

## A message from Karla Block

Director of Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled



As Transitions site shifts take place each month there have been some repeated questions about specific topics. One topic we hope to provide some more information about is about the new Skill Building supports. Medicaid language requires specific things to take place, related to service provision, in order for the agency to bill and receive payment for services. Related to Skill Building, Medicaid requires that clear, definable goals are linked to a person’s desire to gain employment, attend school, or participate in meaningful volunteer related activities. Beyond just having clear goals though, the person must also show the ability to actively work on those goals for several hours in a row (3 or more hours), and do so at least one or more times per week. These requirements for Skill Building shape what the agency’s new supports can, and cannot, look like moving forward. As people shift into new Skill Building services, it’s important for everyone to know that we have to adhere to these Medicaid standards – there is no flexibility surrounding these requirements as there may have been with past services.

The process surrounding the Transitions site shifts remains the same, with individuals preparing to shift out into the community and beginning their pre-planning roughly 90 days prior to the actual transition point. At that time, individuals currently receiving services at Transitions site settings will be assessed for Skill Building needs and participate in the Full Life Level of Care assessment process. These tools will help individuals in planning for needs, and finding clear goals that may tie into the Skill Building services area, as well as other needs, such as Community Living Supports, Residential services, etc.

### Transitions Survey Project

We want your voice to be heard! The Quality Improvement team at CMHA-CEI has randomly selected individuals from each Transitions site to complete a survey.

The survey aims to measure consumer quality of life and satisfaction of services through a face-to-face interview before their site shift is complete, and again one year later. The results of the survey will be used to monitor and enhance quality of services of individuals with developmental disabilities receiving CMHA-CEI services.

Individuals randomly selected to be surveyed will be sent a letter and other required forms in the mail in at least one month before their Transition site’s shift to community integration.

Guardians will be required to sign consent forms for participation, and are encouraged to participate in the survey by assisting individuals in answering the survey questions. The letter will contain more

information about the survey and contact information for the Quality Improvement team.

Those who are not randomly selected, but who would like to voice their thoughts may contact CMHA-CEI’s Customer Service representatives at (517) 346-8244. Specific questions about services may be directed to the appropriate case manager.

### Transitions Site Timelines

Location	Pre-Planning Begins	PCP/Shift to Community Integration Complete
Charlotte	Shift completed January 31, 2019	
Grand Ledge	Shift completed February 28, 2019	
St. Johns	Shift completed March 31, 2019	
Mason	February 2019	April 30, 2019
Central	March 2019	May 31, 2019
South	April 2019	July 31, 2019
North	May 2019	September 30, 2019



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# HCBS COMMUNITY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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General Administration  
Office of CEO  
812 East Jolly Road, Ste 216  
Lansing, MI 48910

## Check out these community resources!



**Hope. Help. Answers. Today.**

Website:  
<https://autismallianceofmichigan.org>

Email: [info@aaomi.org](mailto:info@aaomi.org)

Phone: 877-463-2266

**Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM)** is leading collaborative efforts across the state that will improve the quality of life for individuals with autism through education, access to comprehensive services, community awareness, inclusion efforts, and coordinated advocacy.

*True North:* "People with autism will lead lives that meet their greatest potential."

*Mission:* "We lead efforts to raise expectations and expand opportunities for people touched by autism across the lifespan."

Contact AAoM or visit their website to get help finding resources. Their Neighborhood Directory is home to over 700 resources based in Michigan, including doctors, summer camps, autism friendly businesses, and more.