

St. Clair County  
Community Services Coordinating Body  
Full Body Meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

**Present:** R. Alley - RESA, S. Archibald-CAN Council, A. Austin-Michigan Works! K. Burdick - CCSEM, S. Cerny-The Harbor, B. Coleman-Lakeshore Legal Aid, C. Cook-BWCIL, S. Crawford – The Council on Aging, S. Currie-The Harbor, B. DiNardo-St. Clair County Community College, C. Doppke-Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, B. Ensroth - Lakeshore Legal Aid, Mychal Fearncombe-Community Enterprises of SCC, K. Gallagher-SCCCMH, J. Hayes- VNA/Blue Water Hospice, R. Hernandez-Operation Transformation, J. Johnson-Michigan State University Extension, M. Johnson - BWCA, M. King-SCC Sheriff's Dept., T. Kuhns-Operation Transformation K. Palka-A Beautiful Me, P. Patterson-Blue Water Recovery Outreach Center, K. Posey- City of Port Huron, S. Powers-Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, Mayor Pauline Repp-City of Port Huron, A. Sears-AAA 1B, J. Shinn-Ennis Center for Children, A. Sochor-Community Foundation of SCC, T. Spencer-Goodwill Industries, L. Stoneberg-PCC, K. Swantek - BWDH, D. Walbecq-MDHHS, T. Willard - Hunter Hospitality House

**Guest:** K. Heuvelman-Odyssey Village, E. Matusky-P.J. Wallbanks

**Staff Support:** A. Luckenbacher – SCCCMHA, S. Herrle-SCCCMHA, and B. Cameron – SCCCMHA

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**I. Welcome and Introductions, Ground Rules for Virtual Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Ms. Debra Johnson. Members were welcomed to the meeting, and asked to introduce themselves. Ms. Johnson explained the basic ground rules for the virtual platform of this meeting.

**II. Agenda Changes**

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any agenda changes. There were none.

**III. Acceptance of September 16, 2020 and November 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September 16, 2020 or the November 18, 2020 CSCB Full Body minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Scott Crawford moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Kathy Swantek. **MOTION CARRIED**

**IV. Organizational Presentation**

**A. Blue Water Recovery Outreach Center (BWROC) (PowerPoint provided)**

In Mr. Rich Kroll's absence, Mr. Patrick Patterson gave a brief presentation of the Blue Water Recovery Outreach Center, also known as BWROC. This organization provides many services for people who are in recovery as a result of substance use disorders. BWROC was established in September, 2017, as a non-profit community organization to help those struggling with addiction, and connects them to recovery resources and programs.

- ✓ They provide recovery coaching in the workplace, recovery housing, recovery support groups, recovery events, and will soon be opening a recovery store where participants can earn and receive recovery bucks that can be used to purchase self- help books and merchandise.
- ✓ They have a 6 month program, of which their goal is self-sufficiency, and would like 8 out of 10 participants to reach that goal. This program provides an individual with a needs assessment, assisting with housing and other obstacles such as transportation, child care, etc., connecting people with resources for detoxing, and promoting community engagement for human connection.

- ✓ The have a goal of holding events is at least one per month. They also have positive impact teams, which do good deeds within the community once per month.
- ✓ They provide recovery advocacy to help reduce the stigma of addiction, offering hope to encourage recovery. Their video series have reached over 250,000 individuals, they have presented in front of 529 people over the past year, and their newsletter has reached over 600 people every week.
- ✓ All of their resources are located in one spot, and can be found at [www.bwroc.org](http://www.bwroc.org). The location of their new building is just off of 10<sup>th</sup> and Lapeer Roads, in Port Huron.

## V. COVID-19 Update

**A. EOC-County Task Force Updates-**Ms. Johnson stated that the number of COVID-19 cases are declining, however the cases are still too high.

**B. Vaccination Updates-**The focus within the county right now is in phase 1A, getting vaccines out to healthcare workers and first responders. More doses were due to be delivered to the Health Department today. Lake Huron Medical Center also has been providing regular vaccines to the police departments, along with other healthcare workers. The Council on Aging will be assisting seniors, make appointments when they become available, as the county moves into phase 1B.

Sheriff Mat King stated that the hospital beds are good right now, and are trending in the right direction to move to phase 1B of the vaccine distribution.

