

family @ linkages newsletter

A way to connect families of children and youth with special needs in Michigan
with information, education and support



Special Thank You in Honor of Mary Marin

Mary Marin dedicated her life to her children and to serving families of Michigan. Mary served as the Executive Director for the Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (formerly known as the Parent Participation Program) for over twenty years participating on numerous state and national committees including the National Family Voices Board of Directors. Most recently she provided input into the development of Michigan Family Voices. She believed families needed to be present at the table, involved in decision-making and have their voice heard.

After her passing on February 6, 2013, her family requested those desiring, may make memorial gifts, in memory of Mary, to Family Voices. Michigan Family Voices would like to thank her family and everyone who provided memorial gifts in honor of Mary. Through these gifts Mary's dedication and beliefs are living on.

If you would like to donate to the Mary J. Marin Michigan Family Voices Memorial Fund, please send contributions to:

Mary J. Marin—Michigan Family Voices Memorial Fund
c/o ARC Michigan
1325 S. Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48410



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations and telecommunications.

ADA Michigan (formerly the ADA Steering Committee) was formed in 1991. It is comprised of volunteers from businesses, disability groups and government agencies working together to increase the awareness and implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act throughout the State of Michigan.

ADA Michigan provides technical assistance and referrals, training and workshops, and a library that lends DVDs and videotapes.

To learn more about ADA Michigan visit: <http://www.adamich.org/>

Seeking Family Advocates

The Association for Children's Mental Health (ACMH) is seeking family members whose children are or have experienced emotional disorders as volunteer advocates. ACMH wants to build a strong voice on behalf of these children and their families. Volunteers can help by writing, emailing and meeting with leaders who make key decisions about public policy at the state and local levels.

If you are interested, please contact:

Gail Lanphear
(231) 876-1945
gaillanphear@gmail.com

Michigan Mental Health and Wellness Commission

Earlier this year Michigan Governor Rick Snyder established the Michigan Mental Health and Wellness Commission via executive order, and tasked the group with strengthening the state's mental health system. The Commission is made up of Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Michigan Department of Community Health Director Jim Haveman, as well as two state representatives (Representative Phil Cavanaugh and Matt Lori) and two state senators (Senator Rebekah Warren and Bruce Caswell). Lt. Governor Brian Calley its chairman.

The six-member commission's advisory role includes considering the best solutions for education, public safety, veterans, independence and service delivery. Five workgroups have been established to explore these issues:

Workgroup #1: Education, Employment and Veteran items

Leader: State Senator, Rebekah Warren

517-373-2406

senrwarren@senate.michigan.gov

Workgroup #2: Housing, Independent Living Support and Long Term Care

Leader: Community Health, Director, Jim Haveman

517-335-0267

James.Haveman@michigan.gov

Workgroup #3: MH/Physical Health Integration and Service Delivery

Leader: State Representative, Phil Cavanagh

517-373-0857

philcavanagh@house.mi.gov

Workgroup #4: Public Safety, Beneficiary Rights, and Protection Items

Leader: State Representative, Matt Lori

517-373-0832

mattlori@house.mi.gov

Workgroup #5: Societal Impacts, Data/Outcomes and Stigma Reduction and Awareness

Leader: State Senator, Bruce Caswell

517-373-5932

senbcaswell@senate.michigan.gov

The Commission has been taking public testimony during hearings in regions throughout the state i.e. Traverse City and Marquette. Future hearings will take place in August and September in Detroit, Grand Rapids and the thumb region of the state. Details will be issued at least a week in advance of each hearing.

Tuesday, August 20th - Detroit – Late Afternoon/Evening Hearing

Wednesday, August 28th – Grand Rapids – Evening Hearing

Wednesday, September 4th – Thumb Region – Mid-day Hearing

Individuals testifying will have five minutes to speak during each public comment session. The commission requests speakers bring 10 written copies of the testimony, complete with the speaker's name and contact information.

Those unable to attend may submit written testimony by emailing brian.calley@michigan.gov. Comments can also be mailed to Calley's office at P.O. Box 30013. Lansing, MI 48909.



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

Guardianship

Please contact your Senator regarding S.B. 176, legislation that petitions for the appointment of a guardian for an individual with a developmental disability. This legislation was introduced by Senator Hildenbrand and referred to the Families, Seniors and Human Services Committee. This committee recommended this legislation take immediate effect and referred it to the full Senate on May 23rd.

