

St. Clair County  
Community Services Coordination Body  
Full Body Meeting  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021

**Present:** R. Alley - RESA, A. Austin-Michigan Works!, M. Baranowski-Community First Health Centers, K. Burdick - CCSEM, L. Belleau-Blue Water Area Transit, A. Blair-SCC Sheriffs Department, B. Coleman-Lakeshore Legal Aid, C. Cook-BWCIL, S. Crawford – The Council on Aging, S. Currie-The Harbor, K. Curtis-IMPACT, B. DiNardo-St. Clair County Community College, K. Dinardo-McLaren Port Huron Hospital, B. Ensroth - Lakeshore Legal Aid, C. Eveningred-Norserv, Mychal Fearncombe-Community Enterprises of SCC, K. Gallagher-SCCCMH, B. Gillette-United Way of SCC, R. Hernandez-Operation Transformation, D. Hunger-PH Police Department, J. Johnson-Michigan State University Extension, R. Kiehler-Innovative Housing, M. King-SCC Sheriff’s Dept., A. Mayhew-Community First Health Centers, K. McFadden-Lakeshore Legal Aid, Dr. A. Mercatante-SCC Health Department, B. Newby-Blue Water HARA, P. Patterson, BWROC, K. Posey- City of Port Huron, S. Powers-Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, K. Prusak-Michigan Works!, J.Shinn-Ennis Center for Children, A. Smith-SCCCMHA, L.Stoneberg-PCC, K. Swantek - BWDH, D. Walbecq-MDHHS, Wojnarowicz-MDHHS, K. Zultak-SCCCMHA

**Guest:** T. Francis-Lake Huron PHO, L. Beedon-Lake Huron Medical Center

**Staff Support:** A. Luckenbacher – SCCCMHA, A. Smith-SCCCMHA, B. Cameron – SCCCMHA  
B. Murdick - SCCCMHA

**I. Welcome, Introductions.**

Ms. Debra Johnson called the Meeting to Order at 2:00 p.m. Members were welcomed to the meeting, and were asked to introduce themselves.

**II. Agenda Changes**

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any changes. Ms. Johnson added a discussion on “Suicide Prevention Materials”

**III. Acceptance of January 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any corrections to January CSCB Full Body meeting minutes. There was one correction noted, under the Eviction Diversion Update, that 203 cases were closed, 52 of them with help from Lakeshore Legal Aid. Mr. Brent Gillette moved to approve the minutes with the correction as noted, seconded by Ms. Kathy Swantek by. **MOTION CARRIED**

**IV. Organizational Presentations**

**A. Lake Huron Medical Center and Lake Huron PHO-** Ms. Lisa Beedon gave a brief presentation of Lake Huron Medical Center. The organization formally known as “Mercy Hospital”, which Prime Health Care purchased roughly five (5) years ago, was changed to “Lake Huron Medical Center”. Prime Health Care has 47 hospitals in 14 states with over 40,000 physicians, employees and volunteers. Lake Huron Medical Center in Port Huron has 144 acute care beds and is a Level 3 Trauma Center which is 1 of the 2 in the Community. Ms. Beedon

stated for the roughly the last 15 months, Mr. Jose Kottoor assumed the position of Chief Executive Director. If anyone who would like to schedule a meeting with him they can contact Ms Beedon, and she will schedule an appointment. The emergency room wait time is approximately 10 minutes from door to doctor, as their philosophy is to be “Treated, not seated”. Lake Huron Medical Center, is no longer a non-profit hospital, and is now a for-profit hospital. Since 2015 this organization has paid over 6.4 Million dollars in property and sales tax to the city of Port Huron, and donated over 1 million dollars to non-profit agencies. Over 600 people are employed through Lake Huron Medical Center.

Ms. Tiffany Francis gave a brief overview of Lake Huron PHO (Physicians Hospital Organization). She explained that Lake Huron’s PHO owns half of the organization, and the physicians in the community own the other half. They have 145-150 primary and specialty doctors, who provide care management services for persons with two (2) or more chronic illnesses. They facilitate several managed care contracts and insurance companies to keep costs lower for care, as well as the doctors who work together by providing care-management services, such as nursing and dietary services in effort to keep costs down. They currently have 5 directly paid physicians on staff, and the rest are self-employed.

## **V. Covid-19 Update**

- A. Eviction Diversion Initiative-** Ms. Bernie Newby presented about a new program called CERA (COVID Emergency Renters Assistance) which helps with assistance of rent and utilities. She stated it is very similar to Eviction Diversion Program, but with a few minor program changes. They are in the process of hiring and training employees to assist with this program. The start date for CERA is still pending however they are currently taking applications and have had over 225 phone calls regarding the program. CERA was approved for two (2) Million dollars. For questions, information, or to apply for this program, people may call 211, HARA’s main phone line (810 989-9397) or by going to the MSHDA (MI State Housing Department Association) website. The Port Huron Landlord Association will be notified about this program within the next day or two. They are still currently trying to start a computer system for handling the applications. There are many partnerships with this program throughout the community such as: Lake Shore Legal Aid, Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, Port Huron Landlord Association, MDHHS, and the St. Clair County Court System.
- B. Vaccination Update.** -Dr. Mercatante announced that the first March vaccine clinic at the Knights Club in Marysville started today, and will be held on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. These will offer over 3,000 vaccines per a single clinic. All people 65 and older have been offered the Vaccine, and everyone 50 years and older are now eligible. Starting April 5<sup>th</sup> 2021, anyone over the age of 16 will be eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Children ages 16 & 17 will need to have parent and/or legal guardian consent. COVID-19 cases continue to increase, and are up 13% with over 600 new cases within the past 7 days. Health Officials now state people are fully protected 14 days after the final vaccine. The Health Department is currently looking for ways to help people feel more comfortable about getting the vaccine.

