

The Path to YOUR LIFE



**A guide to developmental
disability services in
Oakland County.**

Letter From the Director

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority is a Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) and a Manager of Public Policy Organization (MPPO) serving Oakland County citizens. We are committed to service excellence and county and statewide leadership in doing what is right with, and for, the people we serve. The Authority's mission is our focus.

Mission

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority supports **the advancement of social equity and improved quality of life** for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, and people with developmental disabilities.

We work to meet this mission by:

1. Requiring consumer choice and direction in all areas of organizational function, especially in the development and integration of support and service delivery systems.
2. Using effective resource management tools, evidence based practices, and practice based evidence.
3. Allocating increased portions of financial resources to direct supports and services in greater control by those served.
4. Partnering with people we serve, advocates, community stakeholders and quality provider networks.

We are pleased to provide this Oakland County resource guide for persons with developmental disabilities, their family members, friends, professionals and others who seek assistance. We sincerely hope it will guide you to the supports and services you need.

Jeffrey L. Brown
Executive Director

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority

The Path of My Life

I am 39 years old. I have been a quadriplegic since birth. In 1992 when my father became very ill, my mother was working and caring for both of us. She was driving me to and from school as well as taking my dad to doctor appointments. It became too much for my mom and we were desperately looking for help. We went to the public community mental health system (fully expecting to be refused) for help and at that time I was introduced to a new program called Turning Points, now called Life Program.

With services and supports, new doors began to open for me and provided much relief for my mom. With these services and supports I have received help in being able to hire my own care attendants, go out in the community on outings, help with attending camp and made it possible for me to live where I want. It allows me to be involved as a volunteer in Community Housing Network, which I am a board member, volunteer at my church and other activities I choose. I've also been trained to be an Independent Facilitator which allows me to help others plan the life they want and deserve.

Also, my friends at church are a natural support for me. They help me be involved in church activities including teaching a Sunday school class once a month. Paws with a Cause has provided me with a service dog that also helps me live as independently as possible. I also volunteer with Paws with a Cause by helping raise funds, doing demonstrations at schools and raising awareness about disabilities.

All of these would not be possible without services and support of the public community mental health system and the community. I am proud to be a participating member of my community.

Troy Butler

Changes of Information

The information found herein is intended to be as accurate as possible as of Summer, 2006. It is inevitable after this booklet is printed, an agency will move, change names, change numbers or no longer exist. If this occurs when contacting one of the resources listed in this book, please contact Customer Services at Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority at (800) 341-2003 for the updated information.

Using This Booklet (*Patience and Persistence*)

We have made every effort to present this booklet in a manner that is easy to use and understand. This booklet attempts to provide information that will reasonably direct you to what you need. However, due to limited space, the description of resources are more general in nature than a total detailed description of services. It may take more than one call to get connected to the right person at the right agency. Please be patient and persistent in your efforts.

How Do I Get More Copies of This Booklet?

If you would like more copies of this booklet, please contact Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's Customer Services. Their hours are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. You can contact Customer Services at (800) 341-2003.

THANK YOU

Our thanks to the committee members for their hard work and dedication in developing this guide. The committee members were from the following agencies: The Arc of Oakland County, Community Living Services of Oakland County, Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, Oakland Schools, On My Own and Macomb Oakland Regional Center.

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Chapter 1

What are Developmental Disabilities?



ART BY: RACHEAL SAKOFSKE

COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS

MYTH: People with disabilities don't have the same feelings as other people.

FACT: People with disabilities have the ability to feel love, joy, disappointment, rejection, etc. just like everyone else and demonstrate their reaction in many different ways.

MYTH: People with certain disabilities don't really know what's going on around them and are off in their own world.

FACT: Perceptions can be deceiving. People with disabilities are self-aware and like everyone, crave connections and a relationship with the world around them.

MYTH: Children and adults with disabilities can't make their own friends and also prefer to be with other people like them.

FACT: Most people with disabilities enjoy a wide circle of friends and acquaintances based on their gifts and interests, not ability. People with disabilities have friends with and without disabilities.

MYTH: People who have disabilities are sick and their disability may be contagious.

FACT: Disabilities are a natural part of the human experience. Individuals with disabilities have varying levels of need and are sometimes sick just like anyone else. Disabilities are not contagious.

MYTH: People with developmental disabilities are simple people that cannot learn or understand complex things.

FACT: People with developmental disabilities have an ability to learn. Their rate of learning varies depending on the person and their degree or type of disability. Everybody learns.

(Source Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary)

WHAT ARE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES?

Developmental disabilities are a variety of conditions that may become apparent during childhood or before the age of 22 and cause mental and or physical limitations. These conditions will likely continue indefinitely and result in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas: self care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and/or economic self-sufficiency. These conditions can include autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, mental retardation, and other neurological and physical impairments.

People with developmental disabilities may learn at a different pace or have difficulty expressing themselves to people who do not know them well. Some people might need assistance to take care of physical needs and/or might use a wheelchair or other equipment to get around.

Developmental disabilities have a variety of causes, which can occur before, during or after birth. Those occurring before birth include genetic problems, poor prenatal care or exposure of the fetus to toxic elements, drugs or alcohol. Occurrences during birth, such as a cut off of oxygen to the baby, or accidents after birth, like car accidents causing traumatic brain injury, also can cause developmental disabilities.

Total focus should not be on their limits, but as with all people, to continue to discover extraordinary abilities within them. While people who have developmental disabilities face a more challenging future than most, they still can enjoy a full and active life. What they need most is encouragement, understanding and the willingness of others to help them maximize their opportunities for becoming part of their community.

(Source: www.people-inc.org)

Common Disabilities

Mental Retardation

Mental retardation is a condition in which a person's overall intellectual functioning is well below average, with an intelligence quotient (IQ) of 70 or less. People of average intelligence score from about 90 to 110 on IQ tests. Individuals with mental retardation also have a significantly impaired ability to cope with common life demands and lack some daily living skills expected of people in their age group and culture. The impairment may interfere with learning, communication, self-care, independent living, social interaction, play, work and safety.

Mental retardation can be caused by any condition that impairs development of the brain before birth, during birth or in the childhood years. There are four degrees of severity of mental retardation based on IQ scores. These are mild retardation, moderate, severe and profound. Mental retardation occurs in all racial, ethnic, educational, social and economic backgrounds. Approximately 3% of any population experiences mental retardation.

Cerebral Palsy

Cerebral Palsy is a group of conditions characterized by impairment of movement or impairment of other nerve functions. These conditions are caused by injuries to the brain during fetal development or near the time of birth. Cerebral Palsy occurs in approximately 2 to 4 individuals for every 1,000 births. People with Cerebral Palsy have a wide range of challenges, from unsteady gait to an inability to speak or swallow.

There are four classifications of Cerebral Palsy: spastic, athetoid, ataxic and mixed. Spasticity occurs in about 50% of all individuals with Cerebral Palsy. Symptoms usually include reduced movement due to stiff or permanently contracted muscles. Athetoid (dyskinetic) affects about 20% of individuals with Cerebral Palsy and is characterized by uncontrolled movements (twisting, jerking, or other movements). The ataxic type of Cerebral Palsy occurs in about

one in 10. Affected individuals have difficulty with coordination while walking and moving the upper limbs. The remaining 20% are classified as mixed, with any combination of symptoms.

Other conditions may be present along with Cerebral Palsy, such as, mental retardation, but it does not necessarily result in all cases. Other coexisting problems include epilepsy, visual disturbances, hearing impairment, language difficulty, and slow growth. Cerebral Palsy is a lifelong disorder that varies widely in extent of disability.

Other Disabilities

Epilepsy

Epilepsy is not a single disorder, but covers a wide range of problems characterized by unprovoked, recurring seizures that disrupt normal neurological functions. A seizure is a sudden disruption of the brain's normal electrical activity accompanied by altered consciousness and/or other neurological and behavioral symptoms. Epilepsy affects 1-2% of the population of the United States. Most seizures are benign, but a seizure that lasts a long time can lead to status epilepticus, a life-threatening condition characterized by continuous seizures, sustained loss of consciousness, and respiratory distress.

Down Syndrome

Down Syndrome is a chromosomal disorder that results when a person inherits all or part of an extra copy of chromosome 21. The most common chromosomal abnormality that produces Down Syndrome (accounting for about 95% of all cases) is Trisomy 21, a defect in which an extra, third copy of chromosome 21 is present in every cell of the body. People with Down Syndrome have a widely recognized characteristic appearance. The head may be smaller than normal (microcephaly). Prominent facial features include a flattened nose, protruding tongue, and upward slanting eyes, the inner corner of the eyes may have a rounded fold of skin rather than coming to a point. The hands are short and broad with short fingers and often have a single crease in the palm. Retardation of normal growth and development is typical and most affected children never reach average adult height.

Congenital heart defects are frequently present. Thyroid problems (underproduction or overproduction of thyroid hormones) affect about 10 to 20 % of people with Down Syndrome, but these problems respond well to treatment. Although people with Down Syndrome have a range of learning disabilities, it is now recognized that their achievements may be most influenced by what is expected of them. This environmental expectation is probably the most important factor in determining the educational and vocational potential of people with Down Syndrome.

Autism Spectrum Disorder, Asperger's, and other Pervasive Developmental Disorders

Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) is a broad category that covers four different types of disorders. Autism Spectrum Disorder and Asperger's Disorder are the two most common forms and are usually evident in the first few years of life.

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder have difficulty accomplishing early developmental tasks involving language, communication, socialization, and motor behavior. They tend to have delayed speech, awkward movements, are unduly bothered by noise, and can become preoccupied with lights or moving objects. Some children with Autism Spectrum Disorder may function below normal intellectual levels, while others may do well in school but have social impairments. Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder benefit from early recognition and intervention.

Asperger's Syndrome is usually not diagnosed until after the age of three and it is more common in males. They usually appear to have excellent language skills but may have limited content and poor social understanding. The typical person with Asperger's has peculiar ways of speaking and a lack of social skills.

Asperger's and Autism Spectrum Disorder can be thought of as a continuum; at one end of the range are high functioning people with Asperger's and at the other end are people with Autism Spectrum

Disorder who are more severely affected and have mental retardation. Anyone with these disorders may fall anywhere on the spectrum. Every year between 100,000 and 200,000 children are diagnosed with one of these disorders.

Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS)

Prader-Willi Syndrome is caused by a rare birth defect centered on chromosome 15. Characteristics of the syndrome include developmental delays and mental retardation, behavioral problems, and uncontrolled appetite leading to obesity. Affected individuals also experience incomplete sexual development, poor muscle tone, and short stature as adults. Newborns with PWS have low birth weight, poor muscle tone, are lethargic, do not feed well and generally fail to thrive. At about two to four years of age, children with PWS develop an uncontrollable, insatiable appetite with excessive or rapid weight gain between the ages of 1-6 without intervention. The urge to eat is physiological and overwhelming. It is difficult to control and requires constant vigilance.

Motor development is delayed 1-2 years; speech and language problems are common. Mental retardation is usually present to varying degrees. Children with PWS often develop behavior problems, ranging from stubbornness to temper tantrums, and are easily upset by unexpected changes. Other common characteristics include a high pain threshold, obsessive/compulsive behavior, dental problems and breathing difficulties. PWS occurs in 1 in 12,000 to 15,000 births and is regarded as the most common cause of genetic obesity. It affects both genders and all races.

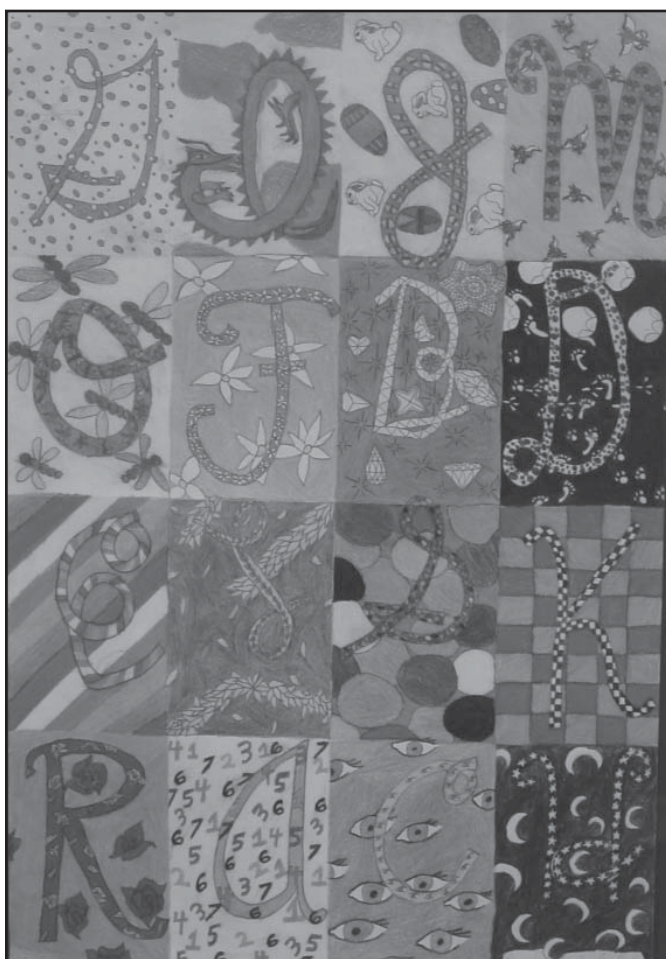
Tourette's and other Tic Disorders

A person with Tourette's Disorder (TD) has involuntary motor and vocal tics. A tic is a rapid, repeated twitch that produces a quick, sudden movement. A vocal tic is a sound made involuntarily. Tics may involve different parts of the body; the most common motor tics are blinking, shrugging, grimacing and nose twitching. Vocal tics may include meaningless sounds and noises, including grunting, tongue clicking, hooting and throat clearing.

Tourette's Disorder is thought to be due to genetic factors and faulty brain chemistry. Tourette's Disorder occurs in approximately four to five individuals per 10,000. It can occur in people with a wide range of racial ethnic backgrounds, and is about one to three times more common in males than in females. The onset may be as early as two years of age, but usually occurs during childhood or early adolescence and by definition before 18 years of age. Children with Tourette's Disorder are usually of normal intelligence and most do not have primary learning disabilities. It is estimated that 20 to 30 percent of all children with Tourette's Disorder outgrow the disorder in their teens or early twenties.

Chapter 2

Education



ART BY: RACHEAL SAKOFSKE

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Special education is instruction designed to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability, at no cost to the parent. Michigan's Mandatory Special Education ACT (P.A. 451 of 1976) and the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act 2004 (IDEIA 04) guarantee children with disabilities (age 0-25) the right to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

Ancillary and other related services may include:

1. Audiological, medical, psychiatric, psychological, speech and language or educational evaluations
2. Occupational, physical, recreational, music, art or other therapy
3. Counseling services including rehabilitation counseling, parent counseling and training, and school health services
4. Mobility services
5. Transportation
6. School psychological and school social work services
7. Instruction to students who are homebound, hospitalized, or placed in juvenile detention facilities
8. Services to pre-primary age children with disabilities.

According to Michigan law, your child may be eligible for special education services if he or she:

1. Is between the ages of 0-26 years. He or she must be under the age of 26 as of September 1st; and
2. Has one or more disabilities defined by law and determined by a comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation team; and
3. Has not completed a normal course of study and has not graduated.

If you think your child may be in need of special education services please contact Project Find. In Oakland County, the number is (248) 209-2258. Contact the Project Find Coordinator in your local school district through the Special Education office.

Early On Services

Early On Services is a statewide, comprehensive coordinated inter-agency system of early family intervention services for infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months who have disabilities. In Michigan, Early On Services is coordinated by the Michigan Department of Education and provides services under the Individuals with Disability Act (IDEA).

For more information and to see if you may benefit from Early On Services, contact them at: (248) 209-2084 or by visiting their website at www.earlyonmichigan.org.

Family Information Exchange (FIE)

The Family Information Exchange Provides:

Your Connection to other families through linking you with parents on local and state Early On Councils, other families in your area who have children with special needs, and other families who have had similar experiences.

Information and Resources for you and your family, including a packet of general and specific information for families of children with special needs, a list of resources throughout the state and nation, and information on how to navigate systems and benefits.

Your Opportunity to get involved with other families in making Early On better, including links to learning opportunities, connections with parent training groups, and the chance to share your experiences with policy makers to improve services for families.

Your Parent Voice on the Early On Interagency Team, a group of agency representatives and parents that helps oversee Early On Michigan.

If you would like to receive additional information, or to access FIE by computer or voicemail system, please call the Family Information Exchange staff at (800) 292-7851 ex. 128 or (517) 487-5426, or write: Family Information Exchange, The Arc Michigan; 1325 South Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48910. Email can be addressed to Char Blackburn at char@arcmi.org.

Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs, which serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women and their families. They focus on the needs of the whole family and have the overall goal of increasing the readiness of young children of families with low-income. In Oakland County Head Start is administered through Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLSHA). The contact information is as follows:

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency – Head Start

Phone: (248) 209-2700

Website: www.olhsa.org/headstart.asp

The Individual's with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 – IDEIA 2004

The reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) was signed into law on December 3, 2004 by President George W. Bush. The provisions of the act became effective on July 1, 2005, with the exception of some of the elements pertaining to the definition of a “highly qualified teacher” that took effect upon the signing of the act. IDEIA is a landmark statute that asserts the rights of all children with disabilities to a free, appropriate public education.

Special education laws give children with disabilities and their parents important rights not available to children in regular education. Specifically, the federal IDEA gives families of individuals with disabilities the right to:

- Have their child assessed or tested to determine their special education eligibility and needs.
- Inspect and review school records relating to their child.
- Attend an annual “Individualized Education Program” (IEP) meeting and develop a written IEP plan with representatives of the local school district.
- Resolve disputes with the school district through an impartial administrative and legal process.

Eligibility Under Individual’s with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 – IDEA 2004

Every school district is legally required to identify, locate and evaluate children with disabilities. After the evaluation, a child with a disability may be provided with specific programs and services to address his or her special needs.

The federal IDEA defines” children with disabilities” as individuals between the ages of three and 22 with one or more of the following conditions (Michigan law extends the age to 26).

- Mental retardation
- Hearing impairment (including deafness)
- Speech and language impairment
- Visual impairment (including blindness)
- Serious emotional impairment
- Orthopedic impairment
- Autism Spectrum Disorders

- Traumatic brain injury
- Specific learning disability, or
- Other health impairment.

For your child to qualify for special education under IDEIA, it is not enough that he/she has one of these disabilities. There must also be evidence that your child's disability adversely affects his/her educational performance.

Once a child is found eligible for special education, subsequent evaluations take place at least every three years. If you are not satisfied with the initial evaluation, or you feel your child's disability or special education needs have changed, your child is entitled to more frequent outside or independent assessments.

Individual Education Program (IEP)

The special education school staff has a process for evaluating your child and the development and provision of an "individual education program," or IEP, that meets your child's unique needs. The following are some important facts about IEPs:

- An initial meeting will take place when the school district determines whether or not your child is eligible for special education.
- A yearly meeting will also occur when you and school representatives develop your child's educational plan.
- Upon agreement, a detailed written description of your child's educational program will be written. You can request a change or amendment of the IEP at any time.

Every written IEP document must include the following information, although forms will vary from one school district to another.

1. Current Educational Status

The IEP must include a description of your child’s current status in school in the areas of cognitive skills, linguistic ability, emotional behavior, social skills, behavior, and physical ability. Current functioning may be reported in testing data, grades, or reports from a teacher’s observation. This part of the IEP must describe how your child’s disability affects his or her involvement and progress in the general curriculum. Formal testing or assessments of your child will provide useful information.

2. Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives are the nuts and bolts of your child’s daily program as detailed in the IEP, and generally refer to academic, linguistic and other cognitive activities, such as reading or math. While the goals and objectives are usually academic and cognitive in nature, there is no restriction on what they may cover. They should reflect whatever the IEP team determines is important to your child’s education. Goals and objectives can relate to physical education, how your child socializes with peers, even how your child will move about the school.

3. Instructional Setting and Placement

The IEP must include information about the instructional setting or placement for your child. At the core of IDEA is the requirement that children with disabilities be placed in the “least restrictive environment” (LRE), commonly referred to as “mainstreaming.” While IDEA expresses a preference for regular education, it recognizes that some children with disabilities should not be in a general education setting. Individual needs will determine appropriate placement. If general classroom placement is not appropriate, IDEA requires that the school district provide a range of alternatives, including the following:

- General education classes for part of the school day
- Special education classes in regular schools – for example, a special education class for children with learning disabilities
- Special public or private schools for children with significant difficulties, such as a school for emotionally impaired students

- Residential programs
- Home instruction, and
- Hospital and institutional placement

The IEP must specifically include related services - developmental, corrective and other supportive services, such as speech therapy, transportation or counseling services – necessary to facilitate your child’s placement in a regular classroom or to allow your child to benefit from special education.

4. Optional Components

The IEP may include other components, such as specific teaching methods or class subjects, or anything else the IEP team agrees should be included.

5. Transition Services

When a person with a developmental disability turns 18, there are decisions to be made. This transition to adult life involves all aspects of an individual’s life. Some of the major areas to consider include: employment, community living and continuing education. In the financial area, the person turning eighteen is now considered a “family of one” in terms of the strict income and asset rules for Social Security Income. If appropriate, it is at this time that many families apply for Social Security Income and Medicaid. (Refer to Chapter 5.) If appropriate, they also apply for Adult Home Services Benefits through the Department of Human Services. If necessary, they begin to discuss the need for a Power of Attorney and/or Guardian.

There are other issues to consider:

- Does the person with a disability have a Michigan Identification Card?
- Do they want to get a credit card to begin a credit history, which may be helpful if they wish to purchase a home sometime in the future?

