

Send a resume and cover explaining your interest in advancing the disability rights movement in Southwest Michigan to mcgowenm@dnswm.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Disability Network Southwest Michigan – Berrien/Cass Position Description

Position Title: Community Educator & Systems Advocate

Supervisor: Program Manager – Systems Change/Community Education

Position General Summary: This position conducts Disability Network community education and systems advocacy in Berrien and Cass Counties. Responsibilities include giving presentations and public comment in a variety of contexts, representing the agency and the disability justice perspective at community meetings, advocating for people with disabilities whose rights may have been violated under disability rights laws and engaging in systems change activities to advance the disability rights movement at local, state, and federal levels.

Essential Responsibilities and Duties:

- Plan, coordinate and facilitate events such as workshops and presentations on a variety of disability topics to people with disabilities and the general public.
- Represent Disability Network Southwest Michigan and the disability rights perspective at community functions in Berrien and Cass counties, including giving public input in person and in writing.
- Respond to requests for information and/or advocacy assistance from customers on disability rights issues.
- Build relationships with disability groups throughout service area and identify issues for disability advocacy.
- Provide support to people with disabilities who want to engage in community advocacy and systems change activities.
- Participate in local and/or statewide coalitions or workgroups around systems change issues.
- Provide technical assistance and informational trainings to the public, community partners, businesses and local units of government on the ADA, accessibility, and other relevant disability issues.
- Conduct ADA site surveys for physical and programmatic accessibility as needed.
- Participate as a member of the Advocacy & Community Education team.
- Other relevant duties as assigned by supervisor.

Qualifications

Personal experience with disability or knowledge of disability issues and the consumer/community based Independent Living (IL) philosophy.

Commitment to disability justice and the disability rights movement, including passion for inclusiveness, diversity, and equity for all people.

Excellent listening skills, problem solving skills and interpersonal relations skills.

Ability to communicate clearly and professionally, both in person and in writing.

Ability to work without direct supervision and initiate activities with regular communication with supervisor.

Comfort with public speaking.

Excellent organizational skills; ability to follow through and work independently.

Experience with computers, data entry, and internet research.

Full-Time Non-Exempt position

Initial posting 9/7/16