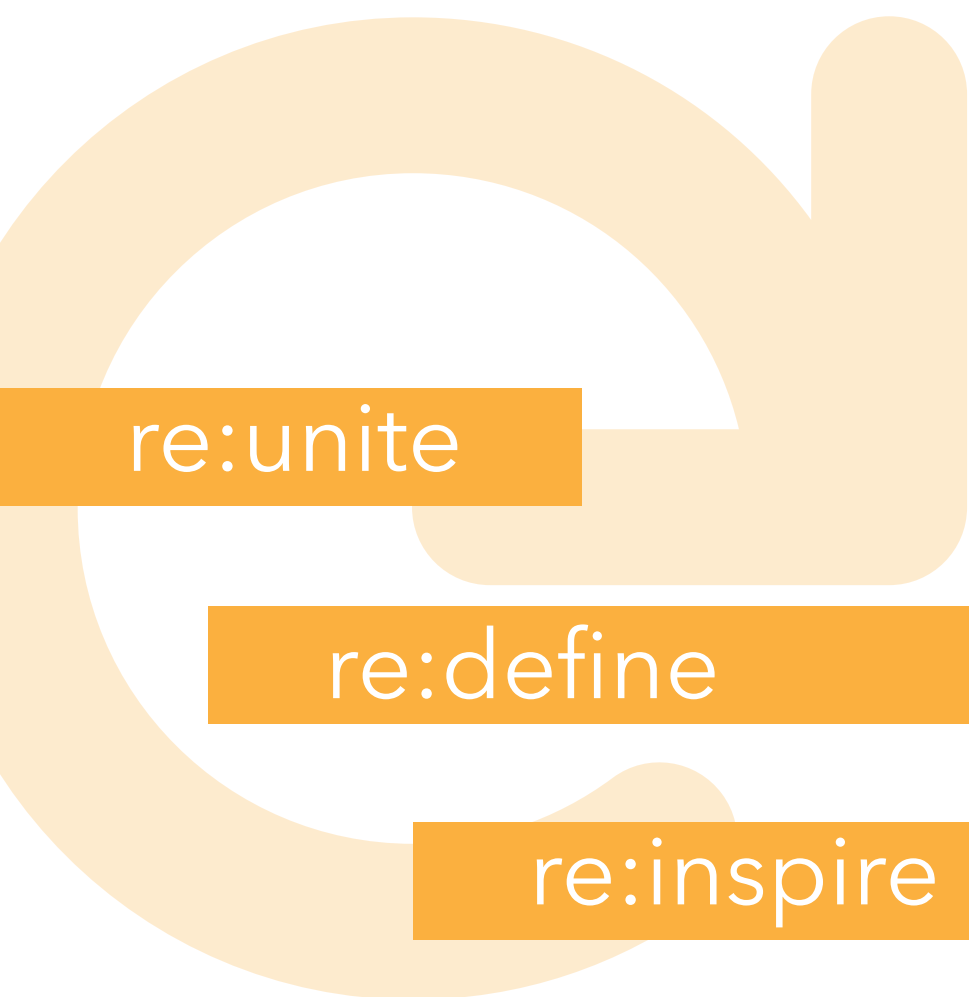


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Micro Enterprises	Table
Hannah Joy Spectrum Designs	A
Yarn It Darn It	B
Crafty Kitty's Creations	C

[illegible]

- Art from the Heart (Peckham)
- Art Without Limits (Dutton Farm)
- Artisan Corner (Work Skills Corporation)
- artWorks (MRC Industries)
- Creative Expressions (Gesher Human Services)
- Goodwill Art Works (Goodwill Industries of Southeast Michigan)
- Progressive Art Studio Collective (Services to Enhance Potential)










