

MONTCALM HUMAN SERVICES COALITION

May 6, 2009

Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, Stanton

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: **John Johansen**, County Commissioner; **Bob Brown**, The Montcalm Center for Behavioral Health; **Linda Huyck**, MSUE Montcalm; **Bruce DuHamel** (for Kim Singh), Mid-Michigan District Health Department; **John Kroneck**, Life Guidance Wellness & Prevention; **Dr. Dorothy Berg**, North Kent Guidance Services; **Chris Hyzer**, County Administrator/ Controller; **Denny Major**, Ionia Montcalm DHS; **Deborah McCormack**, Catholic Charities West Michigan; **Dr. Scott Koenigsnecht**, Montcalm Area Intermediate School District; **Bruce Williams**, ACE Home Health Care; **John Van Nieuwenhuyzen**, EightCAP, Inc.; **Chad Campbell**, Community Hope Counseling Center; **Pastor Jerry Jones**, Faith Community Representative; **Kathy Betts**, Central Montcalm Community/Adult Education; **Don Burns**, Montcalm Community College; **Erin Roberts**, RAVE.

Members Absent: **Bill Barnwell**, Montcalm County Sheriff Office; **Andrea Krause**, Prosecuting Attorney; **Janet Bloomfield**, Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium; **Mike Brewer**, Goodwill Industries; **Laura Thompson**, Alpha Family Center; **Judge Simon**, Probate Court; **Jodie Faber**, United Lifestyles; **Bob Clingenpeel**, Commission on Aging; **Don Myers**, Vestaburg Public School; **Denise Hubbard**, United Way of Montcalm County; **Franz Mogdis**, Montcalm Alliance; **Judge Kreeger**, 8th Circuit Court; **Alison Barberi**, Greenville Area Community Foundation; **Therese Reilly**, Montcalm Area Health Center;

Staff and Others Present: **Lisa Lund**, Staff; **Brenda Greenhoe**, Great Start Collaborative; **Kim Brown**, Catholic Charities West Michigan Stanton Office.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson John VanNieuwenhuyzen called meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

WELCOME

Chairperson John VanNieuwenhuyzen welcomed members and had guests/new members introduce themselves.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Motioned by John Kroneck to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by John Johansen. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

Kim Brown from Catholic Charities West Michigan presented a mid-year report on Strong Families Safe Children. A handout was distributed. Changes to program specifics were recommended to make more effective. This presentation was for informational purposes.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST

Kathy Betts informed the group about a Workforce Investment Act -Title II grant that she is looking to submit (family literacy and adult education). The program has received awards due to exceptional performance. She estimates the grant will be for about \$100,000 but final figures are to be determined. It will be used for Adult Basic Education and county jail prisoner educational services. She would need the letter by May 20 and will determine who the letter needs to be directed to. She is requesting a letter from the MHSC and will additionally be approaching some individual agencies such as Michigan Works and Montcalm Community College.

Motioned by John Johansen to provide a letter of support. Seconded by Don Burns. Motion carried.

Kathy also added that the adult and alternative education graduation will be held on May 7 with 31 people expected to graduate.

DASHBOARD INITIATIVES

MHSC members did not meet in committees today but were given the opportunity to provide updates:

- **Basic Needs**: Exploring best practices. Considering doing another poverty summit/basic needs meeting. John Van suggested coordinating efforts/potential resources through Voices for Action.
- **Economic Development/Transportation**: Franz Mogdis asked Lisa Lund to report in his absence that a meeting is scheduled with a lawyer to answer questions about elections and authority establishment.
- **Education**: Great Start wrapping up community conversations and will start strategic planning in June; planning for STAR Power advocacy day in Lansing. Dr. K, Don Burns, and others continue working on regional Keep Learning campaign; contact William Tammone at Montcalm Community College to get on notification list (next meeting is June 25).
- **Health Care and Substance Abuse**: John Kroneck discussed the Smokefree Worksite legislation status and challenges related to that issue. He also discussed new billboards put up by Montcalm County Underage Drinking Coalition, the continuing effort to get resolutions of support, and their new website. Lisa Lund reported that Kim Singh arranged for Maryhelen MacInnes to present the FACT Grant Health Care Project final report at our June meeting.
- **Strong Families/Safe Children**: Lisa Lund provided a meeting summary from the last Child and Family Services Committee in the packet. Meeting with Barb Hustoles to prep bid for FY 2010 amidst 20% funding cut and stricter program standards.

