

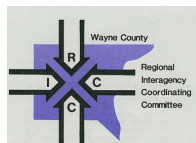
ENVISIONING THE FUTURE



ALLIES IN SELF-ADVOCACY



Michigan *Self-Advocacy Organizations: What are their major activities or functions?*



Local, grassroots, group of people with developmental disabilities, their friends and family members. Functions: (1) to provide a forum for addressing local issues; (2) to outreach to diverse populations of people with developmental disabilities and their families; (3) advocating for needed changes in the community, and (4) to inform the DD Council about local conditions for persons with developmental disabilities



Building Statewide Demand
For Self-Determination

1. 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.
2. Local Leaders are people with disabilities who inform others with disabilities and their families about Self-Determination

The Self-Advocacy Network of Michigan



To be a resource that provides technical assistance on self-advocacy and self determination and to advocate as a collective body across Michigan on issues in the disability community.

What are the resources for the self-advocacy organizations?



Sarah Townsend speaks at the Closure Celebration of Mount Pleasant Center

Name of self-advocacy organization	Who provides the resource(s)?	What resource(s) is provided?
Regional Interagency Consumer Committees	Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council	Up to a \$4,000 local grant
Michigan Self-Advocacy Network, The Arc Michigan	Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation	<i>Formerly</i> a private grant; ongoing in-kind support from local Arc chapters
Michigan Partners for Freedom	Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council Michigan Department of Community Health National Center for Participant-Directed Services	State and National Grants; in-kind support from local resources

What has worked in Michigan for self-advocacy organizations?

- Issue focused approaches
- Local initiatives
- Ongoing mentoring and technical assistance is provided
- Cross-interest collaborations



Leon Jones, Wayne RICC Member presenting testimony before Michigan House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee

A background image of a city skyline at night, with illuminated skyscrapers and buildings reflected in the water. The scene is viewed from across a body of water, likely a bay or harbor.

What are some challenges or struggles that your state self-advocacy organizations have faced?

- Funding: Short-term, limited amount, traditional funding sources do not directly advocate skill development or activities
- Sustained self-advocate involvement
- Lack of resources to support individual/local advocacy activities
 - Administrative support
 - Travel and personal assistant costs to participate in direct advocacy



**Sheryl Kuenzer and other MPF
Local Leaders**



**Micah
Feldman and
his supporters
in front of
the
courthouse**

- Local advocacy efforts on specific issues such as cuts to transportation or services
- Statewide advocacy efforts such as the closure to Michigan's last institution
- Willingness of people to share their story with policymakers and community leaders
- Self-Advocates as Leaders: members of community boards and committees

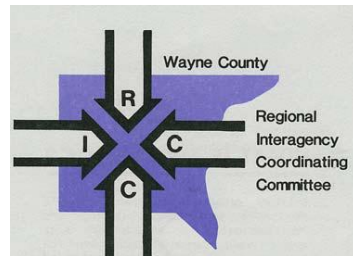
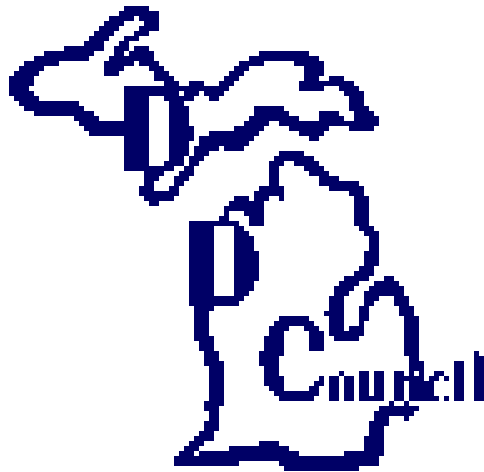
What goals or dreams does Michigan have for self-advocacy?



Andre Robinson, Chair (MDDC) and Vendella Collins, Executive Director of Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council's 2011 Awards

- Leadership development: training and technical support
- Regional support for self-advocacy groups
- Support the involvement of people with complex needs
- Opportunities for mentorship amongst self-advocates
- Participation in the public policy process

Michigan Team Members



Michigan Team Members

**Charlyss Brandon, Michigan
Department of Community Health**

**Elmer Cerano, Executive Director,
Michigan Protection and
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**Vendela Collins, Executive Director,
Michigan Developmental
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**Micah Fialka-Feldman, Governing
Board Member, National Youth
Leadership Network; Board
Member, Michigan Protection and
Advocacy Services**

**Leon Jones, Member of the Wayne
County Regional Interagency
Consumer Committee**

**Sheryl Kuenzer, Member of the
Michigan Developmental
Disabilities Council; Michigan
Partners for Freedom Local
Leader**

**Angela Martin, Staff, Developmental
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