

Disability Could Play Outsized Role In Election

by Shaun Heasley | August 16, 2016

The number of potential voters with disabilities is on the rise and now exceeds that of either African-Americans or Latinos in this country, according to a new report.

Some 35.4 million people with disabilities are expected to be eligible to vote in the presidential election this November. That's an increase of 7 percent over 2012 and represents nearly one-sixth of the total U.S. electorate.

The findings come from a report released this month from the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, which is based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population projections.

"People with disabilities are often overlooked in elections, but they are one of the largest minority groups in the United States," said Lisa Schur, a co-author of the report. "They often receive messages from society that they are not welcome or expected to participate, but their votes can sway election outcomes." As their numbers increase, voters with disabilities can edge out other demographic groups that traditionally receive more attention, the report found. African-Americans are expected to account for 28.7 million eligible voters while Latinos represent 29.5 million.

Meanwhile, the influence of people with disabilities rises even more when those who live in their households are also factored, bringing the potential number of eligible voters impacted by disability to 62.7 million.



The last date to register for the
November 8th General Election is
October 11.

To register online , find your polling place,
or request an absentee ballot:

<https://vote.michigan.gov/mvic/>

League of Women Voters[®]
of Northwest Wayne County
PO Box 51502
Livonia, MI 48151
Telephone: 734-421-4420
lwnww.org

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. To receive a copy of their Voters Guide go online or contact their Livonia office.



26049 Five Mile Road
Redford, MI 48239

Phone: 313-532-7915 Fax: 313-532-7488

www.thearcnw.org

Board Meeting

Sept. 13 & Oct. 11, 2016

Bylaws allow the board to elect individuals to vacant positions.

OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT** Jean Walsh
- VICE PRESIDENT** Janice Radon
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- TREASURER**

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- Kristine Copeland
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- Lekotek Librarian: Holly Balaka

Achieve with us.



From the Director

I'm going to do my best to find a way to get each and everyone of you to vote this November. Every citizen in our great nation of the United States has the right to vote and those with disabilities are no exception. Other than city or township residency, identification and age requirements, state and federal laws do not place any other restrictions on the right to vote. It will only takes a few minutes to fill out and submit your voter registration form but you must do so 30 days before the election.

Remember, to register to vote you need to be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old by election day, and a resident of Michigan. Access to voting and assistance to vote if needed are your legal right. Voters with disabilities who require assistance in casting a ballot may receive assistance from another person, provided that the person assisting the voter is not the voter's employer, agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a union to which the voter belongs. If you need assistance to register or vote help ask someone you trust.

Voting allows us to shape public policy and determine who leads our communities, state and nation. Our right to vote is basic to our system of democracy, and depends on all people having full and equal access to the ballot.

The front page of this newsletter provides you with voter information sites.

Chris

Guys & Dolls

Next Bowling League

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016 thru May 2017
Afternoon Bowling at Oak Lanes
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm each Saturday



Individual bowling with the same friends/partners every week.
\$6/week for two games of bowling.
FREE Banquet - dinner/awards/dancing for all bowlers at the end of the season.

New bowlers are welcome.

Please contact Jim Gallas (248-318-8856 cell) or jagallas@comcast.net for more information.

Mental Health Rift Brings Calley to the Table

Tension flares over workgroup reports, procedures

By Jay Greene August 21, 2016 8:00 a.m.

CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

Tensions flared several weeks ago between mental health advocates and state officials over how to proceed in developing a crucial report to the Michigan Legislature on how best to fund \$2.4 billion in Medicaid behavioral health dollars and integrate physical and mental health services.

Like earlier this year, when Gov. Rick Snyder's proposed 2017 budget included boilerplate language to transfer funding management to the state's health plans from the public mental health system, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley was called on to referee the dispute.

At the heart of the controversy is \$2.4 billion in Medicaid funding that currently is disbursed to behavioral, mental and substance abuse providers through 10 regional and nonprofit prepaid inpatient health plans. Medicaid health plans, most of which are for-profit HMOs, want to take over the funding stream to integrate physical health with mental health. Opponents, who include mental health executives, providers and families, believe the current system can be improved to integrate physical and behavioral care.

A 120-member group known as the Stakeholder Section 298 Workgroup spent three months developing policy recommendations for the Legislature. The group's report was completed in July and turned over to the state **Department of Health and Human Services**, which then was mandated by the Legislature to develop the final report with ongoing stakeholder input.

