

# THE HAPPENING

**COMMUNITY**  
*Living* SERVICES  
OAKLAND COUNTY DIVISION  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

August 2014

## STEPHANIE JACKSON – LEAD ON....



Stephanie Jackson is a kind-hearted, sweet, and friendly lady who is a joy to be around. She is full of energy and a great advocate for herself and other people with disabilities.

Stephanie loves her independent life in her own apartment that she shares with her beloved cat, Jazzy. Stephanie receives assistance to be successful in her home through supports and an individualized budget based on Self-Determination. She utilizes an Independent Support Coordinator, hires her own staff, and also receives assistance from a fiscal intermediary for tasks such as processing payroll, paying taxes, and maintaining workers' compensation coverage.

Stephanie understands the importance of getting involved. She is currently involved with the Oakland County RICC, where she attends monthly meetings and gives her input on different topics in our county. She works on getting people more involved and encourages people to be self-advocates. She is also a member of the CLS/OC Citizens Advisory Committee.



In 2012 Stephanie became employed by CLS/OC as a Peer Mentor. She helps us with our ongoing advancement of Self-

Determination here in Oakland County and statewide. As a Peer Mentor Stephanie provides training and education for people we serve and their allies related to options, possibilities, and responsibilities of Self-Determination and self-directing supports via their individualized budgets.

Stephanie also gives back by sharing her own life story. She attended Speech Crafters classes to help her prepare for her dream career as a public speaker and to provide inspiration to others. While in the Speech Crafters class, Stephanie spoke about what it was like growing up with cerebral palsy

and using a wheelchair and how she played tag and hide-n-seek with the neighborhood kids on her hands and knees because she couldn't run or walk like they could. She reports that her friends never treated her like she had a disability. To them she was just Stephanie, their friend.

Today, Stephanie has made her dream of getting her story out to others come true. She recently had two public speaking events at her church and another community event. She also presents training sessions on topics such as Person-Centered Planning and Self-Determination at local and statewide conferences. She is also a Local Leader through Michigan Partners for Freedom.

Stephanie is always looking to keep busy and be active. She loves to shop, go to the movies, go out to eat, connect with friends, and spend time with her fiancé, Adam Laird, whom she met at a Self-Determination conference.



Stephanie and Adam plan on marrying in September of 2015. Her family and friends greatly look forward to this joyous occasion.

In Stephanie's speech about growing up with a disability, she says that she used to think, "Why me? Why do I have this disability?" But, now she realizes that she needs to be confident and proud of exactly who she is. She feels she was meant to share her story and to let people know that people with disabilities are just like everyone else, and "we are all far more alike than we are different."

Thank you Stephanie for sharing your story with our newsletter readers!

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"You are the only person on earth who can use your ability. It's an awesome responsibility."*

# **OAKLAND COUNTY BUDGET FACTS**

(Provided by the ARC Oakland, July 31, 2014)



- OCCMHA, Macomb-Oakland Regional Center, Inc. (“MORC”) and Community Living Services-Oakland County Division (“CLS”) each agreed to a four-year service contract during June 2013.
- On October 1, 2013, the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) announced that it would “re-base” or “re-distribute” Medicaid dollars by rate-setting these funds evenly across the then Michigan “Pre-paid Inpatient Health Plans” (PIHP), which in our case is the Oakland County CMHA (OCCMHA). This may be equal, but it is not equitable.

• In FY14, OCCMHA had to cut a total of about \$14 Million dollars, which translated into about a \$9.2 million reduction relative to services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. To its credit, the OCCMHA used reserve funds to cover most of these reductions during the FY14, while core services providers had to also implement significant reductions.

