

SCC Community Services Coordinating Body Meeting

March 19, 2025

SCCCMH 1st Floor Auditorium

Present:

<u>Chair</u>	Scott Crawford	The Council on Aging
<u>Vice Chair</u>	Amy Smith	St. Clair County Community Mental Health
	Matt King	St. Clair County Sheriff
	Rachel Kudzia	Blue Water Safe Horizons
	Tracy Willard	Hunter Hospitality House
	Kristyn Secory	Blue Water Alley Center
	Lisa Stoneberg	PCC
	Whitney Ostrom	PCC
	Sharm Wilton	Blue Water Area Chamber
	Liz Martinez	Behavioral Health Connectors
	Sherry Archibald	St. Clair County Child Abuse and Neglect
	Randy Bennett	Operation Transformation
	Karen Palka	A Beautiful Me
	Mindy Kotelman	CCSGC-OS
	Dr, David Goetze	Colonial Woods Counseling
	Robert Furtado	Blue Water
	Ryan McCann	St. Clair County Veterans Affairs
	Wendy Martindale	St. Clair County Community Mental Health
	Kathy Baker	Blue Water Developmental Housing Sanborn
	Chiara Cameron-Wood	211 Northeast Michigan
	Elia Hussain	Vinculum Care
	Suzanne Powers	Legal Services of Eastern Michigan
	Kathleen Swantek	Citizen
	Jennifer Gunderson	St. Clair County Regional Educational Services Agency
	Jennifer Michaluk	St. Clair County Health Department
	Audrey Sochor	Community Foundation of St. Clair County
	Karen Lake	Blue Water Community Action
	Mike Mercatante	St. Clair County Library
	Major Jenny Ortman	The Salvation Army of St. Clair County
	Jennifer MacDonald	Spero Pregnancy Center
	Dave McElroy	Blue Water Transit
	Ann Austin	St. Clair County Friend of the Court
	Vicki Blackburn	Ad Hoc Education NAACP
	Christine Cook	Disability Network Eastern MI
	Rebecca Kettlewell	Comprehensive Youth Services – The Harbor
	Mackenzie Ritchie	St. Clair County Community Mental Health

I. Welcome, Introductions

Mr. Scott Crawford called the meeting to order at 2:02PM. Mr. Crawford opened today's CSCB Full Body meeting by inviting everyone to introduce themselves and share their organization.

II. Agenda Changes

Mr. Scott Crawford confirmed that there were no changes to the agenda.

III. **Acceptance of January 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Scott Crawford inquired about any corrections or additions to the January 2025 CSCB Full Body meeting minutes. Mr. Matt King made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, which was seconded by Ms. Karen Lake. The motion carried.

IV. **Emerging Issues**

A. **Community Foundation Strategic Plan** (PowerPoint Presentation)

Ms. Jackie Hanton delivered a presentation outlining the strategic priorities for The Community Foundation over the next three years. She explained that the board convenes every three years to assess and identify key focus areas for the communities they serve, considering staff time, assets, programming, and grantmaking. Ms. Hanton highlighted the grants and charitable funds received in 2024 and shared insights into the Foundation's vision for 2025-2027.

Their strategy includes supporting vibrant community hubs that drive economic growth through increased visitor spending, foster small business development, and provide valuable neighborhood amenities. They also aim to strengthen nonprofit capacity with an emphasis on education and training that leads to well-paying jobs in expanding sectors.

Ms. Hanton elaborated on plans to engage with coastal communities and the bridge-to-bay corridor, building relationships that serve as anchors for community development. Placemaking initiatives are a key component of the strategy, with efforts to develop new parks, create trail systems, commission public art, and enhance the Blue Water River Walk.

Another area of focus will be workforce and student success, through initiatives aimed at increasing post-secondary success, career exploration, and benchmarking trips, with ongoing annual check-ins. She also discussed how the Foundation plans to refine its grantmaking efforts, with an emphasis on unrestricted grants for nonprofits that demonstrate a strong track record of success, alongside increased support for food and shelter organizations that meet basic needs.

