

family @ linkages newsletter



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

Healthcare coverage and access has certainly gone through major changes. Prior to implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the opening of the Healthcare Market place last October, approximately 7% of Michigan citizens who did not have employer sponsored healthcare purchased a healthcare policy privately. The primary reason for not making the commitment was the overwhelming cost of the plans available. This changed dramatically with the pre-pay tax credits available through the Marketplace. Persons and households with incomes between 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and 400% of the FPL could qualify for tax credits to help pay for healthcare policy premiums. Enrollment in healthcare plans jumped from 6.9% of the uninsured to roughly 24.77%. In raw numbers, this equates to over 272,000 people enrolling in a healthcare plan from October 1, 2013 to April 15th, 2014. 9

What about those who fell below 138% of the FPL? The new Healthy Michigan Plan provided access to coverage. Healthy Michigan Plan, a form of expanded Medicaid coverage, covers those below 138% of the FPL with the same essential health benefits mandated by the ACA for all private plans sold in America. Enrollment into Healthy Michigan Plan has been extremely successful. Between April 1, 2014 and August 4th, 2014, over 345,000 people have been enrolled into a plan. Adding together the people enrolling into a plan through the Marketplace and those enrolling through Healthy Michigan Plan, almost half of the state's uninsured now have affordable healthcare coverage. 9

What about those who missed the open enrollment period? For those who qualify for Healthy Michigan will be able to apply for coverage throughout the year. Those who do not qualify for Healthy Michigan may still be able to enroll through the Marketplace under special enrollment period waivers (SEP). There are many life changing events that would enable someone to qualify for SEP. These include changes in income, loss of healthcare coverage due to employment changes, changes in family structure such as an adoption or change in dependent status, marriage or divorce and many other life changes that may occur. To determine if you qualify for SEP there are several avenues you may pursue. You may contact a certified Navigator who will be able to help you through the process at no cost. A local Navigator can be found by calling Enroll Michigan at 517-367-7293 or by visiting Enrollmichigan.com. A second option would be contacting Healthcare.gov at 800-318-2596. If you have applied for coverage and have been turned down, a navigator will be able to help you file an appeal and guide you through the entire process.9

ADVOCACY/LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

COMING SOON TO MT. PLEASANT!

Leaders in Policy Advocacy (LIPA) is a leadership development program for adults with developmental disabilities and parents of minor children with developmental disabilities. The project trains and supports participants to become leaders in the disability rights movement. It is funded by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and administered by The Arc Michigan.

Topics include:

- Disability History
- Inclusive Education
- Assistive Technology & Social Media
- Self-Determination
- Person-centered Planning
- Access to Housing, Employment & Recreation
- Benefits and Systems of Care
- Systems Change



**Michigan Developmental
Disabilities Council**

Participation in LIPA requires a significant time commitment. Six (6) weekend sessions begin on Fridays at 12:30 pm and end for the day at 9 p.m. The class resumes at 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays and concludes at 3:00 p.m. There is no cost to participate in the training. Participants will be asked to share a hotel room with another class member, if lodging is needed. Meals will be provided, including to caregivers, and participants will be reimbursed for mileage to and from the training sessions. Attendance is required at each weekend session. Please apply only if you can make the time commitment.

NEXT LEADERS CLASS TO BE HELD IN MT. PLEASANT! VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON. APPLY NOW!

OCTOBER 10TH AND 11TH
NOVEMBER 14TH AND 15TH
DECEMBER 12TH AND 13TH
JANUARY 9TH AND 10TH
FEBRUARY 6TH AND 7TH (In Lansing)
MARCH 6TH AND 7TH

To apply, go to <http://www.arcmi.org/new/lipa.htm>, where you can complete an application form online or download and print one to fill out and mail in. Please contact Project Coordinator Salli Christenson if you have questions or need help in applying. She can be reached at 1-800-292-7851, ext. 130, or salli.c@arcmi.org



ADVOCACY/LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITY



Save the date!!! On Thursday September 18, 2014, SAIL is hosting the 10th Action Day Conference at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI. Action Day 2014 is a conference for individuals with disabilities, their families, guardians, advocates and professionals. In previous years, the conference attracted over 300 attendees from across the Upper Peninsula, with the number of attendees growing each year. Action Day is a U.P. wide conference that provides opportunities for education, socializing, networking, political activism, and personal growth geared specifically toward the disability community. If you have any questions, please contact Becca or Jessica at 906-228-5574, toll free (800) 379-7245 or e-mail: becca@upsail.com.9

ADVOCACY/LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY



Michigan DEC is seeking family leaders to serve and advise MI DEC on its Government Relations Committee and Parent Involvement Committees. Family Leaders Interested in serving on the Government Relations Committee can contact Deb Lively at: dlively@svsu.edu. While those interested in being involved on the Parent Involvement Committee may contact Lisa Cook-Gordon at: lisacookgordon@michiganfamilyvoices.org.9

If your local or state level parent/family involvement committee, council, or organization is seeking parents/families to serve and you would like to share through the Family Linkages Newsletter please send information to info@michiganfamilyvoices.org.



