



Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services

Michigan's State Rehabilitation Council: Working in Partnership with MRS and BSBP as the Voice of Michigan's Citizens with Disabilities

Panel Members

- Carol Bergquist, Chair
- Kathy Flagstadt, Acting Vice Chair
- Kellie Blackwell, Treasurer
- Todd Culver
- Trina Edmondson
- Kelsey Hockaday, Acting Secretary
- Karen Wang
- Margi Williams

Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services

Contact Information

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About the Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services

The 17-member council reviews, analyzes and advises Michigan's rehabilitation programs and services, and advises the department director and governor. This is in partnership with Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP). Sixteen of the 17 members are appointed by the Governor and one appointment is made by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The State Directors of MRS and BSBP serve as ex-officio, non-voting members.

Mission

To improve public Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services delivered by BSBP and MRS.

Vision

BSBP and MRS will provide VR services in manners that are respectful, equitable and effective in achieving meaningful employment outcomes for people with disabilities.

Values

The members of MCRS believe:

- The right to choose is realized by access to all information.
- Work opportunities open doors to individual independence and participation in community life.
- A focus on an individual's assets and strengths leads to employment success.
- Person-centered goals, service plans and delivery systems lead to individual employment success.
- Shared roles and responsibilities improve satisfaction with the rehabilitation process.
- Collaborative partnerships with federal, state, local agencies and business entities are critical for VR system effectiveness.



MCRS is housed within the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES

MEMBERSHIP

CAROL BERGQUIST, Chair, Escanaba, representing American Indian 121

KATHY FLAGSTADT, Acting Vice Chair, Marquette, representing *Vocational Rehabilitation Programs*

KELLIE BLACKWELL, Treasurer, Lansing, representing *Applicants for, or Recipients of, Vocational Rehabilitation Services*

YASMINA BOURAOUI, Lansing, representing *Disability Advocacy Group*

JESSICA BRADY, Holt, designee of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

LISA COOK-GORDON, Melvin, representing *Disability Advocacy Groups*

TODD CULVER, East Lansing, representing *Disability Advocacy Groups*

TRINA EDMONDSON, Six Lakes, representing *Disability Advocacy Group*

WILLIAM ERNZEN, Bloomfield Township, representing *Business, Industry or Labor*

KELSEY HOCKADAY, Midland, representing *Business, Industry or Labor*

ELHAM JAHSHAN, East Lansing, representing *Client Assistant Program*

SHANA LEWIS, Lansing, representing *Michigan Workforce Development Board*

STEVE LOCKE, Auburn, representing *Statewide Independent Living Council*

KAREN WANG, Northville, representing *Parent and Training Information Centers established under Section 671 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

MARGI WILLIAMS, Mattawan, representing *Business, Industry or Labor*

Vacant: representing *Community Rehabilitation Program Service Providers*

Vacant: representing *Business, Industry or Labor*

MCRS FEDERAL MANDATES

1. Review, analyze, and advise the DSUs [also known as BSBP and MRS] regarding the performance of the DSU's responsibilities under the Act, particularly responsibilities related to –
 - i. eligibility (including order of selection);
 - ii. the extent, scope and effectiveness of services provided; and
 - iii. functions performed by State agencies that affect or that potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes;
2. In partnership with the DSUs –
 - i. Develop, agree to and review State goals and priorities in accordance with section 101(a)(15)(C) of the Act and CFR 34 361.29(c); and
 - ii. Evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program and submit reports of progress to the Commissioner in accordance with section 101(a)(15)(E) and CFR 34 361.29(e);
3. Advise the designated State agency and the DSU regarding activities carried out under this part and assist in the preparation of the vocational rehabilitation services portion of the Unified State Plan and amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluation required by this part;
4. To the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with –
 - i. The functions performed by the DSU;
 - ii. The vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities under the Act; and
 - iii. The employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals receiving services under this part, including the availability of health and other employment benefits in connection with those employment outcomes;

5. Prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) no later than 90 days after the end of the Federal fiscal year an annual report on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State and make the report available to the public through appropriate modes of communication.
6. To avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served, coordinate activities with the activities of other councils within the State, including the Statewide Independent Living Council established under chapter 1, Title VII of the Act, advisory panel established under section 612(a)(21) of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, the State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council described in section 124 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the State mental health planning council established under section 1914(a) of the Public Service Act, and the State workforce development board, and with the activities of entities carrying out programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998;
7. Provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the DSU and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the State;
8. Perform other comparable functions, consistent with the purpose of the Act, as the MCRS determines to be appropriate that are comparable to the other functions performed by the MCRS.



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Enjoy the Conference!!

See you at Exhibit Booth 16!

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