

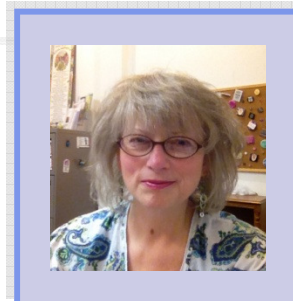


# Michigan Partners For Freedom

Winter 2012

## Hello Partners!

My name is Jill Gerrie and I started as the new MPF Coordinator in January. I am thrilled to be part of this initiative and consider it an honor to work with all of you!



A little bit about me, since you're probably wondering...I've been working in the disability field for over 30 years. I started working in group homes, moved on to apartment programs, to supports coordination, and then to advocacy organizations. Most recently I worked for the Center for Independent Living network at their state office. As often happens to people, I initially spent most of my work life directly supporting people and over time have held more administrative positions.

I definitely learned the most about disability from people with disabilities themselves. I could have been one of those professionals at whom I now roll my eyes, had it not been for the experience I had in the mid-1980's working in a group home in Midland. The people that lived there put to rest all my stereotypes about people with developmental disabilities. For me, since then, it's been about ensuring people with disabilities have the same life as everyone else, period.

As you are probably aware the Michigan Development Disabilities Council awarded a five-year grant to MPF to expand demand for self-determination. I know that there's no way I can fill Angela Martin's shoes, she's the greatest! I will do my best, however, and am excited to work more directly with people on a project that is so very important. My office is at The Arc Michigan with 30 hours a week dedicated to MPF. I would love to hear from you! Please feel free to email or call. I hope to meet all of you soon!

Have fun,

*Jill*

 Call 517.492.5029 or 800.292.7851

 You can email Jill at [jill.gerrie@arcmi.org](mailto:jill.gerrie@arcmi.org)



## Blazing the Trail for Self-Determination

**And** the award goes to...Michigan Partners for Freedom! On February 8, 2012 the Michigan Development Disabilities Council (MDDC) recognized MPF with the **2011 Trailblazer Award** and distinguished the statewide project because of our significant impact on systems change, self-determination and inclusion in Michigan.

## Person Centered Planning Policy and Practice Guideline Changes

*“Every individual is presumed competent to direct the planning process, achieve his or her goals and outcomes, and build a meaningful life in the community.”*

MDCH Person-Centered Policy & Guidelines 3-15-11

Almost a year ago, the state issued an updated guideline for Person Centered Planning in Michigan. In October 2011, the nine-page document was attached to this year's contract between the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the local Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs). This contract is called the "Managed Specialty Supports and Services Contract". This contract outlines how CMHSPs will locally deliver mental health and developmental disability services to Michigan's citizens with disabilities under its managed care contract with MDCH.

As you know, the Michigan Mental Health Code requires the “use of Person Centered Planning for the development of the Individual Plan of Service (IPOS) in partnership of the recipient” and a large part of the new guidelines remain the same as the 2002 original. A new section on Independent **(External)** Facilitation includes a clearer explanation and expectation of the CMHSP. The summary and background highlights that person centered planning is about the individual working toward and achieve their existing personal goals rather than being limited to authorizing the individual to receive existing programs. Also new is the statement “Every individual is presumed competent to direct the planning process, achieve his or her goals and outcomes, and build a meaningful life in the community.”

The Essential Elements of planning in the new practice guide are:

- Person-Directed
- Person-Centered
- Outcome-Based
- Information, Support and Accommodations
- Independent Facilitation
- Pre-Planning
- Wellness and Well-Being
- Participation of Allies.

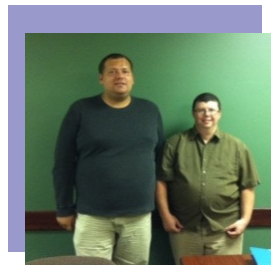
*External: pertaining to the outside or outer part; outer: an external surface. Outside. Opposite of internal which means inside.*

In preparing the new PCP guidelines, Michigan Partners for Freedom Local Leaders participated in the MDCH workgroup to examine its existing and new documents. Included in this workgroup was review of the new guidebook **“How Self-Determination Works.”** You may download this and **“How Person Centered Planning Works for You”** at the Michigan Partner for Freedom website.

 [www.mifreedom.org](http://www.mifreedom.org)

### Local Leader Update

Congratulations to the new Kalamazoo Local Leaders John Argo and Jordon Hammond. Because these two advocates attended a 2011 Kalamazoo MPF community training and then followed up with a recent MPF Local Leader training, the total number of statewide leaders working to increase demand for self-determination hit 100!



## PURE MICHIGAN™ -- Self-Determination Style


For the professionals at Avalon Films, videotaping celebrities and superstars is all in a day's work. Their recent projects include famous athletes [Derek Jeter](#), the New York Yankees' all-time hits leader and [Colt McCoy](#), NFL Cleveland Browns quarterback. Other projects have included American rapper, record producer, songwriter and actor [Eminem](#). Avalon may be most recognized because of its successful tourism campaign for "Pure Michigan". In one week last summer, they produced a commercial for the Michigan Lottery, taped an interview with Michigan superstar [Kid Rock](#) and another with Michigan Partner for Freedom Local Leader [David Taylor](#).



Taylor being interviewed outside his home

Taylor discussed his self-determined life in his new Ferndale home for the MPF video currently under production about the tool of individual budgeting. Several MPF Local Leaders have been interviewed about how they use their self-determination budgets or allocations. When asked about why individual control and budget oversight is important to David, he said without a doubt, "to be free." Watch for the DVD release date this spring!