WEDNESDAY 11/5

	Glens 1	Glens 2	Glens 3
Noon - 1:00	Leadership	Employment	Behavioral Health
	Intermediate	Advanced	Intermediate
	Workforce 101: Removing Barriers For a Better Workforce <i>Dr. Mike Strouse</i>	The Impact of Mental Health on Job Satisfaction: The Mediating Effects of Self-Esteem and Primary Job Perception <i>Jiwon Seo Elijah T. Salahuddin</i>	Disconnected or Misunderstood? How Trauma Shapes Youth Behavior and Belonging <i>Detective Sergeant Sarah Combs Sarah Britton Quiano Davis</i>
1:05-2:05		Employment	
		Intermediate	
		CMH Rate Restructuring to Support Employment Services and Outcomes: Results of Evaluation <i>Dr. Lisa A. Mills</i>	
2:05-2:40	Kalamazoo Room: Break		
2:40-3:40	Leadership	Employment	Behavioral Health
	Intermediate	Beginner	Intermediate
	Artificial Intelligence in Behavioral Health: Opportunities, Risks, and Practical Steps <i>Joe Torres</i>	MRS: the Basic Overview and the Epic Partnerships in the Eastern Upper Peninsula <i>Ann Degeler Kristi Palmer</i>	The Invitation: Cultural Humility in Practice <i>Dr. Crystallee Crain</i>
3:45-4:45	Leadership	Employment	
	Intermediate	Intermediate	
	Strategic Alignment in Times of Change: Mergers, ASOs, and Back-Office Innovation in an Ever-changing Landscape <i>Paul Blatt Jeanette Hoyer</i>	Customized Employment: How to Partner for Success <i>Cassandra Wolf, MSW</i>	
4:45-6:30	Kalamazoo Room: Opening Reception Sponsored by New Horizons		

Prairies 4	Prairies 5	Prairies 6
Transition	Ethics	Disability Specific
Intermediate	Beginner	Beginner
Navigating First Jobs: A Qualitative Exploration of Self-Determination Among High School Students with Disabilities <i>Dr. Rommel Johnson, LPC, CRC, CAADC, NCC Stephanie Picazo, MS</i>	More Than Services: A Roundtable on Upholding Client Dignity <i>Todd Michael Dessie Johnson</i>	How Technology First Will Revolutionize Longterm Services <i>Susan Chaplin Margaret Overton</i>
	Ethics	Disability Specific
	Intermediate	Beginner
	Ethics Over Optics: Protecting Inclusivity in an Anti-DEI Era <i>Carie Branch</i>	Advancing Technology First: Transforming Support for People with IDD in Michigan <i>Lindsay Calcaterra Tracey Hamlet</i>
Transition	Leadership	Disability Specific
Advanced	Beginner	Beginner
Get 'Em Ready: Federal Policy Meets Inclusive Practice in Transition Planning <i>Dessie Johnson</i>	Safety Included <i>Katie Kinde Todd Culver</i>	A World Where All People Are Empowered To Navigate Relationships At Work <i>Mary Shehan, MS, QSE Frank Vaca</i>
Transition	Employment	
Intermediate	Intermediate	
Bridging the Gap: Strengthening Transition Services Through Collaboration <i>Panel: J. Foster, R. Mularz, J. Colliflower, V. A. Maloney, B. Hamilton-Reed, C. C. Yuen</i>	Empowering Learners: Data-Driven Insights on Independence and Career Mobility <i>Tekisha Lee</i>	
& Community Art Show Sponsored by Work Skills Corporation		

THURSDAY 11/6

8:00-9:00	Arcadia (lobby level): Breakfast with Apex Awards & MI-JPD Award,		
	Glens 1	Glens 2	Glens 3
9:00 - 10:00	Leadership	Employment	Disability Specific
	Advanced	Intermediate	Beginner
	Career Pathways in Action <i>Sarah Valez, Jack Schaberg</i>	What Google Maps Doesn't Show: The Missing Info That's Keeping People from Applying <i>Meegan Winters</i>	Break the Pain Cycle: Body-Based Tools for Stress Relief and Independence <i>Patricia Marchal-Dumont</i>
10:00-10:35	Kalamazoo Room: Break		
10:35-11:35	Leadership	Employment	Disability Specific
	Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate
	Strategic GPS: From Why to How to Wow <i>James Willis</i>	Community-Based Pathways to Employment - Practical Tools for Linking Community-Based Skill Building to Employment Success <i>Shannon Webb Dr. Lisa Mills</i>	Amplifying Voices: Teaching Young Adults with Autism the Art of Podcasting and Self-Marketing <i>Kari Thomas</i>
11:40-1:10	Arcadia (lobby level): Lunch with Keynote Speaker Misha Safran, PCC,		
1:10-2:10	Leadership	Employment	Leadership
	Beginner	Intermediate	Intermediate
	From Surviving to Thriving: Supporting Entry Level Employees Through Integrated Career Coaching and Resource Navigation <i>Chris Smith Torry Gargano</i>	Building Workforce Partnerships: Employer Insights on Inclusive Hiring <i>Jerry Block Shayla Packer Mike Israel Sarah Ring</i>	Transitioning into Leadership <i>Dr. Sara Grivetti, CRC</i>
2:10-2:45	Kalamazoo Room: Break		
2:45-3:45	Leadership	Employment	Leadership
	Intermediate	Intermediate	Beginner
	Be Our Guest: Discovering the Intersection of Hospitality and Human Services <i>Travis Atkinson, MS, LPC Michael Christy, MBA</i>	Paralinguistic Creativity: Infusing Disability Identity in Career Development <i>Robert Parsons, Jr., MA, CRC, CVRT, LLPC</i>	Artificial Intelligence as an Advocacy Ally <i>Laura Hall Frank Vaca</i>
3:45-4:40	Kalamazoo Room: Exhibitor Finale		