- Did they register to vote?
- Does the family need to update their estate plan?
- Have they registered for Selective Service?

- *What is Transition?*

Every person experiences transition throughout his or her life. The transition to a different classroom, new school building or from school to community is a process that all students go through. It represents a major change in a student's life. Transition is an important time for students and families to plan and make decisions about the future.

Transition life planning is the process of preparing a student for the completion of his/her school program and of moving into adult life. Young adults will be faced with many questions and decisions regarding education, training, employment, living arrangements, financial needs, social needs, and community supportive services. The transition contact person, the special education coordinator, counselor and/or teacher at the local school district should be able to provide information and assistance in this process. Transition works best when the student, parents, family, school and agencies work together as one.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) requires transition planning for all students who receive special education services beginning at age 16. Michigan Special Education law requires transition planning to occur at age 14.

Michigan law being more restrictive provides more protection by requiring transition at an earlier age than IDEIA. IDEIA describes transition services as a coordinated set of activities for a students with a disability that:

- Are designed to support movement from school to post-school activities including vocational training, employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, and community participation.

- Are based on an individual student's needs, taking into account their preferences and interests.
- Include instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and when appropriate, daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

- *Transition and the Individual Education Program*

All students with disabilities who are 14 years of age or older, or younger if appropriate, and eligible for special education services, must be provided with transition services as part of their Individual Education Program or IEP. The transition IEP should be different from the traditional IEP in two ways: in the context for developing goals and objectives, and in the level of involvement of the student, parent and outside agency personnel.

For each student with a disability, beginning at age 14, the transition IEP should include:

- A reviewed and updated every year, statement of the transition needs of the student that focuses on the student's course of study (such as participation in academic courses or a vocational education program).
- A statement of needed transition services for the student, including, if appropriate, a statement of the connections between various agencies. This could include transition services in the areas of instruction, community experiences, employment objectives, post school adult living, and daily living skills, adult services agencies, and a vocational evaluation (as needed).

In order for transition services to be meaningful, they must be consistent with the student's vision and goals. Only parents and students can tell educators what community participation and employment means to them. It is then up to educators and adult service agency staff (examples of such staff could include but are

not limited to: a support coordinator from an Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority’s contract agency, from the Department of Human Services, or from Michigan Rehabilitation Services) to translate that into meaningful strategies which will give students and parents access to their hopes and dreams. For these reasons, students and parents are encouraged to provide input into the development of their transition IEP.

- *Transition Areas:*

If a student is 14 years old, transition planning is required by law, is based on the student’s vision, and should identify strategies to reach those goals. The transition areas identified in IDEIA 2004 include:

Vocational training – Employment

- Pre-vocational Training
- Career Awareness
- Vocational Exploration
- Career Exploration
- Placement/Employment

Community Participation

- Transportation/Mobility
- Recreation and Fitness
- Independence
- Service Organization

Post-school Adult Living

- Living Arrangements
- Personal/Family Relationships
- Self-Care
- Money Management
- Social Skills

Post-school Education

- College
- Community Education
- Technical Training
- Transition Certificate

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS) has a number of publications relating to Special Education. This agency may be reached by calling (800) 288-5923 or (517) 487-1755 or by emailing at MPAS.org. (Please see the advocacy section of this guide for a description of MPAS).

6. Due Process

Due process refers to your specific right to take any dispute you have with your child's school district – whether a disagreement about an assessment, eligibility or any part of the IEP, including the specific placement and related services – to a neutral third party to help you resolve your dispute. If you have a disagreement, you can go to mediation and/or due process (fair hearing). Mediation is the process by which you and the school district meet with a neutral third party who helps you come to an agreement. The mediator has the power of persuasion, but no authority to impose a decision on you. If you cannot reach an agreement in mediation (or prefer to skip mediation altogether), you can request a fair hearing, in which you and the school district present written and oral testimony about the disputed issues before a neutral administrative judge, who will issue an order imposing a decision. If you or the school district disagree with the decision, you can appeal to a federal or state court, or to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

For more information on IDEIA and special education law, contact the following organizations:

- *The Student's School*

Your first step should be to talk to the school social worker, teacher or principal. They are there to work with you and the student to ensure the student's needs are being met and provide you with information.

- *Oakland Schools*

A complete list of districts can be found at Oakland Schools website: www.oakland.k12.mi.us/ or a copy will be mailed to you if you call (248) 209-2000. In addition to the links, this site also has information regarding special education in Oakland County and contact information for Oakland County Schools.

- *United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Detroit*

www.ucpdetroit.org or (800) 827-4843

This organization provides information and guidance to parents and students in special education. They offer workshops that educate individuals on special education laws and can also attend IEPs to help advocate for the student's right under the law.

- *CAUSE – Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education*

www.causeonline.org or (800) 298-4424

According to their website: “CAUSE is a statewide, non-profit coalition providing free information, referrals, support, advocacy and workshops to parents and professionals working with children with disabilities and special needs.”

- *Michigan Protection and Advocacy*

www.mpas.org/ or (800) 414-3956

This is a private, non-profit organization designated by the Governor of Michigan to protect and promote the human and legal rights of people with disabilities in Michigan. This is done by providing information, advocacy and legal means when necessary.

- *U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS)*

www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS or (800) 872-5327; TTY (800) 437-0833

For information visit the website.

- *Michigan Department of Education*

www.michigan.gov/mde or (517) 373-3324

The federal IDEIA is binding in all states. The federal government provides financial assistance to the states, which are responsible for making sure the local school districts comply with the IDEIA. Most states have laws that generally parallel IDEIA. States can provide children with more, not fewer, protections than IDEIA does.

- *The Arc of Oakland County*

www.thearcoakland.org or (248) 816-1900

The Arc of Oakland is a non-profit United Way agency serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families throughout Oakland County.

- *College and University Assistance*

All colleges and universities that receive federal financial assistance must provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. These are guaranteed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which "...protects the civil rights of students with disabilities to a free and appropriate public education."

At Oakland Community College the following service is available:
Program for Academic Support Services (PASS):

The PASS program provides accommodations and/or services to students with a documented disability diagnosed by a qualified professional who requests reasonable accommodations.

PASS Office locations:

- Auburn Hills – (248) 232-4080
- Highland Lakes – (248) 942-3080
- Orchard Ridge – (248) 522-3480
- Royal Oak – (248) 246-2480
- Southfield – (248) 233-2780

Chapter 3

Public Mental Health System



ART BY: ERNEASHA FLETCHER

ABOUT OAKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (Authority) provides the extra support people with disabilities sometimes need to become equal members in their community. This increases their opportunities to relate with others, to learn, to work, to play, to pray, to contribute and to be the best they can be in their surroundings. People with serious mental and physical disabilities make valuable contributions to the community in which they live. Many hold full or part-time employment, do volunteer work and play an active role in community organizations. Meaningful work and community involvement diminishes the loneliness and isolation people sometimes experience when seen by others as “different.” Everyone wins when those with disabilities play an active role in the betterment of their communities. Learn more about Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority at www.occmha.org. Or contact the Authority at:

2011 Executive Hills Blvd, Auburn Hills MI 48326

Administration Office: (248) 858-1210

Customer Services: (800) 341-2003

Office of Recipient Rights: (877) 744-4878

TTY: (800) 552-8774

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's Mission Statement

The Authority supports
**Advancement of Social Equity and
Improved Quality of Life**
for adults with serious mental illness,
children with serious emotional disturbances
and people with developmental disabilities.

Who Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority Helps:

- Adults and children with developmental disabilities
- Adults with serious mental illness
- Children with serious emotional problems
- People who are in crisis because of mental illness
- People who need referrals to other supports and services
- Medicaid eligible persons who need substance abuse services

Person Centered Planning (PCP)

Individually, each person who seeks to and/or makes use of our services and supports has his/her own view of needs, goals and definition of quality of life. Person centered planning is the process by which these views and definitions become part of the individual plan of service.

Each individual who receives services through Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority will develop a person centered plan with assistance from their support circle and a supports coordinator. The individual may choose his or her own person centered planning meeting facilitator and invite anyone he or she wishes as support in the process; this may include family, friends and people in his or her community who can help with the plan. Together, with his or her support circle and supports coordinator, the individual describes the goals and develops a strategy to achieve the life that he or she wants. The person centered plan is a living document. This means that as the individual grows, the person centered plan will change.

Person centered planning is the process that promotes the individual's choice through partnerships with service providers and is a legal right under the Michigan Mental Health Code. It's the law in the State of Michigan. Person centered planning is the foundation of all Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority services.

Self Determination

The Authority recognizes, reaffirms and extends its commitment to person centered planning by enhancing the philosophy of self determination, recovery and resilience in the use of supports and services by the people we serve, regardless of disability.

The philosophy of self determination quite simply is:

Self determination provides a route for the person to engage in activities that accompany a meaningful life. Activities that promote deep community connections, the opportunity for real work, ways to contribute to one's community, and participation in personally valued experiences must be among the purposes of supports the person may need. These supports function best when they build upon natural community experiences and opportunities. The person determines and manages needed supports in close association with chosen friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers as part of an ordinary community life.

Self-determination is based on five principles. These principles are:

FREEDOM: The ability for individuals, with assistance from significant others (e.g., chosen family and/or friends), to plan a life based on acquiring necessary supports in desirable ways, rather than purchasing a program. This includes the freedom to choose where and with whom one lives, who and how to connect to in one's community, the opportunity to contribute in one's own ways and the development of a personal lifestyle.

AUTHORITY: The assurance for a person with a disability to control a certain sum of dollars in order to purchase these supports, with the backing of their significant others, as needed. It is the authority to control resources.

SUPPORT: The arranging of resources and personnel, both formal and informal, to assist the person in living his/her desired life in the community, rich in community associations and contributions. It is the support to develop a life dream and reach toward that dream.

RESPONSIBILITY: The acceptance of a valued role by the person in the community through employment, affiliations, spiritual development, and caring for others, as well as accountability for spending public dollars in ways that are life-enhancing. This includes the responsibility to use public funds efficiently and to contribute to the community through the expression of responsible citizenship.

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation recognizes that individuals with disabilities must have a significant role in redesign of the systems that support them.

(Michigan Department of Community Health Guidelines July 18, 2003 recognizes the first four principles; the fifth is advanced by the Center for Self Determination.)

Services

A full continuum of services is available through the Authority's service providers including:

- Supports coordination/case management
- Family supports and services
- Outpatient groups
- Medication and related enhanced health, dental and laboratory services
- Housing supports and respite services
- Home-based services
- Children's' supported living arrangements (including specialized residential services)
- In-home and community supports
- Respite
- Skill building
- School to work transition supports and services

- 24-hour intervention availability
- Jail Diversion Program - persons with serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbances or developmental disabilities who have committed misdemeanors and non-violent felonies are diverted to services as an alternative to being charged and incarcerated in a county or municipal jail. For more information on Jail Diversion contact the Jail Diversion Coordinator at (248) 858-1243.

The ultimate goal of these programs is improved quality of life for the individual and increased community participation.

Adult and Children Service Providers

For information and referral regarding services for adults and children with developmental disabilities call:

The Authority's Customer Service

Phone: (800) 341-2003

TTY: (800) 552-8774

OR

Crisis and Resource Hotline

Common Ground Sanctuary

Phone: (800) 231-1127

Services provided by:

Community Living Services of Oakland County

3270 Greenfield Road

Berkley, MI 48072

Phone: (248) 547-2668

TTY: (866) 469-7600

Fax: (248) 547-3052

E-mail: lballien@comlivserv.com

Macomb Oakland Regional Center

1270 Doris Road

Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Phone: (248) 276-8000

Toll Free: (866) 593-7412

TTY: (248) 276-8009

Fax: (248) 276-9833

E-mail: publicaffairs@morcinc.org

The Authority is funded, in part, by the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Chapter 4

Paying for Treatment and Services



ART BY: MARK TAYLOR

FUNDING FOR SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

People with developmental disabilities can benefit from services and supports. It is important to seek services and supports when needed. Some services and supports that can be provided to people with developmental disabilities include community integration, skill building, employment supports, respite, and other supports to assist people to reach all of their potential.

While services and supports can be expensive, there is often help available. Typically the cost of appropriate services and supports are limited to an individual's or parent's, in the case of a minor child, ability to pay. This section describes the availability of services through private insurance, public community mental health services programs, Medicaid, Medicare, and a number of specialized service organizations that may provide services free or for a fee based on ability to pay.

School age children with developmental disabilities can receive supports and services through special education funding. The federal definition of age for these services is from 0 to 26, must be under the age of 26 by September 1st. Detailed information on these supports and services can be found in the Special Education section of Chapter 2.

Most people will be able to identify appropriate supports from the following sources. If you need assistance you may contact Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's Customer Services department at (800) 341-2003.

Comprehensive Coverage

The following are programs and funding sources that support a variety of services for people with developmental disabilities.

Private Health Insurance

Private health insurance may include coverage for supports and services for people with developmental disabilities. If you or your loved one has a developmental disability, and you have private insurance, your private insurance may cover some services. Contact your insurance company to inquire what services are covered.

Community Mental Health Services

Each area of the state is served by a public community mental health services program. In Oakland County this program is the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (Authority). The Authority is funded by state, federal and local resources. The Authority is required to give services to those individuals with developmental disabilities who meet eligibility requirements.

The Authority administers Medicaid health services for people with developmental disabilities, but an individual does not have to be a Medicaid client to access Authority services. The Authority serves individuals with no health insurance or with inadequate insurance regardless of ability to pay. There is a sliding fee schedule for persons able to pay some of the cost.

The Authority may use public funds to serve these individuals, but the Authority will require these individuals to utilize services and supports offered by their insurance. At the same time, the Authority will augment insurance services with other needed services such as but not limited to; supports coordination, vocational rehabilitation, housing assistance, employment, respite and medication. In situations where an insured's co-pays and deductibles are prohibitive and an individual falls within the priority population of the Authority, the Authority will provide assistance by paying co-pays and deductibles or provide the needed services through Authority funded programs.

Fees for Authority services are based on the individual's ability to pay as established by state regulations. People with low incomes typically pay no fee or very small fees for services. Families are not responsible for the cost of services for their adult children, nor

are guardians of adult clients responsible for costs. For Authority services in Oakland County see Chapter 3.

Medicaid

Medicaid is a federally funded government program that provides medical care for people with low income and persons with disabilities. Medicaid has a broad coverage for a number of services to support people with disabilities. A person may be eligible for some of the Mental Health Medicaid Specialty Supports and Services available to them under the rules and guidelines of Medicaid.

Before services can be started, an assessment will take place to find out if a person is eligible for Medicaid services and supports. Not all people with disabilities are eligible for Medicaid services, and not all services are available to everyone eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid will not pay for services that are otherwise available from other resources in the community.

During the person-centered planning process a person will be helped to identify the medically necessary services they need and the sufficient “amount, scope and duration” required to achieve the purpose of those services. They will also be able to choose who provides their supports and services. They will receive an individual plan of service that provides all of this information.

To apply for Medicaid, contact your local Department of Human Services office.

Oakland County- Department of Human Services

Stoneridge E., Ste. 200E

41000 Woodward Ave.

Bloomfield Hills MI 48304-2263

Phone: (248) 975-4800

Fax Phone: (248) 975-4855

TTY Phone: (248) 975-4875

Health Care Programs Eligibility

Health care coverage is available to individuals and families who meet certain eligibility requirements. The goal of these health care programs is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise do not have the financial resources to purchase them.

It is very important that individuals and families obtain health care coverage. In Michigan, there are many health care programs available to children, adults, and families. Specific coverages may vary depending on the program and the applicant's citizenship status (some non-citizens may be limited to coverage of emergency services only). The Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS) determines eligibility for some of the health care programs that are administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH).

All of the health care programs in Michigan have an income test and some of the programs also have an asset test. These income and asset tests may vary with each program. For some of the programs, the applicant may have income that is over the income limit and still be able to obtain health care benefits when their medical expenses equal or exceed their deductible (formerly known as spend-down) amount. The deductible amount is the amount that their income exceeds the income limit.

Children- There are several health care programs available specifically for children.

- *Healthy Kids*

Healthy Kids is a Medicaid health care program for low-income children under age 19 and for pregnant women of any age. (Healthy Kids for pregnant women is discussed under the pregnant women heading). There is only an income test. There is no monthly premium for Healthy Kids. Most children who are eligible for Healthy Kids

are enrolled in a Medicaid health plan. Healthy Kids provides a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services.

- *MiChild*

MiChild is a health care program administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health. It is for the low income uninsured children of Michigan's working families. MiChild has a higher income limit than Healthy Kids. There is only an income test. Like Healthy Kids, MiChild is for children who are under age 19. There is a \$5 per family monthly premium for MiChild. The \$5 monthly premium is for all of the children in one family. The child must be enrolled in a MiChild health and dental plan in order to receive services. Beneficiaries receive a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services. For more information and an application, contact MiChild at (888) 988-6300.

- *Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)*

Children's Special Health Care Services is a program within the Michigan Department of Community Health that provides certain approved medical service coverage to some children and adults with special health care needs. Children must have a qualifying medical condition and be under 21 years of age. Persons 21 and older with cystic fibrosis or certain blood coagulating disorders may also qualify for services.

- *Under 21*

Medicaid is available to eligible persons under age 21. There is an income test and an asset test (beginning May 1, 2006) for this program. If income is over the income limit, persons may incur medical expenses that equal or exceed the excess income and still qualify for this program. Beneficiaries receive a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services. Contact the local Michigan Department of Human Services office to apply for this program.

- *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*

SSI is a cash benefit for disabled children whose families have low income. The Social Security Administration (SSA) determines SSI eligibility. The beneficiaries are automatically eligible for Medicaid and they receive the comprehensive package of health benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services. Most beneficiaries are enrolled in a Medicaid health plan. Medicaid may continue even if SSI stops. (See chapter 5 for more information on SSI).

- *Special Disabled Children*

Medicaid is available to children who received SSI benefits on August 22, 1996, provided the child meets current SSI income and resource standards and the definition of childhood disability in effect before the 1996 revised disability definition. The comprehensive health care package of Medicaid benefits is available. Contact the local MDHS office in your county to apply for this program.

Pregnant Woman

- *Healthy Kids for Pregnant Women*

Medicaid is available to an eligible woman while she is pregnant, including the month her pregnancy ends and during the two calendar months following the month her pregnancy ends, regardless of the reason (for example: live birth, miscarriage). There is an income limit for this program. The comprehensive health care package of Medicaid benefits is available. Contact the local Michigan Department of Human Services office to apply for this program.

- *Group 2 Pregnant Women*

A woman who has income that exceeds the income limit for Healthy Kids for Pregnant Women, may be eligible for Medicaid under the Group 2 Pregnant Women program. If the income is over the income limit, persons may incur medical expenses that equal or exceed the excess income and still qualify for this program. Contact the local Michigan Department of Human Services office in your county to apply for this program.

- *Maternity Outpatient Medical Services (MOMS)*

The goal of the MOMS program is to provide immediate health coverage for pregnant women. It provides outpatient prenatal coverage only. The MOMS program is available to provide immediate prenatal care while a Medicaid application is pending. Other women who may be eligible for MOMS include:

- Teens who, because of confidentiality concerns, choose not to apply for Medicaid
- Non-citizens who are eligible for emergency services only

The woman must use Medicaid benefits if and when they become available. Prenatal health care services will be covered by MOMS and/or Medicaid for the entire pregnancy and for two months after the pregnancy ends. There is an income test for all persons except teens. The local health department can help women apply for the MOMS program. Oakland County Health Department's phone number is (248) 858-1280.

Adults- There are several health care programs available for adults.

- *Caretaker Relatives*

Medicaid is available to eligible parents and people who act as parents, caring for a dependent child. These people are called caretaker relatives. There is an income test and an asset test (beginning May 1, 2006) for this program. If the income test is over the income limit, persons may incur medical expenses that equal or exceed the excess income and still qualify for this program. Beneficiaries receive a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services. Contact the local MDHS office in your county to apply for this program.

- *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*

SSI is a cash benefit to low income adults who are aged, disabled, or blind. The Social Security Administration (SSA) determines SSI eligibility. SSI beneficiaries are automatically eligible for Medicaid and the comprehensive package of health care benefits including, vision, dental, and mental health services. Medicaid may continue even if SSI stops. Contact the Social Security Administration to apply for this program. (See Chapter 5 for more information on SSI).

- *Aged, Blind, Disabled*

Medicaid is available to persons who are aged, blind, or disabled. There are income and asset tests. If the income is over the income limit, persons may incur medical expenses that equal or exceed the excess income and still qualify for this program. Most beneficiaries are enrolled in a Medicaid health plan and receive a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services. Contact the local Michigan Department of Human Services office in your county to apply for this program.

- *Disabled Adult Children (DAC)*

A person who had a disability or blindness that began before age 22 may be eligible to receive Medicaid benefits in his/her adult years. He/she must also be receiving DAC benefits from Social Security. Most beneficiaries are enrolled in a Medicaid health plan and receive a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services. Contact the local Michigan Department of Human Services office to apply for this program.

- *MIChoice*

The MIChoice waiver provides home and community based health care services for aged and disabled persons. The program's goal is to allow persons to remain at home to receive health services. If they did not receive such services, these persons would require nursing home care. The cost of care at home must be less than the cost of care in a nursing home. MIChoice Beneficiaries are not enrolled in a Medicaid health plan but still receive a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health

services. In addition, the waiver may provide other benefits to help the person remain at home. Contact the local Michigan Department of Human Services office to apply for this program.

