

# The LINK

Changing Lives.  
Changing Communities.

## A Publication of Disability Network Southwest Michigan

**Free  
Training**

### Interviewing for a Job When You Have a Disability or Medical Condition

#### How, When & Why to Talk About It



*What do I have to tell an employer about my medical condition or disability?*

*Should I tell them about my medical condition during the interview or can I wait until after I'm hired?*

*What if I need to do my job differently than co-workers? Can they fire me because of my disability? What are my rights?*

- Learn the only reason you have to tell an employer about your disability or medical condition.
- Find out the best way to ask for an accommodation at work.
- Learn your rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Learn about disability and employment resources that can help you.

#### Kalamazoo County

**October 8, 2013  
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

Disability Network Southwest Michigan  
517 E. Crosstown Parkway, Kalamazoo

Sign up with Michele at (269) 345-1516  
or mcgowenm@dnswm.org

#### Berrien County

**October 8, 2013  
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

Disability Network Southwest Michigan  
2900 Lakeview Avenue, St. Joseph

Sign up with Joanne at (269) 982-7761  
or johnsonj@dnswm.org

*We educate and connect people with disabilities to resources while advocating social change.*

*This issue is available in alternative format upon request.*

[www.dnswm.org](http://www.dnswm.org)

Please do not wear perfume, cologne or other scented products to this event. Thank you!

**Disability Network is the first stop for people with disabilities and their families in Southwest Michigan.**

**This fall, Disability Network Southwest Michigan is co-sponsoring a series of trainings with Michigan Family Voices and other disability organizations.**

Details are available on our website [www.dnswm.org](http://www.dnswm.org) under “Upcoming Events”

**Barry County**

**How to Better Understand Your Medicaid, Mental Health and Educational Rights**

October 14, 2013      9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Barry ISD      Cost: \$10

This training is for anyone who wants a better understanding of rights, responsibilities and the complaint processes for Community/Hospital Mental Health, Medicaid Services and Special Education Services.

Basic information will be provided on the purpose of each system, who is eligible, how to gain access, and what to expect in the process.

A limited number of scholarships are available.

**Barry County**

**Transition Planning for Young Adults with Disabilities: Employment, Community Living, Housing and Social Security**

October 22, 2013      9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Barry ISD      Cost \$10

Representatives from state and local organizations will share information with families, service coordinators, case managers and others who work with young adults. Tools from the “Helping Young Adults with Disabilities Reach Their Hopes and Dreams” toolkit will be shared.

A limited number of scholarships are available.

**Barry County**

**Discipline for Students with IEPs**

November 20, 2013      9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Hastings High School      Cost \$10

Addresses factors influencing disciplining students with IEPs, including disparities based on race or ethnicity. Learn about the legal requirements and alternatives to suspension and expulsion.

A limited number of scholarships are available.

**Barry County**

**SSI and other Social Security Disability Benefits**

October 22, 2013      5:00 - 8:00 pm

Barry ISD      Free

Learn how programs like a Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS) and others can help you to reach your goals. The trainer, Karen Larsen, worked for the Social Security Administration for 27 years.

**Kalamazoo County: Essential Communication Skills for IEP Team Meetings**

October 30, 2013      9:00 am—3:00 pm      Kalamazoo RESA      Cost \$10

This workshop will help you identify what makes a quality IEP and help you better partner as a team - always keeping in mind the best interest of the student. The focus is on moving from filling out a form to a student-centered process. This workshop includes discussion, activities and an opportunity to practice good communication skills. A limited number of scholarships are available.

**For details about any of these trainings or to sign up, contact:**

**Michigan Family Voices at (800) 292-7851 x472 or [info@michiganfamilyvoices.org](mailto:info@michiganfamilyvoices.org).**

SCECH and SW continuing education credits are available for an additional \$15

## Annual Meeting: Access for Everyone

Date: October 28, 2013

Time: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm; program starts at 5:30 pm

Location: Holiday Inn West , 2747 South 11th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Hors d'oeuvres provided, cash bar available

Cost: \$10 for Members or \$15 for non-Members

Scholarships are available.

Contact Kristen at (269) 345-1516 x119 for more information.

## Become a Member Today

Membership at Disability Network Southwest Michigan has many benefits - and now there is one more: We are starting a members-only book club! Books chosen will be available in accessible formats.

Contact Kristen at (269) 345-1516 or [pottsk@dnswm.org](mailto:pottsk@dnswm.org) for membership information.



## CJ Jones to perform in Kalamazoo

CJ Jones is an international Deaf entertainer who has been delighting audiences young and old with his unique style of visual imagery and storytelling for over 25 years.

**Friday, November 15, 2013**

**7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

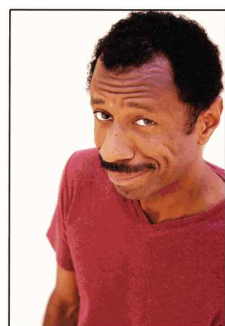
**Kalamazoo Valley Community College**

**Texas Township Campus,**

**Dale B. Lake Auditorium**

### Voice interpreted

\$15 at the door (if available)  
\$12 before November 11th  
\$5 for children under 12  
\$10 for deaf/HOH, students and senior citizens over 65



Tickets available through the KVCC Bookstore [www.bookstore.kvcc.edu](http://www.bookstore.kvcc.edu).

## Do you have a disability related question? We can help you find the answer.



Our staff are the disability experts in Southwest Michigan.

Whether you want to know about your rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), where to find disability related resources in your community, or how to find a talking alarm clock, we are here to help.

We are open Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

**Call (269) 985-0111** in Berrien and Cass Counties

**Call (269) 345-1516** in Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties

You can also find us online at [www.dnswm.org](http://www.dnswm.org).

## Getting Prepared in Case of an Emergency

Disability Network Southwest Michigan received a grant from ADA Michigan to create a website to help people with disabilities get ready for natural disasters and other emergency situations.

What are your plans if the power goes out in the winter?

What should you take with you if you are told to leave your home because of a flood?

This website will have information available in different ways to help you get answers to those questions, including :

- Picture based checklists
- Audio files
- Captioned videos
- Standard text

To learn more, visit [www.dnswm.org](http://www.dnswm.org) and click on the "Emergency Preparedness" button on the left menu.



## Learn How the Affordable Care Act Will Affect You

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan and Michigan Consumers for Healthcare are hosting forums around Michigan to help people with disabilities, their families, and service providers understand the changes that are coming with the Affordable Care Act.

### Kalamazoo County

Thursday, October 10, 2013

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Disability Network Southwest Michigan

517 E. Crosstown Parkway, Kalamazoo

### Berrien County

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

St. Joseph/Maud Preston Palenske Public Library, 500 Market St., St. Joseph

Contact Diane Dugan at (810) 229-5880 or [ddugan@biami.org](mailto:ddugan@biami.org) for more information.

Topics for discussion:

- How the healthcare reform will be implemented
- How to navigate the new health insurance marketplace
- The implications of Medicaid expansion
- Implications for those managing a pre-existing disability

**Speaker:** Brett Williams, *Michigan Consumers for Healthcare*



**BARRY ♦ BERRIEN ♦ BRANCH ♦ CALHOUN ♦ CASS ♦ KALAMAZOO ♦ ST. JOSEPH ♦ VAN BUREN**



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