Sponsored by: Oakland Community Health Network		
Prairies 4	Prairies 5	Prairies 6
Leadership	Ethics	Behavioral Health
Beginner	Beginner	Advanced
<i>Utilizing Vocational Rehab for Inclusive HR Practices</i> <i>Jessica Diener Justin Walworth</i>	Supporting Job Seekers with Criminal Backgrounds <i>Christa Martin, MRC, CRC</i>	Artificial Intelligence Powered Service - A Use Case for Psychosocial Assessment <i>Dr. Kuo, Z. Chen, J. Seo, A. Lacasse</i>
Sponsored by: Gesher Human Services, followed by BOOM Awards		
Policy	Ethics	Behavioral Health
Beginner	Beginner	Intermediate
Advocating for Michigan Direct Care Workers <i>Stephanie Van Koeveering Angela Martin Jan Lampman</i>	Beyond Survival: Ethical Advocacy and Best for Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth Amid Civil Rights Crises <i>LaVendee Fulton, LMSW, MA</i>	Roots Before Wings: How Mentoring Changes Lives in Flint and Beyond <i>Tadarius Lowe Sarah Britton</i>
Sponsored by: Gesher Human Services, followed by BOOM Awards		
Transition	Ethics	Behavioral Health
Beginner	Intermediate	Beginner
Developing a Successful Pre-ETS Program <i>Jim Holz</i>	Ethics, Boundaries and Critical Life Skills <i>Dr. Rosanne Renauer</i>	Introduction to Dementia in Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities <i>Kristi Davis, CTRS</i>
Sponsored by: Gesher Human Services, followed by BOOM Awards		
Transition	Ethics	Behavioral Health
Advanced	Beginner	Intermediate
Parents' Perspectives on Their Parenting Styles and Involvement in Transition Programs for Ethnic-Minority Youth with Disabilities <i>Dr. Adriza Caesar, CRC, LPC Dr. Gloria Lee, CRC</i>	Ethical Dilemmas When Working with Persons Served <i>Christal Phillips, MS, JD</i>	Pathways to Reducing Depression in Korean Adolescents with Disabilities: The Role of Family Strength, Disability Acceptance, and Self-Esteem <i>S. Oh, J. Seo, M. Lee, J. Kim, K. Jeon</i>

FRIDAY 11/7

7:30-8:30	Breakfast (lobby level)		
	Glens 1	Glens 2	Glens 3
8:40-9:40	Leadership	Employment	Behavioral Health
	Beginner	Beginner	Beginner
	Who's Not at the Table? Making Room for the Stories We're Missing Wendy Erzen	Employing with a Heart and a Helping Hand Tracy Tanner Tammey Wine	The Communication Frequency Shonda Rushing
9:45-10:45	Leadership	Employment	 
	Advanced	Beginner	
	Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Streamline Vocational Rehabilitation Tasks for Individuals with Disabilities: Stakeholder Perspectives Dr. Connie Sung Dr. Matthew Smith	Executive Functioning at Work: Practical Strategies to Support Independence and Retention Taylor Picano Hannah Bals	
10:45-11:00	Break		
11:00-Noon	Leadership	Leadership	Behavioral Health
	Intermediate	Beginner	Intermediate
	The Necessity for Self-Care in Leadership Shonda Rushing	The Future of Grant and RFP Writing: Leveraging AI Tools for Winning Proposals Heather Janci	The Development and Feasibility of a Virtual Community-based Emotion Regulation Psychoeducation Program for Workers with Disabilities Promoting Work Wellbeing Dr. Lee, L. Mao, M. Jagota, E. Johnson-McNeal, K. Zwick