Nonprofit capacity building will continue to be a priority, including expanding endowed funds to strengthen local organizations. Ms. Hanton further outlined their efforts to deepen relationships with rural philanthropy, mission-related investments, and social impact initiatives.

To conclude, she provided details about the upcoming "Big Give" event on May 14th, which will feature a 24-hour online giving rally, with participation from over sixty nonprofit organizations, more than 1,000 donors, a bonus pool to amplify donations, and prizes to incentivize contributions.

B. **Offender Success Update**

Ms. Mindy Kotelman provided an update on the Offender Success Program and its mission. The program, funded by the Michigan Department of Corrections, assists individuals transitioning out of prison and reintegrating into the community by helping them navigate essential needs. Currently, they are focusing on finding housing options for their participants. While they can accommodate 15 to 18 individuals in transitional housing, Huron House is the only available option at the moment. The team is actively working to diversify housing options, though this is complicated by the ongoing housing crisis in Port Huron.

Ms. Kotelman shared that the Michigan Department of Corrections has tasked her with forming an advisory council to address these housing challenges. She invited anyone interested in joining the council to reach out. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th via Zoom, and those interested can contact her via email for more information. The advisory council will collaborate and brainstorm potential solutions for the housing crisis in Port Huron.

Additionally, Ms. Kotelman emphasized that the Offender Success Program goes beyond just transitional housing. They provide comprehensive, individualized support, including assistance with transportation, clothing, identification, employment services, and more, addressing each person's needs on a case-by-case basis.

C. **Resource Navigation Committee**

Major Jenny Ortman provided attendees with an overview of the Resource Navigation Committee and its goals for collaborating with various community groups. The committee's focus is to ensure that individuals have access to the support they need by bringing together resources from different organizations. Major Ortman discussed how the committee will assess the effectiveness of pooling resources, ensuring that the available support meets demand, and determining whether people can easily access the help they require. As part of this process, they will review the 211 system to evaluate its usage and efficiency. Additionally, they will examine a comprehensive list of available resources to assist individuals with basic needs, explore where people can call for help, and work on creating a more integrated system that makes it easier for county residents to find the support they need. The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 31st at 1 PM in the Summit at St. Clair County Community Mental Health.

Major Ortman also shared insights from the Christmas Service Group Subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday, March 18th, which saw the participation of 17 attendees from eight different community agencies. The group gathered to discuss plans for Christmas 2025 and explore ways to support individuals in need during the holiday season. Their goal is to collaborate and pool resources more effectively to better serve those facing hardship. One idea that emerged from the meeting was the creation of a "help card," a centralized resource that lists all the agencies providing assistance during Christmas. This would serve as a one-stop shop, enabling those in need to easily access all the information without having to contact multiple agencies. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6th at 6 PM.

V. **Organizational Presentations**

A. **SCC Veteran's Affairs** (PowerPoint Presentation)

Mr. Ryan McCann delivered a presentation on Veterans' benefits, focusing on how to better understand and navigate these services in St. Clair County. He covered key topics such as accessing service records, disability compensation, dependency indemnity compensation, and pensions for widows and dependent children. Additionally, he discussed health benefits available to Veterans and their families, as well as emergency relief and burial benefits.

Mr. McCann provided information on how to obtain service records, explaining that these records can be requested through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, MO by Veterans or their Next of Kin. Requests can be submitted by mail, fax, or online, and it may take up to six months for processing, depending on residency during and after service. He also mentioned that copies of records may be available through the Veterans Affairs Agency in Lansing, MI. Having service records is essential when applying for disability compensation, whether for the Veteran, spouse, or dependents. Additionally, having documentation or a diagnosis of a presumptive condition can significantly support benefit applications.

Mr. McCann also discussed health benefits for Veterans and their families. Veterans must enroll through a major VA Medical Center, while widows and dependents can apply through CHAMPVA or Tricare, with eligibility based on income if the condition is not service-connected. While there are exceptions to certain duty requirements, the Veteran's discharge must be other than dishonorable to qualify for these benefits.

