

Michigan signs ‘Super’ MOU to Support Transition to Employment

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On June 21, 2016, representatives from six state agencies and the Lt. Governor of Michigan, Brian Calley, gathered in Flint, Michigan to sign a ‘Super’ MOU, which involved Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (signatories included the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services), the Workforce Development Agency, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs on behalf of the (Bureau of Services for Blind Persons), Michigan Department of Education, and, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council.



Source: DarKen Photography

Individuals from left to right: Stephanie Comai, Michigan Talent and Economic Development; Lisa Kisiel, Bureau of Services for Blind Persons; Suzanne Howell, Michigan Rehabilitation Services; Shelly Edgerton, Michigan Department Licensing and Regulatory Affairs; Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley; Vendella M. Collins, Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council; Lynda Zeller, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration; and Jane Reagan, Michigan Department of Education

The frame work was laid for the memorandum over two years of ODEP EFSLMP work. In year one, SME David Hoff provided a thorough review of all existing memorandums between the various agencies, and identified what was needed to bring the existing memorandums into compliance with WIOA. Year one also brought the partners together, where, over time, they laid a foundation of teamwork and trust. In year two, SME Richard Luecking facilitated the drafting of the super MOU, in a way that would meet the needs of the various agencies, and most importantly, the requirements of WIOA. Core team members met twice a month for the past 18 months, which laid the foundation for the MOU. The partners made a commitment to the work of the grant and are regular and active participants.

Dr. Yasmina Bouraoui, Michigan State Team lead, stated that the core team members were committed to getting the MOU signed, and had the influence and trust of their superiors. She states that the ODEP EFSLMP project has elevated the state team to a place of visibility and credibility within the various state systems. The memorandum is designed to further increase the number of students and youth with disabilities transitioning from school to employment, as well as post-secondary education intended to lead to employment. The MOU is the framework for the work that will occur in local communities.

The representatives were gathered as part of Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein's "Hidden Talent" workshop in Flint as part of their efforts to highlight the need to hire people with disabilities. The workshop provided employers the opportunity to learn from businesses already hiring individuals with disabilities, learn about available resources as well as strategies for accommodations and inclusion in the workplace. A signed copy of the MOU can be found here: [Michigan Super MOUFINAL.pdf](#)
