



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

March 27, 2008

TO: Executive Directors of Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs) and Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs)

FROM: Michael J. Head, Deputy Director  
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration

RE: International Conference on Self-Determination

I write to draw your attention to the upcoming International Conference on Self-Determination, being held on May 27-29, 2008 at the Marriott Renaissance Center in Detroit.

The International Conference on Self-Determination is co-sponsored by Department of Health and Human Services agencies, CMS, ASPE and SAMHSA. The Michigan Department of Community Health is also a co-sponsor, as are the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency and the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority.

The International Conference on Self-Determination will serve a much different purpose than most other conferences. It is designed with a focus on cross-disability applications of issues and methods that support consumer self-determination. Presentations include short overviews as well as panel discussions and roundtables organized by relevant topics. There is an opportunity to learn more about activities occurring in the U.S. and in several other countries.

At the conference, people with interests in and experience with self-determination representing different countries and disability groups will gather to have open and in-depth discussions about successes and areas for improvement in furthering self-determination for people who rely on publicly-funded supports. The conference will support building cross-disability and international alliances to strengthen advocacy and leadership for self-determination.

Please visit the conference website at: <http://www.communitydrive.org/Conference.html>. I ask that you actively support participation by your organization and that you share information about this opportunity to expand understanding and awareness of self-determination and consumer-controlled service arrangements, with advocates, providers and consumer groups in your local system.

c: Janet Olszewski  
Don Allen

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