

**SCC Community Services Coordinating Body Meeting**  
**March 18, 2026**  
**SCCCMH 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Auditorium**

**Present:**

<b><u>Chair</u></b>	Debra Johnson	SCC Community Mental Health
	Cindy Richmond	Blue Water Community Action
	Jennifer Gunderson	RESA / Great Start - Early Childhood Collaborative
	Karen Palka	A Beautiful Me -Adolescent Services Workgroup
	Eric Norat	Catholic Charities Southeast Michigan
	Major Jenny Ortman	The Salvation Army
	Sherry Archibald	Child Abuse Council
	Alyse Nichols	St. Clair County Health Department
	Randy Bennett	Operation Transformation
	Lakena Hammond	The Harbor
	Demetri Stafford	BWARM
	Brett VanDrew	Port Huron Area School District
	Lee-Perry Belleau	Blue Water Area Transit
	Telly Delor	SCC Community Mental Health
	Kendra Kracht	Community First Health Centers
	Trish Spencer	Goodwill Industries
	Melissa Jacobs	Blue Water Safe Horizons
	Erika Charbeneau	Norserv Group Ltd.
	Courtney Eveningred	Norserv Group Ltd.
	Whitney Ostrom	Professional Counseling Center
	Tod Logan	Camp Grace Bentley
	Sharon Wilton	United Way of SCC
	Mike Mercatante	SCC Library System
	Jay Watson	Disability Network of Eastern Michigan
	Christine Cook	Disability Network of Eastern Michigan
	Shannon Benjamin	211 Northeast Michigan
	Mike Kehoe	SCC Day Treatment / Night Watch - Adolescent Services Workgroup
	Caitlin Reynolds	Community Enterprises of SCC
	Annie Austin	SCC Friends of Court / ACT
	Karrie Davis	SCC Health Department
	Mat King	SCC Sheriff's Office
	Nicole Bickel	Blue Water Recovery Outreach Center
<b><u>Staff</u></b>	Amy Smith	SCC Community Mental Health
	Gloria Valentin	SCC Community Mental Health

- I. **Welcome, Introductions**  
 Ms. Debra Johnson convened the meeting at 2:03 p.m., opening the CSCB session by introducing herself and welcoming all attendees. She then invited participants to introduce themselves and identify the agencies they represent.
  
- II. **Agenda Changes**  
 Ms. Debra Johnson inquired whether there were any proposed changes to the agenda. As none were presented, the meeting proceeded as scheduled.

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

Ms. Debra Johnson called for approval of the January meeting minutes. Ms. Annie Austin moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Mat King seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the January meeting minutes were approved.

### IV. **Emerging Issues**

#### A. Nation / State / Local Issues

1. PIHP RFP Update - Ms. Telly Delor shared that on January 8, Judge Christopher Yates of the Michigan Court of Claims issued a written opinion regarding the RFP. The court determined that the RFP violated Michigan law by interfering with Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs) ability to carry out their statutory duties. Specifically, the court found that the RFP unlawfully restricted CMHSPs from entering into the financial contracts necessary to perform managed care functions. The court issued a declaratory ruling requiring the RFP to be brought into compliance with Michigan law. While the judge did not halt the RFP, the decision placed responsibility on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to address and correct the identified issues. The court further affirmed that CMHSPs must have adequate Medicaid funding, the authority to contract with providers to ensure recipient rights protections, and the ability to fulfill their legal obligations under the Michigan Mental Health Code.

Ms. Delor further reported that, following the January 2026 ruling, MDHHS formally rescinded the RFP. The court had provided MDHHS with several options, including amending the RFP, issuing a deficiency notice, or rescinding it; MDHHS elected to rescind the RFP in its entirety to reassess next steps. As a result, the proposed restructuring and competitive procurement process are no longer moving forward as originally planned. MDHHS has indicated that it is currently evaluating next steps and alternatives, with a focus on ensuring any future approach aligns with applicable state and federal requirements. Ms. Delor noted that no further hearings have been formally confirmed at this time, particularly in light of MDHHS rescinding the RFP and reassessing next steps.