Prairies 4	Prairies 5	Prairies 6
Policy	Transition	Disability Specific
Intermediate	Intermediate	Beginner
Disability Policy and Legislative Advocacy Todd Culver Malcolm Kletke	Self-Determination Affirming With College Students Dr. Lynn Boza, CRC, LPC	Late Diagnosed Autistics: Unmet Needs and Resource Gaps Jessica Humiston, LPC
Policy	Transition	Disability Specific
Beginner	Intermediate	Beginner
MiABLE- Saving Without Sacrifice R. Scott de Varona	Creative Approaches to Youth Transition Services! Pathway to Success! Rene Dell	Empowering Transitions: Collaborative Strategies for Supporting Students with Disabilities in Michigan Rebecca Flatt
Policy	Transition	Disability Specific
Intermediate	Beginner	Beginner
Navigating the Future of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Sigrid J. Adams Maureen Webster	Advancing Sentence Writing Proficiency and Pre-Vocational Training of Junior and High Schoolers with Significant Support Needs Kate Connor Richard A. Price	Recentering with Empathy, Reigniting Joy: Creating Balance in Leadership and Life Misha Safran, PCC



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2025 Outstanding Employers

- **Checkers 575 E. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo**
- **The Salvation Army Plainwell, MI**

Outstanding Employer celebrates businesses that have fostered exceptional employment opportunities for people with disabilities and other barriers to community access in Michigan. These employers will have demonstrated a commitment to inclusion and diversity in hiring practices, training, and talent development. The award will recognize employers that have created a workplace culture rich with diverse perspectives, backgrounds, skills and abilities.

2025 Outstanding Community Partners

- **Deanna Holman, Muskegon ISD**
- **Mark Bontomasi, Metropolitan Detroit Area Hospital Services**

Outstanding Community Partner recognizes partnerships that have dramatically improved the human services field, serving people with disabilities or facing other barriers. This award honors the vital role and commitment of our community partners – often unsung heroes – contributing to the betterment of an existing program, or creating a new model that has positively and sustainably affected the quality of life for the people we serve – removing barriers, restarting lives, and restoring community.

2025 Transformational Leadership

- **Jo Sperry - Peckham**

Transformational Leadership recognizes an individual that has demonstrated the ability to develop and implement creative and effective leadership strategies; nurture valuable collaboration and partnership; and work across boundaries to achieve transformational outcomes with the people we serve. This could be attained through advocacy, innovative programs, partnership models, published research – solutions that have changed the game in a positive way.

2025 MI-JPD Awardees

Marianne Harpster, Geshar Human Services
Travis Timmons, Selective Case Management

The Job Placement and Development (JPD) Division of the Michigan Rehabilitation Association requested nominations for the Randy Cronewett Award, known as THE JOB DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD. This Award is bestowed on job placement professionals recognized by their peers for noteworthy service in our Field of Disability.



BOOM is a statewide award ceremony recognizing individuals with a disability who have excelled professionally or personally.

The goal of the BOOM Awards is to provide stereotype-busting role models for people with disabilities. Great inspiration comes from people who have done it and done it well – that's who we're celebrating.

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2025 Employee of the Year: Isabella Hoepfner - State of Michigan

The Employee of the Year is someone who has made a significant contribution at their place of employment. This person has displayed promptness, initiative and drive in the performance of their job duties with their current employer.

2025 Entrepreneur of the Year: David Cross - Bear Creek Metal

The Entrepreneur of the Year is someone who has persevered to start and run a successful business, for a minimum of one year. This person has displayed determination, inventiveness and tenacity as a business owner.

2025 Athlete of the Year: Tyler Keller - Wheelchair Basketball

The Athlete of the Year is someone who competes and excels in a team or individual sport. This person has displayed a high level of skill, continuous improvement and excellent performance in a series of venues or competitions.



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- Anita Jones, Work Skills Corporation
- Charlene Chandler, Goodwill Detroit
- David Klenk, Bureau of Services for Blind Persons
- Jileesa Irwin, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
- Megan Lingris, Michigan Rehabilitation Services
- Roy De Valle, Michigan Rehabilitation Services
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- Dawn Caracallo, New Horizons
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