- *Medicare Savings Program (MSP)*

The Medicare Savings Program pays for certain Medicare costs. There is an asset test. The income amount determines what is covered. The Michigan Department of Community Health may help pay the following, depending on the income amounts:

- Medicare premiums
- Medicare coinsurance
- Medicare deductible

In some cases, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) may refund the beneficiary a portion of the Medicare Part B premium on an annual basis. Contact the local Michigan Department of Human Services office to apply for this program.

- *Adult Benefits Waiver (ABW), a.k.a., Adult Medical Program (AMP)*

ABW/AMP provides basic medical care to low income childless adults who do not qualify for Medicaid. There are asset and income tests. ABW/AMP medical coverages are limited (e.g., inpatient coverage is not covered). However, pharmacy is included. Some counties have a county health plan that the person must be enrolled in to receive ABW/AMP benefits. Coverages do not have to be approved by the Michigan Department of Human Services specialist prior to receiving services, but some services may require prior authorization from the county health plan or state (if there is no health plan in the county of residence). Contact the local Michigan Department of Human Services office to apply for this program.

Families- Many times, the entire family may be eligible for health care benefits.

- *Low Income Families (LIF)*

Medicaid is available to families under the Low Income Family (LIF) Program. There are income and asset tests. Families that receive cash assistance (Family Independence Program or FIP) are automatically eligible for this program. Other families must apply at the local Michigan Department of Human Services office. Families don't have to apply for FIP in order to receive health care coverage under this program. Most beneficiaries are enrolled in a Medicaid health plan and receive a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services.

- *Special N Support*

Special N Support is available to families that received Low Income Families (LIF) Medicaid but are no longer eligible due to income from child support payments. Special N Support is available for four months. Most beneficiaries are enrolled in a Medicaid health plan and receive a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services. Your Family Independence specialist will let you know if you qualify for this program.

- *Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA)*

TMA is available to families that have received LIF in at least three of the last six months but are no longer LIF eligible because a parent has too much income from employment. TMA is available for up to 12 months and the family does not need to fill out a new application. Most beneficiaries are enrolled in a Medicaid health plan and receive a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services. Your Family Independence specialist will let you know if you qualify for this program.

- *Transitional Medical Assistance Plus (TMA-Plus)*

TMA-Plus assists beneficiaries in achieving self-sufficiency by extending medical coverage for families unable to purchase employer-sponsored health care coverage. TMA-Plus is available to

adults after the 12 months of TMA/MTMA. The family must apply and be eligible for the TMA-Plus program. There is only an income limit. There are monthly premiums based on the number of adults and how long they have been in the TMA-Plus program. TMA-Plus is not available for children. The Michigan Department of Human Services specialist will tell you about health care coverage for the children in the family. If available, the beneficiaries must be enrolled in a Medicaid health plan. Beneficiaries receive a comprehensive package of health care benefits including vision, dental, and mental health services. Your DHS specialist will let you know if you qualify for this program.

Medicare

Medicare is a government health insurance plan for people 65 and older, people under 65 with certain disabilities and people of any age with End Stage Renal Disease.

Medicare is available to beneficiaries of the Social Security Disability program after 24 months of receiving disability payments. Unlike Medicaid, there are no income or asset limitations. Medicare has several parts.

Medicare Part A.

There is no fee for Part A. Part A covers hospital stays, skilled nursing and rehabilitative services after a 3-day hospital stay, some home health care, and hospice care for people with terminal illnesses.

Medicare Part B.

Part B is an optional coverage and covers outpatient services. Most individuals with developmental disabilities are “Dual Eligible’s,” which means that they receive both Medicare and Medicaid. In that case Medicaid will pick up the deductible fees. There are also co-pays. For physical health care there is a 20% co-pay of Medicare approved amounts after the deductible.

Medicare Part D.

Medicare Part D is an optional prescription coverage program available to those individuals having Medicare coverage under the guidelines of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. Medicare contracts with private companies to offer drug coverage. These companies offer a variety of options at different costs. Some persons with developmental disabilities will fall into a general “Dual Eligible” category. These individuals qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid. A person in the Dual Eligibility must use Medicare Part D to cover their prescription before using Medicaid. Some people who are not Dual Eligible may qualify to receive “Extra Help” which is assistance with the costs associated with Part D monthly premiums, deductibles and co-pays for medication. In order to qualify for Extra Help a person will need to fill out an application available at their local Social Security Administration office. This application will identify the income and asset guidelines that apply to Extra Help.

Since Medicare and Social Security guidelines change regularly, it is wise to use the contact information listed below to obtain up-to-date details and assistance.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Phone: (800) 772-1213

TTY: (800) 325-0778

Website: www.socialsecurity.gov

Medicare

Phone: (800) 633-4227

TTY: (800) 486-2048

Website: www.medicare.gov

SPECIALIZED TREATMENT AND SERVICES

The following organizations are sources of specific medical, dental, and care providers services that may be provided free or at reduced cost to individuals with low incomes or those without insurance.

Dental

Oakland County Dental Program

Oakland County Service Center, Building 36E,
1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac 48341

Phone: (248) 858-1306

Website: www.co.oakland.mi.us/health

This program serves Oakland County residents who do not have dental insurance or Medicaid and who qualify as low income.

Costs: Registration fee is \$10 per family. Patient pays lab fees and a percentage toward partials and full dentures. Dental visit is \$10 per appointment.

Services: Exams, x-rays, patient education, cleaning and fluoride, sealant, fillings and extractions.

The application and current information can be accessed by phone or online at the above website.

Michigan Donated Dental Services

Judith Berry

Phone: (248) 489-2204

Website: www.nfdg.org

Dentists donate services to people who are permanently disabled, chronically ill and unable to work or seniors over 62.

Costs: Free

Services: For individuals who need extensive dental services. No emergency services. Currently, (January 2006) accepting a limited number of applications for Oakland County residents. There may be a waiting list for services. To apply you may call the above number and request that an application be mailed to you. You may also get additional information and download an application at the above website.

University of Detroit School of Dentistry

Phone: (313) 494-6700

Website: www.uofdmercy.com

Oral Surgery: University Health Services, Detroit Receiving Hospital, 4201 St. Antoine, Detroit 48201; first floor 2G. Call (313) 745-4696.

School of Dentistry: University of Detroit – Mercy Campus, 8200 W. Outer Drive, Detroit 48219. School of Dentistry (313) 494-6650. For appointments (313) 494-6700.

Serves the tri-county area.

Costs: Services are 25-50% lower in cost than those provided in private practice. They accept most dental insurances including Medicaid. There is a set fee for every service. There is no sliding scale based on ability to pay.

Services: Full service clinic

University of Michigan School of Dentistry

Ann Arbor

1011 North University Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Phone: (734) 763-6933

Website: www.dent.umich.edu

Costs: Services cost 1/3 less than services provided in a traditional dentist office. This program accepts most insurances including Medicaid. For people 21 years and younger there is no co-pay. For people 21 years and older there is a \$3 co-pay. There is a set fee for every service. There is no sliding scale based on ability to pay.

Services: Full service clinic. This clinic also has a Emergency Walk in Clinic from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tri-County Dental Health Council

Phone: (248) 559-7767

Website: www.comnet.org/tcdental

Referral service. Organization refers to low cost dentists and clinics for people who are low income uninsured or receiving Medicaid. Senior Citizens program for Senior's who are not insured and have a high need. Emergency referrals for dental emergencies.

Costs: No cost for referral. Cost for these services range from 10% to 30% of usual fees.

Oakland Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic

Highland Lake Campus

Phone: (248) 942-3260

Serves everyone.

Costs: One fee of \$25 for the whole process. Could involve multiple visits.

Services: Cleanings, x-rays, exams, fluoride, sealants. For more extensive dental work, refer to University of Detroit or University of Michigan.

Medical Clinics

Mercy Place Clinic

55 Clinton, Pontiac 48342

Phone: (248) 333-0840

Serves persons who have low income. Does not serve individuals with insurance.

Oakland Primary Health Services

46 N. Saginaw, Pontiac

Phone: (248) 322-6747

Family practice clinic. Sliding fee scale, with a minimum fee of \$15 and maximum of \$129. Bring proof of income (last two pay stubs) and picture ID.

Counseling/Psychologist

Michigan Psychological Association

(800) 270-9070

Information and referral to psychologists in your area. Can identify professionals who will work for reduced fees.

www.michpsych.org

Oakland Family Services

Counseling with fee based on ability to pay. Five Oakland County locations.

- Pontiac
114 Orchard Lake Road
Phone: (248) 858-7766
- Berkley
2351 W. 12 Mile Road
Phone: (248) 544-4004
- Rochester Hills
1460 Walton Blvd, Suite 220
Phone: (248) 656-3330
- Walled Lake
2045 E. West Maple
Phone: (248) 624-3811
- Farmington Hills
23332 Orchard Lake Road
Phone: (248) 473-1290

Website: www.oaklandfamilyservices.org

Catholic Social Services

Offers counseling services with sliding scale fees. Five Oakland County locations.

- Pontiac
53 Franklin Boulevard
Phone: (248) 334-3595
- Auburn Hills
3300 S. Adams Rd
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Phone: (248) 537-3300
- Farmington Hills
29475 Inkster Road
Phone: (248) 539-3592
- Royal Oak
1424 East Eleven Mile Road
Phone: (248) 548-4044
- Waterford
6637 Highland Road
Phone: (248) 666-8870
Website: www.cssoc.org

The Arc of Oakland County

The Arc is a non-profit membership organization working directly with persons with all levels of mental retardation and other related developmental disabilities and their families. It provides information about community resources, programs and services for people with disabilities.

Coventry Place
1641 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, MI 48084-3501
Phone: (248) 816-1900
Fax: (248) 816-1906
Website: www.thearcoakland.org
E-mail: tfk@thearcoakland.org

Jewish Family Services

Fees are determined according to income.

- Southfield
29699 Southfield Rd.
Phone: (248) 559-5000
- West Bloomfield
6600 West Maple Rd. **Phone:**
Phone: (248) 661-8100

Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (MORC)

MORC, Inc., is a private, non-profit, human services agency. It is a provider of direct care services to people with disabilities, so that they may, as true citizens, celebrate life, freedom and independence in the community. No fees for people with Medicaid. Ability to pay scale for those without Medicaid.

Oakland County Office:

Auburn Hills

1270 Doris Rd

Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2678

Phone: (248) 276-8000

Toll Free: (866) 754-3398

TTY: (248) 276-8009

Fax: (248) 276-9280

Website: www.morcinc.org

E-mail: Publicaffairs@morcinc.org

Community Living Services of Oakland County CLS/OC

CLS/OC is a private, not for profit organization that promotes and facilitates inclusion, full citizenship and a self-determined life for people with developmental disabilities. No fees for people with Medicaid. Ability to pay scale for those without Medicaid.

3270 Greenfield Road
Berkley MI 48072

Telephone: (248) 547-2668

Fax: (248) 547-3052

TTY: (866) 469-7600

Website: www.comlivserv.com

E-mail: lballien@comlivserv.com

Chapter 5

Income Assistance Programs



ART BY: DANNA CIARAMITARO

This chapter provides information on programs administered through the Social Security Administration, the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan Department of Human Services of Oakland County, and other assistance programs.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Most persons who are unable to work due to an intellectual or developmental disability are eligible for income assistance programs offered by the federal government. The two primary programs are Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), for those who have a personal work history or who can claim through a parent's work record, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), for those who have a qualifying disability but don't have a substantial work history to meet the criteria for SSDI. Under certain circumstances, each program may apply to minor children.

The eligibility requirements for these programs can be confusing. To obtain copies of informational booklets, and/or ask any questions, contact your local Social Security office or call the national toll-free number (800) 772-1213. Also, the Social Security website (www.ssa.gov) is quite detailed and user-friendly for research.

Local offices:

Pontiac

1280 Pontiac Road
Pontiac, MI 48340
Phone: (248) 754-1747
Fax: (248) 364-0527

Royal Oak

1515 E. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Phone: (248) 547-4431
Fax: (248) 546-0280

Farmington

23580 Orchard Lake Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Phone: (248) 471-0089

Fax: (248) 471-2087

If you are inquiring about a specific issue regarding your benefit, please work with your local office and always document with whom you speak. The Social Security Administration must provide you with a receipt of anything you report to them.

Social Security Administration

Phone: (800) 772-1213

TTY: (800) 325-0778

Website: www.ssa.gov

Personal telephone service is available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each business day. Use this telephone assistance service for general questions only.

TITLE II SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE (SSDI)

What Is It?

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is an entitlement financed with payroll taxes through the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) paid by workers, employers and self-employed individuals. To become eligible for a Social Security benefit, the worker must earn sufficient credits based on taxable work to be “insured” for Social Security purposes. Disability benefits are payable to workers who are blind or disabled, widowers, or adults disabled since childhood, who are otherwise eligible. The amount of the monthly disability benefit is based on the Social Security earnings record of the insured worker.

How Do I Qualify?

In order to qualify for SSDI benefits, you must have worked long enough and recently enough under Social Security, and thus paid into FICA. However, in certain cases, it is possible that individuals aged 18 or older, having a documented disability that began prior to age 22 may qualify for benefits on the work record of one of their parents, provided that the parent is already receiving benefits as a worker who is retired or disabled, or is deceased. The health insurance benefit known as Medicare will automatically come to a person with a disability two years after beginning to receive SSDI. It is best to contact Social Security at the telephone number listed above to determine whether the circumstances of your individual case fits within SSDI guidelines.

When Do I Receive Payments?

SSDI payments begin five months after Social Security determines the onset of the disability and continues until after the person has a job or is no longer considered disabled. It usually takes two or three months to process a claim for SSDI, depending on the time it takes to receive the necessary medical reports. If the disability payment decision is unfavorable, there are three levels of appeal for the claim:

1. Hearing by an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration
2. Review by the Appeals Council for the Social Security Administration
3. Federal court review.

If you wish to appeal, you must make your request in writing within 60 days of the date you receive the letter. Social Security assumes that you receive the letter five days after the date on the letter, unless you can show them otherwise.

MEDICARE PART D PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE FOR “DUAL ELIGIBLES”

Nearly one-half million persons with developmental disabilities receive both Medicare and Medicaid (a.k.a., “Dual Eligible”) health coverage. The Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement & Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) now requires that persons in this category receive their prescription medications through Medicare instead of Medicaid. The MMA creates a new Medicare program called “Part D” (Part A is for hospitals, and Part B is for outpatient coverage). If you already have private health care prescription coverage (e.g., Blue Cross – Blue Shield) that is “as-good-or-better-than” Part D, you should keep it. If you should ever lose your private prescription coverage, you will have 63 days to enroll in Part D.

All dual eligibles must enroll in a Medicare prescription plan to continue coverage. If you don’t, Medicare will automatically enroll you into the lowest cost plan in your area. You will be allowed to switch plans. You will also be allowed to request exceptions to the “formulary” or list of covered medications, and you will be able to appeal the decisions of the plan. Dual eligibles living in the community will be required to make a co-payment for every prescription provided on the plan’s formulary. For those below 150% of the federal poverty level, it will be \$1 for each preferred drug and \$3 for each non-preferred drug.

After January 1, 2006, all dual eligibles will continue to receive the rest of their Medicaid services as usual. For example, long-term care services and supports, or paying Medicare Part B premiums, and so on. For more information visit www.medicare.gov or www.cms.hhs.gov or www.ssa.gov. You may receive publications such as the Medicare & You handbook and a booklet entitled: Facts About Medicare Prescription Drug Plans by calling: (800)-MEDICARE [633-4273].

TITLE XVI SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

What Is It?

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program makes cash assistance payments to individuals who are aged, blind, and disabled (including children under age 18) who have limited income and resources. In Michigan, the health insurance benefit known as Medicaid will automatically come to a person receiving SSI benefits. The Federal Government funds SSI from general tax revenues. Most states pay a supplemental benefit to individuals in addition to their federal benefits. Some of these states have arranged with Social Security to combine their supplementary with the federal payment into one monthly check. Other states manage their own programs and make their payments separately. Michigan sends state supplemental checks on a quarterly basis. As long as you receive \$1 of SSI for the month you receive the entire \$9.33 or \$14 for the month depending on your SSI benefit level. Generally, to be eligible for SSI, an individual must also be a resident of the United States and must be a citizen or a non-citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence. Further, some non-citizens granted special status by the Department of Homeland Security may be eligible.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

Michigan Department of Community Health

Family Support Subsidy

The Family Support Subsidy is a community-based, family-centered support service program that makes it possible for children with developmental disabilities to remain with and to return to their birth or adoptive families. The subsidy provides a monthly stipend (\$222.11) that the family must spend on special needs that occur as a result of caring for a child with a severe disability at home.

To be eligible, the child must be younger than 18 years and live in the family home in Michigan. The family's most recently filed Michigan income tax form must show a taxable income of less than \$60,000. The Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team of the local public or intermediate school district must recommend the child for an educational eligibility category of either cognitive impairment (CI-Severe), severe multiple impairment (SXI), or autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). Children with autism must be receiving special education services in a program designed for students with autism or in a program designed for students with severe cognitive impairment or severe multiple impairments.

In Oakland County, the Family Support Subsidy application is made by calling the Auburn Hills office of the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (MORC) at (248) 276-8000.

Children's Special Health Care Services

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) is a program within the Michigan Department of Community Health. It is for children and some adults with special chronic health care needs and their families, by providing:

- Coverage and referral for specialty services, based on the child's health problems
- Family centered services to support you in your primary role as caretaker of your child
- Community-based services to help you care for your child at home and maintain normal routines
- Culturally competent services which demonstrate awareness of cultural differences
- Coordinated services to pull together the services of many different providers who work within different agencies

Children must have a qualifying medical condition and be 20 years old or under. Adults 21 years of age and older with cystic fibrosis or certain blood coagulation disorders may also qualify for services. CSHCS covers more than 2,700 diagnoses. Some common medical conditions that may qualify for CSHCS are:

- Cancer
- Cerebral palsy
- Cleft palate/cleft lip
- Liver disease
- Club foot
- Hypospadias
- Deformed limbs/amputations
- Myelodysplasia/spina bifida
- Certain vision disorders
- Paralysis/spinal injuries
- Hemophilia/blood clotting disorders
- Cystic fibrosis/other chronic lung conditions
- Hearing loss
- Insulin-dependent diabetes
- Muscular dystrophy
- Certain heart conditions
- Epilepsy/hydrocephalus
- Neurological disorders
- Kidney disease
- Sickle cell anemia

If you think you or your child qualifies for CSHCS, call the toll-free Family Phone Line at: (800) 359-3722 or contact the CSHCS office in Oakland County at (248) 424-7900 for information on how to apply. A CSHCS Medical Consultant will review each condition to determine eligibility.

Michigan Department of Human Services of Oakland County

(formerly known as the Family Independence Agency)

The Michigan Department of Human Services of Oakland County telephone numbers listed below may also be used to access the following services:

- Adult Home Help Services (a.k.a., “Chore Services”) – A person with a developmental disability receiving Medicaid and his/her family may qualify for assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADL’s) such as: eating & feeding, toileting, bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, or mobility. Also, assistance is available for Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL’s) such as: taking medication, meal preparation and clean up, shopping for food and other necessities of daily living, laundry, or housework.
- Food Assistance (Food Stamps)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Medicaid

Pontiac District I Office

This office offers child protective services, fostercare and juvenile justice services.

1685 Baldwin Ave.

Pontiac, MI 48340-1115

Phone: (248) 975-5400

Madison Heights District II Office

This office handles cash, food and medical assistance.

30755 Montpelier

Madison Heights, MI 48071-4698

Phone: (248) 583-8700

Walled Lake District III Office

This office handles cash, food and medical assistance, and adult protective services.

195 Ladd Road

Walled Lake, MI 48390-9906

Phone: (248) 669-7600

Pontiac District IV Office

This office handles cash, food and medical assistance.

235 N. Saginaw Street

Pontiac, MI 48342-2067

Phone: (248) 975-5200

District V Office

Central Administration, and foster care licensing.

Stoneridge East, Suite 200

41000 Woodward Avenue

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2263

Phone: (248) 975-4800

The Arc of Oakland County**Income Tax Guide**

An authoritative annual income tax guide is available each February at a nominal cost for families and individuals concerned about tax deductions and credits related to the care and support of a child or an adult with an intellectual or developmental disability. Call The Arc at: (248) 816-1900.

Chapter 6

Employment and maintaining your benefits



ART BY: CHARLES DILWORTH

There are many programs to help persons with developmental disabilities maintain employment, as well as provisions in federal law to enable them to make the transition to employment without the fear of losing income and medical benefits. Productive activity can come in the form of full or part-time employment, homemaking and child-rearing or volunteer work.

OVERVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SSDI & SSI

Many individuals with disabilities want to work. It is important for disability beneficiaries to understand that they can still receive benefits while they test their ability to work. SSDI or SSI beneficiaries who are working or interested in working should contact Social Security Administration about employment support provisions and how these provisions can affect their benefits.

Title II Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Eligibility

Eligibility is either based on having an adult work history that is paid into Social Security (FICA), or if a child had developed a disability before age 22 and if their parent is currently collecting retirement benefits, disabled or is deceased.

Cash Benefits

Rate of monthly payment is based on the person's work history. If the benefit amount is under the Federal Benefit Rate, Supplemental Security Income can be added to equal the Federal Benefit Rate.

Medical Insurance

After 24 months from the date of entitlement, most individuals are entitled to Medicare Part A with an option to buy Part B premium.

Those with chronic kidney disease or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) will have their Medicare activated the same month as they are entitled for SSDI.

Work Incentives for SSDI:

Trial Work Period

The Trial Work Incentive is the first work incentive to be used before any other Work Incentive. A trial period equals nine months. Work period months are counted when the individual earns above \$620 in gross wages within a calendar month. The Trial Work Period threshold is \$620 for 2006 (after 2006, it will increase yearly due to the cost of living).