Mental health advocates are particularly concerned because one of the key recommendations approved overwhelmingly by the Section 298 workgroup is that Medicaid behavioral health funding should continue to be managed by the public mental health system.

Calley told *Crain's* he did not attend a July 29 meeting called by HHS to explain the next steps in the legislative report preparation to a small gathering of mental health, hospital, insurance and health plan representatives. HHS officials explained that three new workgroups would be formed to write the final policy recommendations.

But Calley said he quickly responded with phone calls and emails to state officials when he received an Aug. 5 letter from eight mental health advocacy groups expressing concern that the Section 298 Workgroup's report might be ignored by the next three workgroups. HHS and legislative budget chiefs also received the letter.

In the letter, the advocacy groups said it "was unsettling to learn that the next steps would not pick up from where the 298 workgroup ended." They told Calley that HHS officials repeatedly said the next three workgroups would take an "unbiased" look at developing policy recommendations for the Legislature. They also said the 18 main core values and 29 design elements that should be included in a redesigned mental health and physician health system that were developed and overwhelmingly supported by the 298 workgroup "would be subject to interpretation" by the next three workgroups as part of the process.

HHS is required to file a report to the Legislature by Jan. 15 on reforming how Medicaid mental health funding is distributed within the state's mostly nonprofit behavioral health system and how to "implement behavioral and physical health service integration."

Elizabeth Hertel, HHS' policy and legislative director, said the department plans to complete the draft report in October and then distribute it for public comment. She said mental health advocates "misinterpreted" HHS' plan to develop the report.

"My first reaction (about the letter) was there was probably some kind of communication misunderstanding," Calley said. "This was the reason I want to stay closely engaged in this to keep in close contact with everybody. I made it clear that the values and framework and vision is non-negotiable. (The Section 298) workgroup is the framework we will be using going forward. I reiterated that with the department."

Elmer Cerano, executive director of the **Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service Inc.**, said state officials told the group in the July 29 meeting that three new workgroups will develop the policy recommendations for the Legislature.

"(We) asked if the new groups will pick up where the last group left off," said Cerano, who attended the meeting. "We were told we don't want to be biased by it, that there would be a new approach. We asked about the core values and design recommendations and were told that would be up to this (new) group, too."

Lynda Zeller, HHS' deputy director of behavioral health, also told *Crain's* there was a simple misunderstanding about how the three new state affinity workgroups were going to develop policy recommendations.

"Our intention is to build upon the work of the Section 298 workgroup," Zeller said. "I really believe the group is moving together to strengthen the system ... all physical health and mental health services."

Dohn Hoyle, public policy director for **The Arc of Michigan**, said the mental health advocates met after the meeting and were in unanimous agreement that HHS meant it had decided to start the planning from square one.

"We were all quite alarmed, looked at each other and said, 'We have to talk about this.'" Hoyle said.

It was at that point that Cerano, Hoyle, Mark Reinstein and several other mental health leaders decided to involve Calley. Reinstein is a consultant and former director of the **Mental Health Association** in Michigan.

But Rick Murdock, executive director of the **Michigan Association of Health Plans**, who was present at the July 29 meeting, said his recollection was that HHS would use the 298 workgroup report.

"I am hearing there is a report with recommendations and that is the starting point" for the next three workgroups, Murdock said. "Clarification came out the next day (by HHS) that of course we are going to use the report. I was not concerned about the workgroup report not being used going forward. It is the best possible solution for the state."

At the next meeting Aug. 12, Hertel said she confirmed with the group that the 298 workgroup recommendations "will be followed."

Cerano said that meeting, after the letter and Calley's intervention, was "totally different." He said the state clarified that it would "follow what we did in the Section 298 group."

Hoyle said he is happy HHS will consider the 298 workgroup's recommendations, but he said he still has lingering concerns that HHS continues to favor the original Snyder boilerplate language that would have granted the health plans the \$2.4 billion in Medicaid funds to manage the entire system.

"There was a vote (in the 298 workgroup) about whether the money should go through the health plans, and it was soundly rejected. There were a few votes from the health plan representatives," Hoyle said. "We voted on having the money go through the community mental health organizations, and it was overwhelmingly approved."

Calley said he knows there are hard feelings on the mental health advocacy side from earlier this year when the state's original boilerplate language was inserted into the budget without warning or discussion.

