

SCC Community Services Coordinating Body Meeting

May 21, 2025

SCCCMH 1st Floor Auditorium

Present:

<u>Vice Chair</u>	Scott Crawford	The Council on Aging
	William Holmes	McLaren Port Huron
	Dan Casey	Economic Development Alliance of SCC
	Kristyn Secory	Blue Water Alley Center
	Barbara Payton	Blue Water Alley Center
	Misty Wojnarowicz	MI Department of Health Human Services
	Lee-Perry Belleau	Blue Water Area Transit
	Juanita Gittings	Citizen
	Ben Ensroth	Lakeshore Legal Aid
	Renee Pettinger	Blue Water Area Recue Mission
	Tyrel Barker	Crossroads Recovery Community
	Nicol Bickel	Blue Water Recovery Community
	Lisa Stoneberg	Professional Counseling Center
	Whitney Ostrom	Professional Counseling Center
	Ken Heuvelman	Region 10 PIPH
	Lisa Beedon	Blue Water Developmental Housing
	Andrea Bubel	Blue Water Developmental Housing
	Andrew Seppo	Operation Transformation
	Kathleen Gallagher	St. Clair County Community Mental Health
	Sheila Volker	YMCA of the Blue Water Area
	Kevin Watkins	Port Huron NAACP
	Jessica Brown	St. Clair County Community College
	Brian Kerrigan	Port Huron Police Department
	Cynthia Richmond	Blue Water Community Action
	Bernie Newby	Blue Water Community Action
	Mike Baranowstu	Community First Heart Center
	Sharon Wilton	Blue Water Area Chamber
	Colleen Burrum	Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works
	Melissa Jacobs	Blue Water Safe Horizon
	Karen Palka	A Beautiful Me
	Robert Furtado	Citizen
	Mike McCartan	Citizen
	Cliff Thomason	The Athletic Factory
	Kim Burdick	Catholic Charities Southeast Michigan
	Eric Norax	Catholic Charities Southeast Michigan
	Tara Reyna	United Way of SCC
	Jacqui Rabine	MSU Extension
	Kathy Baker	Blue Water Developmental Housing Sanborn
	Sheri Faust	Friends of the St. Clair River
	Mike Kehoe	Day Treatment / Night Treatment Program
	Suzanne Powers	Legal Services of Eastern Michigan
	Kathleen Swantek	Citizen
	Mike Weaver	Harbor Impact Ministries
	Jennifer Gunderson	St. Clair County Regional Educational Services Agency

Krystle Preston	St. Clair County Community Mental Health
Jennifer Michaluk	St. Clair County Health Department
Mike Mercatante	St. Clair County Library
Angela Valdivia	Crossroads Recovery
Jennifer MacDonald	Spero Pregnancy Center
Christine Cook	Disability Network Eastern MI
Vicki Blackburn	Citizen
Staff: Amy Smith	Community Services Coordinating Body
Gloria Valentin	St. Clair County Community Mental Health

I. **Welcome, Introductions**

Mr. Scott Crawford called the meeting to order at 2:05PM. 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 March 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Scott Crawford inquired about any corrections or additions to the March 2025 CSCB Full Body meeting minutes. Mr. Robert Furtado made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Ken Heuvelman. The motion carried.

IV. **Organizational Presentations**

A. **YMCA of the Blue Water Area**

Ms. Shelia Volker presentation was on the My Health Program sponsored by the YMCA. The My Health Program, a research-based initiative focused on diabetes prevention. This free program is designed for individuals who have been diagnosed with prediabetes or have been told they are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. It combines two proven strategies: the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), which has demonstrated the effectiveness of lifestyle changes in reducing the risk of diabetes, and the use of continuous glucose monitors (CGMs), which have been shown to support behavior change and improve outcomes such as A1c levels and weight management.

Program Highlights:

- **Lifestyle Intervention:** Learn how to improve physical activity, nutrition, and lifestyle habits.
- **Blood Sugar Awareness:** Some participants will wear a CGM to gain insight into how their blood sugar responds to daily life.
- **Coaching Support:** Weekly sessions with a trained health coach during the first 12 weeks, followed by monthly meetings for the next 12 weeks.
- **Free YMCA Membership:** Enjoy a complimentary 6-month YMCA membership to support physical activity goals.

