

# SCC Community Services Coordinating Body Meeting

November 19, 2025

SCCCMH 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Auditorium

## Present:

<u>Chair</u>	Deb Johnson	St. Clair County Community Mental Health
<u>Vice Chair</u>	Scott Crawford	St. Clair County Council on Aging
	Amy Smith	St. Clair County Community Mental Health
	Kathleen Gallagher	St. Clair County Community Mental Health
	Kristen Thompson	St. Clair County Community Mental Health
	Telly Delor	St. Clair County Community Mental Health
	John Heilman	Blue Water Area Rescue Mission
	Annie Austin	St. Clair County Friend of the Court
	Amy Bishop	St. Clair County Health Department
	Liz King	St. Clair County Health Department
	Chiara Cameron-Wood	211 Northeast Michigan
	Shannon Benjamin	211 Northeast Michigan
	Josh Chapman	The YMCA
	Audrey Sochor	St. Clair County Community Foundation
	Christine Cook	Disability Network of Eastern Michigan
	Tyler Barker	Crossroads Recovery Community
	Angela Valdivia	Crossroads Recovery Community
	Rick Albers	Odyssey House
	Brett VanDrew	Port Huron Area School District
	Becca Kettlewell	Wings of the Harbor
	Tess Brown	Wings of the Harbor
	Cindy Richmond	Blue Water Community Action
	Suzanne Powers	Blue Water Community Action
	Kendra Kracht	Community First Health Centers
	Kathy Baker	Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home
	Lisa Beedon	Blue Water Developmental Housing
	Andrea Bubel	Blue Water Developmental Housing
	Jennifer McDonald	Spero Pregnancy Center
	Miranda Willis	Region 10 PIHP
	Mike Mercantante	St. Clair County Library System
	Misty Wojnarowicz	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
	Cliff Thomason	The Athletic Factory
	Mike Weaver	Harbor Impact
	Jennifer Gunderson	RESA / Great Start
	Melissa Jacobs	Blue Water Safe Horizons
	Colleen Burrum	Macomb / St. Clair Michigan Works
	Danielle Eastwood	St. Clair County Juvenile Probation
	Matt King	St. Clair County Sheriff
	Andrew Seppo	Operation Transformation
	Christine Cook	Disability Network of Eastern Michigan
	Juanita Gittings	Citizen
	Whitney Ostrom	Professional Counseling Center
	Karen Palka	A Beautiful Me
	Eric Norat	Catholic Charities Southeast Michigan
	Patrick Patterson	Blue Water Recovery and Outreach Center
	Nicole Bickel	Blue Water Recovery and Outreach Center

Courtney Eveningred	NorServ Group Ltd.
Major Jenny Ortman	The Salvation Army
Brent Gillette	United Way of St. Clair County
Dave McElroy	Blue Water Transit
Lee-Perry Belleau	Blue Water Transit
<b>Staff</b> Gloria Valentin	St. Clair County Community Mental Health

I. **Welcome, Introductions**

Ms. Deborah Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and opened the CSCB end-of-year meeting by introducing herself and welcoming all attendees. She then shared this year’s meeting theme, *Engage, Empower, Elevate: Our Community, Our Responsibility*, noting that it perfectly reflects the mission and values of CSCB. Ms. Johnson concluded by inviting all attendees to introduce themselves and their respective organizations.

II. **2025 CSCB Overview**

Ms. Deb Johnson took a moment to recognize several new members who joined CSCB in 2025, including Blue Area Rescue Mission, Camp Grace Bentley, 2-1-1 Northeast Michigan, and Behavioral Health Connections of Michigan. She also shared that later in the meeting, CSCB would present the Community Collaborative Award to a very special and dedicated member of the community.

Ms. Johnson noted that the meeting would also include an election for Chair and Vice Chair, positions that will serve a three-year term, and that this year is a required election year. She reminded attendees that their meeting packets include the 2025 Annual Report, the organizational chart, and several additional tools and resources designed to help members better understand CSCB and its impact on the community.

She emphasized that the Annual Report is a valuable resource, not only for sharing CSCB’s accomplishments with community members, but also for communicating the organization’s work to state, local, and federal stakeholders, highlighting the strong collaborative efforts taking place across St. Clair County.

Ms. Johnson then reviewed the various CSCB workgroups, including Full Body, Steering Committee, Adolescent, HHSW, SPC, Great Start Collaborative, and SUPTR. She explained that over the years, CSCB has supported many initiatives that form in response to specific community needs, bringing groups together to address those needs until the work is completed.

III. **Engage, Empower, Elevate / Our Community, Our Responsibility - Panel Discussion**

Ms. Deborah Johnson shared that this year’s CSCB end-of-year meeting would feature a panel discussion. In past years, the meeting has included a variety of guest speakers who offered words of wisdom, motivational messages, and insight into emerging social issues. She noted that one particularly impactful presentation included a broadcaster who shared his personal experience with losing his son to opioid addiction. This year, Ms. Johnson explained, CSCB wanted to take a different approach by engaging community leaders directly and asking them to share their perspectives. The panel included the following community leaders and organizations:

- **Matt King**, St. Clair County Sheriff Department
- **Josh Chapman**, YMCA of the Blue Water Area
- **Liz King**, St. Clair County Health Department
- **Scott Crawford**, Council on Aging, serving St. Clair County
- **Andrew Seppo**, Operation Transformation
- **Telly Delor**, St. Clair County Community Mental Health

Ms. Johnson asked the panelists to speak from their own perspectives about how the meeting theme *Engage, Empower, Elevate: Our Community, Our Responsibility* relates to their organization, their role as leaders, and the broader community. She opened the discussion by asking: “When you think about CSCB and the word engagement, what comes to mind for you?”