To see a related video produced by Avalon films, visit the Developmental Disabilities Institute on Wayne State University's website. "The Possibilities Video Series" presents a vision of how individuals with disabilities and their families can lead the lives that they envision, without barriers and in the direction they truly wish to go.

 [Wayne State University website: www.ddi.wayne.edu/possibilities.php](http://www.ddi.wayne.edu/possibilities.php)




## Nation and World Wide Partnerships

Michigan Partners for Freedom has been invited to present at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities (IASSID) World Congress July 2012 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The IASSID conference brings 1,500 delegates from around the world for 230 concurrent sessions in which MPF and other presenters will share timely information about major advances in the biological, behavioral, and social sciences related to intellectual disabilities.

Late in 2011, MPF also presented "Meeting the Expectations of a New Generation of Issue Specific Leaders: Michigan Partners for Freedom" at the annual National Association on Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Conference in Washington D.C. Developmental Disabilities Councils, located in every US State and Territory, represent a Federal-State partnership in developing futures for and with people with developmental disabilities and their families. Councils are governed by volunteers who are appointed by state Governors and work to create a community where people with developmental disabilities are naturally included and where they can enjoy the same civil liberties and quality of life as everyone else.



 Call 517.334.6123

 Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council: [www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil)

## Michigan Peer to Peer Supports to Advance Self-Determination Project

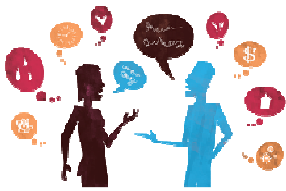
Michigan Partners for Freedom, with the Michigan Department of Community Health, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration, was awarded a prestigious “Innovative Grant” from the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services. The project “Michigan Peer to Peer Supports to Advance Self-Determination” along with only three other grantees was chosen through a countrywide competition and was identified as having the most potential to meaningfully impact the development and expansion of participant direction.



SD Peers in Wayne County

MPF Local leaders in Oakland, Wayne, Genesee, Kalamazoo and Kent Counties are learning to advance their skills at assisting individuals with disabilities who receive mental health services and supports with the Self-determination arrangement process in Michigan.

Specific training topics are:



1. Who can help with arrangements that support self-determination
2. The value of Person Centered Planning
3. The use of the individual budget
4. The Self-Determination and employment agreements

This project confirms MPF's one goal of building statewide demand for self-determination. Local Leaders continue honing their skills by being prepared and an integral partner in Michigan's systems change effort to advance development of individualized budgets.

Project director Ellen Sugrue Hyman is a consultant on self-determination to the Michigan Department of Community Health, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration. In that capacity, she drafts policy and practice guidelines, technical assistance, and informational and training materials. In addition, Ellen is a consultant to The Arc Michigan. Ellen has a small law practice in which she focuses on estate planning for young families and families with members who have disabilities.



**2012 SABE  
National Conference**

For more information, visit:  
[www.sabeconference2012.com](http://www.sabeconference2012.com)



### Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)

is the major US self-advocacy non-profit organization run by a board of self-advocates. For 21 years, SABE has worked for the full community inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and its 2012 conference will be held in St. Paul Minnesota on August 30-September 2, 2012.

## Questions from Michigan Peer to Peer Supports to Advance Self-Determination Project



**What is self-determination?**

Self-determination means that you have the freedom, authority, support and responsibility to live the life that you want to live. Arrangements that support self-determination mean that you control the budget for the services that you receive from community mental health (CMH).



**Is the government going to stop determination?**

No. The state and US government both support self-determination.



**Why are so many people resistant to it?**

People are resistant to it for many reasons. They don't understand it. They think that is more work. They think that people with disabilities can't do it. We need to teach them how self-determination works.



**How many counties are using self-determination?**

All CMHs are required to offer self-determination. Most do. Some don't.



**How can we make the system use self-determination?**

CMHs will use self-determination more when people request it and advocate it.



**How to get more case managers excited or vested in self-determination?**

We need to teach them how self-determination works. We need to show them how well people do when they use Self-Determination. We need to show them that it is not more work for them.



**How can we assure that self-determination is actually offered in all counties?**

We need to make people aware of self-determination.



**What services are covered by my self-determination agreement?**

Self-determination is available for CMH services. You choose which services are covered.



**Who can use self-determination? Who? Who?**

Adults receiving services from CMH can use arrangements that support self-determination and those who use a children's waiver to manage their supports with the assistance of a fiscal intermediary.



**To know and share...**

In **2011**, the MPF enhanced demand for self-determination by reaching:

- ✓ **835** individuals with disabilities and family members
- ✓ **911** policymakers or community members
- ✓ **690** CMH staff members
- ✓ **884** MPF newsletter mail recipients
- ✓ **356** subscribers on Mifreedom list serv





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Phone: 1-800-292-7851  
[www.mifreedom.org](http://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



**Building Statewide Demand  
For Self-Determination**

Michigan Partners for Freedom is supported by a grant (#2012034) from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council to The Arc Michigan.

# SAVE THE DATE

FOR OUR ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE!  
JUNE 21 & 22, 2012

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**KEYNOTE SPEAKER, SAMUEL R. BAGENSTOS!**

The Arc Michigan logo is displayed on a large, dark blue brushstroke background that sweeps across the right side of the advertisement. The logo consists of a stylized white 'A' shape above the text 'The Arc' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'Michigan' in a smaller font below it.

**The Arc**  
Michigan

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