Ms. Volker explained that individuals with a history of prediabetes may be eligible for the program. Interested participants will first complete a prediabetes risk assessment. Those who score 5 or higher will undergo a point-of-care A1c test. Participants who meet the criteria (fasting glucose between 100–125 mg/dL or A1c between 5.7%–6.4%) will be enrolled in the 24-week study. Anyone interested in joining the program can sign up by calling 810-987-6400 ext. 117 or email svolker@bluewaterymca.com.

B. Economic Development Alliance of SCC

Mr. Dan Casey gave a presentation about the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County (EDA). The EDA of St. Clair County is a regional nonprofit organization that has championed economic growth in the Blue Water Area for over 60 years. Supported by both public and private investors, the EDA collaborates with community leaders and regional partners to attract investment, create jobs, and strengthen the local economy. The EDA promotes the area's competitive advantages, fosters entrepreneurship, and delivers tailored solutions that help local industries thrive on a global stage. Backed by deep expertise in real estate and community development, the EDA team leverages a wide array of federal, state, and local resources to drive impactful, sustainable projects.

Mr. Casey emphasized that the EDA is dedicated to serving the communities, businesses, and residents of St. Clair County. Its core focus areas include business attraction, retention, support, and expansion. In addition, the EDA plays a key role in community development and placemaking, supports small business growth and entrepreneurship, and leads efforts in marketing the region, attracting talent, and advancing workforce development.

The EDA of St. Clair County is a driving force behind economic growth—creating jobs, supporting vibrant communities, and contributing to the broader prosperity of the region and beyond. For more information and details about the St. Clair County EDA visit www.edascc.com or www.easternmichigansmallbusinesshub.com.

V. Emerging Issues

A. SCC Suicide Prevention Committee Update

Mr. Mike McCartan provided an update on the Suicide Prevention Committee, which was established in the early 2000s in response to a growing need within our communities. He explained that the committee was formed out of a deep concern for the rising rates of suicide and the recognition that a coordinated response was essential. During his remarks, Mr. McCartan expressed his sincere appreciation to Ms. Amy Smith for her years of hard work and dedication, acknowledging the vital role she has played in the committee's ongoing efforts. He also extended his gratitude to local law enforcement agencies for their continued support and collaboration. Mr. McCartan emphasized that working together has been key to the committee's success and expressed his optimism about continuing to strengthen these partnerships to reduce the suicide rate in our county.

Mr. Mike McCartan emphasized that the Suicide Prevention Committee (SPC) places a strong focus on data collection and analysis, working closely with local and state agencies. Information provided by law enforcement, medical examiners, and the health department has highlighted the urgent need to address suicide in our county. Based on this data, it was revealed that approximately every two weeks, someone in our community dies by suicide. To illustrate this trend, Mr. McCartan presented pie charts detailing suicide rates in St. Clair County from 2022 to 2024, along with demographic data for 2024. He explained how this information helps the SPC direct its outreach efforts more effectively. Notably, the data revealed that the senior population has experienced the highest rate of suicide in 2024, a shift from our teen population. This underscores the importance of connecting with older adults through organizations like the Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels, and their families.

Mr. McCartan stressed the importance of education, early intervention, and community engagement. He emphasized the need to recognize the signs of depression, one of the leading

causes of suicide, and to be aware of available support and mental health programs. He reiterated that knowing where to turn for help can be lifesaving. Education, open conversations, and breaking the stigma surrounding mental health are all vital components in suicide prevention. Mr. McCartan affirmed that, through continued outreach and collaboration, suicide is preventable. He concluded by reminding attendees about the upcoming Walk 2 Remember, Walk 2 Prevent fundraiser, scheduled for October 12th at East China Park. More information will be shared as the event approaches. He also invited anyone interested in attending SPC meetings to contact Ms. Amy Smith at asmith@scccmh.org.

B. Potential Cuts to Medicaid

Ms. Kathleen Gallagher addressed the significant impact that proposed Medicaid cuts could have on our community. She highlighted that these cuts would affect approximately 700,000 individuals, causing harm not only to those directly impacted but also to their families.

Ms. Gallagher explained that Medicaid, a joint federal and state program, along with the Children's Health Insurance Program currently provides health coverage to over 77.9 million Americans, including children, pregnant women, parents, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. The proposed reductions would severely impact the people we serve and the care we provide.