"We have to be extra sensitive how well we communicate. The language and approach is a little different" between state officials and mental health advocates, he said. "I felt the department had reflected quickly and adjusted quickly to those concerns."

Calley said he still hasn't formed an opinion on how the Medicaid mental health funding should be handled — either through the HMOs or through the prepaid inpatient health plans. The PIHPs receive state mental health funding, manage provider networks and distribute payments to the community health agencies and providers. "I do think it is important to allow for innovation in different parts of the state," Calley said.

Cerano said he also hopes HHS recommends setting up various regional pilot projects to test how physical and mental health can be integrated to deliver more services to the public at lower costs.

"The bottom line is we want a re-envisioned system with self-determination and person-centered planning," Cerano said. "We still have concerns how this actually gets done. There is an undercurrent that the private system wants to take over the public system and cherry-pick clients to skim off the profits."

Hertel said the next meeting of the workgroup will be Aug. 26. Participants will appoint members to serve on the three workgroups — eligibility, payers and providers — that will develop concrete policy recommendations.

PARENT RESOURCE OPEN HOUSE SAVE THE DATE!

If you Have Questions, We have Answers! Come and Join Us!



Thursday, October 20th
10am-12pm
6pm-8pm

Community Living Services
35425 Michigan Ave West,
Wayne, 48184

COMMUNITY
Living SERVICES
Your Life, Your Way

Learn how Community Living Services can help you:

- Find employment for your loved one
- Understand how benefits and entitlements work
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This is open to public and to anyone receiving mental health services, you do not have to be enrolled with CLS

For more information, please call Cynthia Whisler at 734-722-7493 or Cwhisler@comliveserv.com

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The Arc of Western Wayne County

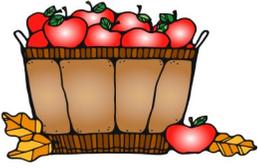


After I'm Gone Program

Information sessions are held monthly during the school year at the **Western Wayne Skill Center, 8075 Ritz Road, Westland, MI 48185**
All sessions are Thursday evenings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

September 8, 2016 - "How to Get What You Want Out of Life"

September 29, 2016 - "Social Security & The Dept. of Health and Human Services"



JUST FUN CLUB NEWS



Just Fun Club for 2016-2017

We are ready to begin another exciting year for all of our JFC members!
The following is a list of our 2016-2017 events:

- Sept. 16, Hot-dog roast, 5:00-7:00, Livonia Rotary Park**
- Oct. 7, Halloween Dance, 7:00-9:30, Thurston High School, Redford (Trademark Band)**
- Nov. 18, Country Western Dance, 7:00-9:30, Thurston (Trademark Band)**
- Dec. 10, Christmas Dinner Dance, 5:00-9:30, Hellenic Center, (Trademark Band)**
- Jan. 20, Hawaiian Luau / Pizza Dance, 6:30-9:30, Thurston (J.J. & Company Band)**
- Feb. 10, Valentine Dance, 7:00-9:30, Thurston (J.J. & Company Band)**
- Mar 17, St. Patrick's Day Dance, 7:00-9:30, Thurston (J.J. & Company Band)**
- Apr 28, Chicken Dinner Dance, 6:30-9:30, Thurston (D.J. Mark and Randy)**
- May 12, Ice Cream Social Dance, 6:30-9:30, Canton High School, (D. J. Tony Arini)**

If you are not a member of the JFC, please call the Arc (313-532-7915) and ask for Lana Richardson. You need to be a current member of the Arc. The JFC membership is \$5.00 to join for the 2016-2017 year. There is a separate charge for each event. Our membership packets were mailed out in August. After you have returned your membership info. to the Arc, a badge with your name on it will be passed out at our first event, the Hot-dog roast. You must keep/ wear this badge to each of the events you attend. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in September!