The Trial Work Period allows you to test your ability to work for at least nine months. During your trial work period you will receive your full Social Security benefits regardless of how much you are earning. This is a nine-month period that does not need to be used in consecutive months, but within a rolling 60-month period (5 years) starting from the first month of earning above the Trial Work Period threshold.

After Completing Your Trial Work Period

Extended Period of Eligibility

At the conclusion of the Trial Work Period, as long as you continue to have the original disabling condition, the next 36 months will be an Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE).

When the Extended Period of Eligibility starts, you will receive your SSDI payment only when your gross wages do not exceed the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount of \$860 for 2006 or \$1,450 for individuals who are blind. The SGA will increase yearly due to the cost of living.

Grace Period

The first month that you achieve above SGA after your Trial Work Period is known as a month of cessation. Social Security will still allow you to receive your SSDI payment. The next two months following the month of cessation is called a grace period. The grace period will still allow you to continue to receive your SSDI payment regardless of your earnings.

If you first achieve SGA after the Extended Period of Eligibility, your SSDI benefits will end after the preceding two-month grace period unless you use the following Work Incentives to offset your countable earned income.

Using Work Incentives – One or more work incentives can be used to offset your countable earned income.

- Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)
- Subsidy & Special Condition
- Unincurred Business Expenses (Self-Employed only)
- Unsuccessful Work Attempt
- Continued Payments under Vocational Rehabilitation (must be approved before using.)

*The Trial Work Period & Substantial Gainful Activity will increase annually due to Cost of Living Allowance (COLA).

**Contact your local SSA office for more information.

Reporting Your Earnings for SSDI

Whenever you are working regularly you should be reporting to the Social Security Administration on a monthly basis. Social Security will give you a receipt to verify that you have reported your wages or any other changes that you report. Be sure to keep your receipt as proof of your reporting.

You may want to use a calendar to keep track of the hours you worked. At the end of the month, you can multiply the total hours worked by your hourly rate to get your total gross wages. This will

enable you and Social Security to keep track of which months you reached substantial gainful activity (SGA) within both the trial work period and the extended period of eligibility.

MEDICARE

When a SSDI beneficiary first becomes eligible for benefits, there is a 24-month waiting period before a person can begin to receive Medicare. Medicare Part A will be available at the 24th month with the option of buying Medicare Part B which will be automatically deducted from the SSDI check. For 2006, the Medicare Part B monthly premium is \$88.50; however, if you have Medicaid, this portion is covered by the state.

Following the completion of your Trial Work Period, your Medicare coverage may be extended for up to 93 months (7 years and 9 months) as you continue to work.

Coverage under Medicare Part A enables you to be covered for in-hospital care, extended care, home health services and hospice care. Part B coverage includes physician's fees, outpatient services, as well as other medical services and equipment.

MEDICAID for SSDI Beneficiaries

You may be entitled to receive Medicaid from the state in one of two ways:

If your SSDI amount is under the Federal Poverty Level of \$817 (February 2006): When you get a job, you will need to let your Department of Human Services caseworker know so he/she can enroll you into the Freedom To Work program (PEM 174). This will prevent you from going into a Medicaid Deductible (Spend-Down). Deductible allows individuals who are above the financial standard to qualify for Medicaid. They must "spend-down" the excess income on medical or incurred bills before they qualify for Medicaid.

If you meet your Medicaid Deductible amount: Your Medicaid Deductible amount will increase whenever you get a job or increase hours. Unfortunately, if you currently receive Medicaid through a Deductible, you are not able to enroll in the Freedom To Work program.

Title XVI—SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI):

How your earnings affect your SSI payments

The amount of your SSI payment is based on how much other income you have. When your other income goes up, your SSI payments usually go down. Your payments will automatically start again for any month your income drops to less than the SSI limit. You must tell Social Security Administration if your earnings are reduced, or if you stop working.

Eligibility

No work history, disabled or blind and under the age of 65

Cash Benefits

\$603 per month for an individual,
\$904 per couple (for 2006)
[Federal Benefit Rates increase every year due to Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)]

Medical Insurance Benefit

Administered through Michigan Department of Human Services

Working

As your income increases your Cash Benefit will begin to decrease.

Formula When Working:

[(Gross wages received - 85) divided by two] minus the Federal Benefit Rate.

$$\frac{\text{Gross wages received} - \$85}{2} - \text{Federal Benefit Rate}$$

*Federal Benefit Rate not including any use of work incentives.

Work Incentives:

Work expenses related to your disability – As with disability under Social Security, if you work, you may have to pay for certain items and services for which people without disabilities do not pay. For example, because of your medical condition, you may need to take a taxi to work, instead of public transportation. You may be able to deduct the cost of the taxi from your monthly earnings before the Social Security Administration determines your eligibility benefits.

Work incentives must be pre-approved by Social Security Administration. You may use one or more of the following work incentives to offset your countable earned income.

- Plan for Achieving Self Support
- Student Earned Income Exclusion
- Property Essential to Self Support
- Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)
- Subsidy & Specials Condition
- Unincurred Business Expenses (Self-Employment only)
- Unsuccessful Work Attempt
- Continued Payments under Vocational Rehab

*Must report any gross wages received during the calendar month.

Using Work Incentives:

As you begin to work, Social Security allows you to use different work incentives that can help decrease your Total Countable Income. This can prolong maintaining a SSI check.

The following are some basic examples of how some of the work incentives can be used:

Impairment Related Work Expenses-Deduction of certain impairment related items and services that you need to work. Examples: Mileage to and from work, medication or any other out-of-pocket expenses that enable you to work. These must be approved by the Social Security Administration in advance.

Subsidy and Special Conditions-Supports you may receive on the job from the employer or from an outside agency.

Plan to Achieve Self Sufficiency-A plan that allows you to set aside funds that will enable you to reach a specific employment goal.

Students Earned Income Exclusion – SSA does not count \$1,460 of student earnings per month (maximum of \$5,910 for 2006) when computing your SSI payment amount if you:

- Are under age 22
- Are not married
- Are not the head of your own household; and
- Go to school or are in a training program on a regular basis.

How long will your Medicaid continue?

Medicaid Coverage (1619a & 1619b):

In the state of Michigan, the Department of Human Services manages the Medicaid program. If you have any concerns regarding your Medicaid coverage or eligibility, please call your local office (see Chapter 5 for a list).

You are entitled to Medicaid (1619a) as long as you receive at least \$1 of SSI for the month. If for some reason your gross wages are high enough that you do not need to collect SSI, you may continue to be entitled to Medicaid coverage under 1619b status.

1619b Status:

1619b status enables individuals to continue to receive their Medicaid coverage. There are two factors: First, the sole cause for SSI payments to end is because of an increase in your gross wage earnings. Second, your annual gross earnings must be under the state's threshold. Michigan's threshold amount is \$25,241 for the year 2006.

If you receive Medicaid under 1619b status, Social Security Administration (SSA) "should" automatically notify the state's Department of Human Services of the change. Nevertheless, you should call your Department of Human Services caseworker to ensure that they have been notified of the change.

Medicaid - Freedom To Work:

If you know that you will be earning above \$25,241, let your Department of Human Services caseworker know so they can enroll you into the Freedom To Work program (PEM 174). Freedom To Work allows you to maintain your Medicaid coverage by paying a monthly premium. The monthly premium of \$50 begins when an individual earns more than \$45,000 per year.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

There are programs available to individuals with developmental disabilities in Oakland County that they can use to better prepare themselves to work and maintain employment. They may be accessed by contacting: Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and Michigan Works. A description of these programs is provided in this chapter.

Your Ticket to Work Program

With the Ticket to Work program, Social Security sends you a "ticket" that can be used to obtain vocational rehabilitation, job training referrals and other employment support service free of

charge through Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies. You will not need to undergo medical review while you are using the ticket.

You can get more information about the Ticket to Work Program by calling Maximus, Inc., the Ticket Program Manager, at (866) 968-7842 toll-free; TTY (866) 833-2967. Or you can call Social Security Administration's toll-free number, (800) 772-1213; TTY (800) 325-0778 and ask for a copy of Your Ticket to Work (Publication No. 05-10061). Additional information can be found at www.yourtickettowork.com.

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth – Rehabilitation Services

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) is a state and federally funded program that assists eligible individuals to prepare for, find, and keep a job that matches their interests and abilities.

According to MRS, a person with a disability is eligible for MRS services if the disability causes substantial problems in getting or keeping a job. The person must also need vocational rehabilitation services in order to work. All applicants for MRS are presumed able to work.

The rehabilitation process includes partnering you with a counselor who will lead you through the following steps of the rehabilitation process:

- Assessment of your abilities and rehabilitation needs.
- Development and agreement upon an Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE), outlining employment goals. This is renewed annually and can be changed if necessary.
- The final goal: you and the counselor work together to find employment for you.

The MRS offices in Oakland County are:

Oak Park

25900 Greenfield #303

Oak Park, MI 48237

Phone: (248) 968-5003

Pontiac

2805 Pontiac Lake Road, Suite 1A

Waterford, MI 48328-2680

Phone: (248) 706-2600

Michigan Works-Oakland County

The Michigan Works System is designed to help people prepare for work. Michigan Works provides assistance to both job seekers and employers. Individuals are provided with an opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills while working toward achieving economic self-sufficiency. The system is open to everyone interested in finding a job or getting career information. The following are the services available under the Michigan Works Program for Oakland County Residents:

- **Adult and Community Education**
Adult and Enhancement Courses, GED Completion, Vocational Education and Counseling
- **Career Center**
“No Wrong Door” Employment Service, Job Postings, Internet Access, Youth Employment Opportunities, Job Readiness Skills, Job Training, Training Programs (WIA), Vocational Training, Work First, Referrals to Community Resources, Career Counseling, Classroom Training, Vocational Counseling, On-the-Job Training, Work Experience, Internship Programs, Testing and Assessment.

Free Job Seeker Services: Eligibility Screening, Job Placement; Computer/Internet Access, Career Resources, Training Funds.
Free Employer Services: Recruiting, Job Referrals, Computer/Internet Access, Career Resources, Training Funds.

The following are Oakland County Career Centers.

Ferndale Service Center

713 E. 9 Mile Rd.
Ferndale, MI 48220
Phone: (248) 545-0222
Fax: (248) 545-6144

Highland Service Center

2218 South Milford
Highland, MI 48357
Phone: (248) 889-0410
Fax: (248) 889-4314

Oak Park Service Center

22180 Parklawn Room 111
Oak Park, MI 48237
Phone: (248) 691-8437
Fax: (248) 545-0415

Oxford Service Center

1370 South Lapeer Rd.
Oxford, MI 48371
Phone: (248) 969-2399
Fax: (248) 969-0836

Pontiac Service Center

Job Link Career Center
1837 North Perry
Pontiac, MI 48340
Phone: (248) 276-1777
Fax: (248) 276-9471

Southfield Service Center

21030 Indian

Southfield, MI 48034

Phone: (248) 796-4550

Fax: (248) 796-4555

Troy Service Center

550 Stephenson Highway Ste. 400

Troy, MI 48083

Phone: (248) 823-5101

Fax: (248) 823-5113

Walled Lake Service Center

9491 Wise Rd.

Commerce Twp., MI 48382

Phone: (248) 956-5060

Fax: (248) 956-5065

Waterford Service Center

5195 Pontiac Lake Rd.

Waterford, MI 48328

Phone: (248) 682-3417

Fax: (248) 682-0512

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority Service Providers

If you find that you will require additional or long term vocational supports after working with MRS you may choose to contact one of Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's Core Providers.

For information and referral please contact:

The Authority's Customer Service

Phone: (800) 341-2003

TTY: (800) 552-8774

Community Living Services of Oakland County

3270 Greenfield Road

Berkley, MI 48072

Phone: (248) 547-2668

Fax: (248) 547-3052

Macomb Oakland Regional Center

1270 Doris Road

Auburn Hills, MI 48236

Phone: (248) 276- 8000

Toll Free: (866) 593-7412

TTY: (248) 276-8009

Fax: (248) 276-9833

Other Vocational Opportunities

Volunteer Work

Communities are always in need and willing to accept any contribution of assistance at any time. Persons with developmental disabilities are able to give back to the community based on the unique abilities and talents that they have to offer.

Volunteer work is a form of productive activity that is often overlooked by individuals with developmental disabilities. While usually there is no monetary payment for volunteer work there are many benefits.

Contributing to the community allows volunteers to:

1. Make new friends
2. Add structure to the day
3. Learn to adjust to the working environment
4. Learn new skills
5. Improve self-esteem

Opportunities for Volunteer Work

There are nearly 5,000 registered nonprofit organizations throughout Oakland County. Many are looking for volunteers to do general office work and assist with events. United Way for Southeastern Michigan helps people find volunteer opportunities that fit their talents and schedules. To learn more about the United Way volunteer opportunities, visit www.volunteersolutions.org/uwcs/volunteer/ or call (313) 226-9430.

Microenterprise

A microenterprise is a small business that is started with little capital and five or fewer employees. A microenterprise can help an individual enhance their skills and talents while increasing their income. A microenterprise gives an individual the opportunity to use their talents, creativity and hard work to improve their financial well being.

Some examples of microenterprise include: cleaning services, jewelry, speciality foods, repair services, arts and crafts.

The benefits of a microenterprise include: independence, flexible schedule, reduced need for transportation, opportunity to do what you want with your own talents and interests, contribution to the community and the creation of jobs.

For information and referral please contact:

The Authority's Customer Service

Phone: (800) 341-2003 (Toll Free)

TTY: (800) 552-8774

Chapter 7

Finding Housing Resources



ART BY: MARK TAYLOR

There are a number of programs designed to provide rental assistance, help with landlord/tenant issues, and homebuyer assistance in Oakland County.

Section 8 (Housing Choice Vouchers)

The federally funded Section 8 program, now known as the Housing Choice Voucher, is a resource to help people with low income find affordable rental housing. This program also permits some vouchers to be used to help with home ownership.

There are two types of vouchers: project-based and tenant-based. Project-based assistance is available only in certain apartment buildings or complexes, and is not portable if the renter wants to move. Tenant-based vouchers follow the person (with some restrictions). While some other programs are designed as short term assistance, Housing Choice Vouchers can provide lifetime housing assistance as long as the person remains eligible. Voucher payments are made directly to landlords, and make up the difference between the tenant's ability to pay and the actual rent for the housing unit, within certain specified limits. There are many regulations that govern this program and it should be noted that there are not enough Housing Choice Vouchers for everyone who is eligible; waiting lists are usually long and are not frequently open.

For more information about the Housing Choice Voucher program you can contact Community Housing Network or any of the following Public Housing Authorities (PHA's) who administer the program in Oakland County.

Community Housing Network

570 Kirts Blvd, Suite 231

Troy, MI 48084

Phone: (248) 928-0111

Toll Free: (866) 282-3119

Fax: (248) 928-0122

Website: www.communityhousingnetwork.org

Ferndale Housing Commission

415 Withington
Ferndale, MI 48220
Phone: (248) 547-9500

Pontiac Housing Commission

132 Franklin Blvd.
Pontiac, MI 48341
Phone: (248) 338-4551

Madison Heights Housing Commission

300 W. 13 Mile Road
Madison Heights, MI 48071
Phone: (248) 583-0843

Royal Oak Township Housing Commission

21312 Wyoming Ave.
Ferndale, MI 48220-2125
Phone: (248) 398-8101

Royal Oak Housing Commission

211 Williams
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Phone: (248) 546-8599

Southfield Housing Commission

26000 Evergreen Road
Southfield, MI 48076
Phone: (248) 796-4170

Plymouth Housing Commission

1160 Sheridan
Plymouth, MI 48170
Phone: (734) 455-3670

The Plymouth Housing Commission has some Section 8 vouchers for Oakland County and also runs South Lyon public housing.

Oakland County Section 8

Contact: Jean Gush

P.O. Box 180915

Utica, MI 48318-0915

Phone: (586) 566-3732

Community Housing Network maintains a Section 8 Alert list that notifies interested individuals and agencies when local waiting lists are open, and a list of the subsidized apartments in Oakland County.

Housing Options

There are a variety of settings in which people with disabilities may live and receive needed supports and services. For people who currently receive services through Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's service providers, selecting a place to live should be supported through the person centered planning process, and should include both short-term and long-term housing goals. Through this process, persons with developmental disabilities can explore and pursue various options depending upon their desires, needs, and circumstances. Any individual, professional or service provider may request assistance in planning for housing needs directly from Community Housing Network.

Although housing and support arrangements are individualized, there are some general categories. These categories vary based upon the level of individual control and independence.

Licensed Settings

Housing that provides 24 hour, 7 day a week supports and supervision generally requires an Adult Foster Care License issued by the State of Michigan. These settings include group homes and Adult Foster Care Family Homes, both of which are often referred to as Adult Foster Care or AFC homes.

Group homes typically provide housing and support services for five or six persons living in the same home, although some are larger. Direct services in these homes are usually provided by a service provider under an agreement with one of the Authority's service providers or the person with a disability and their family. Most often, group homes employ shift staffing to provide direct care. Adult Foster Care Family homes can vary in size, but primary caregivers usually reside in the home along with the individuals.

Independent Living

People can live in a home of their own in a variety of settings or in their family home and receive needed supports and services in their own homes. Most often this involves either owning or renting a place to live in the individual's own name. Housing can vary from apartments to condos or single family homes. Sometimes individuals share a home or apartment with other persons to share costs.

People who are living independently can still receive the level of supports and services they need. Many choose to receive services through the Self-Determination initiative, which encourages individuals to design and direct their own supports (for more information on Self-Determination see Chapter 3).

Services for People who are Homeless

People with disabilities often experience a higher risk of homelessness. If you are currently homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, contact one of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's service providers listed in Chapter 3 or Community Housing Network for assistance.

Affordable Rental Housing

Much of the rental housing in communities across Oakland County is not affordable to people with disabilities who rely primarily on Supplemental Security Income. Community Housing Network maintains an updated list of subsidized housing and information about accessing available rental subsidies. A number of agencies, including Community Housing Network, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, its service providers and

advocacy groups, are currently working to address the critical shortage of affordable rental housing and subsidies.

Home Ownership

Some people have established the goal of home ownership. This is usually a long-term commitment, and should be carefully considered. You can contact Community Housing Network for information about programs that can assist people with disabilities in owning their own home.

There are a number of government and private agencies to help persons with disabilities and their families identify and access these resources. Persons receiving mental health services through Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's service providers should contact their Support Coordinator or Community Housing Network directly for information and referral. Those not receiving services through Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's service provider should contact Community Housing Network directly.

A Housing Resource Manual is available through Community Housing Network's website, or in print. It provides information about specific housing issues such as fair housing, landlord/tenant issues, home ownership, and information about how individuals can achieve their housing goals.

Contact Community Housing Network at:

Community Housing Network

570 Kirts Blvd, Suite 231
Troy, MI 48084

Phone: (248) 928-0111 in Oakland County

Toll free: (866) 282-3119

Fax: (248) 928-0122

Website: www.communityhousingnetwork.org

Chapter 8

Public Transportation



ART BY: ANTOINE WILLIAMS

In Oakland County, accessible transportation is a vital need in the development of a stabilized livelihood for persons with disabilities. This chapter will focus exclusively on local public transportation such as SMART, and other transport organizations suitable for local transport.

SMART

The public bus system in Oakland County is operated by SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority Regional Transportation). With proper identification, individuals with a disability may ride SMART at reduced fares. The SMART system provides service on traditional “large” buses, as well as smaller buses, called Community Transit. The Community Transit service provides door-to-door services. The large bus service is available on map schedules spanning designated curbside routes across Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne Counties, including in and out of Detroit. SMART service is not available in all communities.

Large Bus Routes

SMART operates approximately 28 large bus routes in Oakland County. As previously noted, there are also routes in Wayne and Macomb counties.

Park & Ride

In Oakland County, “Park and Ride” centers are available, where passengers can leave personal vehicles at a designated lot and then ride the SMART bus. For instance, the Auburn Hills Park and Ride goes from Eastland Center to the Chrysler Technology Center. Detailed information on Park & Ride, the large bus routes, including route maps and time schedules, may be obtained by calling: (866) 962-5515 / TTY (800) 624-3455.

Community Transit

SMART operates a “small” bus system called Community Transit, which is a curb-to-curb advanced reservation service designed to

meet many of the special needs of people who are unable to access SMART's regular fixed route service.

Advance reservations are required. For medical appointments, six days notice is preferred. For other destinations, two days notice is preferred. When calling to make a reservation, please be prepared to provide the following information:

1. Date of the trip
2. Major cross streets
3. The number of passengers
4. Pick up and destination addresses
5. Pick up and return times
6. Lift assistance (if necessary)

Listed below by community are the telephone numbers to call for reservations.

Reservation number:

(248) 370-9353	Auburn Hills
(248) 546-2450	Berkley
(248) 203-5270	Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Franklin
(248) 341-6450	Bloomfield Township
(248) 473-1864	Farmington, Farmington Hills
(248) 544-6767 x 266	Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge
(248) 546-4093	Hazel Park
(248) 541-3030	Huntington Woods
(248) 545-3464	Madison Heights
(248) 691-7575	Oak Park
(248) 758-3930	Pontiac
(248) 246-3914	Royal Oak
(248) 542-6752	Royal Oak Township
(248) 356-1500	Southfield
(248) 457-1100	Troy
(248) 706-2411	West Bloomfield

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Service

The ADA Service is an advance reservation service providing curb-to-curb transportation for passengers unable to access the regular bus routes. The service covers the same areas, times and transfers as SMART fixed route service. This service is available within three-quarters of a mile of a SMART regular fixed route. Individuals must be ADA certified to be eligible for this service. For more information, call (313) 223-2100 and ask for the ADA Coordinator.