This bill would amend the Mental Health Code to allow a court to hold a hearing regarding a guardianship determination for an individual with a developmental disability who was at least 17½ years, and make a guardianship appointment that would take effect on the person's 18th birthday.

Michigan Family Voices values self-determination and rights of people with disabilities and this legislation does not support these core values.

Resources

- **Center for Self-Determination:** www.centerforself-determination.com
- **Alternatives to Guardianship:**
<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/inf/docs/gua.hyman1.pdf>
- **Re-thinking Guardianship:**
<http://www.arcmi.org/pdf/Rethinking%20Guardianship%20MAF%20-%20Michigan.pdf>

Restraint and Seclusion

The Keeping All Students Safe Act, H.R. 1873, was reintroduced on May 9, 2013, by Congressman George Miller (D-CA) and Gregg Harper (R-MS). This legislation will protect all students nationwide from restraint and seclusion.

The Keeping All Students Safe Act will provide vital protections for all American children. In 2009, a Government Accountability Office study found that children were injured, traumatized, and even killed through restraint and seclusion in schools. The GAO documented 20 deaths of school children. In March 2012, the Civil Rights Data Collection showed that nearly 40,000 students were physically restrained during the 2009–10 school year. The data also showed that restraint and seclusion are disproportionately used upon students with disabilities and minority students.

The National Autism Committee provided important points about the Keeping Students Safe Act and reasons to support it. Share these points, or points of your own, with your Congressional representatives.

- The KSSA will ban restraint/seclusion except in emergencies where someone is in danger of physical harm.
- The KSSA will require that parents be informed if their child was restrained/secluded on the same day that the event occurred.
- The KSSA will ban restraints that impede breathing, mechanical restraints, and chemical restraints. These are highly dangerous practices
- The KSSA will prevent restraint/seclusion from being used when less restrictive alternatives, like positive supports and de-escalation, would eliminate any danger
- The KSSA will require that if children are placed in seclusion rooms, school staff must continuously visually observe them.
- Instead of restraint and seclusion, the KSSA seeks to promote positive behavioral supports for all children.
- There is much evidence that positive supports and interventions are very successful.
- The KSSA will also ban dangerous aversive practices that threaten safety; require the collection of data; and require appropriate training of staff.

Please contact your members of Congress regarding the Keeping All Students Safe Act, HR 1893. Dial 202-224-3121; ask for your Representative's Office, and then ask for the education aide. If you are unable to call and need to use email, go to <http://bit.ly/RepWrit>.

AS OF JUNE 26, 2013

Co Sponsored Bill:

14th — Rep. Gary Peters [D] Farmington Hills, Southfield, Pontiac

Didn't Co-Sponsor Bill

1st — Rep. Dan Benishek [R] Keweenaw, Alger

2nd — Rep. Bill Huizenga [R] Ottawa, Muskegon

3rd — Rep. Justin Amash [R] Calhoun, Ionia

4th — Rep. Dave Camp [R] Roscommon, Wexford

5th — Rep. Daniel Kildee [D] Iosco, Arenac

6th — Rep. Fred Upton [R] Berrien, Van Buren

7th — Rep. Tim Walberg [R] Lenawee, Jackson

8th — Rep. Mike Rogers [R] Livingston, Ingham

9th — Rep. Sander Levin [D] Warren, St. Clair Shores

10th — Rep. Candice Miller [R] Huron, Sanilac

11th — Rep. Kerry Bentivolio [R] Livonia, Troy, Novi

12th — Rep. John Dingell [D] Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Taylor, Auburn

13th — Rep. John Conyers Jr. [D] Romulus, Westland, Inkster, Wayne



Michigan Update from



Michigan Consumers
for Healthcare

Written by: Brett Williams, Mid-Michigan Regional Coordinator, Michigan Consumers for Healthcare

This past month has been extremely busy within the Michigan Legislature as they prepared for the summer recess. The lawmakers were faced with some very important issues facing our state but none as important as Medicaid expansion.

A quick recap, Medicaid expansion was removed from the general appropriations budget last February and March. As the budget made its way through the House and Senate, many attempts were made to have it reintroduced, none of which were successful. The general budget was passed without any Medicaid expansion provisions included.