Focusing on Michigan, Ms. Gallagher noted that one in four households relies on Medicaid, and that \$2.3 million annually in Medicaid funds supports our hospitals, funds critical to their operations. She expressed deep concern for rural and northern Michigan areas, where these cuts could force healthcare facilities to close, severely limiting access to care, especially during emergencies. Additionally, Medicaid cuts would affect our senior population, with \$325 million annually supporting nursing homes. Ms. Gallagher also warned that school-aged children could lose access to vital programs like school lunches, which in some cases are their only source of nutritious meals.

Ms. Gallagher shared local agencies, such as Catholic Charities and substance use disorder treatment programs, have already felt the effects of reduced funding. Ms. Gallagher urged attendees to contact their local and state representatives to voice concerns about how these cuts will impact their communities and households. Emphasizing the importance of action in the coming months, Ms. Gallagher informed attendees about a prewritten letter available on the CMH website (www.scccmh.org) that can be used to communicate with legislators.

Finally, Ms. Gallagher and Mr. McCartan proposed forming a subcommittee to coordinate outreach efforts to local and state representatives. Those interested in joining or helping to establish this subcommittee are encouraged to contact Ms. Amy Smith at asmith@scccmh.org. Together, the CSCB and its members can unite to ensure our representatives understand the real-world consequences these Medicaid cuts will have on the people in our communities.

VI. CSCB Updates

A. Steering Committee

a. New CSCB Membership Endorsement

Mr. Scott Crawford announced that the Steering Committee has received formal membership applications from two organizations seeking to join the CSCB: Blue Water Area Rescue Mission (BWARM) and Behavioral Health Connections of Michigan.

The Director of BWARM, Ms. Rennee Pettinger, was present and provided a brief overview of the organization. She explained that BWARM originally operated from 2010 until shortly after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, at which point it was forced to close. However,

in late 2023, a group of community members came together with the shared goal of reopening the shelter. BWARM officially reopened on Christmas Eve 2023.

Ms. Pettinger noted that the shelter was initially staffed entirely by volunteers through Memorial Day of the following year. During that time, they paused operations to raise additional funding to ensure long-term sustainability. BWARM reopened shortly after Labor Day with a committed team and the goal of remaining open year-round. Since reopening, BWARM has served over 300 men in the community, underscoring the ongoing need for homelessness support in the area. Ms. Pettinger extended an invitation to attendees to visit the facility for a tour, where she could further share the many improvements made in services and conditions for those they serve. She also emphasized that BWARM recognizes the urgent need for services that support homeless women, particularly those with children. She explained that facilities for minors require a different set of inspections and regulations, and assured attendees that BWARM is actively exploring solutions to address these needs in a responsible and sustainable way.

The Steering Committee reviewed the applications and recommended endorsing BWARM and Behavioral Health Connections of Michigan for membership. Ms. Jennifer Gunderson subsequently presented a motion to accept BWARM and Behavioral Health Connections of Michigan as an official members of the CSCB, which was seconded by Ms. Juanita Gittings. The motion was put to a vote and approved by the committee members. Following the vote, Mr. Scott Crawford formally welcomed BWARM and Behavioral Health Connections of Michigan as new members of the CSCB.

b. 2025 MOU's & Dues

Mr. Scott Crawford reported that the CSCB ended the 2024 fiscal year with a deficit of over \$30,000. This shortfall was due to a variety of factors and was ultimately covered by CMH. In response, a request was made for member organizations to consider increasing their dues for 2025, especially given that dues had not been raised since their initial implementation over a decade ago. Mr. Crawford expressed sincere appreciation to the many organizations that responded to this call. In several cases, members generously doubled their previous contributions. Thanks to this collective effort, the CSCB is now in a more stable financial position for 2025. He noted that the majority of membership dues go toward staffing support and other operational costs necessary to sustain the work of the CSCB.

Mr. Crawford once again extended his gratitude to those who increased their contributions, recognizing their commitment to the continued success and strength of the coalition. Mr. Crawford shared that another strategy for strengthening the CSCB budget is through expanding membership. To date, three new organizations have joined, and the CSCB is actively seeking to welcome more. He encouraged members to consider referring organizations or businesses that could benefit from being part of the CSCB. Interested parties are welcome to attend a meeting or connect directly with Ms. Amy Smith, who is available to meet and provide an overview of the CSCB's mission and activities.

For questions or to make a referral, members are encouraged to reach out to Mr. Scott Crawford or Ms. Amy Smith.