2. SCC Teen Health Center Update - Ms. Alyse Nichols provided an update on the St. Clair County Teen Health Clinic located on the campus of Port Huron High School. She reported that, beginning February 9, 2026, the Teen Health Clinic temporarily suspended services to allow for a comprehensive quality assurance and compliance review following concerns raised by county officials regarding clinic materials and intake procedures. During the suspension, students in need of urgent medical care were redirected to the St. Clair County Health Department main campus, and non-urgent appointments were rescheduled.

Ms. Nichols noted that the temporary pause was instituted under the direction of Medical Director Dr. Remington Nevin to ensure the clinics operations meet all applicable standards. She explained that materials deemed inappropriate for minors were removed and certain programs were paused while corrections were made, based on feedback from county leadership.

Additionally, Ms. Nichols reported that, on February 19, 2026, the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners voted 5–2 to submit an intent to terminate the county’s direct operation of the Teen Health Clinic and transition services to an outside provider before the next grant cycle ends September 30, 2026. The goal is to have a qualified primary care provider beginning care by October 1, 2026. Ms. Nichols indicated that services at the Teen Health Clinic have since resumed following the review and emphasized that ongoing efforts will focus on maintaining high-quality care for adolescents while exploring long-term operational options.

## V. **Organizational Presentations**

A. MDHHS – did not attend today’s meeting so no presentation was provided.

### B. SCC Sheriff’s Office & ICE

St. Clair County Sheriff Mat King addressed attendees to clarify recent questions regarding the St. Clair County Sheriff’s Office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). He explained that there have been no recent developments indicating a new formal partnership or changes in policy between the Sheriff’s Office and ICE. Sheriff King noted that while the St. Clair County Jail in Port Huron is designated as a facility that may house ICE detainees as part of the federal detention system, this reflects its role in housing individuals in federal custody rather than a change in local enforcement responsibilities. He further explained that, in Michigan, some sheriff’s offices have agreements with ICE to house federal immigration detainees, but few local agencies participate in formal 287(g) agreements that authorize local officers to enforce federal immigration laws directly. Sheriff King reiterated that there have been no recent mainstream reports of new actions or formal changes in the level of cooperation between the St. Clair County Sheriff’s Office and ICE in 2026.

## VI. **CSCB Updates**

### A. Steering Committee

#### a. 2026 MOU’s & Dues

Ms. Amy Smith reminded attendees that the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were distributed in December 2025, and 2<sup>nd</sup> notices went out in March. She asked that any organization that has not yet returned a signed MOU or submitted its dues do so as soon as possible. Any organizations unsure whether their documentation has been received, or in need of a replacement packet, were encouraged to follow up with Ms. Smith or her assistant, Ms. Gloria Valentin, following the meeting.

#### b. Expanding Membership

Ms. Amy Smith reported that the CSCB Organizational Chart has recently been updated. She emphasized that membership dues provide critical support for the staffing needed to sustain the CSCB’s ongoing activities. Ms. Smith noted that expanding membership would not only enhance the diversity of the CSCB and increase networking opportunities but could also help reduce membership dues in 2027. She encouraged members to review the current membership list, consider potential partners broadly, and invite any businesses, organizations, or entities that value collaboration to a meeting to see what we do. Any new membership applications can be emailed to Ms Smith for review by the Steering Committee.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, April 23rd at CMH.**

### B. Workgroup updates

#### a. Housing Workgroup

Ms. Amy Smith provided an update on the Robin Crest Housing Project in Port Huron, which has been reviewed and approved as an affordable housing development to be constructed on the former River District Market site, located between Military Street and Electric Avenue, behind the Dollar General store on 24th Street. The project, led by Woda Cooper Companies, proposes approximately 48 residential units designed to accommodate a range of needs, including supportive and barrier-free housing, with an estimated total development cost of \$17 million. Ms. Smith highlighted the importance of expanding affordable housing opportunities within the community and discussed the project’s design, anticipated community impact, and alignment with broader housing initiatives. Approval has been granted to proceed with the necessary development agreements; however, the project remains contingent upon securing state funding

and low-income housing tax credit financing. Construction is anticipated to commence upon confirmation of funding, with current projections targeting a start date in 2027.

