

St. Clair County Community Services Coordinating Body
Steering Committee Meeting
June 26, 2025

Members Present:

Chair: Deb Johnson, Community Mental Health

Vice-Chair: Scott Crawford, Council on Aging, serving St. Clair County

Becky Gorinac, St. Clair County Regional Education Service Agency

Karen Lake, Blue Water Community Action Agency

Mat King, SCC Sheriff's Office

Astrid Elkins, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Bob Currier, SCC Homeland Security / Emergency Management Office

Tara Reyna, United Way of SCC

Kathleen Gallagher, SCC Community Mental Health

Ken Heuvelman, Professional Counseling Center

Jazmyn Thomas, City of Port Huron

Amy Smith, St. Clair County Community Mental Health / Community Services Coordinating Body

I. Welcome

Deb Johnson welcomed members to today's meeting and thanked them for making time to attend today. She noted that in today's packet were the minutes from the April's meeting.

II. National, State Changes & Local Impact

A. **PIHP Procurement RFT & Medicaid**— Deb directed members to two handouts in today's meeting packet. She described for members the role of the PIHP's statewide and the history of how they evolved. She described how MDHHS wants to dismantle the current PIHP system statewide and allow private for-profit organizations to compete in a RFP process to take over the functions of the PIHP. Deb described what this would mean for the entire mental health system and how it would affect the most vulnerable populations that CMH serves. It would also remove all local control and would allow the insurance companies to dictate services and fees paid for the services. The current PHIP providers are not allowed to apply through this RFP process. The RFP if it goes through, require changes to the state legislation and mental health code. Deb has spoken with a couple of our state legislators, and they are not aware of any of the changes that MDHHS is moving forward with. As a result of changes at the federal and state levels, CMH is hosting a Legislative Town Hall Breakfast meeting on July 14th at 8:30 at CMH. The intent is to educate our state and federal legislators regarding what the changes mean to the system, as well as our community, not just CMH as a provider.

A lengthy discussion occurred. Points included:

- Budget cuts to Michigan will be a result of the "Big Beautiful Budget"
- Substance use is not being considered, and cuts will affect prevention funding since this is block grant allocation
- MHDDS is stating it is streamlining services and calling it a re-organization, which allows for these changes
- Legislators have not been made aware of the changes proposed for the PIHPs
- Grass root advocacy does work but millions of dollars are being spent on lobbying
- Law enforcement sees things like Medicaid fraud - vs legitimate needs and services

- The number of cuts to Healthy Michigan health care coverage would be devastating to our community
- How do we educate the community on the truth regarding Medicaid services, needs, etc.
- Need good data
- People making the decisions are not working with or talking to people in the field who see it everyday
- Senior Project Connect has moved to an on-line QR code application process to register and receive coupons. Many of the seniors do not have computers or access to apply for this service
- An individual who is part of a strong advocacy group that is very concerned and wants to know what we can do. Discussed options for sharing information and the need to contact legislators at the local, state and national levels to express our concerns.
- An advocacy link has been added to the CSCB website.

III. CSCB Budget Update

A. 2025 Budget Status

Deb reported that as of this week, we have collected \$72,400 for the 2025 dues. An outreach has been made to the 5 organizations who have not paid dues yet this year. Each fall into the \$250 tier. Region 10 is still outstanding, and their membership is in question. Two of our new members: 211, and BWARM are included in this dollar amount. Amy will continue to follow up with the other organizations. Lastly, Kevin Watkins, president of the SCC NAACP Chapter wants to become a member. He attended the May Full Body meeting and was very impressed. He has asked that an application to be mailed to him. Discussion occurred and an e-vote will be conducted once his application is received.

B. 2026 Proposed Budget

In today's packet is the proposed 2026 budget that the subcommittee created a few months back. Deb stated that the only change she would recommend was on the bottom tier to include the word above instead of the dollar amount. Discussion followed.

Amy will send out an email to the CSCB Full Body alerting them to the proposed increase in dues for 2026 and ask for their feedback.

A motion was made by Kathy Swantek to accept the proposed 2026 budget as presented. It was seconded by Kathleen Gallagher. Motion carried.

IV. CSCB Steering Committee Updates

A. Waiver Request

Deb stated that in today's packet there is a waiver form submitted by NorServ Group asking to have their dues waived this year. They are at the \$250 level. The organization has been a member of the CSCB for many years and Cortney Evengrad is an active member; she participates in the Adolescent Services Workgroup and attends the Full Body Meeting regularly. Discussion followed. Kathleen Gallagher made the motion to accept the waiver for NorServ for 2025. It was second by Mat King. Motion carried.

B. Steering Committee Membership

As a follow-up to our discussion last month on Steering Committee membership, Amy did reach out to both Judge Thomlinson and Justin Westmiller regarding lack of participation at the Steering Committee level. Justin indicated that he was very interested in having HS/EM represented and has assigned Bob Carrier as his designee. Tara Reyna will be the designee for the United Way. Amy did not hear back from Judge Thomlinson, however, will reach out again. Also, with the change in leadership at Lake Huron Medical Center, we will make an outreach to Chris Falls, interim CEO, to

ask them to appoint someone to the Steering Committee since they are a Green Member. Deb welcomed both Bob and Tara to today's meeting.

V. Workgroup Updates

- A. Early Childhood – Becky Gorinac reported that:
- The Great Start Collaborative is beginning a strategic planning process.
 - RESA will need to apply this year for the continuation of home visitation. This is a competitive grant.
 - Pre-K for all is open to everyone until September 1st. Some programs are already full. Becky asked members to have families who are struggling financially to apply soon so they can be enrolled in a program prior to them filling up. Six classrooms have been added and there are now 40 classrooms countywide.
 - Tri-Share still is available.
 - The Imagination Station raised \$14,000 in the Big Give.
 - The Early Childhood Summary is in today's Packet.
- B. Housing & Support Services Workgroup – Kathy Swantek reported that:
- ✓ The Community Resource Fair held on May 14th was a huge success. There were 86 Vendors, 70 Volunteers, 270 registered guests. This year's event was in the SC4 Fieldhouse, and it was great having everything under one roof and in one area. A Wrap-up meeting will be scheduled soon.
 - ✓ Emergency Solutions Grant – the ESG allocation from MSDHA has not yet been received however due to grant timelines, we need to implement the process for funding recommendations in early July. Last year SCC was awarded \$219,000.
- C. Substance Use Prevention, Treatment & Recovery – Ken Heuvelman reviewed with the members the presentation that the workgroup had yesterday regarding nation / state and local data based on drug screens through Millenium Health. In the handouts is the summary from yesterday's meeting. Ken also stated that he has decided to step down as chair of the workgroup. There will be co-chairs: Nicole Bickel and Michael Thomas. One of the two will be attending both the Steering and the Full Body meetings.
- D. Adolescent Services Workgroup – Karen Palka was not able to attend today's meeting. Amy Smith reported that the June meeting was cancelled and there was no July meeting due to the holiday. Next meeting will be August 6th.

VI. Additional Agenda Items

- A. Resource Navigation Committee – Amy reported that this group continues to meet and is going through the 211 website by category to determine which resources are missing as well as to make recommended changes to the website. Chiara Wood-Cameron will be presenting at the Full Body meeting to encourage membership to update their information.
- B. Agenda for the July 16th meeting – Deb asked members to send any agenda items or handout to Amy for the next Full Body meeting.
- C. CMHAM Conference – Deb reported that she did present at the CMH Board conference in early June. Her presentation on the CSCB was very well received.

Next CSCB Steering Committee Meeting is August 28th at noon.