OLD BUSINESS

VOICES FOR ACTION REGIONAL POVERTY INITIATIVE UPDATE

John VanNieuwenhuyzen shared an update on the initiative. While the region Montcalm County is in is rather inactive at this time, other regions are active. He will keep us posted on activities and resource opportunities.

NEW BUSINESS

LOCAL IMPACT OF FEDERAL STIMULUS OPPORTUNITIES/STATE BUDGET CUTS AND DIALOGUE

Members discussed their perspectives about the Federal Stimulus money as well as the Executive Order Budget Cuts just announced yesterday (many agencies do not know the impacts of this yet). For

information, Lisa distributed a document put together by Michigan's Children outlining the cuts and interpreting some of them; this is also available as a PDF document. Lisa Lund had previously forwarded information from the Michigan Recovery Act Programs website at www.michigan.gov/recovery as well as the Executive Order.

Members were encouraged to continue collaborating to make best use of the opportunities and address shortfalls.

Some of the issues and concerns noted were:

- Opportunity and resources for some but not all organizations
- Short timeline for projects- concerned about hiring and potential unemployment costs that could be incurred
- The hurry up and wait nature of the stimulus funding- expect much, no procedures in place to implement programs, too much at one time.
- Ensuring an adequate number of eligible people to be served can be identified within the guidelines and timelines.
- No one addressing structural issues related to state budget, painful short-term fixes.
- Organizations unable to plan ahead- "frozen."
- A lot of sudden change to manage at one time, especially as it relates to accounting for the funding. Administrative and capacity issues.

Some of the opportunities identified were as follows:

- John Van, EightCAP: Increased funding for weatherization (article provided at meeting), Early Head Start and Head Start programs, youth employment program (promoting both jobs for youth and opps for nonprofits/government to hire). He also noted the senior volunteer program has been reauthorized (not a stimulus per se but good news). Anyone interested in more information should contact the EightCAP office.
- Denise Hubbard, wearing FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Board Chairperson hat: In Denise's absence, Lisa Lund shared a handout Denise asked be shared re: increased FEMA funds and steps that need to be taken to specifically addressing local needs for this funding. Denise would like MHSC member input.
- Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht, MAISD: Partnering with other districts in the region/area to apply for a homeless student related grant called the Education for Homeless Children and Youth grant. Able to address direct student needs. Contact Dr. K for more information.
- Continuum of Care, Michigan State Housing Development Authority: Ionia and Montcalm allocated to receive almost \$421,000 for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing (Community Housing Assistance Plan). Training for this Notice of Funding Availability application will be on May 11 with application is due in July. EightCAP has stepped forward to be lead agency for the grant but the decision has not been finalized. Anyone interested in this opportunity should contact Lisa.
- Sewer Improvement Project: Montcalm County will receive a \$3,764,000 loan and a \$2,000,000 grant to pay for sewer projects (Montcalm Community College, two nearby residential lake areas).

MEETING SCHEDULE AND DATE

Motioned by John Johansen to cancel the July meeting. Seconded by Dr. Dorothy Berg. Motion carried.

Lisa was also asked to get feedback from members on the current meeting time/date to verify it is working.

ADVOCACY

No business items discussed today.

AGENCY SHARING

The MHSC procedure on agency sharing asks that any members wanting their agency sharing information to go into the meeting minutes submit their information to Lisa Lund in writing (members can still share verbally at the meeting). If any MHSC members did not provide something in writing at the time of the meeting, they can still send their information to Lisa Lund afterwards who will forward to the membership.

The following items were submitted in writing.

- **Linda Huyck**: Shared a flier on ServSafe Food Service Certification Training to be held in Ionia. Registrations requested by May 18. For more information, contact (269) 945-1388. She also shared a flier on the Montcalm County 6th Annual 4-H Youth Benefit Auction on May 9. For more information, contact the MSUE office at (989) 831-7500 for more information.
- **John Van Nieuenhuyzen**: Shared flier on the Youth Employment Program (“Earn N’ Learn”) to recruit youth workers. Contact your local Michigan Works office. John also asked for feedback on local needs related to “basic needs” and expansion of programs and services for low-income persons- Lisa Lund will get something in writing from him to forward to members.
- **Lisa Lund**: Received a written proposal from Pat Wyckoff about a proposed interagency training for this Fall. Lisa will bring the proposal to the Executive Committee for discussion due to time.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 3 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Montcalm Area ISD, Michigan Room.

Adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Lund