Dial-A-Ride

Dial-A-Ride is an immediate response van transportation (usually between 45 and 90 minutes after calling). No advance reservation is necessary. Currently, Troy and Birmingham are the only Oakland County communities with Dial-A-Ride. Call SMART (866) 962-5515 for route information.

Public Transportation Fares (2006)

Regular Bus	One Way	Park& Ride	Transfer
Adult	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$0.25
Student & Youth (6-18)	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$0.25
Adults Age 65+ & People with Disabilities or Medicare card holders	\$0.50	\$1.00	Free

Dial-A Ride	One Way	Transfer
Adult	\$2.00	\$0.25
Student & Youth (6-18)	\$2.00	\$0.25
Adults Age 65+ & People with Disabilities or Medicare card holders	\$1.00	Free
Community Transit	One Way	Transfer
Adult	\$2.00	\$0.25
Student & Youth (6-18)	\$2.00	\$0.25
Adults Age 65+ & People with Disabilities or Medicare card holders	\$1.00	Free
ADA	\$3.00	Free
Job Express	\$0.50	-

Reduced Fares for Persons with Disabilities

With proper identification, senior citizens and persons with disabilities may ride SMART buses for a reduced fare. A Medicare Card and picture ID along with a SMART Special Fare Identification Card are required. To receive reduced fare privileges, persons with a disability must establish that they have a mobility disability by obtaining a signature from a doctor or social worker on a SMART reduced fare card application. For an application and directions on how to obtain the card, call: (866) 962-5515.

Other Reduced Fares

SMART Value Pass

For those who do not qualify for the senior/disabled fare deduction, there are other reduced fare programs offered by SMART. With the purchase of a SMART Value Pass, one can save 10% on an \$11 pass, or 20% on a \$22 pass.

Savers Advantage Program

This program allows the purchase of passes through the mail. The Value Pass or 31-Day Pass can be purchased any day of the month. Other passes such as the Regional Pass or D-DOT Go Pass, must be ordered by mail by the 20th of each month. Bus passes can be purchased by check, money order, TransitChek® vouchers (from an employer), or a charge card. Call (866) 962-5515 to request an order form by mail. An order form is also available online at www.smartbus.org. Click the “Fares & Passes” link in order to download the application.

Get a Job, Get a Ride Program

The Get a Job, Get a Ride program provides free 31-day Base Fare Pass to ride on SMART’s fixed service. Please call (313) 223-2191 for more information.

How To Purchase Tickets

Purchase SMART 31 Day Bus Passes, SMART Value Passes, D-DOT/SMART Regional Passes and D-DOT E-Z Passes at the following participation outlets:

Comerica Bank

Located at Woodward and Hamilton
in Birmingham **

Double D Lottery*

28 N. Saginaw, Bank One Building
Pontiac, MI 48342

Kmart (SMART value pass only)

2101 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills
29101 John R. Road, Madison Heights
100 East Maple, Troy

Oak Park Community Center **

14300 Oak Park Boulevard
Oak Park, MI 48237

Great Lakes Crossing*

Near Customer Service Center,
Town and Country Entrance, Auburn Hills

Royal Oak Transit Center

202 Sherman Drive, Royal Oak, MI 48067

SMART Oakland Terminal

2021 Barrett St., Troy, MI 48084

* SMART 31 Day and Value Passes Only

** D-DOT E-Z Pass Not Available

It is also possible to purchase tickets by mail or by phone. Only checks, money orders, TransitChek® vouchers are accepted by mail. Contact (866) 962-5515 for the appropriate address. Contact (313) 223-2186 to purchase tickets by phone. SMART accepts VISA, MasterCard and Discover card.

Charging orders over the phone is also available by calling (313) 223-2186. SMART accepts VISA, MasterCard and Discover. Upon request, orders can be mailed to a business or residential address. Call (866) 962-5515 to have an order form mailed, or download the order form from the “Pass Prices and Order Form” link at www.smartbus.org.

Mass Transit Authority (MTA)

The Mass Transit Authority (MTA) serves Genesee County. However, roundtrip bus routes to Oakland County are available. For example, MTA provides roundtrip services from Flint to Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills. Check www.mtaflint.org or call (888) 767-6950 for fare and schedule information.

Non-Profit Transportation

CITY OF WALLED LAKE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Door-to-door pickup in Walled Lake. Transportation to medical facilities, shopping and more. Reservations requested.

Mon-Fri 9am-4:00pm. \$1.00 fare. This service is available in and around Walled Lake. Call (248) 624-4847.

FISH

Door-to-door pickup in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield (west of Lahser) to medical appointments (surgical & non-surgical), food stamps and hospital. Reservation: 1 week notice Mon-Fri 9am-6pm. No charge. Donations are encouraged. Call (248) 351-2350.

LIGHTHOUSE OF OAKLAND COUNTY

Lighthouse Clarkston serves Oxford, Orion, Independence, Groveland, Holly, Springfield and Leonard for medical appointments only. Reservation: 1 week notice.

Mon-Fri 10am-3pm. No charge. Donations are encouraged. No wheelchair vehicles available. Call (248) 620-6116.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE (ROCHESTER)

Curbside door-to-door roundtrip pick-up to medical (surgical or non-surgical) and social service appointments in Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Auburn Hills Boundaries: N of Leonard,

W of I-75, S of S. Boulevard, E of Dequindre. Reservation: 1 week notice.

Mon-Fri 8:30am-3:30pm. No charge. \$2 Donation per person roundtrip is desired. Call (248) 651-5836. A wheelchair accessible vehicle is available.

NOTA (NORTH OAKLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY)

Curbside pickups in the townships of Addison, Orion, villages of Lake Orion and Oxford. Doctor appointments require 48 hour notice. Shopping, hair appointments, restaurants or senior center visits require 24 hour notice.

Mon-Fri 6am-5pm, Sat 8am-1pm, Sun 8am-1pm (church services only) No charge for residents of Addison, Oxford and Orion. Donations are accepted. For general information or reservations call (248) 628-7900. Dispatch hours are Mon-Fri 8am-2pm. Wheelchair accessible vehicles are available.

OAKLAND COUNTY VETERAN'S SERVICES

Pick-up at local center (see contact info) to Detroit Veteran Medical Center or Ann Arbor Veteran Medical Center for treatment purposes. Reservations needed for veteren's with wheel chairs.

Tue-Fri 8:30am- until last appointment. Must be at center at 8:15 am for pickup. No charge. Military veterans who meet ridership requirements, need to make reservations. Call (248) 858-0785. Center locations: (Pontiac) 1200 N. Oakland, (Walled Lake) 1010 E. West Maple, (Troy) 1151 Crooks Rd. Must be accompanied by care provider or family member if unable to ride independently.

Older Person's Commission Minibus Transportation

Serves people 60 or older and those under 60 who are disabled. Will transport to Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Oakland University, to and from Troy Beaumont Hospital. Reservations: 2 day notice.

Mon-Fri 8am – 5pm, Sat 9am – 5 pm, Sun 8am – 1 pm (Church services only) \$3 donation each way. Call (248) 652-4780.

TELEVAN

Curbside pickup for Pontiac residents only. Reservation need 24-48 hour notice.

Mon – Fri 8am-5pm. No charge. The program serves senior citizens, persons with physical disabilities. Reservations required. Call (248) 758-3930. Must be accompanied by care provider or family member if unable to ride independently.

TOSS (TRANSPORTATION OF SOUTHFIELD SENIORS)

Door-to-door pick-up service in Southfield only. Reservations need 10 day prior notice.

9am –3pm. \$5 roundtrip. Senior citizen only. Call (248) 356-1500. Wheelchair accessible vehicles are available.

TPC (TROY PEOPLE CONCERNED)

Door-to-door service for senior citizens to (non-surgical) medical and dental appointments only in the city of Troy. Reservations need 1 week advance notice.

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. No cost.

This service is available for individuals who cannot take advantage of SMART or Medi-Go. Call (248) 589-9199, or go online at www.TPCHelps.org. No wheelchair accessible vehicles available.

TROY MEDI-GO PLUS

Door-to-door services for Troy residents to medical offices, hospitals and pharmacies. Note: Areas are bounded by 11 mile and Mound, Southfield Road, University. For reservations, call as soon as a doctor's appointment is made.

Mon-Fri 8:30am -4:30pm. No charge. Donations are accepted. This service is available for individuals 60 years & older. Persons receiving therapy may make standing reservations.

Call (248) 457-1100. Wheelchair accessible vehicles are available.

WATERFORD SENIOR CENTER

Door-to-door service in Waterford only.

Mon-Fri 8:30am-2pm. No charge. Donations accepted. Senior and/or persons with physical disabilities. Waterford residents meet ridership requirements and need to make reservations. Call (248) 623-6500. Call center for transportation application. Reservation 3-5 days in advance. Wheelchair accessible vehicles are available.

Other Transportation Options

Commercial Transit

Greyhound Bus offers curbside bus service with other inner city bus services to destinations throughout Michigan. Call (800) 752-4841 for fare and schedule information or visit their website www.greyhound.com.

Taxicab

Frequent use of cab services can be expensive and often outside the budget capabilities of an individual. Nevertheless, such services are available in the heavily populated parts of Oakland County. The Yellow pages list numerous cab companies in Oakland County. These companies are listed under the heading "Taxicabs" in the Yellow Pages.

Hospital Transport

Various hospitals in Oakland County provide transportation for non-emergency medical care. For non-emergency care at a local hospital, check the listing in the Yellow Pages under the heading “Hospital.”

Personal Vehicles for Persons with Physical Disabilities

For individuals with physical disabilities who are interested in customized mobility outfitting, there is a listing in the Yellow Pages under the heading “Handicapped Aids and Equipment” or “Disabilities & Special Needs Equipment.” Check www.superpages.com under the heading, “Elderly & Disabled Transportation Services.”

Ambulance Service

Call 911 if there is a need for emergency ambulance service. If desired transportation is for non-emergent situation, ambulance services are listed in the Yellow Pages under the “Ambulance Services” heading.

Handicapped & Disabled Transportation Private Companies

Check the Yellow Book, Oakland County Area under Handicapped & Disabled Transportation Service.

Chapter 9

Advocacy and Support Groups



ART BY: MARLON SULLIVAN

Many advocacy and support groups are available for individuals with developmental disabilities and those close to them. These groups may provide opportunities for developing friendships, obtaining emotional support, enhancing individual advocacy skills, providing information about mental health issues and acting as an avenue to improve the mental health system.

Advocacy Groups:

The Arc of Oakland County

The Arc of Oakland County is a non-profit United Way agency serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families throughout Oakland County. The primary purpose is to provide advocacy. The organization also sponsors the Dove Awards Banquet, Bowling League, Michigan Performing Arts Talent Show and Weight Watchers.

For more information contact (248) 816-1900 or visit www.hearcoakland.org.

Oakland and Macomb Center for Independent Living (OMCIL)

The Oakland & Macomb Center for Independent Living (OMCIL) is a person driven, non-residential, community based organization that helps people with disabilities live independently and become participating members of society. Services include: Independent Living Skills Training, Peer Support, Information and Referral, Student Centered Transition Planning.

To learn more call (586) 268-4160 or visit www.omcil.org.

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service Inc. (MPAS)

MPAS is the federally mandated protection and advocacy system for Michigan. They will try to answer any questions you may have relating to disability. MPAS has experience in the following areas: discrimination in education, employment, housing, and public places, abuse and neglect, Social Security benefits, Medicaid, Medicare and other insurance, housing, Vocational Rehabilitation, HIV/AIDS issues and many other disability-related topics.

If you would like more information please contact (800) 288-5923 or visit www.mpas.org.

Oakland County Regional Interagency and Consumer Council (ORICC)

The RICC is a local, grassroots, group of people with developmental disabilities, their friends and family members. Membership is also extended to local advocates, community leaders and service providers. The groups main purpose is to provide a forum for addressing local issues, advocate for needed changes in the community and to inform the DD Council about local conditions for persons with developmental disabilities. The group builds community coalitions, sponsors workshops, provides training and support to rally around an issue.

The Oakland County RICC meets on the second Friday of each month from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at JVS in Southfield.

To learn more please call: (248) 559-5000.

People First of Oakland County

People First is a group of individuals who promote self-advocacy through a variety of activities and opportunities including: monthly meetings, peer to peer connections, attending local and statewide conferences, sharing information on issues and advocating for improvements in policies and legislation that impact individuals with disabilities.

If you would like to join or learn more about People First please contact: Angela Martin at (313) 577-2654 or at angela.m.martin@wayne.edu.

United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc. (UCP)

The UCP/Detroit is a United Way Community Service Agency. The organization is able to provide: information and referrals regarding issues relating to all disabilities, assistance in applying for government benefits, assistance in accessing community resources, referrals to appropriate agencies and assistance with accessing special education services.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting UCP at: (248) 557-5070, toll free (800) 827-4843 or visit www.ucpdetroit.org.

Support Groups:

The Autism Society of America Oakland County Chapter

3770 Woodman

Troy, MI 48084

Phone: (248) 393-3131

Website: www.asaoakland.org

Everyday Miracles Autism Support Network

Phone: (248) 837-2063

Website: www.everydaymiracles.org

Jack's Place for Autism at Oakland University

Counseling Department, Pawley Hall

Oakland University

Rochester, MI 48309

Phone: (248) 370-2424

Website: www.oaklandedu/jacksplace

Support group open to parents/caregivers of individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Meets every other Wednesday from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Counseling Center.

Parents of Children with Down Syndrome

Focusing on Families in Oakland County

Contact: Sue Grigg at (248) 288-6468 or suegrigg@comcast.net

Website: www.pcdsmi.org

Families Exploring Down Syndrome

P.O. Box 1191

Sterling Heights, MI 48311

Phone: (586) 997-7607

Website: www.familiesexploringdownsyndrome.org

Epilepsy Foundation Michigan

20300 Civic Center Dr Ste 250

Southfield, MI 48076-4128

Phone: (248) 351-7979

Toll Free: (800) 377-6226

Website: www.epilepsyfoundation.org/michigan

Lapeer Epilepsy Support Group

Meets in January, March, May, July, September, and November

Lapeer Hospital, Dining Room A-B

1375 N. Main St.

Lapeer, MI 48446

Contact: Colleen Karalis at (586) 504-3401 (new attendees call)

Members: Adults interested in epilepsy

9:30 a.m. Third Saturday of the month

Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Michigan PWSA of Michigan

10756 Woodbushe

Lowell, MI 49331

Phone: (616) 642-0017

Website: www.pwsausa.org

The Association has an Eastern Michigan Regional Support Group. Please see website for more information.

Tourette Syndrome Association - Michigan Chapter

Groups for children with Tourette Syndrome and for parents of children with Tourette Syndrome. They meet the second Friday of the month at St. John's Hospital Oakland at 27351 Dequindre Road, Madison Heights, MI 48071 in the Doctors Education Center. Enter the hospital in the south driveway.

Phone: (248)-641-8725

More Information

The Oakland County Help Link is also available online to provide additional resources in advocacy and support for individuals and their families looking for more information
www.oaklandhelplink.org

Michigan Genetics Resource Center has an easy to use support directory located at www.migeneticsconnection.org; will take you to the home page, scroll down and click on support directory to view alphabetical listing of support groups.

Chapter 10

Rights and Advocacy



ART BY: DANNA CIARAMITARO

In planning, you or your representative, are in charge. Professionals should make clinical recommendations, but the individual makes the final decision about what is right for their life.

Don't underestimate your own good judgment. If you think you need something, you are probably right. If you become part of the public community mental health system (CMH), the law requires that you receive adequate and appropriate services.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

The first step in advocacy is learning as much as possible about your condition or disability and the array of services and supports available to you. Knowledge is power. You must be knowledgeable about your disability as well as knowing what your insurance will cover.

You can use the public library; it costs nothing to borrow books or to use library computers. There is considerable information available on the Internet. Seek out education and support from consumer and family advocacy groups. Learn as much as you can. After you have investigated the possible supports, you must learn how to access them.

Insurance and Public Services

If you have private health insurance, read your policy and learn what services are covered by your insurance. Also learn what Medicare, Medicaid and Community Mental Health agencies provide. Public assistance can be used to supplement health insurance coverage.

Most private and public funding sources require that services be "medically necessary." Find out what that means. Request copies of their eligibility criteria to access the services and supports you think you need.

What do you need?

While you are educating yourself, you can discuss with your health care provider what he/she is recommending for you. Be open to new ideas. Ask your provider to explain why he/she recommends one service over another.

You may discover that your private health insurance coverage does not provide all the treatment and supports you need. In this case, you must access other resources. Chapter 4 (Paying for Treatment and Services) discusses how to pay for services. You may need to supplement services provided by your private insurance with public community mental health services or by local providers who charge a fee based on your ability to pay.

Education is a continuing process. Review your options in light of your provider's recommendations.

Your Rights

At present, there are three important laws that protect the rights of individuals in Michigan who have a disability, are living in the community, and are receiving services. They are the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Michigan Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, and Chapters 7 and 7A of the Michigan Mental Health Code. For more information about these and other state and federal laws which protect the rights of persons with disabilities or those who are receiving public community mental health services, contact the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority- Office of Recipient Rights at (877) 744-4878, TTY (800) 552-8774. These laws are very important because in the past, individuals with disabilities were denied equitable treatment and equal opportunity.

Service Planning

An individual receiving services from the public community mental health system has the right to receive individualized treatment suited to his or her condition. This treatment must be in accordance with a written plan of service that is developed in a timely manner through the individual's person centered planning process. The individual may choose people to assist and advise him/her through the person centered planning process. See Chapter 3 for more information on person centered planning.

Your Rights Under the Mental Health Code

The Michigan Mental Health Code guarantees certain other rights if an individual receives services through the public community mental health system. At the time the individual requests services, information will be given about the rights guaranteed by Chapter 7 and 7A of the Michigan Mental Health Code. This is usually done by giving the individual a booklet entitled "Your Rights" with a summary of these rights and by having a complete copy of these chapters available for review. The individual should also be given a pamphlet containing information regarding available resources, advocacy and support groups, and other relevant information, including how to contact Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc.

Chapter 7 of the Michigan Mental Health Code guarantees many other important rights. Individuals have the right to be treated with dignity and respect while receiving services in a safe, sanitary and humane treatment environment where they are free from abuse and neglect. They have a right to choose a trained professional within the limits of available staff. They have the right not to be identified as a recipient of public community mental health services or have personal information released without permission. They also have a right to withdraw this permission. Recipients have the right to place

a statement in their treatment record amending or correcting the treatment record. The Michigan Mental Health Code also extends significant protections to hospitalized individuals.

For individuals needing assistance navigating the public community mental health system, contact Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's Customer Services at (800) 341-2003.

Psychiatric Advance Directives

This law allows an individual with mental illness to make treatment decisions about what should happen when he or she is in crisis or unable to make treatment decisions. A Psychiatric Advance Directive (PAD) helps to ensure an individual's choices are legally enforceable to the extent permitted by law when that individual is unable to make decisions. An individual can write a PAD that names another person to direct his or her treatment in preparation for a future time when the individual cannot direct treatment or make decisions for him or herself.

Power of Attorney

An individual with disabilities may be able to create a power of attorney which conveys to another individual, of his/her choice, the authority to make specific decisions. This could include treatment decisions, decisions about finances or other important issues. A person with a guardian can not create a power of attorney over areas the guardian controls.

Guardianship

For individuals who are unable to make informed decisions, it may be necessary for the family to secure guardianship over the person. This is a legal procedure through the Oakland County Probate Court. In these situations, the guardian will advocate for the individual with

disabilities. Guardianship does not make someone responsible for the cost of services, nor does it mean that the guardian has to provide the services. Guardianship means that the individual is responsible for ensuring that providers deliver services that the individual needs. Refer to Chapter 11 for more information on guardianship and alternatives to guardianship.

Appeals

If the individual is refused the services requested, the individual's first step should be to discuss the decision with his/her provider. The individual can plead their case, using the eligibility criteria that the individual's provider has given them. If the individual fails to convince the provider, the individual may choose to appeal. The appeal avenue depends on who is funding the services. Information on specific funding source appeals is included in the following descriptions of funding sources.

Private Insurance

If you have private insurance, you should read the policy and learn how to appeal denials of service. All policies provide for an internal appeal, within the organization. Under Michigan statutes, each health carrier must establish an internal formal grievance process. This process provides you or your authorized representative an avenue to seek resolution to those situations when health care service has been denied.

The health carrier is required to make sure all steps in the internal grievance process are completed within 35 calendar days after the written request has been submitted. This does not include the time the individual takes to decide to go from one step in the process to the next step. The carrier can request an additional 10 business days to obtain necessary medical information. Your health carrier is required to provide you with the address to submit the written

grievance and any special forms, as well as information on how to begin the internal grievance process.

If you disagree with the determination of the original grievance process, you have the right to appear before the board of directors or designated committee or the right to a managerial level conference to pursue your grievance. If you lose the appeal, the carrier must notify you of your right to an independent external review under the Patient's Right to Independent Review Act. In an emergency, the law requires an expedited appeal.

For more information, contact the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth in Lansing at (877) 999-6442 (toll free) or access the web page at www.michigan.gov then search for Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Medicare

You have the right to appeal any decision about your Medicare services. This is true whether you are in the original Medicare Plan or a Medicare managed care plan. If Medicare does not pay for an item or service provided, you can appeal.

Appeal Rights Under the Original Medicare Plan:

If the individual is enrolled in the original Medicare Plan, they can file an appeal if they think Medicare should have paid for, or did not pay enough for, an item or service received. If the individual files an appeal, they need to ask their doctor or provider for any information related to the bill that might help their case. The individual's appeal rights are on the back of the Explanation of Medicare Benefits or Medicare Summary Notice that is mailed from a company that handles bills for Medicare. The notice will also tell why the bill was not paid and what the next steps are for an appeal.

