



# Michigan Partners For Freedom

Spring 2016

## Meet the New Boss



Michigan Partners for Freedom (MPF) has been sponsored by The Arc Michigan <http://www.arcmi.org> since 2004.

MPF is surely GRATEFUL to this statewide advocacy agency that values and upholds the rights of citizens with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) and their families. The Arc Michigan supports the opportunity to use arrangements that support Self-Determination. We are also pleased that a former MPF Coordinator, Sherri Boyd, assumed the official leadership of The Arc Michigan mid-2015.

As Executive Director, Boyd leads the state advocacy efforts at eliminating barriers to full social integration and economic justice for the approximate 33,000 persons with I/DD who live in Michigan. The Arc Michigan does this through a variety of projects.

Prior to taking the reins at The Arc Michigan, Boyd headed the federally funded Parent Training and Information Center at The Arc Michigan, called Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF). <http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org>. MAF connects Michigan families who have a child with disabilities to resources that help improve their child's education.

MAF Co-Directors Caryn Pack Ivey and Michelle Miller, say about their former supervisor: "As Director of Michigan Alliance for Families, Sherri Boyd's leadership was vital! Her fiscal knowledge, expertise in big picture thinking and daily operations, along with her welcoming management style provided the support that has contributed greatly to the success of the project."



Additionally Ms. Boyd works with 35 local Arc affiliates while maintaining The Arc Michigan's status as a chapter in good standing with The Arc of the United States. <http://www.thearc.org/>

"When I dare to be powerful - to use my strength in the service of my vision then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

- Audre Lorde



## Focus on UP Local Leader

Justin Rankin became a Local Leader in 2006 in Oakland County during the early years of Michigan Partners for Freedom. Justin said in a recent call, "Being a part of Michigan Partners for Freedom (MPF) has let me help others and helped me to be in the community."

Though he has moved several times, Justin has gotten involved in each of the communities he's lived. In 2014 Justin moved to Escanaba, making him the only Local Leader in the Upper Peninsula.



Shortly after arriving in the UP, due to a lack of employment opportunities, Justin began his own company, J-Bird Productions, a DJ business for parties and weddings. He offers music, Karaoke, lighted dance floors, and DVDs of the songs played. Justin is technology savvy and J-Bird Productions has a Facebook page and Twitter account. [www.facebook.com/JBirdProductions](http://www.facebook.com/JBirdProductions)

In 2015 Justin started a non-profit, Community Drive of the Upper Peninsula. The tag line for his organization is, "Self-Determination, It's a Way of Life". The group works to help people with disabilities get the supports they need to have the life they want.

This past year Justin also joined the MPF Steering Committee and is interested in the new self-advocacy group beginning through the Developmental Disabilities Council. He is also active in Taekwondo and loves science fiction.

### Updated Fiscal Intermediary Data Coming

The Center for Urban Studies, with funding from the DD Council, will be updating their report on fiscal intermediary use at CMHs. We expect to have the report in May and will share it with you!



For now, you can see the current report at:

<http://www.mifreedom.org/images/FiscalIntermediary20150318.pdf>



"When you have a disability, knowing that you are not defined by it is the sweetest feeling."

