



Michigan Partners For Freedom

Fall 2014



Jon Barckholtz (right) with dear friend and former Arc Michigan President, Paul White

Jon and his Entire City ALL Together

by Jan Lampman

Michigan Partners for Freedom lost a leader and friend when Jon Richard Barckholtz died on Aug. 23 in Midland. Jon was loved and honored by many in his home town, in diverse communities of civic, religious, service and advocacy interests. For ten years he served on The Arc of Michigan Board and after his passing his colleague and friend from that Board, Sarah Townsend, a citizen of Battle Creek, wrote a moving letter to a friend of Jon's in an effort to provide comfort and shared loss. In that letter Sarah said, "the entire city of Midland is grieving

for Jon Barckholtz". It turns out she was exactly right.

Jon was a MPF Local Leader, former member of The Arc of Midland Board of Directors, graduate of Michigan Partners in Policymaking and a founding member of People First in Midland. He was a strong advocate for people with disabilities and for Self Determination. Jon believed strongly in the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities of ALL citizens. He had a gift for advocating. Jon had experiences in the institution that shaped his intense desire to insure that no person should ever have to live in such a place again. However, Jon did not let those early experiences or his advocacy efforts define him. So, when he died, fellow artists mourned. It seems that in the last few years Jon had taken up artistic pursuits, taking Art classes at a local studio. His co-workers at Target mourned as he was a loyal and dependable co-worker. His customers at Target mourned as his smile and helpful attitude made their visits to Target so enjoyable. His fellow Rotarians mourned because they lost a leader among them. His church family mourned even though they all have faith that they will see him again. His lifelong friends are still mourning the loss of their best friend. His partner, Regina, is mourning the loss of a part of herself. Finally, the advocacy community is mourning the loss of a leader.



As it turns out, the entire city of Midland is also celebrating and rejoicing Jon's legacy. He taught an entire community about how to be a friend, a citizen and a contributor. By being a friend and good citizen he also taught people about self-determination and about the notion that really and truly **ALL means ALL**.



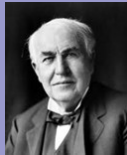
Annual Summit held in June

This year's summit opened at the annual MPF gathering with "Take me out to the Ball game!" A picnic buffet and game was enjoyed by 48 attendees at the Lugnuts Cooley Law School Stadium. The next day's practical agenda included:

1. An overview of the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network by Melanie Nau
2. Reaching People in Sheltered Workshops & Group Homes by Midland Local Leader Jennifer Gentile and MPF Local Coordinator Jan Lampman
3. Marketing and Public Speaking by Oakland County Local Leader Alex Kimmel
4. Using the "Owning the Process" Video and Video Guide with Oakland County Local Leader Jeff Guthrie and MPF Consultant, Pat Carver



Local Leaders pictured: Erica Bate, Gary Stephens, Jeff Guthrie, Erin McMahon, David Taylor, Alex Kimmel, Elizabeth Martin, Janey Vermeulen, David DeWitt-Taylor



Restlessness and discontent are the first necessities of progress.

Thomas Edison

Help Understanding Fair Labor Standards Act

Do you hire your own worker? Do you have staff? Do you direct the support your workers provide? Does your self-determination supporter need help understanding what new rules say about shared living, adult foster care, companionship and paid roommate situations? The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently issued a new rule that affects home care services for people with disabilities as a part of its Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). To help figuring this all out, the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services has a webpage designed to be a one-stop location for information about the (FLSA) and its impact on "participant direction programs" or as we say in Michigan, "self-determination arrangements." These resources can be of great help MPF for it includes webinars, toolkits, and flowcharts.

Visit <http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/nrcpds> and click on **FSLA TOOLKIT**.



Hello Partners!

I hope you all had a great summer! It's almost the end of the fiscal year so I thought I'd update you on next year's Michigan Partners for Freedom grant.



First of all, we will have less money for next year which begins October 1, 2014, so we had to make some changes. We will focus on one PIHP (Prepaid Inpatient Healthcare Program) area for training and advocacy. (PIHP region 10 - Genesee, Sanilac, Lapeer and St. Clair Counties) That means:

- ✓ We will not be able to do community training in other areas of the state without charging a fee.
- ✓ If we talked to you already about doing Local Leader training in your community we will still be able to do that for free, but not for brand new areas.
- ✓ We will not be able to hold the Summit unless we find extra money.
- ✓ We will have half of the travel budget we had. This will mean going to fewer meetings.

Because we made cuts in these and a couple of other areas, **we will not be cutting payments to Local Leaders.** Local Leaders are critical to MPF! They are the reason we exist!

Happy fall!

Jill

So far this year, Local Leaders have done presentations for:

- 431** people with disabilities
- 142** family members
- 330** CMH staff
- 323** students with disabilities
- 469** community members



Toby Janiga shares his OWN schedule

At the Kent County RICC sponsored MPF Community training in August, Toby Janiga presented about his experience with self-determination. He joined Kent County MPF Local Leader, Rachel DeMaagd. Toby, who lives in Grand Rapids, talked about how he has gained more control over his daily schedules including his invaluable time at parenting. "I no longer have to schedule my life around others schedules. They schedule around and me and my daughter's schedule."