Appeal Rights Under Medicare Managed Care Plans:

If you are enrolled in a Medicare managed care plan, you can file an appeal if the plan will not pay for, does not allow, or stops a service that you think should be covered or provided. If you think your health could be seriously harmed by waiting for a decision about a service, you should ask the managed care plan for a fast decision. The managed care plan must provide an answer within 72 hours.

The Medicare managed care plan must tell you in writing how to appeal. After you file an appeal, the managed care plan will review its decision. Then, if their plan does not decide in your favor, the appeal is reviewed by an independent organization that works for Medicare, not for the plan. See the plan's membership materials or contact the plan for details about Medicare appeal rights.

If you have concerns or problems with your plan, which are not about payment or service requests, you have a right to file a grievance. For example, if you believe the plan's hours of operation should be different, you can file a grievance.

You're protected while in the hospital.

This is true whether you are in the original Medicare Plan or a Medicare managed care plan. If you are admitted to a Medicare participating hospital, you should be given a copy of "An Important Message From Medicare." The Message tells you that you have the right to get all of the hospital care needed, and any follow-up care after leaving the hospital and what to do if you think the hospital is making you leave too soon. If you are not given one, you should ask for it.

If you have questions about this, you should call (800) MEDICARE. You should ask a Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) to review your case, you may be able to stay in the hospital at no charge during the review. The hospital cannot force you to leave before the QIO makes a decision.

For more detailed information visit www.medicare.gov.
For general Medicare information call (800) Medicare.

Medicaid

If you have Medicaid, you have the right to an independent fair hearing whenever Medicaid covered services are denied, terminated, suspended or reduced, or if a provider doesn't act with "reasonable promptness" in providing services. Before services are changed the provider must give notice informing you that your services are changing. You have 90 days from the day you get notice to appeal. If you appeal before the date your services are scheduled to change you can choose to have the services continue until after the hearing is held. An Administrative Law Judge from Michigan Department of Community Health will conduct this hearing.

If services are continued while the appeal is in progress, you may be held liable for the cost of services if you lose the appeal. If you are receiving Community Mental Health funded services, your maximum liability for the cost of services would be based on your ability to pay.

Community Mental Health Services

Every person requesting or receiving services from the public community mental health system has the right to grievances and appeals (also called due process). Due Process is the right to a fair and efficient process for resolving complaints regarding services and supports. Due process options are available for actions taken by the public community mental health agency and its service agencies. These options include Second Opinion, Recipient Rights Complaints, Medicaid, Fair Hearing, Local Appeal, Local Grievance and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

For more information, contact the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority- Due Process office at (248) 858-1262, Customer Services at (800) 341-2003 or Office of Recipient Rights at (877) 744-4878; TTY (800) 552-8774.

Adult Protective Services

If you fear an adult has been neglected, abused or exploited, contact Adult Protective Services, a division of the Department of Human Services(DHS) and report your concerns. Call the Michigan hotline at (800) 996-6228 or contact the local DHS after hours phone number for adults: (248) 975-5010 (see Chapter 5 for a list of local DHS offices).

Child Protective Services

If you fear a child has been neglected, abused or exploited, contact Child Protective Services, a division of the Department of Human Services(DHS) and report your concerns. Call the Michigan hotline at (800) 996-6228 or contact the local DHS office after hours phone number for children: (248) 975-5010. (see Chapter 5 for a list of local DHS offices.)

Office of Recipient Rights-Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority

Anyone can file a rights complaint through the Office of Recipient Rights (ORR) if they believe an individual who is receiving services from Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's Provider Network right's have been violated. The ORR will investigate and, if they determine that a person's rights have been violated, the ORR will make recommendations to the provider to correct the violation and to prevent recurrence of rights violations.

For more information, contact the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's Office of Recipient Rights at (877) 744-4878; TTY (800) 552-8774.

Licensed Homes

The Office of Children and Adult Licensing in the Bureau of Human Services licenses and regulates Adult Foster Care (AFC) homes and is required to investigate complaints made against AFC homes.

The Office of Children and Adult Licensing must initiate an investigation within 15 days of receiving a written complaint. If the Office receives an oral complaint, it must help the complainant put the complaint into writing within 7 days of a request for assistance. Whether the complaint is received in writing or orally, the Office must provide the complainant with the investigation results within 30 days of receiving the complaint, or provide them with a status report indicating when the results of the investigation can be expected.

Housing Discrimination

If you feel you were refused housing because you have a disability, contact:

Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit
1249 Washington Blvd., Room 1312
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: (313) 963-1274
Fax: (313) 963-4817
E-mail: fhcdet@mail.com

Advocacy Resources

The following organizations and individuals may be able to provide assistance.

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services (MPAS)

MPAS provides information and referral, and advocacy services to ensure proper treatment. Services also include investigation of alleged abuse and neglect issues, and addressing systemic issues that may improve the care and treatment for all people with disabilities in Michigan.

Toll Free Phone: (800) 288-5923 (Voice or TTY)

Website: www.mpas.org

Oakland Community Mental Health Authority- Customer Services

Customer Services assists individuals to access appropriate services. Staff will advocate for individuals when they experience problems in the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's service system.

Phone: (800) 341-2003

TTY: (800) 552-8774

Elected officials

Many individuals have found it helpful to contact a local, state or federal legislator for help advocating. Often the intervention of an elected official moves the process along much more swiftly. Legislators typically have staff that have the experience in the process and know whom to contact.

Consumer and family advocacy groups

Many individuals find it helpful to contact local consumer and family advocacy groups to help guide them through the process. Experienced people can provide advice and assistance which may expedite the process. See Chapter 9 for a list of advocacy and support groups.

Chapter 11

Long Term Planning



ART BY: MARLON SULLIVAN

WILLS, TRUSTS AND GENERAL ESTATE PLANNING

Parents of a child with a developmental disability should consult with an attorney experienced in mental health and probate law who is able to assist with complex legal considerations and preparation of an appropriate estate plan. Every plan must be developed according to the unique family situation and the member with special needs.

Creating a Last Will and Testament is the starting point. A will is a legal declaration of how property is to be divided after a person's death. If a parent dies without a will, property may go directly to a son or daughter with a disability by virtue of state law. If a surviving child with a disability is receiving services from a public mental health agency, then such directly-inherited property may be subject to any reimbursement claims made by that entity for the full cost-of-care on an ability-to-pay basis. Additionally, if the person with a disability is receiving Social Security Income, the eligibility may be terminated until the resources have been exhausted below the asset limit. What all of this means is that without a will there is little chance that the true intent of the parents will be carried out.

Although an unnecessary and emotionally unappealing estate planning alternative, the total disinheritance of a loved one with a disability is generally not advisable. There is always the potential for a legal action where someone acting on behalf of the person with the disability could dispute the validity of the will instrument or the intent of the person making the will.

The use of a well-written Special Needs Trust is the key to proper estate planning. The specific use of this trust technique is to supplement not to supplant governmental benefits. A trust is a legal instrument made by an individual (the grantor) who places a source of funds at the control of a trustee for the benefit of the individual with a disability (the beneficiary). Under this special arrangement, the beneficiary has no legal right to the principal or to the income that it generates. Hence, this resource is beyond the reach of

creditors. A final part to a trust instrument, is the remainderperson, or the individual or charity that receives what is left of the trust after the beneficiary's death.

There are two ways to establish a Special Needs Trust. A "living trust" is a private document made while the grantor is alive but does not require a court to activate or supervise. A "testamentary trust" on the other hand is written into the text of a will and it comes into existence only after the death of the maker (testator). A will, and its testamentary trust, is "probate-able" and therefore a public document.

Selecting an appropriate trustee to implement the trust is of critical importance. The explicit expression of the trustee's powers, duties and instructions is also essential to the success of this special type of estate plan. The trust language must clearly and accurately reflect parental intent. The primary responsibility of the trustee will be to act as an able assistant, protector and advocate, for the beneficiary.

Trusts may be funded in a variety of ways. This may be a big concern, especially if parents have not accumulated a great deal of wealth over their lifetimes. Some examples of possible assets to fund trusts are: cash, life insurance, annuities, proceeds from the sale of the family homestead, or any other financial mechanism that will secure a better future for their child. Consulting with an experienced financial planner is advisable.

In the end, is the development of an appropriate estate plan enough to answer the question of what happens to a son or daughter after the death of the parents? The answer to this question is "no, not by itself." A trust instrument has certain limitations. However, the quality of life for a person with a developmental disability is greatly dependent upon many variables beyond the control of any one individual. So, proper planning is always of paramount importance.

GUARDIANSHIP

Historically, from Roman times through the English notion of “common law,” guardianship as a protective device was developed to preserve the property of an “incompetent person.” Today, the precept of the least restrictive alternative, which provides for minimal intrusion and the removal of fewer rights, now guides our courts and legislatures by recognizing a partial or limited form of guardianship.

Once a child reaches 18 years old the parents’ status as guardian terminates automatically by law. This is true for any child including those with a developmental disability.

The Michigan Mental Health Code, Chapter Six, allows for the appointment of a guardian of a person who has developmental disabilities only when it is necessary and if the person lacks the capacity to perform some of the tasks usually required for self-care and/or the maintenance of personal finances. In Michigan, a person with a developmental disability who may require a guardian shall have: the right to an attorney, the right to a trial by jury, the right to present evidence, the right to cross-examine witnesses, and the right to have the hearing closed to the public. Such recognition of constitutionally-established due process rights confirms that, in fact, the appointment of a legal guardian represents the “taking” of corresponding rights away from a person when a guardian is given authority over certain aspects of another’s life.

In summary, the vast majority of parents desire to obtain some level of security for their children, but security lies far beyond the appointment of a guardian. Security really lies with appropriate quality education, vocational rehabilitation and training, financial assistance programs and other governmental benefits, appropriate quality residential living arrangements, laws protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, suitable recreation and social opportunities, and advocacy agencies that reach out to monitor and secure the necessary services in order to provide for a good quality of life that all people deserve in our society.

ALTERNATIVES TO GUARDIANSHIP

Power of Attorney

Based in law within the Michigan Estates and Protected Individuals Code (386 P.A. 1998; M.C.L.A. §700.5501-5213), a Power of Attorney is where the individual grants decision-making powers in writing to another to manage personal affairs and/or finances. Within this concept is what is known as a “Health Care Power of Attorney,” or “Patient Advocate Designation.” This document is signed, witnessed and notarized. It is, however, a “90% solution” since reliance remains with the recipient of the document, that is, will the hospital, school, bank, insurance company, etc., accept the document as the true consent of the individual?

Revocation of the Power of Attorney is a part of the document; however, all those who are relying on it must be notified in writing by the person who executed the document. An individual does not have to know their rights like a constitutional lawyer! Consent is whether the person knows what right he has and that he wants someone else to have the ability to use that right.

Representative Payee

A representative payee is an individual or organization that receives Social Security and/or SSI payments for someone who cannot manage or direct the management of his/her money. The Social Security Administration does not recognize a power of attorney for purposes of managing benefit payments.

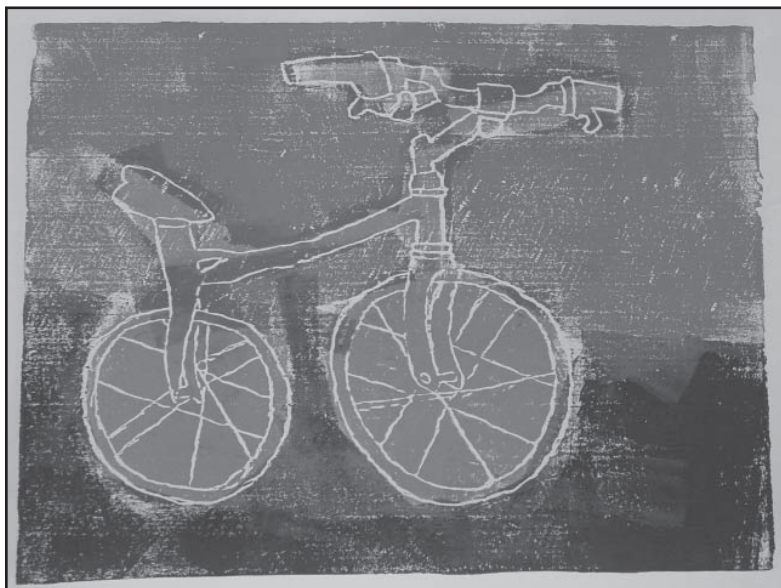
A payee acts on behalf of the beneficiary, and is responsible for everything related to financial benefits that a capable beneficiary would do for himself or herself. A payee is encouraged to go beyond just managing finances and become actively involved in the beneficiary’s life.

Etheridge Plan (EPLAN)

A service of the The Arc of Oakland County, the EPLAN is a lifetime, comprehensive advocacy program dedicated to addressing the parents' question, "What will happen to my child when I'm gone?" The EPLAN is an individualized contractual agreement that requires either membership in The Arc of Oakland County or Arc Services Macomb County. It is designed to meet the needs of each individual with special needs utilizing all available community resources based on the individual needs of the participant and his/her family. For more detailed information and costs, please contact The Arc at (248) 816-1900.

Chapter 12

Recreation



ART BY: MARLON SULLIVAN

Local city community centers, Parks and Recreation Departments, as well as Oakland County Parks/Recreation, can serve as great resources for low cost or even free programs and activities for persons with developmental disabilities. Program information is usually mailed to residents homes from the parks and recreation departments three to four times per year. Depending on the season, a variety of opportunities are offered. Some examples include: bowling, dances, picnics, softball, and other various sporting activities. It is often a good idea to request information from nearby city Parks and Recreation Departments, as programs for persons with special needs can be limited. If your city is not listed below, parks and recreation departments are most frequently listed in the blue government pages of your local white pages telephone book.

Call the specific Parks and Recreation Departments, the individual cities/townships or private organizations to find out the fees associated with the activities.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Oakland County Parks actively seeks and supports participation by persons with disabilities in recreational programs.

In cooperation with Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, persons receiving services through the public community health system have the opportunity to use various activities at any Oakland County Park at a discounted rate. This discount applies only to the individual named on the discount card (child or adult) with the other family members, friends or care givers paying the regular cost of admission. In the event of a motor vehicle permit, the pass would be valid for the individual, as well as the passengers in the vehicle.

The discounted rates are reviewed annually. For further information on how to obtain a discount card, call (248) 858-7596. Applications can be found on-line at www.co.oakland.mi.us/parksrec.

The following therapeutic discounts are available for individuals with permanent physical or mental disabilities.

Motor vehicle permit

\$3 per care per day

Monday – Friday at Addison Oaks, Groveland Oaks and Independence Oaks

Annual motor vehicle permit

\$25 (No second vehicle discount)

Camping

\$2 discount per campsite at Addison Oaks and Groveland Oaks

Waterparks

Red Oaks

\$6 per person

1455 E. 13 Mile Rd.

Madison Heights MI 48071

(248) 585-6990

Waterford Oaks

\$6 per person

2800 Watkins Lake Rd.

Waterford MI

(248) 858-0918

Discounts reviewed annually by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. For information regarding the Oakland County Parks nearest you, please contact the Oakland County Parks Department at (248) 858-7596, (248) 858-0906, (888) OCPARKS – for assistance for those who may need accommodations.

Additional Oakland County Parks & Recreation websites:

www.land.oakopv.com/ims/golf/viewer.html

www.co.oakland.mi.us/destination/visitors/outdoor.html

AREA OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENTS

Bloomfield Hills Recreation and Community Services

5329 Wing Lake Road

Bloomfield Hills 48302

Phone: (248) 433-0885

Website: www.bloomfieldrec.org

Adaptive Recreation

Bocce Ball Clinic

Movie & Pizza Nights

Table Tennis

Croquet

Outings

Independence Oak Township

90 N. Main

Clarkston 48346

Phone: (248) 625-8223

Website: www.twp.independence.mi.us

Therapeutic Recreation

Thursday Night Bingo

Friday Night Pizza Party

Diner's Club

Lake Orion Township Parks and Recreation

2525 Joslyn Road

Lake Orion Township 48360

Phone: (248) 391-0304

Website: www.orientownship.org

Adaptive Program

Baseball

Oak Park Parks and Recreation

14300 Oak Park Blvd.

Oak Park, MI 48237

Phone: (248) 691-7555

Website: www.ci.oak-park.mi.us

Adaptive Program

Social Group Outings

Rochester/Avon Recreation Authority

108 East Second Street

Rochester MI 48307

Phone: (248) 656-8300

Website: www.rararecreation.org

Adaptive Program

Movie / Pizza

Bowling League

Baseball

Instructional Basketball

Southfield Parks and Recreation

36000 Evergreen

Southfield, MI 48076

Phone: (248) 796-4620

Website: www.cityofsouthfield.com

Therapeutic Recreation

Dinner and Movie

Sports Night

Craft Night

A Day Without Parents

Miss Wheelchair Michigan Pageant

Wheelchair basketball

Adaptive golf

Tennis program

Softball league

Troy Parks and Recreation

3179 Livernois

Troy, MI 48083

Phone: (248) 524-3484

Website: www.ci.troy.mi.us

For details on their adaptive programs (ages 13 and older) call (248) 619-7645 or call (248) 524-3484 to be placed on the mailing list for the free Friendship Club Newsletter.

Basketball

Bingo

Bowling

Diners Club

Friendship Club

Friday Frolic

Movie and Pizza Night

Performing Arts Club

Soccer League

Softball

Special Olympics

Swimming

Trips

Weight Watchers

Wheelchair Sports

Waterford Parks and Recreation

2303 Crescent Lake Rd.

Waterford, MI 48329

Phone: (248) 674-5441

Website: www.twp.waterford.mi.us

Therapeutics

Martial Arts Therapy

Dinner Dances

Movies

West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation

4640 Walnut Lake Rd.

West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Phone: (248) 451-1900

Website: www.westbloomfieldparks.org

Therapeutic Program

Adaptive Sports Spectacular

Dinner, Swim & Movie

Martial Arts Therapy

My Chance to Dance

ADAPTIVE SPORTS & RECREATION COALITION

The Adaptive Sports and Recreation Coalition is a group of sports organizations, partnering to enhance sports, recreation and leisure for people with disabilities in Michigan. The Coalition is aligned with the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame. Together they publish a quarterly Resource Guide highlighting several organizations and a calendar of events.

For more information or for a calendar of events, contact:

Adaptive Sports & Recreation Coalition

c/o Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame

2485 Crooks Road

Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Phone: (248) 829-8353

Website: www.adhof.org

Additional information can also be obtained by calling the Recreation Supervisor for the Oakland County Parks, (248) 858-7596.

COFFEE HOUSE DANCE

The coffee house meets on a weekly basis every Tuesday from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. except for the months of July and August when it is closed. The coffee house is run by volunteers. A typical night consists of young adults enjoying a live band or DJ and various snacks. Refreshments, including lemonade and coffee, are also served.

For more information visit their website, www.coffeehousedance.org. The coffee house meets at the Knights of Columbus Hall (248) 625-3772, 5600 Maybee Rd., Clarkston MI.

PAINT A MIRACLE

Paint a Miracle is a nonprofit art studio and community that offers people with disabilities an opportunity to develop their artistic talents in an atmosphere of hope, growth and encouragement. At Paint a Miracle, aspiring artists are offered instruction in drawing, paints, sculpting and other mediums. They provide special assistance for those who have difficulty functioning in traditional art classes or who would benefit from individual mentoring or assistance technologies. While many organizations provide material assistance for those in need, Paint a Miracle aims to nurture the spirit.

Location: 302 W. University
Rochester, MI 48307

Phone: (248) 652-2702

Website: www.paintamirale.org

SPECIAL OLYMPICS – Oakland County

Special Olympics is an international program of sports training and competition for children and adults with mental retardation. Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation in 1968, Special Olympics develops and strengthens the physical, mental, and social well-being of each athlete through year-round sports programs. Over 1,000 athletes participate in Oakland County Special Olympics training and competition. Special Olympian, starting at the age of eight, train at 80 local schools, recreation departments, group homes, community placement programs and workshops.

(Main office) Southeast Region Manager
 5454 Venoy Road
 Wayne, MI 48184-2497
Phone: (734) 334-1578

Director
 Southeastern District Area #15
 12900 Hall Road, Suite 390
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313
Phone: (586) 731-0922

VERY SPECIAL ARTS MICHIGAN (VSAMI)

Very Special Arts Michigan (VSAMI) is a state affiliate of Very Special Arts (VSA), an international organization which promotes arts, education, and creative expression involving children with disabilities, thereby strengthening the human spirit and improving quality of life for all. Founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith, Very Special Arts in Washington D.C. has been designated by the U.S. Congress as the nation's coordinating agency for arts programs for people with disabilities. Very Special Arts programs are present in all U.S. states and territories, and in over 85 countries worldwide. For more information, please contact VSAMI at (313) 832-3303.

SUMMER CAMPS

Bloomfield Scamp

West Hills Middle School

2601 Lone Pine Road

West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Phone: (248) 341-6180; (248) 433-0885

Website: www.scamp.blomfield.org

5 week (4 days/week) day camp for children with disabilities

Camp FAR Out

1669 West Maple Rd.

Birmingham, MI 48009

Phone: (248) 646-3347

Website: www.comnet.org/FAR

Performance-oriented camp of music, dance and art.