ADVOCACY/LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY



Community Stakeholder Meeting

Michigan Alliance for Families is planning our future work in Macomb County. This stakeholder meeting will bring together families with children receiving special education and/or early intervention services for networking, dialogue, and planning and the members of the community that support them.

September 10, 2014

10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Romeo Community Center

361 Morton Street

Register with Lara Shovlin by September 3, 2014 (313) 557-8780

lara@michiganallianceforfamilies.org Or online at www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/rsvp9

Community Stakeholder Meeting

Michigan Alliance for Families is planning our future work in Muskegon County. This stakeholder meeting will bring together members of our community that have an interest in supporting families who have children receiving special education and/or early intervention services for networking, dialogue, and planning.

September 17, 2014

4:30 pm – 6 pm

The Arc Muskegon

1145 E. Wesley Avenue

Muskegon, MI 49442-2197

Register by September 10, 2014 with Andrea Sargent

(231) 794-1297 or Andrea@MichiganAllianceforFamilies.org

Or online at www.MichiganAllianceforFamilies.org/rsvp

Parents and caregivers of children/ teens/ young adults with a disability or learning challenge; community agencies, community organizations, service clubs, school district employees, parent/teacher associations, school board members, appointed and elected officials, community members interested children and supporting families should attend these meetings.

Learn more about the Early On process with three Michigan Alliance for Families webinars starting September 18, 2014. See dates/topics and register at www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/webinar 9

You can find recent special education updates on the NEWS column on the right hand side of our homepage at www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org.

Our calendar is filling up! 9

Check out our upcoming events at www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events9



ADVOCACY/LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs is seeking a parent consultant to offer support, information, and connections to educational opportunities to families of children with special needs by providing peer support through the statewide Family Phone Line; consultation to CSHCS to improve services and eliminate barriers; parent-to-parent support; parent and youth perspective into programming, policies, and national health care matters related to CSHCS; application review and promotion of parent and youth scholarships; bereavement support; CSHCS and FC updates; connections to community-based resources and support groups; community outreach and trainings; and the commitment to family/professional partnerships at all levels of health care. For more information visit: <http://www.semha.org/semha/jobs.php9>



The Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC) is a Governor-appointed body of stakeholders established to advise and assist the Michigan Department of Education in matters related to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), in Michigan known as *Early On*. More information 9 about the MICC can be found at www.michigan.gov/micc.

The MICC consists of 21 members, five of which are parent representatives, and the parent representatives select two alternates. The role of parent representatives and alternates is to share their own experience and perspectives related to *Early On*, as well as network with other parents across the state in order to provide a voice for all parents. The parent representatives and alternates are reimbursed for mileage and childcare expenses, and receive an honorarium for their time at MICC meetings and any subcommittee meetings attended. 9

MICC meetings are held in Lansing four times a year, from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In addition to MICC meetings, parent members and alternates are encouraged to attend Parent Involvement Committee meetings. This committee meets approximately every six weeks throughout the year, also in Lansing. Conference calling is available for the Parent Involvement Committee meetings. There may be some work time between meetings to read and give input on materials or documents, respond to surveys, etc.9

In October there will be a vacancy on the MICC for a parent representative. If you are interested in applying for this appointment, the application can be found at: <https://sombgovweb.state.mi.us/GovBoard/GovBrdAppForm.aspx>. This application must be sent to the Governor's office for consideration. For more information about the MICC, from the Governor's website, please visit: https://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,1607,7-277-57738_57679_57726-250195--,00.html9

ADVOCACY/LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

In addition to a member, a parent alternate is also needed for the MICC. If you'd like to apply for the parent alternate position, please fill out the application and submit, via email or United States postal service, no later than September 15, 2014, to:

Barbara L. Schinderle
Michigan Department of Education
Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 241-25919
schinderleb@michigan.gov9

To be selected as a parent member or alternate for the MICC, you must have a child who either receives or did receive *Early On* services, and who is currently under the age of 12.

The difference between a parent member and a parent alternate is the parent member is appointed by the Governor and has full voting rights at MICC meetings. The parent alternate also attends all the meetings, but only votes if a parent member is not present. Both are reimbursed for their time, child care and mileage costs.

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC) Parent Alternate Position

Name: _____

Address: _____

Intermediate School District: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Age of child involved in early intervention services: _____

Please tell a little about yourself and why you'd like to be a parent alternate to the MICC.

Please share any previous or current activities you've been involved in, related to leadership in your community.