- It is projected that on October 1, 2014, OCCMHA may have to cope with yet another round of budgetary shortfalls. Depending upon the Medicaid rate-setting decisions soon to be announced for FY15, the current projections for such decreases might be an additional \$8-\$10million for services on behalf of children and adults with developmental disabilities.
- Oakland County has always had the availability of plentiful and high quality mental health services. OCCMHA has constructed a strong mental health delivery system. Along with its core providers, the OCCMHA has built up an outstanding reputation for greatness and community-based service delivery.
- Other PIHP’s have not always provided the quality, quantity or best practices produced by Oakland, Macomb and Wayne. A generation ago, these three counties took in hundreds of people from the now closed institutions who rightfully should have returned to their home counties for community-based mental health services. This historical fact should be considered in the budgetary equation.
- There has also been a significant reduction in the General Fund (GF) dollars available to OCCMHA. These are funds to help people who do not qualify for Medicaid, but who also cannot afford to pay for important mental healthcare services like medications, case management, respite care, and jail diversion, to name a few. Recently, the state removed \$20 million of GF dollars from OCCMHA’s budget. The decision was made with the understanding that many people who had been receiving services through the GF would now be insured under the Medicaid expansion program known as “Healthy Michigan.” OCCMHA originally had \$30 million in GF, then after a \$20 million cut it only received about \$12 million in Healthy Michigan Payments to make up for it, thus, leaving an \$8 million dollar gap.

The ARC Oakland County is encouraging all stakeholders to contact your elected officials to let them know how you feel about these changes. For sample letters or more information, you can contact the ARC at 248-816-1900 or their website at [www.thearcoakland.org](http://www.thearcoakland.org).

Please continue to check the OCCMHA website, [www.occmha.org](http://www.occmha.org), for the most current budget information.



## **OCCMHA ANNUAL WORK PLAN SURVEY**



Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) would like to know what you think. They put together a survey to collect information that will help them decide what areas of service are of most priority to the people we serve. They will use this information to write their yearly work plan.

The survey is available on the OCCMHA website [www.occmha.org](http://www.occmha.org). There are 17 questions and should only take about 20 minutes to complete.

## WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

On July 22, 2014, President Barack Obama signed into law the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Congress passed the Act by a wide bipartisan majority; it is the first legislative reform in 15 years of the public workforce system.

WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

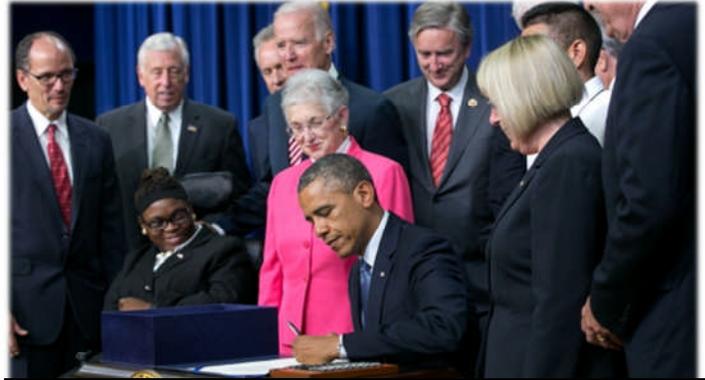
This Act will make important changes to disability programs. Under the new law, the Independent Living and Assistive Technology Act programs, and the National Institute on Disability and Independent Living Rehabilitation Research, will be moved from the U.S. Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living (ACL). The law also streamlines the federal workforce training system.

The Act will increase individuals with disabilities' access to high-quality workforce services to prepare them for competitive integrated employment. It requires better employer engagement and promotes physical and programmatic accessibility to employment and training services. Youth with disabilities receive extensive pre-employment transition services to obtain and retain competitive integrated employment. It will also create an Advisory Committee on strategies to increase competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

The President said at the bill signing:

*"So the bill I'm about to sign will give communities more certainty to invest in job-training programs for the long run. It will help us bring those programs into the 21st century by building on what we know works based on evidence, based on tracking what actually delivers on behalf of folks who enroll in these programs -- more partnerships with employers, more tools to measure performance, more flexibilities for states and cities to innovate and to run their workforce programs in ways that are best suited for their particular demographic and their particular industries. And as we approach the 24th anniversary of the ADA, this bill takes new steps to support Americans with disabilities who want to live and work independently. So there's a lot of good stuff in here."*

WIOA will become effective on July 1, 2015, the first full program a year after its enactment. However, the act includes several provisions that become effective on other dates. For more information about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act go to <http://www.doleta.gov/WIOA/>.



President Barack Obama signs H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act on July 22, 2014. (Official White House Photo by Amanda Lucidon)

## READY TO WORK: JOB DRIVEN TRAINING AND AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY

Also on July 22, 2014, Vice President Joe Biden released the Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity Report. Vice President Biden has been working since the beginning of the year on his review of federal job training programs, a task given to him by President Obama in the State of the Union address.

