

**Better Together**  
**37 Years of Collaboration in St. Clair County**  
**St. Clair County Community Services Coordinating Body**

**In the Beginning:**

“SCC Model Life Services System Coordinating Body” began in 1984 as a state pilot project. Focus was on: coordination of services for vulnerable adults.

Executive level to focus on system and policy level decision, create networking, information sharing, and support. Began with 8 core members agencies, and CMH was lead

**Initial Issues Addressed in 1985**

AIDS	Farm Family Assistance
Interagency Coordination and Collaboration	Homelessness
Teen Pregnancy and Teen Parenting Issues	Issues of Abuse and Neglect

**Structure Formalized 1986-1989**

CMH was lead agency, Executive / Director level membership

Name Change to “**Human Services Coordinating Body**”

System and policy level decisions, Networking, information sharing, support

First comprehensive community needs assessment

Prevention planning

Workgroup level:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| - identified a lead agency | - membership was line staff                  |
| - developed charge         | - established goals and reported on progress |

**Additional Issues Addressed**

Children’s Services Coordination	Substance Abuse Prevention
Wraparound Services	Parent Education
Traumatic Brain Injured Population	Vulnerable Adults
Youth Violence Prevention	Aging
Community and Neighborhood	Guardianship
Community Response to Trauma	Self Help Group Catalog

**Examples of Early Collaboration**

Development of Project Safeplace

AIDS Policy Development & Education

Development of Blue Water Center of Independent Living

Establishing the Alice McKinnon Family Center

Statewide work regarding Consolidation of Children’s Services

Pathway Homeless Shelter

Teen Health Center

Coordination of Supported Employment

Development of Multiple Help Cards

**1990 – 1995**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ✓ Transportation issues began to surface                                 | ✓ Drug Free Schools                       |
| ✓ Human Service Budget   | ✓ Introduction of “Healthy Families”      |
| ✓ Crisis Response training   | ✓ Education Reform                        |
| ✓ Michigan Post Adoption Services System (MPASS) introduced and endorsed | ✓ Wrap-around services started countywide |
| ✓ Cross Systems Training   |   |

## **Collaboration Accomplishments**

- ❖ Capac Community First Project
- ❖ Developed a Listing of all Local Support Groups
- ❖ Health Care issue resulted in the development of Seaway Clinic
- ❖ Community Dispute Resolution Center created
- ❖ Youth Violence Task Force started
- ❖ BWCIL received a grant to treat people with traumatic brain injuries
- ❖ Coordinated Community Health Model Systems (CCHMS) began a comprehensive health assessment

## **1995 - 1996**

Participation in the Thumb Area “Systems Reform” forum to assist with restructuring the HSCB

United Way took lead on a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment

Development of HSCB Vision and Mission Statement

Strong Families / Safe Children funding was secured from the state for planning

## **Time to Update – 1996-1999**

Name Change: **Community Services Coordinating Body - CSCB**

Added new members (35 member organizations)

Created new Operational Guidelines

Creation of a 5-year Community Prevention Plan including Workgroups, Subcommittees, Ad-Hoc Committees and Associated Initiatives

All members received a new “CSCB Member Handbook”

Change in CSCB Staffing

Received five Innovative Awards “Interagency and Cross System Training” from the state

## **2000-2005 Highlights**

- ✓ Continue to expand membership
- ✓ Endorses Family Independent Agency’s Strong Families/Safe Children & Child Protection / Community Partners funds
- ✓ Completed the Assessing Community Traffic Survey
- ✓ Sponsored Community Trainings
- ✓ “Ready Kits” distributed to every new mom
- ✓ Began recognizing a Community Service Award Recipient
- ✓ Grant Funding secured
- ✓ Created and distributed a Teen Drunk Driving Video - “It Will Never Happen to Me”
- ✓ Senior Connections – Robert Wood Johnson Planning Grant
- ✓ Parent University
- ✓ Continuum of Care Required by MSHDA
- ✓ Community Foundation’s Strategic Planning
- ✓ Kicked off the Algonac Elementary Neighbors Project
- ✓ Annual CSCB dues structure instituted @ \$200
- ✓ “Traffic Safety Summit” with SCC Metro Planning
- ✓ Began the Community Car Seat Program
- ✓ First Learning Train held at Goodells Park
- ✓ Involved with numerous statewide initiatives through various state agencies

## 2000 – 2005 Structure

### Structure:

- 5 Workgroups:
  - Child & Family
  - Healthy Community Coalition
  - Safe Community
  - Cross Systems Education & Training
  - Housing & Support Services
- 10 Added Associated Initiatives:
  - CHAP
  - Critical Incident Stress Management
  - Discovery Years
  - Jail Diversion
  - Senior Connections
  - Child Fatality Team
  - Community Protection Team
  - Early On
  - SAFE Kids Chapter
  - Wraparound
- 2 Ad-Hoc Committees:
  - 2-1-1
  - Suicide Prevention

## 2006 - 2010

- ✓ Great Parent, Great Start Begins serving 0-5 yr olds
- ✓ A 10 –Year Plan to End Homelessness is endorsed
- ✓ CSCB Membership is at 65 & Operational Guidelines are updated
- ✓ Great Start becomes a Workgroup
- ✓ Tobacco Free efforts make impact
- ✓ First Community Resource Fair at the Salvation Army
- ✓ Spring Safety Extravaganza was held at Seaway Terminal
- ✓ Special Projects:
  - Profile of Healthy Youth
  - Senior Growth Study
  - Out of the Darkness Suicide Walk
  - Poverty Summit
  - KnowHowtoGoSCC
  - SUD Data Portal

