



## Michigan Partners for Freedom

*Building statewide demand for Self-Determination*

### Re-energized, Re-connected, and Ready

An opportunity to enhance the message of “**Self-Determination for All**” occurred this summer at Michigan Partners for Freedom Summit. Bay City and Kalamazoo were the newest communities represented at the gathering held at the Michigan Academy on Self-



**Back row:** Bill Hubert, Jeff Guthrie, Lenda Bialik, Sheryl Kuenzer, Ray Schuhholz, Sarah Vinnay

**Mid row:** Gizela Schwartz, James Ivey, Erin McMahon, David Dewitt Taylor

**Front row:** John Donlin, Kayleigh Emmons, Heather Holloway, Kim Rosario, Jill Hawley  
Not pictured: Jamia Brewer

Determination in conjunction with the Arc of Midland. Oakland, Berrien and Flint added new leaders to the hard-working mix of advocates. This summer’s agenda focused on how to keep the momentum for self-determination in current times of uncertainty. Presentations included tips for creating a winning presentation, how to get speaking engagements, and building regional capacity (see page 2). As

a result, Local Leaders are re-energized, re-connected, and ready to spread the Michigan Partners for Freedom message! Now is the time to address the self-determination of Michigan citizens. Contact the Arc Michigan at 800-292-7851 to contact a MPF Local Leader near you.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Self-Determination Implementation

##### Series

September 22  
November 24  
Lansing

#### Southeast Region Meeting

September 28  
Genesee County

#### MDCH DD Summit

September 29 & 30  
Dearborn

#### Local Leader Training

October 22  
Grayling

#### Arc Michigan Conference

June 17-19 2010  
Grand Rapids  
Self-Advocate Track  
Local Leader Summit

### A Way to Partner

**Messenger**, the official newsletter from Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, featured Partners for Freedom in the lead article of its recent edition. Right smack on the front page you’ll find the photo of the Kalamazoo Local Leaders! This is surely a way a local CMH can honor and demonstrate commitment to self-determination.

**Way to go Kalamazoo!!**

## Partner With the Department



Early in June, 13 Michigan Partner for Freedom steering committees members met with key leaders at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to discuss collaboration and local support of self-determination. Department officials included Irene Kazieczko, Director of the **Bureau of Community Mental Health Services**; Michael J. Head, Director of **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration** and Mark Keilhorn, Director, **Division of Program Development Consultation and Contracts** and **Self-Determination Consultant**, Ellen Sugrue Hyman. Each MDCH official left the two hour meeting with an official Local Leader notebook. Because of this discussion, they also gained the understanding that Michigan Partners for Freedom is ready and willing to support the department and the work of the 2009 Application for Renewal and Recommitment and the proposed Program Policy Guidelines.

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### REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

For the first time at the Summit, MPF Local Leaders formed regional groups. They are

**Southeast** (Wayne, Lenawee, Washtenaw, Oakland and Genesee)

**Southwest** (Berrien, Kalamazoo, and Grand Rapids), and **Mid/**

**Northern Michigan**

(Manistee/Benzie, Alpena, Bay City, Clare). Each facilitated group worked together to discover their strengths, the needs of their community and three things to work on as a region. Building demand for self-determination is

challenging because of the differing interpretations within local community mental health agencies and recognition of the capabilities of citizens with disabilities. Working together as regions gives the Local Leaders the ability to spread the word about self-determination and build capacity.

### Who Are the Regional Coordinators?

**Southeast:**

Angela Martin  
[aa7939@wayne.edu](mailto:aa7939@wayne.edu)  
 313. 577. 9470

**Southwest:**

Pat Carver  
[pcarver@chartermi.net](mailto:pcarver@chartermi.net)  
 810.231.6364

**Mid/Northern:**

Jan Lampman  
[jlampman @  
 thearcofmidland.org](mailto:jlampman@thearcofmidland.org)  
 989. 631.4439

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***A policy is a temporary creed liable to be changed,  
 but while it holds good it has got to be  
 pursued with apostolic zeal.***

**Mohandas Gandhi**

## 2009 Local Coordinators

Michigan Partners for Freedom would like to express their gratitude for these committed coordinators who bring together the many elements of self-determination working in their local communities.

**Ami Adamski**  
Oakland

**Kathy Ellis**  
Berrien

**Paul Esman**  
Kalamazoo

**Tammy Finn**  
Kent

**Kevin Griffith**  
Bay City

**Deb Hemgesberg**  
Alpena

**George Ott**  
Manistee/Benzie

**Anne Marie Koelbel**  
Mt. Pleasant

**Lori Owen**  
Genesee

**Scott Whitehouse**  
Lenawee

*“We all learn from each other”  
...and other comments from the 2009 Summit*

### **Re-Energized**

I always enjoy these gatherings – they are important to get re-energized and re-connected with people who believe in what we are doing.

I understand what I need to do in my country with help from my support for Michigan Partners for Freedom.

I am much more motivated to get the word out about self-determination.

Inspirational. Gets us fired up to do more.

I love coming here. It makes me ready to start over and fight on.

### **Re-Connected**

We are all a team to keep it going. Self-Determination is where it's at!

Very well put together. Everyone was so helpful. We learn a lot of new things.

New ideas to connect to community organizations were generated.

### **Ready**

Good steps to move forward in our local community.

I love the fact that we leave with a plan.

Good focus on urgency of spreading message.

We all learn from each other.

*“The Summit was terrific! I was very impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of the local leaders.*

*What a great group!*

*Congratulations to Partners for identifying so many super advocates.”*

- Cheryl Trommater,  
Grants Manager  
Michigan Developmental  
Disabilities Council



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# The **Arc** Michigan

**MICHIGAN PARTNERS  
FOR FREEDOM**

**c/o The Arc Michigan**

1325 S. Washington Ave.

Lansing, MI 48910

1-800-292-7851 ext 105

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



**Building Statewide Demand  
For Self-Determination**

**Michigan Partners for Freedom is a grassroots movement of people with disabilities, family members, advocates, and organizations working in the field of disabilities to make Self-Determination a reality for all Michigan citizens.**

**To join call 1-800-292-7851 ext. 105  
or visit [www.mifreedom.org](http://www.mifreedom.org)**