

**Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body**  
**Workgroup Charge**  
**Submitted: October 2015**  
**Updated: 2019**

**Workgroup Name:** Abilities Alliance (“Helping people see beyond differences to the value we all hold inside ourselves”)

**Lead Agency:** Arc Livingston

**Chairperson:** Connie Conklin

- Responsibilities:
1. Chair regular meetings
  2. Report activities to the HSCB annually
  3. Represent workgroup at appropriate meetings

**Vice-Chairperson:** Doug Haseley

Responsibilities: Fill in for chair in their absence.

**Staff Person:** Anne Rennie, Collaborative Community Planner

- Responsibilities:
1. Meet regularly with Chair (email and in person as needed)
  2. Develop agenda and materials for meetings with the Chair
  3. Research specific information as requested by the group
  4. Assist in the development of the Work Plan

**Original Issue to be studied and/or acted upon when Workgroup was formed:** Youth and adults with disabilities have abilities and talents like everyone else. The Abilities Alliance would like to organize the community to provide collaborative opportunities to youth and adults as well as address the many challenges that may exist in our community. One key area this workgroup would like to address is to change the conversation from “disabilities” to “ABILITIES”. There are many great things happening in our community now but this workgroup will seek to organize opportunities in areas like housing, transportation, employment, recreational, family support and fun. The primary goal is to increase understanding, reduce stigma and provide opportunities.

**Workgroup Goal(s):** To ensure individuals are first seen with abilities and are given similar opportunities to be active in our community. The key areas that will be addressed are:

1. Create a method of communication for all individuals; ensure individuals have information about opportunities in many ways.
2. Increase understanding and reduce stigma
3. Education assistance  
Support and partner with the schools on expanding opportunities
4. Employment assistance  
Career planning  
Expand employment options based on abilities/interest  
Work with employers in our county
5. Transportation
6. Social and Recreational Activities  
Ensure barriers are addressed to be part of the community events and support other events that are identified

**Workgroup Objectives:**

- Identify gaps and needs that interfere with people with disabilities accessing and being included in our community.
- Increase community recognition of gaps and needs.
- Educate the community, through providing/sharing information about opportunities/events that mindfully include all.
- Recognize community partners who demonstrate a value of people of all abilities.

**Key Data to be Collected/Tracked:**

- Number of educational activities to reduce stigma were made to the community
- Number of communications to reduce stigma were made to the community
- Increase in employment opportunities
- Housing and transportation options will increase
- Number of social and recreational activities opportunities

**Meeting Schedule:** The Abilities Alliance workgroup will meet monthly.

**Leadership Structure:** The Chair position will be a 2 year term, starting in January of odd years and ending in December of even years. The Vice- Chair will also be a 2 year term, starting in January of odd years and ending in December of even years. The Vice-Chair will then assume the Chair position for the next term. Posting and recruitment for new Vice-Chair will take place in the fall of even years.

**Reporting Mechanism and Frequency:** The Abilities Alliance Workgroup will present annually at the HSCB meeting and will complete the Success Indicator Report annually in October. In addition, they will share, as needed, any action items, specific needs, or major accomplishments achieved. The group will also report at the HSCB annual meeting.

**Current Membership:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living</li> <li>• Arc of Livingston</li> <li>• Department of Health and Human Services</li> <li>• Excel Employment Options</li> <li>• Family members of individuals with a disability</li> <li>• Hymes Coaching and Services</li> <li>• Individuals with a disability</li> <li>• Livingston Co. Community Mental Health</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livingston Co. Health Department</li> <li>• Livingston Educational Service Agency</li> <li>• Livingston Essential Transportation Services</li> <li>• Michigan Rehabilitation Services</li> <li>• RICC</li> <li>• Special Ministries</li> <li>• United Way</li> <li>• Work Skills</li> </ul> |
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**Responsibilities of HSCB:** Provide support for grant applications, defer identified needs and gaps for these individuals to the workgroup, and provide support and response to identified needs/gaps.