His report's recommendations align with WIOA and advance the same goals: greater coordination and more strategic use of federal resources to yield better results; transparent and relevant information so job-seekers and the public know what works. The report provides a job-driven checklist, based on evidence of what works in job training, to guide administrative reforms.

If you are interested in learning more and to read the report go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/07/22/fact-sheet-ready-work-glance-job-driven-training-and-american-opportunit>.

## DISABILITY EQUALITY INDEX

On June 26, 2014 the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the US Business Leadership Network unveiled the first Annual Disability Equality Index (DEI). This joint initiative is a national online benchmarking tool that offers businesses the opportunity to receive an objective score, on a scale of zero to 100, on their disability inclusion policies and practices. The first Annual DEI is scheduled to launch in October 2014.

The online tool, DEI, was tested as a pilot in March 2014 with 48 Fortune 1000 companies. On June 26<sup>th</sup> survey questions were released about the DEI to the public in preparation for its first Annual DEI survey for Fortune 1000 companies - Companies that take the DEI will self-report on a wide-range of criteria within four categories: Culture & Leadership, Enterprise-Wide Access, Employment Practices, and Community Engagement & Support Services.

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is the nation's largest disability rights organization. AAPD promotes equal opportunity, economic power, independent living, and political participation for people with disabilities.



AAPD's members, include people with disabilities and family, friends and supporters. To learn more about AAPD visit their website at [www.aapd.com](http://www.aapd.com).

The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN) is a national non-profit that helps businesses



drive performance by leveraging disability inclusion in the workplace, supply chain, and marketplace. The USBLN serves as the collective voice of over 50 Business Leadership Network affiliates across the United States, representing over 5,000 businesses. Additionally, the USBLN Disability Supplier Diversity Program (DSDP) is a third party certification program for disability-owned businesses. To learn more about the US Business Leadership Network visit their website at [www.usbln.org](http://www.usbln.org).

For more information about the Disability Equality Index go to:

<http://www.aapd.com/resources/press-room/press-releases/disability-equality-index-2.html> and <http://www.usbln.org/programs-dei.html>

### NEW LINGO - By Renee Uitto

I attended a Disability Pride Rally in July and I learned a lot about language. For example, when people were asked to identify themselves, some people said they were "clients" or "consumers" while other people said they were advocates, mentors, writers, business owners, brothers, sisters, daughters, sons, and many other things. It all came down to how the people present, who happened to have disabilities, perceived themselves.



Renee Uitto, CLS/OC  
Citizens' Advisory  
Committee Chairperson

Disability Pride means accepting and honoring our uniqueness and seeing our differences as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity. Pride comes from celebrating our own heritage, culture, unique experiences, and contributions.



Disability Power is knowing and feeling one's pride and applying our unique voices, skills, and actions with energy and confidence to achieve a vision. This vision is one of full citizenship in all places: personal relationships, home, school, work, community, etc.

Disability Power is in one's self, you just have to find it. No one gives you power, and no one can take it away!

## THINGS TO DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### KEEPING COOL!



Oxford Township's Seymour Lake Park is a great place to get cool. The K.L.R. Splashpad, is a sprinkler funland. The 6,000-square-foot Splashpad has an oval, concrete surface, is barrier-free and accessible for everyone.

The design of the pad ensures there is no standing water and it's fully accessible to all children, including those with disabilities who use a wheelchair. The Splashpad is near the Kids Kingdom playground. There are also additional sidewalks connecting the two areas, picnic shelters and other amenities.

The Splashpad is free to Oxford Township resident children under two years old and adults; Oxford



resident children under two years old to 17 years old is \$1.00; and \$4.00 for all non-resident children. The Splashpad is open Memorial Day through Labor Day, weather permitting, from 11:00am-Noon for children six and under and Noon-7:00pm for all children. Aqua Wheelchairs are available upon request.

Seymour Lake Park is located at 2795 Seymour Lake Road (west of M-24). To view a KLR Splashpad video, go to

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4kxfdLOG0Y>.

For more information call Oxford Township Parks and Recreation at 248-628-1720 or visit their website at [www.oxparkrec.org](http://www.oxparkrec.org).