House Bill 4717 (HB4714) was introduced in the House of Representatives on May 9th, which would expand Medicaid to 133% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL), as required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As this bill moved through the process in the house, many provisions began to appear that would place limitations on certain individuals as well as outlining a pilot program that must be approved by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and possibly the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). As the dust settled and ample testimony was heard, the Committee for Michigan Competiveness passed this bill out of committee and moved it to the full house. It passed the full house as well with a 76-31 margin.

Normally, once a bill passes out of either chamber (House or Senate) it will go to the other chamber for the

same process. This was not the case for HB4714. As it was moved out of the house into the Senate, it was not assigned to a committee; rather it was moved straight to the Senate floor. Through political wrangling in the Senate, HB4714 stalled without a vote being taken on this one way or the other. With this extremely important piece of legislation still looming in the air, the Senate adjourned for the summer. What is known thus far, the Senate will be back on July 3rd but no one knows for sure if this bill will be addressed or voted on during that day of session.

What happens now? Michigan is under a very tight time line to ensure the hundreds of thousands of Michiganders who need and deserve Medicaid assistance through expansion will receive their benefits. There is an extreme sense of urgency by the thousands of stakeholders to have this legislation passed by the Senate and signed into law with enough time for implementation.

The support for this legislation is overwhelming. Health providers, business owners, business organizations, insurance providers, advocacy organizations, faith-based organizations and countless others have shown their support for this program. Along with providing access to quality healthcare to thousands of our citizens, it is expected to save our state over \$1 billion dollars in the first ten years alone.

We will be following this very closely. For up to date information on Medicaid expansion in Michigan, please visit consumersforhealthcare.org



The Michigan Division for Early Childhood (MiDEC) Parent Involvement Committee is seeking families to serve and advise MI DEC on various topics including a family strand for the MI DEC 2014 Conference "Promoting Social Emotional Competence and Addressing Challenging Behavior."

If you are a family of child with special needs and would like to serve on the committee, please email: lisacookgordon@michiganfamilyvoices.org.

How Healthcare Reform Impacts YOU!

A free Seminar on the changes healthcare reform will bring to you and your family

**Please join us in this free educational presentation on
Healthcare Reform in America**

**The information is non-partisan and discusses what is
healthcare reform, how it will impact your family
and what is in it for YOU.**

Where: Tuscola Technology Center

1401 Cleaver Road

***When:* Tuesday July 24th, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

Please RSVP to:

Lisa Cook-Gordon

lisacookgordon@michiganfamilyvoices.org

Michigan
FAMILY VOICES



Michigan Consumers
for Healthcare



HER POWER! HER PRIDE! HER VOICE!

August 23-26, 2013



Teen Girls with Disabilities' Event

Are you a high school girl with a disability between the ages of 14-19? Would you like to meet other girls with disabilities from across the state of Michigan? Then you need to register **TODAY** to celebrate your power, and find your own disability pride.

The media and some adults are continually telling us how we are supposed to act, who we are supposed to be, and what we are supposed to look like. Together we will **CHALLENGE** it all. As a group, we will undo stereotypes and *shatter myths* about what it means to be a girl with a disability.

At this interactive four day overnight event we will use art-based activities to learn from each other and how to teach the world how we see ourselves.

You will find your **POWER**.

You will celebrate your disability **PRIDE**.

You will use your **VOICE**.



WITH LIBERTY AND ACCESS FOR ALL



Her Power! is a program of Michigan Disability Rights Coalition

Her Power! will be held at Indian Trails Camp in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Contact Theresa Squires with any questions
tsquires@mymdrc.org**

For more information on Her Power! Her Pride! Her Voice!

Visit our webpage: www.HerPowerMDRC.org

“Like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HerPowerHerPride

Contact Theresa Squires: tsquires@mymdrc.org or (517) 333-2477 x 326

REGISTER TODAY!



SAVE THE DATE

Michigan Supporting & Including Brothers & Sisters

2013 State Conference

Join us for an opportunity to connect adult siblings of people with disabilities and those who care about siblings.

Friday, October 25th

(opening reception 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm)

&

Saturday, October 26th

(conference 8:00 am to 4:00 pm)

\$40 per person

\$20 (student and people with disabilities)

Crowne Plaza Hotel

27000 S. Karevich Dr.

Novi, MI

248-348-5000

Group Code: MIS

(\$79 per night plus tax)



MISIBS

Supporting & Including
Brothers & Sisters



Developmental Disabilities Institute
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



The Arc
Western Wayne County

Registration and conference information coming soon to the
[MISIBS website, www.misibs.org](http://www.misibs.org)