Jackie Norris
JFC Chairperson

Membership Renewals

Sept. 2016

Nancy Barnes
Eric Burkholder
Rick & Pam Chestnut
Catherine Colombo
Erik Copeland
Matt Copeland
Lorie Lee Deline
Alice Eatinger
Scott Elliott

Garden City Opportunity
Center
James Goff
Traci Golemo
Jill Gorman
Joseph & Marcella Hayosh
Hartel Home
Amy Isaacs
Diane Kaminski
Bob & Kathleen Klosowski
Livonia House
Rosemary Mondro

Eileen Murphy
James Parsons
Christina Perrine
John & Laura Robertson
Marie Street
Thomas & Joan Verla
Elizabeth Zelenak

Memorials

In Memory of Maybelle Munn

George & Joyce Galloway
Mr. & Mrs. John Lovett
Loretta & Thomas O'Leary
Herman & Georgia Westra
Robert & Teresa Galloway
Carol Zago
Lawrence & Linda Boulton
Mareen Stevens & Cheryl Snider Families
Robert & Cheryl Jackson
Murielle Saville
Zaidos & Donna Church
Loretta O'Leary
Chuck & Mary Brencot
Jim Gallas & Dixie Hibner

In Memory of Marie Snyder

Carol Zago

Donations

Miriam Glantz &
Terry Flanagan
Andrea Ozog
Barbara Lea & Salik Jones
Richard & Loren Parker
Susan Parker
Susan Gardynik
Eileen Murphy
Joanne Randolph
Bill Winkler
Nazzarreno Troiani

Jordan Meharg
Patricia Koepke
Debra & Cody Bartlett
Candice Taylor
Ramesh Ramchandren
Robert & Sandra Brown
James Goff

In Honor of Annette Borno's 80th Birthday

Martha & Doak Breen

In Memory of Danny Quinn

Maureen & David Clark
Chuck & Molly Steiner
David & Janet Griene
Lori Ann Rimpel
Janice & Anderson Beckham
Scott Dorfman &
Leigh Schoettinger
Terri Tyner
Kathryn & Margaret Tyner
Elizabeth Tyner
Jean Stegen
Sarah Smith
Kristen Hewitt
MaryAnn Wilkinson & Paul
Richard Smythe
Mary Jane Hyatt & William Hyatt
Barb Anderson
Thomas & Adrienne Keller
Daniel & Barbara Collins
William & JoAnne Weaver

In Memory of Marguerite Freda

Barbara & Sidney Read
Charles & Kathleen Ericson
Chet, Mary & Beth Wilson
Steven & Laura Dyas
Ronald & Joyce Burrell
Donald & Jane Freda
Jacqueline Marchewka
David, Cynthia & Jerry Matuszak
Ronald & Joyce Burrell
Norm Freda & Family
Daniel & Barbara Collins

In Memory of Joan Elliott

Jean Stegen

September 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5  HAPPY LABOR DAY Arc Office Closed	6 Soccer 6 - 7pm Wolverines 7-8pm Wildcats Hotshots Wizards 	7 Softball 6 - 7pm Diamonds 7 - 8pm Hotshots 	8 After I'm Gone 6:30pm Skill Center	9	10  Bowling Oak Lanes 9:30am Guys & Dolls 1:30pm
11	12  Softball Wolverines @Emerson	13 Soccer 6 - 7pm Wolverines 7-8pm Wildcats Hotshots Wizards  Board Meeting 6pm	14  Softball 6 - 7pm Diamonds 7 - 8pm Hotshots	15  CLs, Inc. Evening with Friends Laurel Manor	16  JFC Hot Dog Roast 5 - 7pm Livonia Rotary Park	17  Bowling Oak Lanes Guys & Dolls 1:30pm
18	19  Softball Wolverines @Emerson	20 Soccer 6 - 7pm Wolverines 7-8pm Wildcats Hotshots Wizards 	21  Softball 6 - 7pm Diamonds 7 - 8pm Hotshots	22	23	24  Bowling Oak Lanes 9:30am Guys & Dolls 1:30pm
25	26	27 Soccer 6 - 7pm Wolverines 7-8pm Wildcats Hotshots Wizards 	28	29 After I'm Gone 6:30pm Skill Center	30	

CHECK IT OUT!

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County's
Web Site

www.thearcnw.org



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Each edition of this newsletter is prepared for mailing by volunteers from Zeta Tau Alpha.



26049 Five Mile Road
Redford, Michigan 48239
313-532-7915

**Inside The Arc is also available online at
thearcnw.org
Call 313-532-7915 to end your printed mailed newsletter.**

Membership Application

Name _____

Email Address _____ **Daytime Phone** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Name _____ **Birth Date** _____

(Name line above for member(s) with intellectual and developmental disability)

Address (if different) _____

Telephone (if different) _____

Welcome!

Membership Dues

- New Member
- Renewing Member
- Associate Member
- \$35 Annual Family or Group Home Membership
- \$25 Individual Membership
- \$25 Associate Membership

DONATIONS \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 _____ Other