**C. Pen Pals for a Purpose** Ms. Alexis Smith presented this new program being sponsored through SCCCMHA. The intent is to connect generations to address social isolation due to the pandemic. The intent is to match youth with adults including seniors to share letters with positive themes. Each participant will agree to write a minimum of six letters. Ms. Smith stated this program will help by providing adults and children an emotional outlook while bypassing any issues technology may cause. Each packet will include age, explanations for each topic and activities. Letters will be sent to SCCCMH to ensure that all confidential information will remain private and guarantee anonymity and safety for all participants. Pre-stamped and pre-addressed envelopes will be available to anyone who needs them for this program. If anyone is interested or would have children who may be interested, contact Ms Smith, her information is on the flier.

## **VI. Emerging Issues**

- A. R Hub Update & Endorsement-** Ms. Deb Walbecq presented information regarding a new program called R-Hub. The R-Hub would hopefully help overcome barriers by providing the general population in St. Clair County with easy and unbiased access to a recovery coach. It would also offer an accurate way to make referrals to an array of countywide services, front end users may not otherwise know exist. The cost to start this program would be roughly \$45,000. It was noted that computer/smart phone access is needed for this program. Ms. Swantek motioned to endorse the R-Hub. Mr. Baranowski motioned to support. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- B. DHHS Volunteer Drivers-** Ms. Misty Wojnarowicz announced that they are in desperate need of volunteer drivers that help Sanilac and St. Clair County residents get to doctors' appointments outside of the county, who don't have family or friends to take them. They are looking for caring, dependable, licensed and insured volunteers to help. There are mileage and lunch reimbursements available as well. Background checks are required. Please contact 810-966-2169 for more information.

## **VII. CSCB Updates**

**A. Steering Committee-** Ms. Johnson will provide budget at May 2021 meeting.

### **B. Workgroup Updates**

- a. Early Childhood-** Ms. Riley Alley announced that they are currently having issues with there not being enough staff, and/or enough staff trained in their licensed child care homes, therefore, they are currently looking for training opportunities in the county for staff. They also have lost 3 more childcare facilities, due to COVID. She also stated that enrollment for the Great Start Program for pre-school is starting so if anyone knows of someone who is interested, refer them to the Early Childhood Hub. They still have several openings. The Parent Coalition recently held a book drive and received multiple kid and adult books. The children's books have been re-distributed, however if anyone is interested in the adult books, they are willing to donate them. Contact Ms Alley and she will assist in making the connection.
- b. Housing Workgroup-** Ms. Kathy Swantek announced that Port Huron Housing Commission currently has a "no wait list" for their public housing program. There is one opening at Sanborn group home, for any individual 60 years or older. Ms. Swantek also

announced that the Community Resource Fair will be held outside on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. More information will be share as the event gets closer.

- c. **Opioid Executive Oversight Committee-** Ms. Smith stated that they are in the transition of changing and expanding to ALL substance use, including alcohol use, vaping and illegal drug use. They are in the process of renaming this group. Ms. Smith indicated this group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:30am. if anyone is interested in joining.
- d. **Adolescent Services-** Ms. Johnson announced Karen Palka has agreed to become the new chair for this workgroup. The meetings have moved to the first Wednesday of the odd months. They have been working on creating a resource directory. Ms. Johnson asked if anyone has any programming specific to adolescents to please send it to Ms. Amy Smith.
- e. **Business Resource Network-** Ms. Ann Austin declared they are seeking participants for a workgroup dedicated to finding outside-the-box solutions on daycare, transportation, housing, etc. Their vision is to include not only those of us offering supportive services, but also those of both the employer/employee populations. The first meeting will be held at SCCCMHA in the Auditorium, on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:30p.m. Virtual will be an option.

### VIII. Additional Agenda Items

- A. **Suicide Prevention Materials-** Ms. Amy Smith announced that this committee is focusing on updating resource information and a larger community marketing campaign. A billboard campaign is scheduled for April – May. In addition new marketing materials have been ordered. If any organization would like to display and or have some of these materials on site, please contact Ms Smith and she will provided them to you when they are available.

### IX. Announcements

- A. **Operation Transformation announcements** – The Annual 1-day Giving Campaign will take place Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3pm. Donations can be made online, over the phone, by mail, or in person.
- B. **24/7 DAD** – This is an evidence-based program offered through IMPACT, funded partly by Community Foundations of St. Clair County, and will be a twelve (12) week session starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Open to men 17+ with children, or expectant fathers.
- C. **Ask a Lawyer Event Flier & Senior Filer** - Lakeshore Legal Aids is providing free legal help for seniors (60+). The first two workshops are March 30<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. and April 6<sup>th</sup> at 2p.m. After those workshops, they will be meeting monthly. It was also announced by Ms. Khadijah that an Elder Abuse Task Force is in research phases, and may become a group in the future. Lakeshore Legal Aids “Ask a Lawyer Event” takes place twice monthly. It is a phone clinic for seniors in St. Clair County. They meet every first Monday for every month from 1 p.m. – 2p.m and the first Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m.-11 a.m

**Next Meeting:**



**A. Adjournment**

With no further business to address, Ms. Debra Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed and Approved by,

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Bethany Murdick  
Recording Secretary

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Debra Johnson  
Chair