## 2006 – 2010 Structure

- 2 New Workgroups:
  - Child & Family Services
  - Healthy Community Coalition
  - Suicide Prevention
  - Great Start
  - Housing & Support Services
- 4 New Associated Initiatives:
  - Child Fatality Team
  - Critical Incident Stress Management
  - Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative
  - Volunteer Action Center
  - Community Employment Collaborative,
  - Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Council
  - Wraparound
- 2 New Ad – Hoc Committees:
  - 2-1-1
  - Great Start Collaborative
  - Special Needs
- Completed a Human Services Impact Study to validate significance in Economic Development

## 2011 – 2015 Highlights

- ✓ Development a New Teen Help Card
- ✓ St. Clair County Car Seat Program launched
- ✓ SOS Garden Created in East China Park
- ✓ Community Resource Fair is highlighted as a Best Practice Model by MI’s Coalition Against Homelessness

- ✓ Apply for and receive a Lutheran Volunteer Corp Member
- ✓ Continue to promote the Survivor of Suicide Support Group
- ✓ Held a two-day Poverty Summit for the community
- ✓ Create a Housing Resource Center to address homelessness and homeless prevention
- ✓ Added five more organizations as CSCB Members
- ✓ Began a Juvenile Justice Planning Grant to streamline services
- ✓ Collected and analyze data for various issues
- ✓ Began looking at the Prescription Drug Abuse Issue in SCC
- ✓ Streamlines accountability of CSCB Grant Endorsements

## 2011 – 2015 Structure

- Workgroups included:
 

Elder Abuse	Great Start
Healthy Lifestyles	Housing & Support Services
Prescription Drug Abuse	Suicide Prevention
- Associated Initiatives Expanded
 

Child Fatality Team	Community Employment Collaborative
Critical Incident Stress Management	Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Council
Juvenile Justice Planning Grant	Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative
Wraparound	
- Ad – Hoc Committees:
 

2-1-1	Special Needs
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## 2016 – Commitment Year!

Due to changes in CMH's funding sources, members needed to...

Evaluate the Value of the Community Service Coordinating Body and whether or not to

- Continue business as usual, and if so how to fund it?
- Downsize the projects, staff support, workload
- Dissolve as a community collaborative

Through Polls, Members reported:

- Important for Networking
- Important for Information Sharing
- Important for Grant Writing
- Promotes Collaborative Projects
- Important for new Directors
- Willingness to pay for Staff Support

## 2017 – 2019 Time For...

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Change in Leadership after many years</li> <li>✓ Creation of a 5 -Tiered Dues Structure</li> <li>✓ Reviewed Mission and Vision</li> <li>✓ Updated CSCB Guiding Principles &amp; MOU</li> <li>✓ Increased Membership of the Steering Committee &amp; Full Body</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Completed a 5-year Strategic Plan</li> <li>✓ Created 3 strategic areas of focus:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Economic Self Sufficiency</li> <li>* Education &amp; *Health &amp; Wellness</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Created an End of the Year Report for marketing</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## **2020 – 2021 The Pandemic Years...**

March 2020 the United States ceased functioning as we knew it as a result of the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic. As a result, there were several executive orders issued requiring people to stay at home, schools went virtual, employees worked from home, many lost their jobs, businesses struggled, mask mandates were put into effect, hospitals were overflowing with covid positive cases, health care was restricted or went virtual, and the country waited for the magic of a vaccine.

During this time there were several steps forward and several steps backward regarding the pandemic. There were several scientific advancements: vaccinations were created, then boosters, ages eligible for vaccinations continue to expand, restrictions loosened, business re-opened, school started to meet in person again, etc. However with the development of new variants, restrictions would be put back in place.

## **CSCB's Response to the Pandemic**

- ✓ Once meetings started again, they were virtual, allowing people to still participate
- ✓ Working with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) a CSCB Website was developed as a depository of all types of updated Covid information; local, state and national
- ✓ A CSCB Facebook page was created to share information through social media
- ✓ Various Food Distribution Sites and Pop-up Mobile Pantries were collected and publicized as frequently as weekly initially and then down to monthly
- ✓ An emergency shelter was created at a local hotel to house individuals and families who were homeless until there was room in the shelters
- ✓ A group of stakeholders was created to help market accurate information regarding covid and to help promote vaccinations
- ✓ Workgroups began to meet and include covid updates and issues related to covid into their agendas
- ✓ Millions of dollars were given to SCC to address homelessness and eviction diversion
- ✓ CSCB MOU and Guiding Principles were updated to delete the open meetings act of 1985 since it does not apply to the CSCB
- ✓ Two more Annual Reports were created (2020 & 2021) with a focus on the CSCB's response to the pandemic and how well the collaboration of members helped to create a unified response as much as possible

## **37 Years of Collaboration Means...**

### **Changes**

- Name has changed
- Leadership has changed
- Many issues have come and gone
- Some issues continue: health care, homelessness, transportation, poverty, children's issues, education, etc.
- Memberships has grown
- St. Clair County Community Services Coordinating Body is one of only a few strong community collaboratives still in existence throughout the state
- Issue driven, not money driven

- Able to survive a worldwide pandemic through shared communication, collaboration, coordination and teamwork

## **Accomplishments**

- Millions of dollars have been captured and brought into SCC through collaboration
- Strategic Community Planning
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Ability to identify and tackle community needs / gaps
- Networking and Relationship building
- Information Sharing
- Reduction of duplication in services
- Stronger Community Partnership
- Recognized at the state level of working together
- Making a difference in many St. Clair County residents' lives!

**Thank You for believing in Collaboration!**  
**St. Clair County Community Services Coordinating Body**