



Achieve with us.

2018 Annual Report

Dear Members and Friends of The Arc Michigan:

I am pleased and honored to serve as The Arc Michigan's Board President. 2018 was another year of persistent public policy advocacy. These efforts will continue in the new year and beyond as we fight the "profitization" and privatization of the public mental health system here in Michigan. Managed care pilots allowing for-profit entities to administer mental health benefits in some areas of the state are still planned, although we and other advocates were successful in delaying the date of implementation to October 2020.

As with every year, it seems the state of Michigan and the federal government continue to look for ways to save money by cutting services to Michigan's most vulnerable populations. We must not forget that Michigan's constitution provides that services for, and the public health of, people with disabilities will "always be fostered and supported." The Arc intends keep reminding those in power of that fact.

The Arc also continues to help create more inclusive and independent lives for individuals with disabilities through training and support, as well as public policy and systems advocacy. The Arc Michigan remains diligent in influencing the transition plan to implement the Home and Community Based Services rules. We also continue to push for authentic Person-Centered Planning, Self-Determination and transparency in funding systems of support. Lastly, we continue to fight for increased wages for direct care workers and for general fund dollars to be returned to the mental health system.

The Arc Michigan knows our strength lies in the partnerships we have with our 30 local chapters and our many other advocacy partners across the state. Together we can continue to accomplish great things. And continue to "fight the good fight", as the saying goes. To keep the energy, direction and efforts going, we will continue to need your help. Thank you very much for all you do.

Andrea Lane

Andrea Lane
President

Sherri Boyd
Executive Director



Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

provides information, education and support for families with students (from birth to age 26) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) special education or early intervention services.

The work of MAF is done by Regional Parent Mentors (RPMs) and supported by central Information and Referral staff, all of whom are family members of individuals with disabilities. Regional Parent Mentors can connect families of children with disabilities to resources to help improve their children's educations and mentor them in becoming a more active participant in their child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP). Mentors had 3434 meetings with parents to review/prepare for IFSPs or IEPs or help problem solve an issue a parent was facing. MAF helps facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and outcomes for students with disabilities. ***No matter where you are in Michigan, you can connect with a Regional Parent Mentor in your part of the state.***

Regional Parent Mentors host learning opportunities for parents and the professionals working with them. MAF trainers, along with our state partners and RPMs offered 148 in-person Learning Opportunities last year. We had a total of 2319 participants, of whom 1195 were parents, 1100 were professionals, and 24 were students with a disability. 164 participants self-identified as a minority.

Topics include:

- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Transition: Leaving *Early On*
- Preparing for High School and Beyond
- Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports
- Parent and Educational Partnerships: Building Collaborative Communication Skills Together
- Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy
- Serving on Local Special Education Committees
- Rethinking Guardianship

MAF offers online learning as well. Families can watch 35+ different webinar presentations at home, at their own pace at www.youtube.com/michiganalliance

Almost all of our webinar presentations have been closed-captioned through a partnership with Michigan Department of Education's Center for Educational Networking (CEN).

Families can access many resources at www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org, by calling **1.800.552.4821** or by emailing info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Michigan Alliance for Families keeps in touch with families via a monthly e-newsletter and a regional event notification system. Not signed up? Go to: www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/newsletter

MAF is funded by grants from the Michigan Department of Education -

(1) Office of Special Education and (2) Office of Great Start /Early Childhood Development and Family Education; and the US Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs as our state's Parent Training and Information Center.



Partners Advancing Self-Determination (PAS) is a grant project designed to address the issues with **consistency, availability, and access to the tools and supports** that people with developmental disabilities need to control their services and live self-directed, self-determined lives. Partners Advancing Self-Determination is a collaborative effort with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Administration (BHDDA), and is funded by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council.

Partners Advancing Self-Determination provides state-level technical assistance, training, and support to local Advancement Teams wishing to improve the quality and use of self-directed services (also known as self-determination) in their area. There is an application process from which three teams are chosen for each fiscal year.



Advancement Team members need to include Community Mental Health Service Providers, Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans, Intermediate School Districts, people with disabilities receiving services, their families and allies, and others interested in self-directed services. They work to improve Community Mental Health processes and, if necessary, change policies to help make sure people can direct their own supports and lives.

Two Advancement Teams were piloted in FY 2018. One Advancement Team was from Macomb County Community Mental Health, and the second was from AuSable Valley Community Mental Health, serving Iosco, Ogemaw, and Oscoda Counties.