Mr. McCann emphasized that numerous benefits are available to Veterans and their families, and if you know a Veteran, a spouse of a Veteran, or a dependent who needs assistance navigating the system, the St. Clair County Department of Veterans Affairs is here to help. He provided the department's contact information: they are located at 200 Grand River, Suite 104, in Port Huron, and can be reached by email at sccvet@stclaircounty.org for any questions or support.

B. Vinculum Care (folder provided)

Ms. Elia Hussain provided attendees with an insightful overview of Vinculum Care and the wide array of services they offer. She explained that Vinculum Care specializes in professional, in-home care tailored to meet the unique needs of seniors, offering comfort, support, and peace of mind. Their comprehensive services are categorized into Standard, Advanced, Specialized, and Professional levels of care. These include, but are not limited to, nursing, respite care, companionship, in-home support, as well as more complex care such as gastrostomy tube assistance, tracheostomy care, and support for individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's.

In addition to clinical care, Ms. Hussain highlighted Vinculum Care's commitment to personalized assistance with daily tasks such as laundry, meal preparation, running errands, and providing meaningful companionship. To learn more or schedule a free care screening, contact Vinculum Care at vinculumcare@gmail.com or call (810) 357-8792.

VI. CSCB Updates

A. Steering Committee

a. 211 New CSCB Membership Endorsement

At the most recent CSCB Steering Committee meeting, Mr. Scott Crawford announced that 2-1-1 had formally submitted an application to join the CSCB as a new member. The Steering Committee reviewed the application and recommended endorsing 2-1-1 for membership. Mr. Crawford subsequently presented a motion to accept 2-1-1 as an official member of the CSCB, which was seconded by Ms. Kathy Swantek. The motion was put to a vote and approved by the committee members. Following the vote, Mr. Crawford formally welcomed 2-1-1 as a new member of the CSCB.

b. 2025 MOU's & Dues

Mr. Scott Crawford reported that in January, the CSCB Steering Committee held a special meeting to address a budget shortfall. He explained that the CSCB is entirely funded through member dues and noted that in previous years, St. Clair County Community Mental Health had covered any funding gaps. However, with the recent departure of four Green-level members, the committee experienced an initial deficit of \$20,000. This shortfall has significantly impacted the committee's financial standing.

In response, CSCB Chair Ms. Deb Johnson reached out to current members to ask if they would consider voluntarily increasing their dues for 2025. Mr. Crawford expressed appreciation and publicly thanked the following members for stepping up with a voluntary increase in their contributions.

- A Beautiful Me
- Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce
- Catholic Charities of Southeastern Michigan
- Professional Counseling Center
- Blue Water Community Action
- Community Enterprise of St. Clair County
- The Salvation Army of St. Clair County

- Blue Water Area Transportation Commission
- IMPACT
- The Council on Aging, serving St. Clair County
- City of Port Huron
- St. Clair County Community Mental Health
- St. Clair County Regional Education Service Agency

Mr. Scott Crawford reminded committee members that the 2025 membership packets have been mailed out. He urged any members who have not yet signed and returned their organization's paperwork to do so as soon as possible. If any member has not received their renewal documents, they are encouraged to contact Ms. Amy Smith, who will ensure the necessary paperwork is provided promptly.

Mr. Crawford also took a moment to once again thank all committee members who voluntarily increased their dues for 2025.

c. **2026 Dues Increase**

Mr. Scott Crawford provided a brief update regarding CSCB dues, noting that membership fees have remained unchanged since their inception over a decade ago. To address the current financial needs and explore the potential for dues adjustments, a small subcommittee has been formed to evaluate the budget and develop recommendations for the full committee.

The subcommittee recently met and proposed expanding the number of dues tiers to better align with the varying budgets of member organizations, aiming to create a more equitable structure. Mr. Crawford emphasized that the Steering Committee continues to explore a range of options to increase revenue in ways that minimize the impact on individual organizations.

