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**Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART)  
Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2024**

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**CALL TO ORDER** – DART Co-Chair, Hank Bostic called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. at the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Heather Barsy (ISKazoo) <sup>∨</sup>

Jackie Bigelow (Upjohn) <sup>∨</sup>

Hank Bostic (DNSM)

Jacob Eagon (Upjohn) <sup>∨</sup>

Rebecca Hill (MRS)

Jennifer Johnson (Goodwill SWMI)

Jeana Koerber (Autism Ctr)

Alvin Little (KRESA)

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

Katie McCuen (KRESA) <sup>∨</sup>

Michelle Miller Adams (Upjohn)

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)

Emma Reist <sup>∨</sup>

Cherrelle Singleton (BSBP)

Cameron Ulrich (MI-LEO) <sup>∨</sup>

Kathleen Wine (Goodwill SWMI)

<sup>∨</sup> Attended virtually

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The DART meeting agenda for September 17, 2024 was approved by consensus of members present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The DART meeting minutes of April 16, 2024 were approved by consensus of members present.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Members present in-person and online introduced themselves.

**PRESENTATION – Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research**

Dr. Jeana Koerber, Executive Director of Autism Services, presented information and distributed brochures pertaining to the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research. She also distributed a flyer promoting an upcoming community event scheduled for Monday, September 23, 2024 at the Douglass Community Association. The flyer was also included in the meeting agenda packet.

**AGENCY UPDATES**

*Recovery Institute* – Ramona Lumpkin reported that a Recovery Fair was held the previous Saturday at Bronson Park, and more than 500 meal tickets were distributed.

*Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP)* – Cherrelle Singleton reported the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons is wrapping up their summer programs. They also have an open position for a rehabilitation Counselor. She noted BSBP offers unique services for the visually impaired and live-in training is available at the center. Staff also visit individuals in their

homes. Kathy Olsen encouraged members who have not visited the Training Center located on Oakland Drive in Kalamazoo, to do so.

*Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)* - Rebecca Hill reported Michigan Rehabilitation Services is wrapping up their summer workplace learning for youth and the program year officially ends September 30, 2024. Work experience positions were available with Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation, local retailers, and the DNR. The program year ends September 30.

*Kalamazoo RESA* – Kaitlyn McCuen reported that work based learning is available through the MyCITY Program. One attendee requested follow-up regarding dual enrollment in the summer programs offered by MRS and by KRESA's MyCITY.

*Disability Network Southwest Michigan* – Hank Bostic reported Disability Network Southwest Michigan is seeking volunteers to help build ramps for individuals in need of having them added to their homes. He noted that there is an immediate need to find volunteers to build a ramp for a home located in Sturgis, Michigan. The cost of building materials for the ramps is covered by grants and personal donations. A suggestion was made to contact the instructors for Career Technical Education construction classes in each of the counties.

*Goodwill Industries Southwestern Michigan* – Kathleen Wine reported that Goodwill Industries Southwestern Michigan has current job openings that includes staff positions for Mission Services, a Vice-President, and an Employment and Training Specialist. Training programs at Goodwill have a strong focus on workforce development, including a manufacturing pathway in Kalamazoo and a Retail Management program in Allegan. Jennifer Johnson reported there are 32 youth in the Goodwill Life Guides program and when the youth and their family members are considered, there are 121 total individuals receiving services in the Life Guides program.

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

***Certificate of Completion*** - It was noted that a Certificate of Completion is not a recognized credential. One attendee reported that members of the Michigan Developmental Disability Council Policy Committee are advocating for a change. One suggestion was that perhaps legislation could be introduced that would create another diploma category.

***State ID*** - Some employers at work experience sites are requesting that students have a State ID. This is a barrier for students without a drivers' license. Individuals can obtain a State ID which costs \$10. Some local agencies can assist with the fee, such as Goodwill's 'Get Help' Program; however, if the youth is under 18 years of age, they need a parent or guardian to sign for them to obtain the ID. A barrier is getting to the Secretary of State office. Members suggested having the mobile Secretary of State office visit schools and agencies where young people and their parents can be gathered together at a convenient location.

**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. Changes reported during the meeting included changing the contact for KRESA's Transition Services and Young Adult Program from Jordan Stripling to Alvin Little. It was also reported that KRESA will no longer be operating a Project SEARCH program.

## UNIQUE CUSTOMER NEEDS

Discussion occurred regarding assistance that was needed for having the drivers' education test read to a student. It was reported that the individual in need can drive but the written test is difficult. Information was shared that arrangements can be made for this assistance.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Hank Bostick referred members to the list of professional development opportunities that were listed on the agenda. They were as follows:

- 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>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next **MiCareerQuest™ Southwest** Michigan will be held on October 24 and 25, 2024 at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. The event is open to the community on Tuesday, October 24 from 3:30-7:00 p.m. Members were encouraged to share the invitation to the community night with friends, family, and colleagues.
- The next **Breaking Barriers Breakfast** sponsored by Disability Network Southwest Michigan will be held on October 3, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. RSVPs are required. Individuals should contact Lisa Brink at [brinkL@dnswm.org](mailto:brinkL@dnswm.org) or at 269-345-1516 x111 to register.
- Disability Network Southwest Michigan is offering a **Take Charge of Your Health** workshop and there is no cost to attend. Individuals should contact Disability Network for more information.

## NEXT MEETING

The next DART meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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