



Disability Network/Northern Michigan

BOARD RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATION

Our Vision and Mission

The Disability Network / Northern Michigan strives for a world where persons with disabilities in Northern Michigan will achieve their full potential in a community that supports equality for all. The mission of the organization is *to promote personal empowerment and positive social change for persons with disabilities through outreach, advocacy, and education*. We are a broad-based organization that is inclusive of all types of disabilities. Our activities include:

- Working with youth with disabilities to assist in their successful transition from school to community and work;
- Helping communities mobilize to advocate for systems change for persons with disabilities in health care, transportation, housing, employment, and recreation and to work to remove attitudinal barriers for persons with disabilities;
- Providing an information and referral system to assist persons with disabilities to help themselves by providing information and support;
- Offering partnership programs improve access for persons with disabilities to fully participate in society.

Overview of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Disability Network/ Northern Michigan (DN/NM), a 501(C) (3) nonprofit organization.

The annual operational budget of the Disability Network / Northern Michigan is over \$800,000 for fiscal year 2017. Currently, the organization receives its funds from the Federal Government, the State of Michigan, donors, program partners, and programs and services.

The board consists of up to 15 directors and meets 10-12 times a year. Additionally, board members serve on a committee or a task force of interest. The Board is made up of at least 51% of persons with disabilities. The Disability Network / Northern Michigan is a part of a statewide network of Centers for Independent Living that

upholds the standards and assurances that are set by the state and federal government to promote the independent living philosophy and provide programs and services to assist persons with disabilities and their families.

The headquarters of the organization is located in Traverse City. Our service area covers a seventeen-county region across Northern Lower Michigan.

Expectations of Board Members

Board members provide oversight and help guide the policy and strategic development of the organization as it pursues its mission. They should have a passion for the organization's mission and its fight to enact systems change to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. Core expectations can be summarized by the following four characteristics:

1. Be Involved

- Participate in Board Meetings.
- Participate in Task Force and/or Committee assignments and meetings.

2. Be Informed

- Know the vision and mission.
- Know key priorities, policies and programs.

3. Be an Advocate

- Inform others.
- Express support to policy/opinion leaders.

4. Be a Financial Supporter

- Make an annual financial contribution appropriate to your situation.
- Provide contacts/ask others for financial support.

Nomination Process

Potential board members are identified in a variety of ways. Once identified, information about the organization is shared and there typically is a face-to-face meeting with a member of the leadership of the organization. In keeping with our mission, the majority of members of the board are persons with disabilities. Assuming interest in proceeding, a basic profile of the candidate is submitted to the Board Chairperson for recommendation. The full board will vote to act on the nomination.

Disability Network/ Northern Michigan

415 East Eighth Street, Traverse City, MI 49686
231.922.0903 / www.disabilitynetwork.org

Board of Directors Candidate Application

Date:

Name:

Residence

Address:

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Employer

Preferred method of contact () Work () Residence

Please list boards and committees that you serve on, or have served on (business, civic, community, fraternal, political, professional, recreational, religious, and social).

Organization

Role/Title

Dates of Service

Education/Training/Certificates:

Optional – Have you received any awards or honors that you'd like to mention?

How do you feel Disability Network/ Northern Michigan would benefit from your involvement on the Board?

Skills, experience and interests: (Please circle all that apply)

Finance, accounting

Personnel, human resources

Administration, management

Nonprofit experience

Community service

Policy development

Program evaluation

Public relations, communications

Education, instruction

Special events

Grant writing

Fundraising

Outreach, advocacy

Other _____

Other _____

Other _____

Please tell us anything else you'd like to share.

Thank you for your consideration!

Thank you very much for applying