He also reminded attendees that growing CSCB's membership base is one of the most effective ways to strengthen financial sustainability. If you know of any organizations or businesses that may be interested in joining, please encourage them to connect with us. The larger our membership, the less reliance we'll have on increasing dues. For questions or to refer potential members, please contact Ms. Amy Smith.

B. **Workgroup Updates**

a. **Early Childhood** (four flyers provided)

Ms. Jennifer Gunderson provided an update on early childhood services and the work of the Great Start Collaborative. She shared the current focus areas of the Collaborative's workgroups, which recently met to discuss topics such as screen time for young children, literacy initiatives, and expanding access to preschool for all.

Ms. Gunderson also introduced a valuable new resource developed by the Great Start Family Coalition — the Great Start Padlet. This centralized online platform serves as a virtual wall offering families a variety of early childhood resources, engaging activities, and community support materials. Families can explore the Padlet at:

<http://padlet.com/SCCGreatStart/SCCGS> .

Looking ahead, she noted that planning is already underway for the 2025 Summer Fun Guide, which is expected to be released in May.

Ms. Gunderson concluded her update with announcements and news related to several key programs, including Early On, Great Start to Quality, Help Me Grow, the 35i Family Engagement/Literacy Hub, and the Child Care Tri-Share Program.

For more information, attendees are encouraged to contact Ms. Gunderson directly. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24th at 1:00 PM.

b. Housing Workgroup (five flyers provided)

Ms. Kathy Swantek provided an update to attendees regarding recent developments and data. She reported that the Point-in-Time Count conducted on January 29th has been completed. The data revealed an increase in family homelessness, as well as a rise in evictions. Additionally, agency participation and volunteer involvement were notably lower compared to previous years.

Ms. Swantek also reviewed the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) data and the accompanying financial report. She noted that the report highlighted no current funding for evictions, security deposits, or hotel stays. Furthermore, the women's shelter is operating at full capacity, unable to accept additional clients at this time.

Currently, 14 individuals occupy permanent supportive housing slots, out of a total of 18 available. She also shared that United Way has provided \$30,000 in funding to BWCA. Looking ahead, the City of Port Huron is preparing to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for rental assistance programs. The available fund totals \$200,000.

Ms. Swantek also shared highlights from the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) report. To date, 39 veterans in St. Clair County have received assistance, including:

- 11 who were homeless,
- 28 through prevention services,
- and 20 ongoing cases.
- Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for 2026 has been submitted.

Additional shelter updates included:

- Blue Water Safe Horizons is currently serving 9 families and 13 children.
- Blue Water Area Rescue Mission has been operating at full capacity, averaging 26–28 residents per night.
- Pathway Shelter and Sanborn Gratiot are also currently full.

Ms. Kathy Swantek reminded members that the Community Resource Fair will take place on Wednesday, May 14th at the SC4 Fieldhouse. She encouraged everyone to help promote the event by sharing the materials included in today's packet, including through social media channels. The next Housing workgroup meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th at 1:30PM.

c. Substance Use Disorder PTR (handout provided)

In Mr. Ken Heuvelman's absence, Ms. Amy Smith provided the SUPTR (Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery) updates. She shared details about a recent meeting Mr. Heuvelman held with Dr. Karren Campbell and Blair Warren. Over the past few years, they have been collaboratively working on a gaps analysis of substance use disorder (SUD) services in St. Clair County. The goal of the analysis is to present findings from the

research committee and engage the workgroup for feedback and suggestions to improve the document.

Key highlights from the analysis included:

- Results from the SUD Landscape Analysis for both St. Clair County and Port Huron
- Presentation of the SUD Resource Directory, compiled using provider-submitted data
- The SUD Health Equity Report Card (SUD HERC)
- Summary of findings from both the Landscape Analysis and SUD HERC

Following the presentation, there was an in-depth discussion regarding next steps, including:

- Potential duplication and overlap with the BWROC website and SCCLink
- Opportunities to integrate resources with the new CSCB ad-hoc committee
- Improving access to information, determining appropriate platforms for sharing,
- Clarifying who will manage updates and how to support potential expansion

Ms. Smith also provided updates on SCCLink activity through the Health Department. Since January 2024, there have been:

- 17 active referrals (sent directly to organizations for follow-up).
- 81 passive referrals (requests for information).