### Oakland County Division

642 E. Nine Mile Road  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
Phone: 248-547-2668  
Fax: 248-547-3052



## Buy Michigan Now Festival



The Buy Michigan Now Festival will take place August 1-3<sup>rd</sup> in Downtown Northville (133 W. Main St). This

event is a celebration of Michigan businesses and products made within the state. This family-friendly event includes tasty treats, street vendors, live music, and childrens' activities, all highlighting Michigan-based businesses. Admission and parking are free.

## Woodward Dream Cruise 2014

This year's Woodward Dream Cruise will take place August 16,



2014. Get ready to enjoy a day filled with classic cars and great entertainment. This is the world's largest one-day celebration of car culture and attracts more than 1.5 million visitors and more than 50,000 muscle cars, street rods, custom, collector and special interest vehicles. From 9am to 9pm through eight communities of Berkley, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, Ferndale, Huntington Woods, Pleasant Ridge, Pontiac and Royal Oak. For more information about this event visit their website at

[www.woodwarddreamcruise.com](http://www.woodwarddreamcruise.com).

## Arts, Beats & Eats

Arts, Beats & Eats Oakland County's premier entertainment festival will take place Labor Day weekend, August 29<sup>th</sup> - September 1<sup>st</sup>. This event draws



nearly 400,000 people to experience more than 200 juried art exhibitors, 50 restaurants and 200 performances on 10 stages. The festival will take place in Downtown Royal Oak. Admission is \$3 before 5pm and \$5 after 5pm and free on Friday before 5pm. For more information about this event visit their website at [www.artsbeatseats.com](http://www.artsbeatseats.com) or call 248-541-7550.

## OCCMHA COMMUNITY FORUM



Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's leadership panel is holding two community discussions on the new "Service Wait List" for people with mental illness and no Medicaid, Healthy Michigan, or the General Fund. Audience members will be given an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about these key topics concerning the public mental health system and the people it serves.

### Two Dates to Attend

**Monday, August 11**

10 a.m. – Noon

Resource & Crisis Center  
Conference Rooms A & B  
1200 N. Telegraph Rd/Bldg 32 E  
Pontiac, MI 48341

Please park in the North Parking Lot and enter through the conference room door.

**Thursday, September 11**

6-8 p.m.

OCCMHA Administrative Offices  
2011 Executive Hills Blvd.  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

### Who should attend:

- Persons receiving services, their families, advocates, and friends
- OCCMHA staff, core and direct service providers, others who serve people with mental illness and disabilities.
- Community service organizations, faith-based representatives
- Local and state legislators.

### OCCMHA Leadership Panel

Willie Brooks, Executive Director  
Kathleen Kovach, Deputy Executive Director & COO  
Anya Eliassen, Chief Financial Officer  
Cathie Yunker, Manager, Access, and Community Integration

**FREE EVENT** GIVE CYBERBULLYING A GOING AWAY PARTY **FREE EVENT**

# CRIME OUT PALOOZA

**AUGUST 5**  
6PM-8:30PM

**Auburn Hills City Campus & Civic Center Park**

- Food and Drink • Music
- Games and Prizes • Fun
- Police Demonstrations
- Fire Safety • Raffles
- Great Information & More!

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2014**

Put an end to cyberbullying!  
**#BeKindOnline**

Sponsored by **OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS** and **TARGET**

The poster features a cartoon boy sitting on the floor using a laptop. A speech bubble above him says "#BeKindOnline". To his right is a large smartphone displaying a list of cyberbullying prevention steps: 1. Don't reply, 2. Keep the message, 3. Tell an adult, 4. Block the sender, 5. Report problems. The background is yellow with a silhouette of a person and a police officer.

### OCCMHA EMPOWERMENT GROUP



Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's (OCCMHA) Empowerment Group is looking to add a couple folks to their group that are receiving services; they could also be a parent or other interested allies as well. The group meets twice a month and their goal is to promote empowerment through awareness, wellness and education. They believe that all people are able to achieve their maximum potential. Interested parties should contact Sherry Gerbi at 248.709.6734 or [gerbis@occmha.org](mailto:gerbis@occmha.org).

### THE NEXT CAC MEETING

**Monday, October 27**

2:00-4:00pm

at the CLS/OC office

642 E. Nine Mile

in Ferndale

**Everyone is Welcome!**