In addition to improving supports at a local level, Partners Advancing Self-Determination facilitates a state-level Advisory Council. With the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration, the Advisory Council is working to develop/refine state requirements and standards that ensure consistent, quality person-centered planning and self-directed services that result in changes in MDHHS/BHDDA policies, procedures, guidance, and technical assistance.

For more information, contact Jill Gerrie, Project Coordinator at 517 492-5029 or toll free at 800 292-7851, ext. 114, or via email at jill.gerrie@arcmi.org

Public Policy/Governmental Affairs

While we achieved some notable successes in 2018, much of our time was focused on maintaining our positions on continuing matters.

The problem with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) was finally resolved with the passage of Arc Michigan-supported legislation. The threat to self-determination has been eliminated as the new law removes LARA's capacity to redefine settings which require an Adult Foster Care License. Under the new statute, any residential setting for four or fewer people, with Community Mental Health (CMH) involvement, will not require a license. Our thanks to the numerous other organizations which helped tremendously with this effort, especially Michigan's Assisted Living Association (MALA), as well as Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services (MPAS) and Community Living Services (CLS).

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) ill-advised attempt to define parity for persons with developmental disabilities has been withdrawn. The Department notified the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that they no longer intended to try to define parity for persons with I/DD using the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS), services currently provided, and a version of medical necessity derived from same. MDHHS agreed that, in the absence of any national standard or methodology, it made no sense to do so. The attempts by some funders to utilize or adapt a version of the SIS to limit plans for people and subvert persons-centered planning helped halt this proposed effort. This returns us to the use of the SIS as one of merely informing the person-centered planning process, which must be used in determining plans of service.

The continuing 298 issue, with its two separate tracks, was notable for the distinct avoidance by MDHHS of any meaningful engagement with the advocacy community. The track of efforts to profitize the public mental health system with three pilots and a demonstration model continues. The efforts of the advocacy organizations on behalf of persons with a developmental disability and those who represent persons with a mental illness have resulted in a total of one hour with those who have been contracted to evaluate the aforementioned pilots. In that hour, best described as an unsatisfactory conversation, we were disappointed in an evaluation plan which did not recognize what was important to those who would be most drastically and directly affected by this change to the current system. Failure of the evaluators to understand that outcomes, for those we represent, would be a significant test of the efforts was truly disheartening. The lack of any methodology or even understanding of the need to assess the impact on recipients of services was equally disturbing. We hold both the contracted monitors and the Department's 298 Team responsible for this unfortunate state of affairs. An updated overview of the evaluation plan, subsequently published, was not at all affirming.

The 298 policy implementation track has not been significantly better, in terms of results or engagement. The updated 298 legislation called for MDHHS to implement the some 76 recommendations of the 298 facilitation groups. The Department did meet with members of the facilitation group immediately prior the release of their "progress report and timeline for implementation". That meeting and the report were very unsatisfactory. Both demonstrated the "Team"

(Continued on page 6)

did not understand how important the 298 groups felt person-centered planning was and how disparate authentic person-centered planning and self-determination were from one place to another in Michigan.

Monitoring of the State's submission of a Transition Plan and implementation of the Home and Community-Based Rules for our Medicaid Waivers has been an ongoing effort since 2014. Participation on the implementation Advisory Group and combining our efforts with others has had an effect to this point and serve us well into 2019. We still hold out hope that these rules will be transformative and leave us much further in the direction of our values.

Toward the end of 2018 we initiated an effort to address what we have seen as a gradual starving of the public mental health system. Various changes in everything from types of Medicaid eligibility, unequitable funding levels attached to different types of Medicaid, the drastic reduction in general funds, as well as a realization that funding from one place to another can be dependent on arbitrary factors, led us to begin a collaborative effort.

The Arc Michigan Pooled Amenities Trust

The Arc Michigan opened its Pooled Amenities Trust four years ago. A pooled trust offers a way to protect and manage resources for people with disabilities, without risking their public benefits. The assets in this type of trust are “pooled” together for purposes of investment, but each person is assigned a sub-account to track their individual funds. Pooling makes it possible to join the trust with less money than is generally needed to create a traditional special needs trust, making it an excellent option for families of modest means and individuals who find themselves with an inheritance, insurance payout, or legal settlement that could threaten their benefits. Assets in a pooled trust may be used to procure those items and experiences that are not specifically meant to be purchased with public benefits, but which can enhance the person's quality of life. Participation in a pooled trust begins with the signing of a Joinder Agreement - a document that dictates the terms of the trust. The Joinder Agreement may be signed by the individual, a family member or third-party for someone else's benefit, or the court.