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2014

How to Better Understand Your Medicaid and Mental Health Rights

September 15, 2014
9:30 am – 1:00 pm
Otsego District Public Library
401 Dix Street
Otsego, MI 49078 9
(269) 694-9690 9
<https://es.surveymonkey.com/s/DG5BXSX9>

Accessing Quality and Affordable Health Care for Your Family

September 15, 2014
9:30 am – 1:00 pm
Otsego District Public Library
401 Dix Street9
Otsego, MI 49078
(269) 694-96909
<http://svy.mk/1q0He5v9>

Transition Planning: Employment, Community Living, Housing and Social Security

September 16, 20149
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Washtenaw IS
1819 South Wagner Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48106 9
(734) 9 4-8100 9
<http://svy.mk/1AjYMkp9>

Navigating the Social Security and SSI System with Karen Larsen

September 16, 2014
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
ashtenaw ISD Vogel C 9
1819 South Wagner Road9
Ann Arbor, MI 481069
(734) 9 4-8100 9
<http://svy.mk/1oVT2tt9>

Re-Thinking Guardianship

September 17, 2014 9
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm 9
C.O.O.R. ISD
11051 North Cut Road 9
Roscommon, MI 48653 9
(989) 275-9555 9
http://bit.ly/1ycTXX_

Essential Communication Skills for IEP Team Meetings

September 25, 2014
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Sanilac Career Center9
175 East Aitken Road
Peck, MI 484669
(810) 648-2200 9
<http://svy.mk/1B0a0vB9>

Navigating the Social Security and SSI System with Karen Larsen

October 14, 20149
:30 am - 12:30 pm9
Jerry L. White Center
J 4804 West McNichols
Detroit MI, 48235
(313) 416-4200 9
<http://svy.mk/1oVT2tt9>

Helping Families Tell Their Stories

October 17, 20149
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Saginaw Transition Center9
3860 Fashion Square Blvd9
Saginaw, MI 486039
(989) 39 -74739
<http://svy.mk/1sEAApf9>



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2014

How to Better Understand Your Medicaid and Mental Health Rights

October 29, 2014 9

J 0:00 am – 2:00 pm

Power Hope and Grace Bible Church

6495 West Warren

Detroit, MI 482

(3J 3) 895-7464

<https://es.surveymonkey.com/s/DG5BXSX9>

Re-Thinking Guardianship

November 19, 2014 9

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Arc Community Advocates

Emerald Drive Nonprofit Campus

3901 Emerald Drive 9

Kalamazoo, MI 49001 9

(269) 342-9801 9

<http://bit.ly/1ycTXX69>

How to Better Understand Your Medicaid and Mental Health Rights

November 21, 2014

9:30 am – J :30 pm

Van Buren ISD Community Transition Center

811 Hazen Street 9

Paw Paw, MI 49079

(269) 415-0270 9

<https://es.surveymonkey.com/s/DG5BXSX9>

What Every Family and Provider Should Know about Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

December 2, 2014

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Saginaw Transition Center

3860 Fashion Square Blvd

Saginaw, MI 486039

(989) 39 -74739

<http://svy.mk/1A04wQ69>

Disability Pride

November 13, 2014

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Jerry L. White Center

J 4804 West McNicho

Is9Detroit MI, 48235

(313) 416-42009

<http://svy.mk/1msYLCe9>

Essential Communication Skills for IEP Team Meetings

November 20, 2014

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Van Buren ISD 9

Community Transition Center 9

811 Hazen Street9

Paw Paw, MI 49079

(269) 415-0270 9

<http://svy.mk/1B0a0vB9>

Essential Communication Skills for IEP Team Meetings

November 24, 2014

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Erwin L. Davis Education Center

2413 West Maple Avenue9

Flint, MI 48507

(810) 591-44009

<http://svy.mk/1B0a0vB9>



Who Should Attend Michigan Family Voices Collaborative Learning Opportunities:

Individuals and family members of young children, teen and young adults with special needs/ disabilities (including: youth guardians: adoptive, biological, foster and step-parents, domestic partners who co-parent, grandparents, siblings, aunts/uncles, nieces/nephews, cousins, neighbors, communities, religious leaders and any other person the individual defines as a family member), organizations and service providers who work with families of young children, teen, young adults, and individuals with disabilities. 9

We encourage individuals and families to invite people who provide support and services to you and your family. Providers are encouraged to invite individuals and families you support and serve. Forming partnerships between people served and those providing services is crucial in building collaboration and partnering in decision-making at all levels with individuals and families of children and youth with special needs/disabilities.9

For More Information about Collaborative Learning Opportunities contact Michigan Family Voices at (800) 292-7851 or info@michiganfamilyvoices.org9

Visit the Michigan Family Voices Website for most updated advocacy, leadership, and learning opportunities at: <http://michiganfamilyvoices.org/9>



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Michigan-Family-Voices/51749324497399?ref=hl>



<https://twitter.com/MIFamilyVoices1>