Ms. Johnson said that most of the protection from the vaccines is provided 10-14 days after receiving the second shot, and that there will be new rules on quarantining coming out with regards to those who have had vaccines, and those who have not.

**C. Eviction Diversion Initiative/Rental Assistance Program Updates-**Ms. Melinda Johnson stated that the original program funding ended December 31<sup>st</sup>. This program served over 300 customers with Lakeshore Legal Aid's assistance. They were also able to close 203 cases, 52 of them with Lakeshore Legal Aid's help. There will be four additional rounds of funding coming in, and they are gearing up to manage this, with the hope of being able to continue this program. Working closely with the landlords has been a great experience, and moving forward there is a need to hire additional staff to assist with getting everyone housed. Ms. Johnson also noted that this program has the attention of our legislator, and stated that the Eviction Moratorium is at the top of their list. They are aware that there is a terrible shortage of affordable housing locally.

## VI. Emerging Issues

### A. Business Resource Network

Ms. Johnson introduced Audrey Sochor from the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, and Ann Austin, from MI Works, who have formed a new committee, called the Business Resource Network. Ms. Sochor said that 3 years ago, the Community Foundation revamped its program, to assist people with scholarships to help pay for college, books, daycare, and transportation to help people become gainfully employed. She has paired up with Ms. Austin, to begin this new workgroup.

Ms. Austin then stated that the goal of this workgroup is to provide Success Coaches to assist businesses with keeping employees successfully employed. This workgroup will focus on helping employees to overcome barriers to achieve this goal, such as transportation, daycare, housing, etc. The eligibility requirements for participating in this program are broad. Eligibility requirements include: low income, homelessness, substance abuse, no high school diploma, etc. They will refer their participants to CSCB agencies if necessary.

Currently there are 23 companies who are participating in this process, and this workgroup is seeking out other organizations to become a member on this new committee. This group will be cross collaborating with the Housing Workgroup, from the CSCB. Ms. Johnson stated that Amy Smith will be working with Ann and Audrey when she returns, to assist with setting up their first meeting, which will probably be near the end of February. Please email Sarah Herrle the name of the staff person that would be participating, if your organization is interested in joining.

## **VII. CSCB Updates**

### **A. New Member-Blue Water Recovery Outreach Center**

Ms. Johnson stated that the CSCB Steering Committee endorsed the membership of the Blue Water Recovery Outreach Center (BWROC), at their last meeting, pending their presentation and final vote of this committee.

Ms. Johnson asked if there was a motion to accept BWROC as a new member of the CSCB. Ms. Karen Palka of A Beautiful Me, motioned to accept BWROC as a new member of the CSCB, seconded by Ms. Bonnie DiNardo, of St. Clair County Community College.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Johnson asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, motion was approved. She welcomed BWROC as a new member. She then reminded all CSCB members, that if they are aware of any organization that would like to become a member of the CSCB, to please send their name and contact information to herself or Amy when she returns.

### **B. Website and Facebook Page**

Ms. Johnson reminded members about the new CSCB Website. Starting this month, meeting agendas, minutes, and calendars will be posted there, as well as any upcoming CSCB events. She asked that everyone please visit it frequently, and let us know what other information you would like to see posted. The website is: [www.cscbinfo.org](http://www.cscbinfo.org). She also reminded everyone to continue to send information, events, and fundraisers, etc. from your organization so that it can be share on the CSCB Facebook page also.

### **C. 2021 Membership MOU's**

Ms. Johnson stated that last month prior to Amy leaving, she sent out the annual MOU packets, which include the: 2021 MOU agreements, the invoices, and the updated contact information needed for each organization. The Steering Committee voted to keep the annual dues as the same level they have been for the past three years. The dues are a tiered structure based on your St. Clair County budget, for those organizations who may be in additional counties. They also endorsed members willing to pay \$5,000 as Green Members. There were 9 such organizations in 2020. Ms. Johnson thanked those Green Members once again

for 2021. She asked that everyone remember to sign the back page of the MOU and return it along with the dues and the contact information form. This information forms is important because these are the email addresses that are used to communicate our CSCB information. If you have not sent your MOU packet back, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions, you may contact Brigitte Cameron, CSCB secretary, at St. Clair County CMH.