- "In My Dreams I Dance ", Autobiography by Anne Wafula Strike

## MPF Received Well Internationally



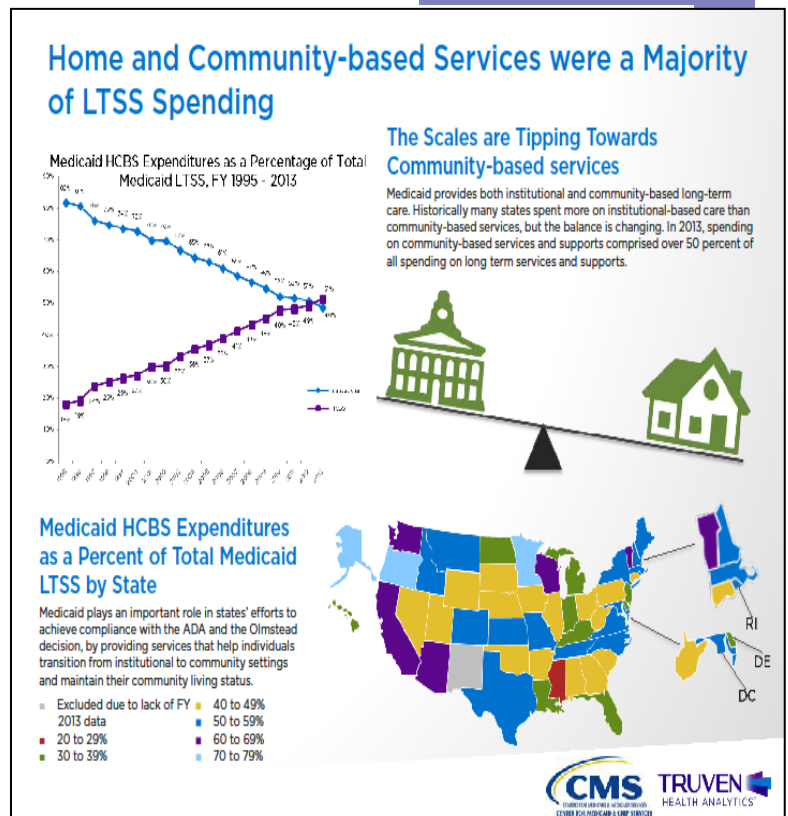
People from all over the world learned about MPF at the “**Claiming Full Citizenship: Self Determination, Personalization and Individualized Funding 2015 International Conference** (<http://interprofessional.ubc.ca/ClaimingFullCitizenship2015>) in Canada last fall.

MPF Consultants Pat Carver and Angela Martin shared the scoop about “Building a Movement to Advance Self-Determination: Michigan Partners for Freedom.” They also showed how MPF Local Leaders are using

Fiscal Intermediary data (<http://www.mifreedom.org/images/FiscalIntermediary20150318.pdf>) to advance self-direction of services and supports in Michigan. Angela and Pat joined 23 representatives from the US along with hundreds from Australia, Canada, England, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Scotland, South Korea and Sweden. Together the attendees learned about current research on the efficacy, cost, and outcomes of self-determination. They discussed past mistakes, oversights, and examined viable policies and implementation strategies.

## THE RIGHT DIRECTION: It's all about Freedom

At last, home and community living is the majority practice in the United States within long term services and supports. We have tipped the scales. Now more Medicaid long terms services and supports is used for people to live in their homes and be in their community. The percentage of Long-Term Services and Supports spending for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) increased from 49% in 1995 to 51% in 2013. Visit for more info: <http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/long-term-services-and-supports/downloads/ltss-presentation-jul-31.pdf>



## EXAMPLE: PRACTICAL DRAFT BY AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

**PRESUME** that guardianship is not needed.

**REASONS** for concern – “What’s the problem?”

**ASK** if the problem is temporary or easily addressable- “What’s the root cause?”

**COMMUNITY** Connect with resources – “What would it take to solve the problem?” and “Who can provide that?”

**TEAM** Has the person already identified people s/he wants to work with?

**IDENTIFY** if the person does not have a team, examine abilities, limitations, wants, needs, and contacts to see if a team can be made or supports provided

**CHALLENGES** Are there potential problems with team members or resources?

**APPOINT** If the person wants to give someone else the power to support or make decisions, help the person do it consistent with his or her wishes

**LIMIT** As a last resort, seek a guardianship limited to **ONLY** those areas the person cannot make decisions with or without support

National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making  
EVERYONE has the Right to Make Choices

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## From Tipping the Scales to the Fine Art of Supported Decision Making

Supported Decision Making is a way to support people with disabilities in making choices, increase their access to positive life outcomes, and reduce the risk of harm. To help people understand supported decision making, the National Resource Center for Supported Decision Making (<http://supporteddecisionmaking.org>) use this word to explain it - **P-R-A-C-T-I-C-A-L**. See details to the left from the 2015 webinar series, “**The Fine Art of Balancing Protection with Self Determination**”.