What does the CMH data tell us about self-determination in Michigan?



Recently, the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University reviewed the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) data on use of Fiscal Intermediary Services. The data analysis looked specifically at the services delivered to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who receive community mental health services. The Center for Urban Studies prepared this information as part of its grant project with the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC). The Center for Urban Studies is evaluating the MDDC's current five year grant funded activities with the

Administration for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD).

A fiscal intermediary is a community mental health service that an individual with disabilities can choose to help self-direct one's services and supports. Fiscal Intermediary services honor the Self-Determination principle of **Authority**. The principle of authority says an individual with a disability controls a certain sum of dollars in order to purchase one's community mental health services and supports. The person with disabilities directs the fiscal intermediary to make payments of services and supports he/she chooses to purchase. A fiscal intermediary can only pay for services that are authorized by the local

Community Mental Health (CMH) which are included in one's plan of service. The fiscal intermediary is also

The data also shows that some local CMHs are really struggling to encourage the use of a fiscal intermediary. From 2010-2012, eight CMHs reported less than 1% of individuals served used a fiscal intermediary.

responsible for reporting the payments to the local CMH. The CMH tracks this information so it knows how local community mental dollars are used and reports this information to the MDCH.

The MDCH data **shows about 16% of individuals with I/DD who received CMH services use a fiscal intermediary to manage payments for their community mental health supports.**

The data also shows that some local CMHs are really struggling to encourage the use of a fiscal intermediary. From 2010-2012, eight CMHs reported less than 1% of individuals served used a fiscal intermediary. The data is an indicator on the progress of Self-Determination in Michigan. This information needs to be considered along with other factors, most importantly details that describe a good quality of life such as valuable relationships, reliable supports, community membership, employment, and affordable housing. These are details that are important to all citizens.



So why is it important to look at this data? This data can tell people with disabilities who receive community mental health services about the experience of their local CMH in working with fiscal intermediaries. For CMHs, it helps these agencies understand how many of the people they support are directing their supports with the help of a fiscal intermediary. For Michigan Partners for Freedom, it assists MPF to know which communities are struggling to advance Self-Determination and where MPF can offer assistance. For Michigan Partners for Freedom, it assists MPF to know which communities are struggling to advance Self-Determination and where MPF can offer assistance. If you are interested in seeing the Center for Urban Studies data visit the MPF website: http://www.mifreedom.org/images/Center_for_Urban_Studies_Presentation_on_FI_data_to_SD_Strategy_Group.pdf

Out of Sheltered Workshops

Recently the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) hosted a webinar titled, “The State of Sheltered Workshops: Ways to Advocate and Get Out”. Here’s what the disability rights organization said to do if you are “stuck in a sheltered workshop or other dead end job”:

- ✓ Tell your provider and support staff you want a REAL JOB. Do not take “NO” for an answer. It’s YOUR life.
- ✓ Ask the employer to clearly explain how your wages are decided. Ask for the help you need, like assistive technology to increase your wages, and ask to try other work
- ✓ Apply to the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. To be eligible for VR services all you need is a physical or mental impairment which results in a substantial impediment to employment. Your service provider has the records and information you need to get started. You do not need their permission to explore job options
- ✓ Do not accept the Common False Assumption –individuals who have been held (against their will) in segregated employment settings will require long term supports from supported employment. Therefore you must wait. You are a person, not a program. Least restrictive options are tried first, not second.
- ✓ Utilize on-the-job (paid training) which could help you learn new skills for a new job. Ask for job shadowing, situational assessment, job tryouts, and mentoring
- ✓ Explore apprenticeship programs to earn while you learn skilled trades
- ✓ Talk to your peers about their jobs and their experiences. Set your own standard and AIM high – it’s your life and work is a get out of poverty plan. Work is also part of recovery
- ✓ Volunteering can help you explore other work settings and other types of jobs. This can lead to internships and paid work experiences
- ✓ One Stop Career Centers can help you learn about local employers, labor needs, and workforce development programs. They have training dollars and resume assistance to help you become employed

http://www.ndrn.org/images/webcasts/Getting_outof_sheltered_workshops.pdf



It is not possible to be in favor of justice for some people and not be in favor of justice for all people.

Martin Luther King Jr.



1325 S. Washington Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48910

Phone: 1-800-292-7851
www.mifreedom.org



Michigan Partners for Freedom is a grassroots coalition of people with disabilities, family members, advocates, organizations and other allies working together to build statewide demand for self-determination



Michigan Partners for Freedom is supported by a grant (#2014030) from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council to The Arc Michigan.

Facing the Future Together

2014 Statewide Conference

A newly developed advocacy partnership is growing in Michigan- Siblings! Michigan Supporting and Including our Brothers and Sisters (MI SIBS) is hosting its second day-long statewide conference, "Facing the Future Together", to gain the tools to prepare and secure the future well-being and self-determination of individuals with disabilities and their families.

The conference is scheduled for Saturday October 18, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza and Hotel in Lansing from 8:30 am- 4:30 pm
<http://www.misibs.org>