In the past 30 days alone, there were 2 active and 5 passive referrals.

Ms. Amy Smith also shared updates from the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR). While overdose deaths are beginning to decline, the number of individuals presenting to emergency departments for overdose-related incidents continues to rise. The group will continue to analyze this data and discuss possible responses.

Finally, Ms. Smith encouraged members to invite others who may be interested in joining the SUPTR workgroup, as they are actively working to grow participation. The workgroup is also still seeking a co-chair; those interested are encouraged to contact either Mr. Heuvelman or Ms. Smith directly. The next SUPTR workgroup meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23rd at 10:00 AM.

d. **Adolescent Services** (handout provided)

Ms. Karen Palka shared an update on the Adolescent Services workgroup. She announced they recently met on March 5th and discussed the Adolescent Services Resource Guide which has been updated and reminded attendees that the guide is designed to support youth ages 8 to 18 by connecting them with helpful services and ensuring community-wide awareness of this resource. Once finalized, Ms. Amy Smith will arrange for the printing of 4x4 informational cards, which the committee will distribute at various locations across the community. These cards will also be available at the next Full Body workgroup meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st.

Ms. Palka also informed attendees that the Speakers Bureau spreadsheet is included in today's packet. This document contains details about various speakers who offer presentations and resources geared toward adolescents. She encouraged each member to review the information listed for their organization and submit any updates or corrections to Ms. Amy Smith by March 26th. The next Adolescent workgroup meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2nd at 3PM.

VII. **Additional Agenda Items**
A. **2025 CSCB Help Card**

Ms. Jennifer Michaluk announced that the updated Help Card is now available as of March 3, 2025, with no further changes to be made. The card can be accessed online through the CSCB website at <https://cscbinfo.org> , and printed copies are also available on the table outside the meeting room for attendees' convenience.

B. CHIP UPDATE (handout provided)

Ms. Jennifer Michaluk presented an overview of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), outlining the three strategic priority areas that will be addressed over the next five years. Each priority includes defined goals, objectives, and strategies. The report also details the progress made in in 2023/2024 towards meeting the CHIP's goals, featuring updates from the community and a comparison of baseline data with current metrics.

VIII. Announcements (flyers provided)

- Mental Health Awareness Night with the Port Huron Prowlers on Friday, March 21st at 7:05PM.
- Disability Inclusion – Catholic Theology and Leadership Conference on Saturday, March 22nd at 9AM.
- Friends of St. Clair – River Bash on Thursday, April 10th at 6:30PM.
- Hunter Hospitality House – Hope Blooms on Thursday April 24th at 5:30PM.
- Dinner for Kids Sake on Thursday, May 1st at 5:30PM.
- St. Clair County Community Mental Health – 5K run for Recovery on Saturday, May 10th starting at 8:30AM.
- Women's Life – Reevo Hubless E-Bike Raffle drawing will be held on Wednesday, May 21st at 6:30PM.
- Dementia & Alzheimer's Association of St. Clair County – Caregiver Connections Expo on Tuesday, June 3rd.
- Friends of St. Clair River – Sturgeon Fest on Saturday, June 7th at 10AM.
- A Beautiful Me – Bacon & Bubbles Fun Run on Saturday, June 14th at 9AM.
- A Beautiful Me - \$1,000.00 Cash Raffle drawing on Saturday, June 14th after the Bacon & Bubbles Fun Run.

IX. Next Meeting: Wednesday May 21st from 2PM – 4PM at CMH Auditorium

X. Adjournment

With no further business to address, Mr. Scott Crawford adjourned the meeting at 3:23PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed and Approved by,

Gloria Valentin
Recording Secretary

Scott Crawford
CSCB Chair