Independent living is not doing things by yourself. It is being in control of how things are done.

Judy Heumann



### New Center Promotes Transportation Options.

Difficulties getting transportation is nothing new for most people with disabilities. Not being able to get you where you need to go creates distress and disservice. Lack of transportation blocks access to employment; limits life-confirming relations with loved ones, and prevents independence. Recognizing this, the Easter Seals and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) launched a Transportation Center (NADTC). This new national technical assistance center is funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The center will support more effective, efficient, high-quality and coordinated specialized transportation services.

NADTC will also provide information and referral services and training with interactive communication. It will offer grant funding to support communities to assess local needs and develop innovative transportation solutions. To sign up for the Center’s e-News, email to [contact@nadtc.org](mailto:contact@nadtc.org) or call toll-free (866) 528-6278 to request technical assistance.

# NADTC





## MPF SUMMIT: ONE MORE TIME

Local Leaders save these dates for this year's MPF Summit: **Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**. The Summit activities will be taking place at the James B. Henry Center in East Lansing on MSU's



campus. Local Leaders will have overnight accommodations on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Candlewood Suites. This hotel is connected directly to the Henry Center. As with all previous MPF Summits, space is limited and Local Leaders will register through your Local Coordinator. Watch your email, MIFREEDOM listserv, and FACEBOOK for more information.

## Attention LOCAL LEADERS! WHAT'S NEXT?

Throughout the MPF project, Local Leaders fine tuned leadership skills. You've made hundreds of presentations about self-determination. Many starred in some powerful videos, print, and social media. At some point in the project, most of you developed a promotions tool about your knowledge and skills of self-determination (see at left). You created informative presentations that clearly shared how you control the direction of you life's path. You did this based on the principals of self-determination. Your messages were powerful and after hearing your story, local demand for self-determination grew. As the project enters its final year, we can relish in the fact that we did what we set out to do – increase statewide demand for self-determination.

Michigan knows more about self-directed services and supports because of you. For this we are all proud. Now we must ask, Local Leaders - what's next? How are you going to move your leadership further? We know that some communities honor self-direction and support people to plan and control services. Some allow for budget authority and trust you to be wise stewards of public dollars.

Others- not so much. This has not been easy, because implementation varies widely and unfairly across the state. MPF has been steady and with your local leadership in place, we must keep moving forward!

Now is the time to think about how you can maintain your leadership. How will you continue to share information about how the principles of self-determination (responsibility, freedom, authority, support and confirmation)? To prepare for the June Summit, we will be working to gather your ideas and create materials helping your future Local Leader role.

**Michigan Partners for Freedom**



Michigan Partners for Freedom is a statewide coalition of individuals, organizations, and businesses working together to support and promote self-determination for all Michigan residents.

For citizens with disabilities like me, Self-Determination is a way to gain more support, responsibility, and authority of our lives.

**Need a speaker?**  
I have a story to tell about self-determination and information to share.  
Call me! I am available to address any audience.

YOUR PHOTO:

**Official Local Leader for Michigan Partners for Freedom**

To Schedule a Presentation

YOUR CONTACT INFO HERE

Michigan Partners for Freedom is a statewide coalition of individuals, organizations, and businesses working together to support and promote self-determination for all Michigan residents.

About the Speaker:

YOUR NAME GOES HERE



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

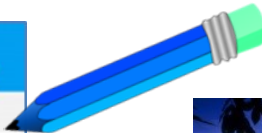


Michigan Partners for Freedom is supported by a grant (#2016030) from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council to The Arc Michigan.



Mark your calendar!  
June 2 & 3, 2016

JUNE 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



The James B. Henry Center  
3535 Forest Road  
Lansing, Michigan 48910

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