART committee.

**Collaboration – Partner Matrix** – Kathy Lentz reported Integrated Services Kalamazoo (ISK) is now a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC).

**Curriculum- At Your Desktop Trainings** – Lisa Stanley reported there are no updates regarding the Desktop trainings. New modules will be created as needed.

### **UNIQUE CUSTOMER NEEDS**

Members reported individuals are getting jobs, the challenge is to get individuals engaged with supported employment. Staff do not need to spend time developing jobs because there are many available jobs. Instead, they need to be able to provide supports.

### **GUEST – STATE REPRESENTATIVE JULIE ROGERS (60th House District)**

Representative Julie Rogers joined the DART virtual meeting and provided a legislative update. She reported the following:

- Disability signage is being replaced with signage that is more modern and action oriented.
- Physical Therapists can now authorize placards for disability parking; previously, one had to contact their doctor for this.
- Representative Rogers is forming a Youth Advisory Council for youth 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade which will meet once a month. Individuals interested in this opportunity should email her at [JulieRogers@house.mi.gov](mailto:JulieRogers@house.mi.gov).

Discussion pertaining to pending and/or potential legislation included the following:

- The privatization of mental health and the need to support a public option.
- The need for increased wages for front-line healthcare workers as well as nurses in the public healthcare system so they can be competitive with private healthcare employment.
- Auto No-Fault legislation and the recent settlement of the Andary family case. Per the published opinion, cases prior to the July 2021 implementation of the new No-Fault laws should be paid in full.
- Members raised concerns regarding pending Guardianship legislation.
- The Food Desert Bill to provide underserved areas with access to affordable fresh food and vegetables will be sunset at the end of September, a potential new Bill, if passed, would extend this legislation.

Representative Rogers requested that members keep her informed of any emerging issues. She also reminded members to include a notice on event promotional materials that accommodations are available and how to ask for them. She noted this was very helpful when promoting Expungement Fairs.

### **AGENCY UPDATES**

**Integrated Services Kalamazoo (ISK)** – As previously mentioned earlier in the meeting, ISK is now a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC). Kathy Lentz reported this means that ISK can serve the public beyond Medicaid recipients. The services provided by CCBHCs focus on wellness, recovery, trauma-informed care, and physical-behavioral health integration.

**Michigan Works! Southwest** – Ben Hoger reported that beginning October 3, 2022, PATH participants will be expected to report in-person to Michigan Works!.

**MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity – Workforce Development (MI LEO-WD)** – Gary Clark reported another \$9.7 million will be available for Barrier Removal Employment Success (BRES). The funds will be distributed through Michigan Works! offices and will be used to remove barriers and provide supportive services to assist individuals with their transition to employment.

**Kalamazoo RESA – Project SEARCH** – Jordan Stripling reported the *KRESA Transition Team* will be meeting to discuss topics of transition. The kick-off event will be September 29, 2022, at the Kalamazoo RESA Service Center. The goal is to bring educators together to determine topics. If interested in attending, please reach out to Jordan Stripling. The *annual Transition Fair* is scheduled for October 27, 2022, from 2:30-5 pm at the Young Adult Program West Campus location. The current *Project SEARCH* cohort has ten students interning at Bronson. This is the last week of classroom instruction, and their rotations begin next week at Bronson. Kalamazoo RESA is seeking volunteers to assist with the *annual MiCareerQuest™* which is scheduled for October 25 & 26, 2022. [Link to volunteer sign up.](#)

**Disability Network Southwestern Michigan** – Hank Bostic reported Disability Network Southwest Michigan continues to offer workshops available to the public on topics related to serving individuals with disabilities.

**Housing Resources Inc. (HRI)** – Galyn Barnum reported the rising cost of rent is a concern because although wages are rising, they are not keeping up with the increases in rent and COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) funds are no longer available.

**Recovery Institute** - - Ramona Lumpkin reported the Recovery Institute has dropped the mask mandate, doors are unlocked, and there is a salad bar luncheon this Friday , September 16, 2022.

**Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)** – Lisa Stanley reported MRS staff are working using a hybrid model. The offices are open, and staff are scheduling in-person meetings with customers and community partners as well as virtual meetings.

**MRC Industries** – Jonathan Kraker reported MRC Industries has a new CEO and beginning October 1, 2022, the CEO will be leading expansion efforts with community living supports. More information will be forthcoming.

**Friends with Disabilities** – Sharmese Anderson reported Friends with Disabilities is promoting inclusion at its second annual Gala which they will be hosting in November for individuals ages eighteen and older. The event will be at Martell's. They are also hosting events every month to help bridge the isolation gap. In July, a beach trip was scheduled; and in August, there was a chartered bus trip to Detroit. A trip to Shipshewana, Indiana for theatre and dinner is planned for later in September.

#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

- A. 2022 Mental Health Summit – Friday, September 23, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., in-person and virtual, WMU College of Health and Human Services, 1200 Oakland Dr, Kalamazoo. For more info, contact 269-966-5600 ext. 31634 or email your interest to [Russell.Bell@va.gov](mailto:Russell.Bell@va.gov). This is a free training and an opportunity for valuable information. [Click to register](#)
- B. Disability Network Southwest Michigan <http://www.dnswm.org/>
- C. Michigan APSE <https://apsemi.org/new/index.php/training/>
- D. Incompass Michigan <https://incompassmi.org/>
- E. DART Desktop Training Modules <https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/about/board/>  
(Scroll down on web page to the DART tab.)
- F. African American Mental Health Symposium at WMU – Friday, October 14, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., [Link to register](#)

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next DART meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2022, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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