Ages 3-20 – Mornings - first 2 weeks of August

Teen residential camp - last week of June

Camp-O-Rama

Toll free: (800) 274-7426

Phone: (989) 224-0333

Provides a list of camp options for children with special needs

Clarkston Scamp

Special Services Building

6590 Middle Lake Road

Clarkston, MI 48346

Phone: (248) 620-1882

Website: www.clarkstonscamp.com

5 week (4 days/week) day camp for children with all disabilities, ages 3 and up

Fowler Center

2315 Harmon Lake Road
Mayville, MI 48744

Phone: (989) 673-2050

Website: www.thefowlercenter.org

One week overnight sessions throughout the summer for children and adults with disabilities. Respite weekends – during the school year; respite care for group homes.

Rochester Scamp

108 E. Second Street
Rochester, MI 48307

Phone: (248) 656-8308

Summer camp primarily for Rochester residents, but will accept students from other communities, if space is available. Ages 5-27.

St. Francis Camp

10120 Murrey Road
Jerome (Irish Hills area), MI 49249

(517) 688-9212

www.stfranciscamp.org

Ten one-week overnight sessions through the summer. Ages 8-88

OTHER RESOURCES / AGENCIES**Boys & Girls Club of South Oakland**

1545 E Lincoln
Royal Oak, MI 48067

(248) 544-4166

www.boysandgirlsclub.us

Summer baseball for children with special needs – ages 6-18.

Saturday Sports Special – Sports program for those with physical and mental challenges – in collaboration with Wrights & Fillipis.

Equine Assisted Counseling LLC Therapeutic Horseback Riding

Rochester, MI
(248) 652-3286

www.equine-assisted-counseling.com

Traditional forms of counseling are combined with a non-traditional approach using horses as an aid in assisting in the counseling process.

Variety FAR Conservatory of Therapeutic and Performing Arts

FAR Conservatory of Therapeutic and Performing Arts is a private, non profit organization that provides creative arts therapy and recreation services for children and adults with mental, physical and/or emotional impairments. FAR also promotes public understanding of the abilities and potential of persons who are mentally, emotionally or physically challenged.

FAR offers a wide range of programs in music, art, dance, theatre arts, softball, ice skating, gymnastics, garden club, cooking clubs, adaptive swimming, bowling, hockey and teen and adult clubs. Private, semi-private and group sessions are available. All ages, from pre-school to adult, are welcome to enroll.

Location: First Presbyterian Church
1669 West Maple Road
Birmingham MI 48009
Phone: (248) 646-3347

Friendship Circle

6892 W. Maple Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
(248) 788-7878

www.friendshipcircle.org

The Friendship Circle provides assistance and support to the families of children with special needs as well as to individuals and families struggling with addiction, isolation, and other crises.

Jewish Community Center

6600 W. Maple Road
 West Bloomfield, MI 48322
 (248) 661-1000
 15110 W. 10 Mile Road

Oak Park, MI 48237

www.jccdet.org

Ages 5-13 – Arts and crafts programs; therapeutic swim

Adults – social groups

Kaleidoscope Foundation

Holly Hart Center
 Davisburg, MI 48350
 (248) 634-9570

Weekend social activities – Friday night dances and bingo

Lamphere All Star Camp

Madison Heights

Contact the Lamphere School Secretary at (248) 589-3155

This camp meets for 6 weeks in the summer, usually June- August from Monday through Thursday. Wheelchair transportation is available 2 days a week.

LifeTown

6892 W. Maple Road
 West Bloomfield, MI 48322
 (248) 778-7878

www.friendshipcircle.com

The most striking feature of LifeTown is the Weinberg Village, a unique, interactive world where children with special needs, have fun while they practice important life skills through role play. At LifeTown, children with special needs and their parents and siblings find a place that has been specifically designed to meet their needs.

Miracle League of Michigan

P.O. Box 1836

Birmingham, MI 48009

Phone: (248) 506-4606

Website: www.michiganmiracle.org

Provides children with mental or physical challenges an opportunity to play baseball - ages 5-20.

The Oakland County Library for the Visually and Physically Impaired

1200 North Telegraph Road

Building 14 East

Pontiac, MI 48341

Toll free: (800) 774-4542

Phone: (248) 858-5050

Website: www.oakgov.com/lvpi

The Arc of Oakland County

1641 W. Big Beaver

Troy, MI 48084

Phone: (248) 816-1900

Website: www.thearcoakland.org

The Arc Bowling League

The 300 Bowl

100 S. Cass Lake Rd.

Waterford, MI 48328

Saturdays – September – April - \$5.50/2 games

Phone: (248) 338-1290

The Arc Weight Watchers

Troy Community Center

3179 Livernois

Troy, MI 48083

Thursdays - Weigh-in – 6:30 pm; class – 6:45 pm

Phone: (248) 816-1900; (248) 524-3484

National Therapeutic Recreation Society

22377 Belmont Ridge Road

Ashburn VA 20148

Website: www.nrpa.org

A branch of the National Recreation and Park Association

OATS – Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles, Inc.

3090 Weidemann Dr.

Clarkston, MI 48348

Phone: (248) 620-0505

Website: www.oatshrh.org

Therapeutic horseback riding facility for individuals with disabilities. Promotes the health, well-being and happiness of handicapped individuals through horseback riding and related activities.

Pretty Pony Pastures

P.O. Box 86

Davisburg, MI 48350

Phone: (248) 634-7276

Website: www.prettyponypastures.org

E-mail: Linda@prettyponypastures.org

Therapeutic horseback riding year round in enclosed arena. Depending on the ability of the rider, the participant may be led or allowed to ride with the aid of a spotter. Each session will be between 45 and 60 minutes. Rider's weight is limited to 200 pounds.

The Art Experience

Summit Place Mall

315 N. Telegraph Road

Suite 215

Waterford, MI 48328

Phone: (248) 706-3304

Website: www.theartexperience.org

Therapeutically-based hands on studio that encourages creativity, individuality and fun. The professional staff are therapists, art educators and artists.

Chapter 13

Other Resources



ART BY: SARA SMITH

Abcare's Homehealth Exchange

Abcare's Homehealth Exchange's purpose is to provide quality home health care services to clients with respect and continuity of care. Abcare has provided home health care since 1978. Accredited by JCAHO (Joint Commission of the Accreditation of Healthcare Organization), this agency provides nursing services to children and adults in northern and southern Oakland County. Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Nurse Aides, Certified Nurse Aides, Home Health Aides, and Companions assist with nursing care, assistance and supervision with bathing, dressing, feeding, ambulation, and companionship. All services are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Location: 24423 Southfield Road, Suite 200
Southfield, MI 48075
Phone: (248) 423-9600
Fax: (248) 552-8228
Website: Info@AbcareHomeHealth.com

The Abilities Center, Inc.

(Formerly VOCA Rehabilitation)

The Abilities Center services children and adults with: learning disabilities, sensory integrative dysfunctions, traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabilities, fine motor problems, syndromes and genetic disorders, physical disabilities, prematurity or high risk, and autism and related disorders. The Abilities Center provides children's therapeutic services for development and learning disabilities. Occupational and physical therapists are available to meet the individual needs of children in clinic, home or school settings. The Abilities Center also works with adults with a variety of physical, sensory and functional abilities by designing programs for their home and/or work settings. Other services include: home assessments for environmental adaptations and equipment, individual therapeutic treatment, group classes, home program design, school services, therapeutic products and toys, and workshop presentations.

Location: 2075 E. West Maple
Suite b-204
Walled Lake, MI 48390

Phone: (248) 926-0909

Fax: (248) 624-3332

Website: www.abilitiescenter.com

Adult Learning Systems – Lower Michigan, Inc. (ALS-LM)

Adult Learning Systems – Lower Michigan, Inc. (ALS-LM) has provided services to individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities and closed head injuries, in a community based setting in the least restrictive environment since 1981. All of the programs are centered around the individual’s choices and desires. Services range from 24-hour group home settings to in-home respite. The individuals who are assisted set their own goals and their own boundaries. They decide what they learn and ALS-LM helps them. ALS-LM develops innovative programs and supports for individuals on a one to one basis. Current services include: 24 hour licensed residential, supported independent apartment/home living, respite and Habilitation Waiver services, and a transportation program.

Location: 1954 South Industrial Hwy., Suite A
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Phone: (734) 668-7447

Fax: (734) 668-2772

Fax: (248) 852-7036

Angels’ Place

Angels’ Place provides people-centered services, including homes and professional support, for adults with developmental disabilities. Angels’ Place homes offer a Christian family environment of love and compassion, coupled with an atmosphere of acceptance, dignity, well-being and the potential for personal growth and independence. Angels’ Place responds to opportunities, whenever they arise, to

increase community awareness and education about the needs and rights of persons with developmental disabilities, along with mentoring other adhoc groups of concerned persons who seek to develop Christian, people-centered services and programs.

Location: 25240 Lahser Road, Suite 2
Southfield, MI 48034
Phone: (248) 350-2203
Fax: (248) 350-3577

Beaumont Community Nursing

Beaumont Community Nursing provides adult and pediatric extended hourly care (private duty) in the comfort and privacy of the patient's home. Beaumont Community Nursing services the Tri-county area, and services are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The organization's "Care Team" consists of a Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses, Certified Nurse Aides, Companions, Physical and Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Pathologists, and Medical Social Workers. Beaumont Community Nursing is JCAHO accredited, and accepts Medicare, Medicaid, most HMO/PPO's and commercial insurances.

Location: 32606 Woodward Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48073
Phone: (248) 549-9715
Fax: (248) 549-9784

Catholic Social Services of Oakland County, Inc.

Catholic Social Services of Oakland County, Inc. provides the following services:

- Foster family care for families in need of respite services and/or foster care placement
- Adoption preparation and placement
- Adult day care for persons who need respite care and are impaired by some form of dementia
- Substance abuse treatment
- Family counseling

Location: 1424 East Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Phone: (248) 333-3700

Fax: (248) 333-3718

Website: www.cssoc.org

The Common Ground Sanctuary

The Common Ground Sanctuary operates a 24-hour emergency psychiatric service. Services are available for adults, adolescents, and children. Clients may walk in on their own, be brought in by the police, ambulance or mobile crisis transport services. Staff include social workers, psychologists, counselors, nurses and psychiatrists.

In addition, The Common Ground Sanctuary provides a number of other services such as: a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, a victims' assistance program (VAP), short-term residential psychiatric care for adults in crisis, community-based counseling (SaYes Performers, Peer Counseling), a legal clinic, prevention programs, a community education and training program (CETP), the Oakland County Crisis Response Team (OCCRT), shelter-based counseling (10 to 17 year old youth), Transitional Living/A Step Forward (for 16 to 20 year old youth), street outreach counseling, and information and referrals.

Location: 1410 S. Telegraph (at Orchard Lake Rd)
Bloomfield Twp., MI 48302

Information & Referral Line:

Toll free: (800) 810-3772
Phone: (248) 456-8150

**24- Hour Crisis Intervention, Psychiatric Screening,
Mobile Crisis Unit**

Toll free: (800) 231-1127
Phone: (248) 456-1991
Fax: (248) 456-8147

Community Living Services of Oakland County

Community Living Services of Oakland County, Inc. (CLS/ OC) provides supports for people of all ages with developmental disabilities throughout Oakland County. CLS/OC possesses a strong commitment to supporting people to live in their own homes or family homes; to establish meaningful, long-term relationships; and to be active and contributing members of their communities. CLS/ OC encourages and supports people to self-direct individualized budgets and to control who, what, when, where, and how supports are provided. CLS/OC offers a variety of flexible supports that assist individuals to plan a future based on their strengths, interests, hopes and dreams.

Location: 3270 Greenfield Road
Berkley, MI 48072
Phone: (248) 547-2668
Website: www.comliveserv.com
e-mail: lballien@comliveserv.com

CORA Rehabilitation Clinic

CORA operates comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility and specialized residential facilities for individuals with traumatic brain injuries and individuals who have severe behavioral problems.

Facility locations include: Flint, Burton, Commerce, Lapeer, and Ortonville.

Location: 1321 S. Linden Road Suite A
Flint, MI 48532
Phone: (810) 733-3833
Fax: (810) 733-1072

Easter Seals of Michigan

Easter Seals provides services to child and adults with disabilities and other special needs, and support to their families. Easter Seals has been providing care, therapy, and training to persons in Oakland County since 1920, serving thousands of individuals and their families. All staff are trained by specialists, including occupational therapists, to provide a full array of services, such as: range of motion, sensory integration techniques and positioning, in addition to assisting persons in basic care, socialization, domestic and leisure activities.

Location: 1105 N. Telegraph
Waterford, MI 48328
Phone: (248) 451-2900
Fax: (248) 338-0095
Website: www.essmichigan.org

Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan

Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan is the only statewide non-profit organization focusing on epilepsy. The Foundation provides a number of programs and services, including the following: Public and Professional Education & Awareness Programs, such as Seizure First Aid and disability awareness training; Education and Support Programs for people with epilepsy and their families, including Living Well with Epilepsy educational workshops, Camp Discovery, and Family Activity Days; Advocacy Programs; Epilepsy Today Conferences; Services for people with mobility impairments; and Education & Consultation Services, including toll-free phone services, video library, and literature.

Location: 20300 Civic Center Drive Suite 250
Southfield, MI 48076

Phone: (800) 377-6226
(248) 351-7979

TTY: (866) 469-7600

Website: www.epilepsyfoundation.org

God's Helping Hands

God's helping hands is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Rochester Church of Christ that offers free food and clothing to those in need.

Location: 2240 Star Ct. (Rochester Church of Christ)
Rochester Hills, MI

Phone: (248) 852-7400

Health Exchange

Health Exchange provides nursing care services throughout the community. Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Certified Nurse Aides, Nurse Aides, Home Health Aides, Companions and Mental Health Workers offer care within northern and southern Oakland County. All services are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Staff have extensive experience caring for and working with clients in the home setting, as well as long-term residences.

Locations: 24423 Southfield Road, Suite 200
Southfield, MI 48075

Phone: (248) 443-2400

Fax: (248) 552-8228

Home Health Outreach

Serving the community of Oakland and Macomb for over 23 years. Home Health Outreach is a home care company that offers private duty and certified care to the community. They provide Psychiatric Nursing for medical monitoring, Home Support Aides, Family relief and respite care, blood draws, pain management, transportation.

Location: 1460 Walton Suite 40
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Phone: (248) 656-6757

Independent Opportunities of Michigan

Independent Opportunities of Michigan is a non-profit organization comprised of professionals providing services and support to persons with special needs. These persons include, but may not be limited to: individuals who are mentally, developmentally, and/or physically challenged, and their families. The services are designed to address the most effective methods of teaching skills in the areas of daily living, social skills, survival skills, recreational skill development, along with learning appropriate behavior interaction. Home care

services, in-home respite, parent training and semi-independent living programs are provided.

Location: 45199 Cass Avenue
Utica, MI 48317
Phone: (586) 739-3164
Fax: (586) 739-3321

JARC

JARC is a non-profit organization providing services to help persons with disabilities lead full, rich lives as part of the community. JARC operates 20 licensed homes and a variety of independent living programs for adults and services for over 300 families that have a child or an adult with a disability living with them. JARC also offers an array of services to families of children with any disability, including: respite care, life planning, educational and social programming, outreach, and peer support.

Location: 30301 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 101
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Phone: (248) 538-6611
Fax: (248) 538-6615
Website: www.jarc.org

Jewish Vocational Services (JVS)

JVS provides a full range of vocational rehabilitation services that take place in the community at real job sites; Supported Employment Programs that helps individuals with disabilities find paid work in community settings; an adult day program which assists adults with developmental disabilities in achieving their maximum potential through a variety of skill-building components and support services; Learning Innovations for Enrichment (LIFE) which promotes independence and improved quality of life by providing support services to Oakland County residents utilizing the person centered planning process and the principles of self-determination; and

Activities Program that offers quality retirement for older individuals with developmental disabilities and other special needs, or adults with severe and chronic mental illness, focusing on enhanced quality of life through community integrated and diverse activities at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Rose and Sidney Diem Building
29699 Southfield Road
Southfield, MI 48076

Phone: (248) 559-5000

Fax: (248) 559-1134

TTY: (248) 559-5145

Website: www.jvsdet.org

Judson Center

Judson Center makes available a wide range of services that can be flexibly delivered to meet the consumer's requirements and needs. These include, but are not limited to, the following: Children's Respite Care, Individualized Supports, and Supported Employment/Seniors Day Program.

Location: 4410 W. 13 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Phone: (248) 549-4339

Fax: (248) 549-8955

Website: www.judsoncenter.org

MORC, Inc

Since 1972, the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center, Inc. (MORC), a nonprofit, human services agency, has been providing services and supports to children and adults with developmental disabilities. The agency promotes freedom, independence and community membership by supporting choice and Self-Determination. MORC offers a wide array of services, including respite care, to

enable family members with disabilities to remain in the family home. For those who do not live with their families, options include independent living, shared lives, foster family and group homes. Vocational assistance, training and other work supports are offered.

MORC Oakland County office location:

1270 Doris Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Phone: (248) 276-8000
Toll Free: (866) 754-3398
TTY: (248) 276-8009
Fax: (248) 276-9280
Website: www.morcinc.org
E-mail: publicaffairs@morcinc.org

New Gateways Inc.

New Gateways serves adults (26 years old and older) with mild and sever multiple developmental disabilities by offering choices and community involvement. Prescribed occupational therapy is also available.

New Gateways Inc.
7100 Lindenmere Dr.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Phone: (248) 538-7830
Fax: (248) 538-7860
Website: www.newgateways.net

New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

New Horizons Rehabilitation Services provides a broad array of vocational and prevocational programs for persons with disabilities. Programs include: vocational evaluations, community –based assessments, supported employment, work services, work adjustment,

and personal adjustment services, job placement programs and job coaching services for persons in need of competitive employment services. New Horizons provides programs to persons with disabilities in Oakland, Macomb, Genesee and Wayne Counties.

Location: 1814 Pond Run
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Phone: (248) 340-0559
Fax: (248) 340-0689
Website: www.newhorizonsrehab.org

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA)

OLHSA provides help in the home to meet the daily needs of the frail, elderly, chronically ill or disabled individual. Services provided include: individual support, meal preparation, errands/shopping, transportation, laundry and personal hygiene.

Location: 196 Oakland Avenue
P.O. Box 430598
Pontiac, MI 48343
Phone: (248) 209-2675
Fax: (248) 209-2645

PAWS With A Cause

PAWS trains hearing dogs for individuals 18 years of age and older and service dogs for those 14 years of age and older. Clients pay no fee to apply for or receive their assistance dog partner, but are encouraged to participate in fund raising activities.

Location: 4646 South Division
Wayland, MI 49348
Phone: (800) 253-7297
Website: www.pawswithacause.org

On My Own of Michigan

On My Own is a private, non-profit agency that helps adults with mild developmental disabilities become independent, social and contributing members of the community. The comprehensive program of On My Own is focused on helping those with mild developmental disabilities live independently and successfully in the community, building a life and a network of support that involves On My Own peers and the community at large. Members receive customized support from staff through: structured classes, social and recreational activities, individualized counseling and guidance and their Our Apartment Living program.

Location: 2145 Crooks Road, Suite 103
Troy, MI 48084
Phone: (248) 649- 3739
Fax: (248) 649-3749
Website: www.Onmyownofmi.org

Sebring-Cale Therapeutic, Inc.

Sebring-Cale Therapeutic, Inc. provides occupational, physical, and speech-language therapy services to adults and children with a variety of diagnoses in the home. In addition to “traditional therapies,” the following services are also offered: Home Modification Assessments and follow-up regarding accessibility issues, On-Site Therapy for successful return to work, Nancy’s Special Workout- two videotape exercise programs, one designed for the “physically challenged” and one for the “developmentally challenged.”

Location: 6441 Inkster Road, Suite 240
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
Phone: (248) 626-3599
Fax: (248) 626-3499

Sensory Systems Clinic, P.C.

This facility provides direct and consultative occupational therapy with a sensory integration theoretical base. Consumer services include: infants, children, and adults with hyperactivity, learning disorders, autism, developmental disability, pervasive developmental disorder, genetic disorders and behavioral and emotional problems related to sensory processing dysfunction.

Location: 30801 Jefferson
St. Clair Shores, MI 48082
Phone: (586) 293-7553
Fax: (586) 293-5827

Sterling Physical Therapy, P.C.

Sterling Physical Therapy, P.C., has continuously been providing physical and occupational therapy services for 15 years in southeastern Michigan. Physical and occupational therapists provide professional assistance restoring or upgrading the physical skills of individuals with impaired functional abilities, due to physical injury, illness, developmental problems, or the aging process.

Location: 29256 Ryan Road
Warren, MI 48092
Phone: (586) 751-6667
Fax: (586) 751-1888

The Medical Team

The Medical Team, is a certified home health agency, offering skilled nursing, home health aide, and homemaker services, delivered in accordance with the treatment plan developed by the client, his/her physician and case manager. The Medical Team is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Location: 17197 Laurel Park Drive
Suite 555
Livonia, MI 48152
Phone: (248) 358-2260
Fax: (248) 358-2264

Training and Treatment Innovations, Inc.

Training and Treatment Innovations, Inc. (TTI) provides a full range of supportive services to individuals and families affected by developmental disabilities. Serving children, adolescents, and adults, TTI offers both in-home and community programs designed to promote inclusion and maximize the potential of all participants. Services include Respite and Recreational Respite, Mentoring Program, In-home Skills and Behavioral training, and most Child Waiver and HAB Waiver services, including assessment and intervention planning.

Location: 1450 S. Lapeer Road
Oxford, MI 48371
Phone: (248) 969-9932
Website: www.ttiinc.org

United Home Care Services, Inc.

United Home Care Services, Inc. is a private duty agency providing health care in the home. Nursing-based services include: companionship, assistance with personal care, respite and nursing. All personnel are trained and supervised by an R.N.