As of December 31, 2018, The Arc Michigan Pooled Amenities Trust held assets totaling \$748,493 with 22 sub-account holders, and had paid \$16,635 to The Arc Michigan for the administration of the trust over the last year.

More information is available at: <https://arcmi.org/projects/the-arc-michigan-pooled-amenities-trust/> or contact Cathy McRae, the project coordinator at 800.292.7851 ext. 119 or PooledTrust@arcmi.org.

Committees & Boards

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

- Community Living Supports Work Group
- Developmental Disabilities Practice Improvement Team
- HCBS Implementation Advisory Group
- MDDC Public Policy Work Group
- MDDC Quarterly Meetings
- MDHHS Quarterly Stakeholder Group
- NCI Advisory Council
- Quality Improvement Committee

Michigan Department of Education

- *Early On* Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council Standing Committees
- Parent Involvement Committee
- Parent Leadership in State Government Advisory Board
- Special Education Advisory Committee

Board and Advocacy Groups

- American with Disabilities for Attendant Programs Today (ADAPT)
- Michigan Family Voices
- Citizens Advisory Council for the Developmental Disabilities Institute, Wayne State University
- Employment First Workgroup
- Michigan ADA Steering Committee
- Michigan Adult Foster Care Advisory Council
- Michigan Olmstead Coalition
- Michigan WIPA Coalition
- The Howell Group

The Arc Michigan Board

Executive Committee

Andrea Lane President	Shari Fitzpatrick Treasurer
Maureen Dempsey Vice President	Ron Kimball Past President
Melissa Wiersma Secretary	Kathy Homan MCE Representative

Directors at Large

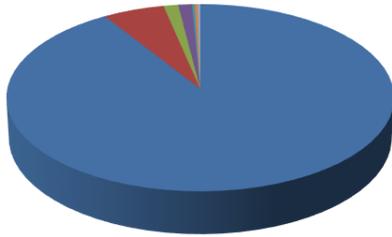
Arville Carroll Holland	Mick Musial West Bloomfield
Robert White Clarkston	Patti Nowak Mt. Pleasant
Margaret Martin Westland	Rosemary Rangi Clarkston
Tom Lerchen Saline	Steve Waters Holland

Arc Michigan Newsletters, Action Alerts, Appeals & Governmental Affairs Updates

The Arc Michigan sent an average of three newsletters per month to **2885** subscribers. Don't miss out on what's happening, sign up at <https://arcmi.org/newsletter-signup/>. Past e-Newsletters can be found on our website under **Newsletter Archives**, or by visiting <https://arcmi.org/resource-center/newsletter-archive/>

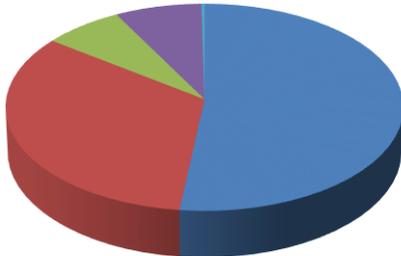
The Arc Michigan 2018 Financial Summary

Revenues \$3,521,192



- Grants \$3,222,972
- Other Operational \$199,300
- Membership \$47,550
- Development \$44,323
- United Way \$8,161
- Interest \$(9,772)
- Conference \$8,658

Expenses \$3,502,707



- Salaries/Benefits \$1,816,645
- Contracted Services \$1,165,608
- Other Program Expenses \$244,693
- Office Expense/Overhead \$266,365
- Payment to Arc US \$9,396

The Arc Michigan is a United Way Agency
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Lansing, Michigan 48910

517.487.5426 or
800.292.7851
www.arcmi.org

The Arc Michigan Chapters

ARC/Allegan County
The Arc Arenac Area
The Arc Bay County
The Arc of Calhoun County
The Arc of Delta County
ARC/Gogebic Chapter
The Arc of Central Michigan
The Arc Community Advocates
The Arc Kent County
The Arc of Livingston County
The Arc of Macomb County
ARC/Manistee
The Arc of Midland
The Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc.
The Arc Muskegon
The Arc/Newaygo County
The Arc of Oakland County, Inc.
ARC Ogemaw/Roscommon Counties
ARC Advocacy & Resource Center
(Ottawa County)
The Arc Mid-Michigan
The Arc of St. Clair County
Van Buren ARC
Washtenaw Association for
Community Advocacy
Arc Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods
The Arc Dearborn
The Arc Detroit
Arc Downriver, Inc.
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County
The Arc of Western Wayne County

