The **mission** of the Western Michigan University Center for Disability Services is to help people who because of age, illness or disability need assistance to live life fully. Through our community living, care coordination, skill building and aging services, our goal is to support a person's intellectual and physical functioning and independence by minimizing the negative impact of age or disability on their life, and assisting them to remain living at home and participating in their community.

CDS also provides WMU students with an opportunity for innovative learning and discovery in the field of aging and disabilities through internships, volunteering and employment.

Our **vision** is to provide high quality supports and services and to help all people be active members of their community and achieve the highest quality of life possible.

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**Introducing our new Director**

Dear Friends and CDS Community,

I am truly delighted to be part of this incredible community. It is a great honor to accept the appointed role as Director for the Center for Disability Services and I look forward to supporting the ongoing work of a dedicated team.

As we begin this journey together, I want to start by recognizing the retirement of Dr. Carol Sundberg, former executive director of CDS. Carol dedicated 30+ years to CDS and has been instrumental in developing the robust programs that impact the daily lives of the individuals we serve today. We are grateful for her leadership and the many accomplishments achieved through her dedication to CDS and Western Michigan University.

The past two+ years of Covid-19 have brought forth unique challenges for our programs. We’ve made many adjustments to our practices to keep our clients and employees safe. The pandemic has highlighted more than ever before the value and enrichment our services bring to the lives of those we serve and the undeniable dedication of our employees. I am incredibly proud to have such an amazing team of individuals working to ensure our programs are thriving and continuing to evolve as we strive to meet the ever-changing needs of our community.

I look forward to getting to know each of you,

Dr. Andrea Perez

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**Advisory Board Update**

Dr. Debra Lindstrom has completed her final calendar year as our long-time Advisory Board Chairperson.

Dr. Jonathan Baker, Chair of the Department of Psychology at Western Michigan University has been voted in by the CDS Advisory Board and officially assumed the role of Advisory Board Chairperson.

A message from Debra: “I have enjoyed my time with CDS, learning from and supporting this very needed and well-run program for people with disabilities. I feel Jon is a great person to advise the CDS executive director due to his years of experience with CDS and the population we serve, his connection with WMU and students, his research interests which align with our mission, and his strong mentoring relationship with our current director”.

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**Advisory Board Members**

- **Dr. Jonathan Baker**, Chairperson
  Chair, Department of Psychology
- **Dr. Diane Anderson**
  Vice President for Student Affairs, WMU
- **Deanna Bush**
  Faculty Specialist in Music Therapy and Coordinator of Clinical Experiences
- **Dr. Betty Dennis**
  Director, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Faculty Specialist II
- **Cindy Green**
  Retired, Kalamazoo Public Schools Assistant Superintendent
- **Sharon Hunt**
  Parent contact
- **Dr. Yvonne Jackson**
  Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy, WMU
- **Dr. James Leja**
  Professor and Chair Emeritus Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies
- **Kimberly Middleton**
  Deputy Director, Zhang Portage Community Senior Center

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**Our values:**

- All people are valued members of society.
- All people have the right to make choices affecting their lives.
- People who receive our services are unique individuals who should be cherished, treated with sincere understanding and respect, and provided with lifelong learning opportunities.
The programs offered at CDS are designed to empower individuals who are aging or have disabilities to become more independent, participate in their community and get the supports they need to live a joyous and healthy life.

386,935
Total units of direct service
* 1 unit = 15 minutes

87%
of participants met goals at CDS throughout the year

250 people served

$595,198.68 paid out in student wages

91 student employees

21%
of individuals served at WMU Senior Day Services are Veterans

Center for Disability Services | 1000 Oakland Drive | Kalamazoo MI 49008 | wmich.edu/disabilitycenter