Each panelist shared their unique perspective. We have provided some perspectives

**Liz King** highlighted a recent example of collaboration during a time of uncertainty surrounding a federal shutdown. She explained that, despite the chaos and lack of clarity, organizations came together to educate and support community members by sharing information about available resources and options. She noted that this collective effort exemplifies how CSCB partners work together as one to support the community.

**Sheriff Matt King** spoke about empowerment and how shared expertise strengthens the collective response to community challenges. He discussed the implementation of ALICE training, where law enforcement professionals worked alongside individuals from various professions to prepare them for active shooter situations. While acknowledging the discomfort such training can bring, he emphasized that it empowers individuals by providing tools to help them feel safer.

Sheriff King also reflected on law enforcement’s evolving role in responding to mental health needs. He noted that, historically, these situations were not always handled effectively and often resulted in incarceration rather than appropriate care. Through partnerships with Community Mental Health and other CSCB members, law enforcement has been better equipped to address mental illness and substance use disorders, both within the jail system and the broader community. He emphasized that collaboration allows partners to learn from one another and respond effectively to needs that fall outside their individual areas of expertise.

Sheriff King concluded by reinforcing that this collaborative approach embodies CSCB’s mission: *Engage, Empower, Elevate—Our Community, Our Responsibility*.

Ms. Johnson thanked all CSCB members and partners for their continued collaboration and the meaningful work they do together to serve the community. She then transitioned the meeting to the Community Service Award Presentation.

#### IV. **2025 CSCB Community Collaborative Award Winner**

Ms. Lisa Beedon presented the Community Collaborative Award to Ms. Kathy Baker in recognition of her exceptional dedication to the community and her steadfast support of colleagues. Following the presentation, Ms. Deborah Johnson and all CSCB members in attendance rose to offer a standing ovation in honor of Ms. Baker’s contributions and service.

#### V. **Election of CSCB Officers for 2026 - 2028**

Ms. Deborah Johnson then moved the meeting forward to the Election of Officers and yielded the floor to Ms. Karen Lake. Ms. Lake stated that, on behalf of the CSCB Steering Committee, she was presenting the recommended slate of officers for the 2026–2028 term. She noted that the terms for Chair and Vice Chair would begin on January 1, 2026, and conclude on December 31, 2028.

The Steering Committee recommended Ms. Debra Johnson, St. Clair County Community Mental Health, to serve as CSCB Chair, and Scott Crawford, Council on Aging, Inc., serving St. Clair County, to serve as CSCB Vice Chair.

Ms. Lake then called for nominations from the floor for either position. Hearing none, she requested a motion to approve the recommended slate of officers. A motion was made and seconded. All members

voted in favor, and the motion carried. Ms. Lake thanked the officers for their willingness to continue serving CSCB.

VI. **2026 Membership**

Ms. Amy Smith informed attendees that the 2026 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and all corresponding documents have been updated and are included in the meeting packets for review. She noted that the MOUs will be finalized with the signatures of the CSCB Chair and Vice Chair. The 2026 invoice is also included in the packet. Ms. Smith reminded members that the proposed dues increase was discussed in July and again in September, and that the Full Body formally endorsed the increase at the July meeting. She explained that membership dues primarily support the salaries of Community Mental Health staff who provide coordination and administrative support for CSCB.

Ms. Smith further advised that MOU packets will be mailed to members in early January. Members are asked to sign and return the signature page, member contact information page, and invoice, with checks made payable to St. Clair County Community Mental Health (CSCB 2026 Dues).

Ms. Smith reminded members that the 2026 CSCB meeting calendar is included in today's meeting packet. She encouraged attendees to add the meeting dates to their personal calendars to ensure awareness of all upcoming CSCB meetings. A one-page summary calendar outlining all CSCB meetings for the year has also been provided for convenience.

Ms. Amy Smith informed CSCB members about opportunities for organizational presentations at the CSCB Full Body meetings. She noted that CSCB is seeking two organizations to deliver 15-minute presentations at each Full Body meeting in 2026. A sign-up sheet was circulated for interested members. Ms. Smith encouraged organizations that have not presented in recent years, or those with new initiatives or updates to share, to consider participating as a way to highlight their work and inform the broader community. She also invited members to consider hosting a CSCB meeting, noting that such support is greatly appreciated. Members with questions or interest were encouraged to contact Ms. Smith directly at [asmith@scccmh.org](mailto:asmith@scccmh.org).

Ms. Deb Johnson thanked all members and their organization for their continued support and hard work helping “*Engage, Empower, Elevate: Our Community, Our Responsibility*”

VII. **Additional Announcements**

Mr. Scott Crawford invited members to consider participating in the St. Clair County Vulnerable Older Adult Task Force. He distributed a handout containing a QR code for any member or organization interested in learning more or joining the initiative.

IX. **Next Meeting: Wednesday January 21<sup>st</sup> from 2PM – 4PM at CMH Auditorium**

X. **Adjournment**

With no further business to address, Ms. Deb Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:52PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed and Approved by,

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Gloria Valentin  
Recording Secretary

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Deb Johnson  
CSCB Chair