Location: 15712 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154
Phone: (734) 422-9250
Fax: (734) 422-8910

Chapter 14

Frequently Asked Questions



ART BY: ERNEASHA FLETCHER

1. Is my child with developmental disabilities eligible for public community mental health services?

Determining eligibility is based on the Federal Guidelines as described in the Mental Health Code (Section 330.1100a). To find out if your child is eligible contact Macomb-Oakland Regional Center at (866) 593-7412, Community Living Services of Oakland County at (248) 547-2668 or Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority Customer Services at (800) 341-2003.

2. What role does Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority play in providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority contracts with Macomb-Oakland Regional Center and Community Living Services of Oakland County to provide support and services to people with developmental disabilities. The Authority funds services, monitors the service provider, interprets and implements the many state and federal regulations, coordinates with other human service agencies in Oakland County, assess, plan, and implement services to meet the needs of Oakland County citizens.

3. What happens if services are denied by a service provider of Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority?

If you are told that your family member is not eligible for services and you disagree with this assessment, you have the right to a Second Opinion. To access this option you can call (248) 858-1210. If you have questions about the Second Opinion process call Customer Services at (800) 341-2003.

4. What can I do if I'm not happy with the services that are provided?

If you are unhappy with the services you are receiving from a service

provider of Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, or you don't agree with the decision your support team makes, you can file a Grievance with the service provider (Macomb-Oakland Regional Center or Community Living Services of Oakland County), or you can contact Customer Services at (800) 341-2003. If you feel that your rights have been violated as described in the "Your Rights" Booklet, you may call the Office of Recipient Rights at (877) 744-4878.

5. How do I pay for services received through the public community mental health system (Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority and its provider network)?

When services are first started, a Statement of Income (SOI) form will be completed that determines your ability to pay and then is updated annually. If you are an adult, this is based on your income and other resources available to you. For a child under the age of 18 years old, the family's income is taken into consideration. If you have Medicaid there will be no cost to you for your services.

6. How do I apply for Medicaid?

Medicaid is an insurance program based on need. To apply for this, contact your local Department of Human Services (DHS) office. See Chapter 5 for a listing of DHS offices. If you are a recipient of Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority services, and you need assistance with this process, you may contact your supports coordinator/case manager.

7. Can I choose my own supports coordinator / case manager and/or other support professional (i.e. nurse, psychologist etc.) required to meet my needs?

Generally yes. If you are a recipient of Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority services, Person Centered Planning (PCP) is a requirement of the Michigan Mental Health Code. PCP provides

for consumer choice. Check with Macomb-Oakland Regional Center or Community Living Services of Oakland County to ask how they offer choice/options to comply with that requirement. If, after talking with a supervisor or other administrator at that agency, you are not satisfied with the answer you receive, you may contact Customer Services at (800) 341-2003 or (248) 858-4690 to assist you.

8. What are the benefits of Person Centered Planning?

Person Centered Planning is a valuable tool that empowers persons with disabilities. It helps persons develop a plan of service to serve their individual needs.

Each individual that receives services through Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority will develop a Person Centered Plan with assistance from a supports coordinator. The individual may choose his or her own Person Centered Planning meeting facilitator and invite anyone he or she wishes as support in the process; this may include family, friends and people in his or her community who can help with the plan. Together, with his or her supports and supports coordinator, the individual describes the goals and develops a strategy to achieve the life that he or she wants. The Person Centered Plan is a living document. This means that as the individual grows, the Person Centered Plan will change.

9. What services can I purchase with respite funds provided through Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's provider network?

Respite is available for children and adults who are living in family homes. When a family receives an annual respite budget, an ability to pay may apply. A respite budget is to provide temporary relief to the unpaid primary caregiver and can be used while the caregiver is on vacation, at camp, on time off during school breaks, for planned activities, etc. Respite funds cannot be used for childcare while a parent or caregiver is at work. Families select their respite provider(s) and arrange their own services; possibilities include a

friend, relative, neighbor or agency. The respite authorization can be used consecutively, a few days at a time, or one day at a time.

10. My child, who is developmentally disabled, will be turning 18 years old soon. Should I apply for guardianship?

There are several things that need to be considered before making a decision. Guardianship is awarded if an individual is determined by a judge to be incompetent and unable to make the choices necessary to live a self-determined life. There are alternatives to Guardianship such as Power of Attorney, Conservatorship or representative payee. Before making this difficult decision, discuss the options with your child's Circle of Support (friends, relatives, and/or support groups) to choose what would be best for your child and family. Please see Chapter 11 for additional information.

11. I'm on Social Security Disability and would like to get a job but don't want to lose my benefits. What can I do?

There are several options to explore, including Back to Work incentives through the Social Security Administration. Your Case Manager/Supports Coordinator will be able to assist you. Also see Chapter 6 for additional information.

Chapter 15

Quick Reference Phone List



ART BY: WINDY RAY

Introduction

Changes of Information & more copies of this booklet

Oakland County Community Mental
Health Authority's Customer Services (800) 341-2003

What Are Developmental Disabilities - Chapter 1

There are no numbers listed in this chapter.

Education – Chapter 2

Education For Children and Adolescents With Developmental Disabilities

Project Find (248) 209-2258

Early On Services (248) 209-2084

Family Information Exchange (800) 292-7851 x 128
(517) 487-5426

Head Start

Oakland Livingston Human Services
Agency – Head Start (248) 209-2700

Transition Services

Michigan Protection and
Advocacy Services, Inc. (800) 288-5923
(517) 487-1755

Due Process

Oakland Schools (248) 209-2000

United Cerebral Palsy of
Metropolitan Detroit (800) 827-4843

CAUSE – Citizen Alliance to
Uphold Special Education (800) 298-4424

Michigan Protection and Advocacy (800) 414-3956

U.S. Department of Education's Office of
Special Education and Rehabilitation (800) 872-5327

Services (OSERS) TTY(800) 437-0833

Michigan Department of Education (517) 373-3324

The Arc of Oakland County (248) 816-1900

PASS - Program for Academic Support Services:

Auburn Hills	(248) 232-4080
Highland Lakes	(248) 942-3080
Orchard Ridge	(248) 522-3480
Royal Oak	(248) 246-2480
Southfield	(248) 233-2780

Public Mental Health System – Chapter 3

About Oakland County Community Mental Health Services

Administration Office	(248) 858-1210
Customer Services	(800) 341-2003
Office of Recipient Rights	(877) 744-4878
	TTY(800) 552-8774

Services

Jail Diversion Coordinator	(248) 858-1243
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Adult and Children Service Providers

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority’s Customer Services	(800) 341-2003
	TTY(800) 552-8774
Common Ground Sanctuary – Crisis and Resouce Hotline	(800) 231-1127
Community Living Services of Oakland County	(248) 547-2668
	TTY(866) 469-7600
	Fax(248) 547-3052
Macomb Oakland Regional Center	(248) 276-8000
	(866) 593-7412
	TTY(248) 276-8009
	Fax(248) 276-9833

Paying for Treatment and Services – Chapter 4

Funding for Services and Supports

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority’s Customer Services	(800) 341-2003
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Medicaid

Oakland County –

Department of Human Services

(248) 975-4800

TTY(248) 975-4875

Fax(248) 975-4855

Health Care Programs Eligibility

Children

MiChild

(888) 988-6300

Families

Oakland County Health Department

(248) 858-1280

Social Security Administration

(800) 772-1213

TTY(800) 325-0778

Medicare

(800) 633-4227

TTY(800) 486-2048

Specialized Treatment and Services

Dental

Oakland County Dental Program

(248) 858-1306

Michigan Donated Dental Services

(248) 489-2204

University of Detroit School of Dentistry

(313) 494-6700

University Health Services, Detroit

Receiving Hospital – Oral Surgery

(313) 745-4696

University of Detroit Mercy Campus –

School of Dentistry

(313) 494-6650

**Appointments only*

(313) 494-6700

University of Michigan School of Dentistry

(734) 763-6933

Tri-County Dental Health Council

(248) 559-7767

Oakland Community College

Dental Hygiene Clinic

(248) 942-3260

Medical Clinics

Mercy Place Clinic

(248) 333-0840

Oakland Primary Health Services

(248) 322-6747

Counseling/Psychologist

Michigan Psychological Association

(800) 270-9070

Oakland Family Services:

Pontiac

(248) 858-7766

Berkley

(248) 544-4004

Rochester Hills

(248) 656-3330

Walled Lake

(248) 624-3811

Farmington Hills

(248) 473-1290

Catholic Social Services:
 Pontiac (248) 334-3595
 Auburn Hills (248) 537-3300
 Farmington Hills (248) 539-3592
 Royal Oak (248) 548-4044
 Waterford (248) 666-8870
 The Arc of Oakland County (248) 816-1900
 Fax(248) 816-1906

Jewish Family Services
 Southfield (248) 559-5000
 West Bloomfield (248) 661-8100
 Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (248) 276-8000
 (866) 754-3398
 TTY(248) 276-8009
 Fax(248) 276-9280

Community Living Services
 of Oakland County (248) 547-2668
 TTY(866) 469-7600
 Fax(248) 547-3052

Income Assistance Programs – Chapter 5

Social Security (800) 772-1213
 TTY(800) 325-0778
 Pontiac (248) 754-1747
 Fax(248) 364-0527
 Royal Oak (248) 547-4431
 Fax(248) 546-0280
 Farmington (248) 471-0089
 Fax(248) 471-2087

Medicare Part D Prescription Coverage for “Dual Eligible’s” (800) 633-4273

Other Assistance

Family Support Subsidy
 Macomb-Oakland Regional Center –
 Auburn Hills (248) 276-8000
Children’s Special Health Care Services
 Family Phone Line (800) 359-3722
 Oakland County Office (248) 424-7900

Michigan Department of Human Services of Oakland County

Pontiac District I Office	(248) 975-5400
Madison Heights District II Office	(248) 583-8700
Walled Lake District III Office	(248) 669-7600
Pontiac District IV Office	(248) 975-5200
District V Office	(248) 975-4800

The Arc of Oakland County

Income Tax Guide	
The Arc of Oakland County	(248) 816-1900

Employment and Maintaining Your Benefits – Chapter 6

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Your Ticket to Work Program	
Maxims, Inc., the Ticket Program Manager	(866) 968-7842 TTY(866) 833-2967
Social Security Administration	(800) 772-1213 TTY(800) 325-0778

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth – Rehabilitation Services

Oak Park	(248) 968-5003
Pontiac	(248) 706-2600

Michigan Works-Oakland County

Ferndale Service Center	(248) 545-0222 Fax(248) 545-6144
Highland Service Center	(248) 889-0410 Fax(248) 889-4314
Oak Park Service Center	(248) 691-8437 Fax(248) 545-0415
Oxford Service Center	(248) 969-2399 Fax(248) 969-0836
Pontiac Service Center	(248) 276-1777 Fax(248) 276-9471
Southfield Service Center	(248) 796-4550 Fax(248) 796-4555
Troy Service Center	(248) 823-5101 Fax(248) 823-5113

Walled Lake Service Center	(248) 956-5060
	Fax(248) 965-5065
Waterford Service Center	(248) 682-3417
	Fax(248) 682-0512

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority Service Providers

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority’s Customer Services	(800) 341-2003 TTY(800) 552-8774
Community Living Services of Oakland County	(248) 547-2668 Fax(248) 547-3052
Macomb Oakland Regional Center	(248) 276-8000 (866) 593-7412 TTY(248) 276-8009 Fax(248) 276-9833

Opportunities for Volunteer Work

United Way	(313) 226-9430
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Microenterprise

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority’s Customer Services	(800) 341-2003 TTY(800) 552-8774
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Finding Housing Resources – Chapter 7

Section 8 (Housing Choice Vouchers)

Community Housing Network	(248) 928-0111 (866) 282-3119 Fax(248) 928-0122
Ferndale Housing Commission	(248) 547-9500
Pontiac Housing Commission	(248) 338-4551
Madison Heights Housing Commission	(248) 583-0843
Royal Oak Township Housing Commission	(248) 398-8101
Royal Oak Housing Commission	(248) 546-8599
Southfield Housing Commission	(248) 796-4170
Plymouth Housing Commission	(734) 455-3670
Oakland County Section 8	(586) 566-3732

Home Ownership

Community Housing Network (248) 928-0111
(866) 282-3119
Fax(248) 928-0122

Public Transportation – Chapter 8

SMART

Park & Ride (866) 962-5515
TTY(800) 624-3455

Community Transit

Auburn Hills (248) 370-9353

Berkley (248) 546-2450

Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms,
Birmingham, Franklin (248) 203-5270

Bloomfield Township (248) 341-6450

Farmington, Farmington Hills (248) 473-1864

Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge (248) 544-6767 x 266

Hazel Park (248) 546-4093

Huntington Woods (248) 541-3030

Madison Heights (248) 545-3464

Oak Park (248) 691-7575

Pontiac (248) 758-3930

Royal Oak (248) 246-3914

Royal Oak Township (248) 542-6752

Southfield (248) 356-1500

Troy (248) 457-1100

West Bloomfield (248) 706-2411

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Service

(313) 223-2100

Dial-A-Ride

SMART (Troy and Birmingham only) (866) 962-5515

Reduced Fares for Persons with Disabilities

SMART (866) 962-5515

Other Reduced Fares

Savers Advantage Program (SMART) (866) 962-5515
Get a Job, Get a Ride Program (313) 223-2191

How To Purchase Tickets

SMART	(313) 223-2186 (866) 962-5515
Mass Transit Authority (MTA)	(888) 767-6950

Non-Profit Transportation

City of Walled Lake Transportation	(248) 624-4847
FISH	(248) 351-2350
Lighthouse of Oakland County	(248) 620-6116
Neighborhood House (Rochester)	(248) 651-5836
NOTA (North Oakland Transportation Authority)	(248) 628-7900
Oakland County Veteran's Services	(248) 858-0785
Older Person's Commission	
Minibus Transportation	(248) 652-4780
TELEVAN	(248) 758-3930
TOSS (Transportation of Southfield Seniors) – Southfield only	(248) 356-1500
TPC (Troy People Concerned)	(248) 589-9199
Troy Medi-Go Plus	(248) 457-110
Waterford Senior Center – Waterford only	(248) 623-6500

Other Transportation Options

Greyhound Bus	(800) 752-4841
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Advocacy and Support Groups – Chapter 9

Advocacy Groups:

The Arc of Oakland County	(248) 816-1900
Oakland and Macomb Center Independent Living (OMCIL)	(586) 268-4160
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services Inc. (MPAS)	(800) 288-5923
Oakland County Regional Interagency and Consumer Council (ORICC)	(248) 559-5000
People First of Oakland County	(313) 577-2654
United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan	
Detroit, Inc. (UPC)	(248) 557-5070 (800) 827-4843

Support Groups:

The Autism Society of America Oakland County Chapter	(248) 393-3131
Everyday Miracles Autism Support Network	(248) 837-2063
Jack's Place for Autism at Oakland University	(248) 370-2424
Parents of Children with Down Syndrome	(248) 288-6468
Families Exploring Down Syndrome	(586) 997-7607
Epilepsy Foundation Michigan	(248) 351-7979 (800) 377-6226
Lapeer epilepsy Support Group	(586) 504-3401
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Michigan PWSA of Michigan	(616) 642-0017
Tourette Syndrome Association – Michigan Chapter	(248) 641-8725

Rights and Advocacy – Chapter 10

Your Rights

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority – Office of Recipient Rights	(877) 744-4878 TTY(800) 552-8774
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Your Rights Under the Mental Health Code

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority- Customer Services	(800) 341-2003
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Private Insurance

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth – Lansing	(877) 999-6442
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Medicare

You're protected while in the hospital	(800) MEDICARE
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Community Mental Health Services

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority Due Process	(248) 858-1262
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Customer Services (800) 341-2003
Office of Recipient Rights (877) 744-4878
TTY(800) 552-8774

Adult Protective Services

Michigan hotline (800) 996-6228
DHS after hours (248) 975-5010

Child Protective Services

Michigan hotline (800) 996-6228
DHS after hours (248) 975-5010

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority

– Office of Recipient Rights (877) 744-4878
TTY(800) 552-8774

Housing Discrimination

Fair Housing Center of
Metropolitan Detroit (313) 963-4817
Fax(313) 963-1274

Advocacy Resources

Michigan Protection and
Advocacy Services (MPAS) (800) 288-5923
Oakland County Community Mental
Health Authority – Customer Services (800) 341-2003
TTY(800) 552-8774

Long Term Planning – Chapter 11

Etheridge Plan (EPLAN) The Arc (248) 816-1900

Recreation – Chapter 12

Oakland County Parks & Recreation (248) 858-7596
For special accommodations (248) 858-0906
(888) OCPARKS

Waterparks

Red Oaks (248) 585-6990
Waterford Oaks (248) 858-0918

Area Oakland County Parks & Recreation

Departments

Bloomfield Hills Recreation and Community Services	(248) 433-0885
Independence Oak Township	(248) 625-8223
Lake Orion Township Parks and Recreation	(248) 391-0304
Oak Park Parks and Recreation	(248) 691-7555
Rochester/Avon Recreation Authority	(248) 656-8300
Southfield Parks and Recreation	(248) 796-4620
Troy Parks and Recreation	(248) 524-3484
Adaptive Programs (ages 13 and older)	(248) 619-7645
Friendship Club Newsletter	(248) 524-3484
Waterford Parks and Recreation	(248) 674-5441
West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation	(248) 451-1900
*Recreation Supervisor	(248) 858-7596

Adaptive Sports and Recreation

Coalition (248) 829-8353

Coffee House Dance (248) 625-3772

Paint A Miracle (248) 652-2702

Special Olympics – Oakland County

Main Office – Southeast Region Manager (734) 334-1578

Director – Southeastern District Area #15 (586) 731-0922

Very Special Arts Michigan (VSAMI) (313) 832-3303

Summer Camps

Bloomfield Scamp (248) 341-6180

(248) 433-0885

Camp FAR Out (248) 646-3347

Camp-O-Rama (989) 224-0333

(800) 247-7426

Clarkston Scamp (248) 620-1882

Fowler Center (989) 673-2050

Rochester Scamp (248) 656-8308

St. Francis Camp (517) 688-9212

Other Resources / Agencies

Boys & Girls Club of South Oakland	(248) 544-4166
Equine Assisted Counseling LLC Therapeutic Horseback Riding	(248) 652-3286
Variety FAR Conservatory of Therapeutic and Performing Arts	(248) 646-3347
Friendship Circle	(248) 788-7878
Jewish Community Center	(248) 661-1000
Kaleidoscope Foundation	(248) 634-9570
Lamphere All Star Camp	(248) 589-3155
LifeTown	(248) 778-7878
Miracle League of Michigan	(248) 506-4606
The Oakland County Library for the Visually and Physically Impaired	(248) 858-5050 (800) 774-4542
The Arc of Oakland County	(248) 816-1900
<i>The Arc Bowling League</i>	(248) 338-1290
<i>The Arc Weight Watchers</i>	(248) 816-1900 (248) 524-3484
OATS – Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles, Inc.	(248) 620-0505
Pretty Pony Express	(248) 634-7276
The Art Experience	(248) 706-3304

Other Resources – Chapter 13

Abcare’s Homehealth Exchange	(248) 423-9600 Fax(248) 552-8228
The Abilities Center, Inc.	(248) 926-0909 (248) 624-3332
Adult Learning Systems – Lower Michigan, Inc. (ALS-LM)	(734) 668-7447 Fax(734) 668-2772 Fax(248) 852-7036
Angels’ Place	(248) 350-2203 Fax(248) 350-3577
Beaumont Community Nursing	(248) 549-9715 Fax(248) 549-9784
Catholic Social Services of Oakland County, Inc.	(248) 333-3700 Fax(248) 333-3718

The Common Ground Sanctuary	
Main	(248) 456-8150
Crisis and Resource Hotline (toll free)	(800) 231-1127
24-Hour Crisis Intervention, Psychiatric Screening, Mobile Crisis Unit	(800) 231-1127 (248) 456-1991 Fax(248) 456-8147
Community Living Services of Oakland County	(248) 547-2668
CORA Rehabilitation Clinic	(810) 733-3833 Fax(810) 733-1072
Easter Seals of Michigan	(248) 451-2900 Fax(248) 338-0095
Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan	(800) 377-6226 (248) 351-7979 TTY(866) 469-7600
God's Helping Hands Health Exchange	(248) 852-7400 (248) 443-2400 (248) 552-8228
Home Health Outreach Independent Opportunities of Michigan	(248) 656-6757 (586) 739-3164 (586) 739-3321
JARC	(248) 538-6611 Fax(248) 538-6615
Jewish Vocational Services (JVS)	(248) 559-5000 Fax(248) 559-1134 TTY(248) 559-5145
Judson Center	(248) 549-4339 Fax(248) 549-8955
MORC, Inc.	(248) 276-8000 (866) 754-3398 Fax(248) 276-9280 TTY(248) 276-8009
New Gateways Inc.	(248) 538-7830 Fax(248) 538-7860
New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, Inc.	(248) 340-0559 (248) 340-0689
Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA)	(248) 209-2675 Fax(248) 209-2645

PAWS With A Cause	(800) 253-7297
On My Own of Michigan	(248) 649-3739 Fax(248) 649-3749
Sebring-Cale Therapeutic, Inc.	(248) 626-3599 (Fax) (248) 626-3499
Sensory Systems Clinic, P.C.	(586) 293-7553 (586) 293-5827
Sterling Physical Therapy, P.C.	(586) 751-6667 Fax(586) 751-1888
The Medical Team	(248) 358-2260 Fax(248) 358-2264
Training and Treatment Innovations, Inc.	(248) 969-9932
United Home Care Services, Inc.	(734) 422-9250 (734) 422-8910