#### **D. Workgroup Updates**

- a. Housing Workgroup-**Ms. Kathy Swantek talked about the new strategic plan goals for the Housing Workgroup. The goals they are now working on include: 1) eviction diversion, and 2) affordable housing. She also discussed the Point in Time Count, which will take place on January 27<sup>th</sup>. She stated that no data will be collected on unsheltered people due to COVID. Information regarding this count, will be coming out soon. She also gave kudos to HARA and to Ben Ensroth, for helping to keep people housed. She thanked Bernie Newby, Housing Specialist at Blue Water Community Action as well.
- b. Early Childhood-**Ms. Riley Alley gave a brief update on the Early Childhood Workgroup. She stated that they gave out 10,000 child size masks to schools and other places in need. They are also starting recruitment for the GRSP program for next year. They currently have a lot of openings. They did not fill many of their openings last year, she believes that due to COVID, people were hesitant on having their children participate. They are promoting their Talking is Teaching program, however their Face to Face Campaign has also been dampened by COVID. There also are some child care challenges currently, as they cannot fill staffing positions, and there are enrollment challenges. People are working at home, or are not working-therefore, not needing child care. Since March, they have had a few childcare relief grants, however they currently have no more-which will cause a struggle to keep day cares open over the next few months.
- c. Opioid Executive Oversight Committee-**Mayor Pauline Repp is now the new chair for this committee, taking over in November due to Sheriff Donnellon's retirement.. They are expanding their mission to include all drugs and alcohol, in addition to opioids. The name, mission, and vision for this workgroup will all need to be changes. The sub-committee is still active, however, they need more attendance.
- d. Opioid Treatment Subcommittee-**Ms. Deborah Walbecq had to leave this meeting early, so Mr. Ken Heuvelman, the co-chair for the committee, gave the update. He stated that their goal is to have one Recovery Hub, which gets individuals engaged in recovery. It would be similar to the Early Childhood model, where the access to the hub is available 24 hours per day, and anyone can request help. This would be an online hub, that would provide treatment at various levels, and there would be Recovery Coaches available to help facilitate obstacles in recovery. The goal is to get entry level access to services, and they wanted to bring this to the CSCB Full Body to see if this type of hub would make sense. He stated that once a person accesses these services, that one of our organizations would then contact the person, rather than the person contacting an organization. Discussion occurred with regards to question about the hub, and Ms. Johnson stated that she would discuss this further with him.
- e. Adolescent Services Workgroup-**Ms. Johnson stated that this is also another new workgroup, which addresses the gap for needs for adolescents, ages 8 through high school age, as there currently is not many resources currently available. This workgroup began before COVID hit, and will be resuming again in February.

**VIII. Additional Agenda Items**

**A. 2021 Meeting Calendar-**Ms. Johnson stated that the CSCB Full Body Meetings Calendar is enclosed in today's packet.

**IX. Announcements**

**A. Lakeshore Legal Aid-**Mr. Ben Ensroth stated that Lakeshore Legal Aid is still available for services, although they are currently working remotely. They serve clients by phone and video meetings, and work on documents by transmitting them by mail and email, as well as they are able to have limited meetings in their parking lot when necessary. He will send out more information through the CSCB, however if you wish to contact them, they can be reached at 810-985-5107.

**B. St. Clair County Community Mental Health Events-**1) Ms. Johnson stated that SCCCMH has partnered with Michigan State University, to provide a Relax Online Series that is available via Zoom on-line. The cost is free, and information is enclosed in today's packet. 2) SCCCMH is hosting their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Be Kind" Bookmark Design Contest. Entries must be received no later than Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Contact Mark Hutchinson at 810-966-3386 if you have questions. 3) SCCCMH is also having their 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Writing Contest, and deadline for those entries is also April 16<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.scccmh.org](http://www.scccmh.org) for more information. 4) Enclosed in today's packet is also information on SCCCMH's High School Art Contest. Deadline for these entries is April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**C. Operation Transformation Event-**Enclosed in today's packet, is information regarding New Life Christian Academy's Donate Your Gently Worn Used & New Shoes flyer. They will be collecting donations through January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**D. Spero Center-**The Spero Pregnancy Center is open, and offering free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, as well as pre-natal and parenting education for clients. Virtual classes are available. Contact the Spero Center at [www.sperocenter.com](http://www.sperocenter.com), or call 810-985-HOPE.

**Next Meeting:**



**B. Adjournment**

With no further business to address, Ms. Debra Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed and Approved by,

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Brigitte Cameron  
Recording Secretary

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Debra Johnson  
Chair