Workgroup Updates

c. Substance Use Disorder PTR

Mr. Ken Heuvelman reported that the April SUPTR meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25th at 10:00 a.m. at CMH. Mr. Heuvelman expressed his anticipation for

continued discussions around system-level changes that can positively impact efforts to combat the drug epidemic in the community. He also emphasized that SUPTR remains committed to identifying ways to strengthen programs, enhance support services, and better serve individuals affected by substance use.

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

Ms. Karen Palka shared information about a new adolescent advisory group being developed by Ms. Michelle Mazzara in collaboration with CMH. The goal of the group is to include two student representatives from each high school. These students will serve as peer advisors, focusing on the teens helping teens model. The group will provide a platform for students to share their firsthand experiences with mental health challenges within their schools and offer insights on what support or strategies they believe could make a meaningful difference. The advisory group is scheduled to begin meeting on Tuesdays in August. If you know a high school student who may be interested in participating, please refer them to Ms. Karen Palka. Students must sign up by the end of May.

Ms. Karen Palka also reminded attendees about the Adolescent Speakers Bureau, a valuable resource for anyone seeking speakers on topics relevant to youth. The bureau offers a wide range of speakers and topics tailored specifically for adolescent audiences. The Speakers Bureau directory can be accessed by clicking on the [Speakers-Bureau.pdf](#) link or by visiting the CSCB website at www.cscbinfo.org. The document serves as a centralized resource, providing detailed information on available speakers, topic areas, and direct contact information. Ms. Palka noted that the directory was created as a one-stop shop to support schools, organizations, and community members in addressing the many important issues facing adolescents today.

Ms. Palka shared her excitement about distributing cards featuring a QR code that provides easy access to the Adolescent Resource Guide. These cards will be available at a table on Family Night during Boat Week. The next Adolescent Services workgroup meeting will be on Wednesday, June 4th at 3:00PM.

e. **Early Childhood** (handout and flyer provided)

Ms. Jennifer Gunderson provided an update on the 32p4 Grant Recompetition. The Great Start Collaborative (GSC) is applying for renewed 32p4 funding with the goal of expanding the Parents as Teachers home visiting program in St. Clair County. As part of the application process, community partners participated in a SWOT analysis to help strengthen the proposal. The outcome of the grant application is expected by the end of the summer.

Ms. Jennifer Gunderson shared details about the upcoming Celebrate Your Child Day, taking place on Saturday, June 7th, from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Pine River Nature Center. This free, family-friendly event is designed for children ages 0–5 and their families, offering a morning of fun and engaging activities. The event will be held rain or shine, so attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather.

Highlights of the event include:

- Children's games and hands-on activities
- A guided hike to the treehouse
- Storytelling sessions at the treehouse
- Access to the large animal exhibit room
- Parenting resources and literature from local agencies

- A visit to the StoryWalk

Ms. Gunderson noted that registration details can be found on the flyer included in your packet. To register, simply scan the QR code on the flyer or visit www.bit.ly/CelebrateYourChildDay.com.

Ms. Gunderson shared several important updates:

- **New Car Seat Laws:**
She reminded attendees that new car seat laws went into effect in April 2025. For full details, please visit www.Michigan.gov/CarSeats.
- **Imagination Library Program:**
Ms. Gunderson highlighted the Imagination Library, a free book program for children in St. Clair County. It is funded through a grant from United Way, St. Clair County RESA, and private donations. This year, the program also participated in the Big Give campaign, raising \$13,000 in donations. She thanked everyone for helping spread the word, noting, "This would not have been possible without your support."
- **Preschool for All:**
Applications are now open for the Preschool for All program. This is not an income-based program, so Ms. Gunderson encouraged families to apply early, as space is limited. To apply, visit Early Childhood Services | St. Clair County RESA.
- **Great Start Home Visiting Program:**
There are also current openings in the Great Start Home Visiting program. Families can register at Great Start Home Visiting | St. Clair County RESA.
- **2025 Summer Fun Guide:**
The new **2025 Summer Fun Guide** is now available! This resource offers a list of fun activities for families with young children in St. Clair County. Printed copies are available, or you can download it online at www.bit.ly/2025SummerFunGuide.
- **Next Meeting:**
The next Early Childhood Services Workgroup meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26th. At that meeting, the group will begin work on the Great Start Collaborative.

f. **Housing & Support Services**

Ms. Kathy Swantek informed attendees that the Housing and Support Services Workgroup did not meet in May due to the Community Resource Fair (CRF), which was held on May 14th at the SC4 Fieldhouse. The event was a tremendous success, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. Attendees especially appreciated the venue, and SC4 President Kirk Kramer shared his enthusiasm about the event's organization and impact, noting that the Fieldhouse would be a great location to host the fair again next year.

Highlights from the 2024 Community Resource Fair:

- 86 vendors participated
- 270 individuals received meals from the food truck
- 120 bags of pet food distributed
- Over 70 volunteers assisted
- 500 personal care product bags given away
- 500 free lunches served
- \$5,000–\$6,000 raised through sponsorships

Ms. Swantek also shared that copies of the Community Resource Guide which includes detailed information about the CRF are available at the back of the room.

She extended her sincere thanks to the individuals, committees, sponsors, and volunteers who made the event possible. Special appreciation was given to SC4 for hosting, Ms. Heather Bearden from the Eastern Michigan Food Bank, and Ms. Bernie Newby, Community Action Agency, as Logistics co-chairs, Major Jenny Ortman from the Salvation Army for vendor coordination, and Ms. Misty Wojnarowicz from MDHHS for managing volunteer efforts. Ms. Swantek emphasized that without their support and dedication, the event would not have been possible. The next Housing and Support Services Workgroup meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9th.

VII. **Additional Agenda Items**

A. **Resource Navigation Ad-Hoc**

Ms. Amy Smith provided an update on the Resource Navigation Ad-Hoc Committee, a newly formed group that has met three times to date. The committee's primary focus is to ensure that clients and community members have access to the appropriate resources and support they need.

At the most recent meeting, the committee met with representatives from 211 to review their redesigned website, which will launch publicly in July. Ms. Smith noted that the updated site is much more user-friendly. In addition, 211 and the committee discussed the effectiveness of current 211 access for those seeking assistance. 211 is actively collaborating with the county to ensure the accuracy of all listed resources and is open to making adjustments if any information is outdated or incorrect.

Ms. Smith shared that the committee is also evaluating which resource tools are most widely used and accessible. Based on user feedback, the Help Card remains the most frequently used and preferred resource for individuals seeking services in St. Clair County. This highlights the importance of keeping agency contact details up to date. They also are making sure they are able to provide either a paper copy or a digital copy depending on user preference.

She encouraged anyone interested in participating in the Ad-Hoc Committee to reach out to her directly. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28th.

B. **Health Department is Moving**

Ms. Jennifer Michaluk informed attendees that the Health Department will be relocating to the former MDHHS building at 220 Fort Street. The new space has been fully renovated and looks fantastic. Tours of the facility will be available closer to the official move-in date. Ms. Michaluk emphasized that while the physical address is changing, the website, phone number, and social media accounts will remain the same. She encouraged everyone to stay tuned for upcoming media announcements, marketing efforts, and public outreach campaigns related to the new location.

C. **MDHHS Diaper Assistance Program**

Ms. Misty Wojnarowicz reported that MDHHS has a Diaper Assistance Program. Your local MDHHS office is now providing assistance with diapers. To qualify individuals must be active in at least one MDHHS benefit program and have a child on your benefits case that uses diapers. If you qualify you can pick up diapers once per month for four consecutive months. The Diaper Assistance Program will continue until MDHHS runs out of diapers or funds for the program. If you are interested in receiving diapers, please inquire at the front window of your local MDHHS office and complete a Diaper Assistance Request form.

VII. **Announcements** (flyers provided)

- **SCCVA** - 2025 Memoria Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 26th lineup at 9:30AM.
- **Dementia & Alzheimer's Association of SCC** – Caregiver Connections Expo. On Tuesday, June 3rd at 8:30AM.
- **Friends of St. Clair** – Sturgeon Fest on Saturday, June 7th at 10AM.
- **A Beautiful Me** – Bacon & Bubble 5K on Saturday, June 14th at 9AM.
- **Women's Life** – Cash Raffle drawing on Saturday, June 14th at 10:30AM.
- **Hunter Hospitality House** – Endowment Fund Awareness Raffle drawing on Thursday, August 28th at 12PM.

VIII. **Next Meeting: Wednesday July 16th from 2PM – 4PM at CMH Auditorium**

IX. **Adjournment**

With no further business to address, Ms. Kathy Swantek and Mr. Ken Heuvelman adjourned the meeting at 3:24PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed and Approved by,

Gloria Valentin
Recording Secretary

Scott Crawford
CSCB Chair