Ms. Amy Smith went on to highlighted the recent Point-In-Time Count held on Wednesday, January 28, noting that it was a great success and expressing appreciation to the volunteers and community members who contributed to its effectiveness. A total of 177 individuals were counted, an increase from 165 in January 2025. Of those, 86 individuals were in shelter, representing an increase of 20 compared to the previous year, while 29 individuals were identified as unsheltered, up from 25. Additionally, 32 individuals were classified as precariously housed, including 31 adults and one child; among them, four were over the age of 60, and one family was represented.

Ms. Smith enthusiastically announced the upcoming Community Resource Fair, scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the SC4 Fieldhouse. She noted that volunteers are still needed for various subcommittees. A flyer included in today's packet provides the Planning Committee's meeting dates and times, along with a vendor registration form. Ms. Smith encouraged any organizations that have not yet registered to do so as soon as possible. She also reminded attendees that this is a Housing & Support Services Workgroup initiative, and all members are expected to participate as both vendors and volunteers. Additionally, she asked members to promote the Community Resource Fair on their social media platforms and within their organizations, emphasizing that increased outreach will help ensure the events success.

The next Housing & Support Services Workgroup meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at CMH**. The May meeting is cancelled due to the Community Resource Fair.

b. Substance Use Prevention, Treatment & Recovery (SUPTR)

Ms. Nicole Bickel provided an update on SUPTR. During the February SUPTR meeting, Ms. Allison Gorine presented information on OPEN's free programs, resources, and events. OPEN is a multidisciplinary initiative focused on reducing the harms associated with substance use, particularly opioid misuse and overdose. For additional information, interested individuals are encouraged to visit [www.michigan-open.org](http://www.michigan-open.org).

Ms. Bickel proceeded to provide updates from the subcommittee. She highlighted concerns regarding a substance commonly referred to as "7-OH," also known as 7-hydroxy or simply "7." This product is currently being marketed and sold in gas stations, vape shops, and convenience stores, often promoted as a legal mood enhancer, pain reliever, or relaxation aid. Despite these claims, the substance poses significant risks, as it can produce opioid like effects. Its over-the-counter availability may contribute to a false perception of safety among consumers. Ms. Bickel emphasized the importance of continued community education and awareness efforts to address emerging drug trends, particularly those targeting youth populations. She also noted that at the next SUPTR meeting on April 8, Bob Kerr from Overdose Response Strategies will be in attendance to provide additional information and insights regarding emerging drug trends. Ms. Bickel then introduced Ms. Alyse Nichols who will provide key details about the 2025 Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Report.

Ms. Alyse Nichols provided key information about the OFR report. This information is reviewed and compiled by The St. Clair County OFR team. Their purpose is to focus on preventing future drug overdose deaths by conducting confidential, multidisciplinary reviews of fatal overdose cases. These reviews help identify systemic gaps and missed opportunities for intervention. Below are key details, for more detailed information please refer to the OFR report included in your packet today.

- Total reviews 10
- Total # of active review members 19
- Total # of overdose deaths 19
- OFR coordinating agency SCCCMH

The next Substance Use PTR meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at CMH.**

c. Adolescent Services

Ms. Karen Palka reported that one of the 2026 goals of the Adolescent Services Workgroup is to review and update the Adolescent Resource Guide. The revision process commenced in February, with a target completion date of late March to early April. A copy of the current guide was distributed to members for review. Attendees were asked to identify any necessary updates or corrections pertaining to their own organizations as well as others. All revisions and feedback should be submitted to Amy Smith.

Additionally, Ms. Palka shared that included in your packets today is the 2025 Speakers Bureau. Please review and submit any updates or additions to Ms. Amy Smith no later than the first week of April.

The next Adolescent Services Workgroup meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 1st.** Please refer to the summary and supporting documents included in today's packet for additional details.

d. Early Childhood

Ms. Jennifer Gunderson provided an overview of the 2026 State Budget reductions. The cuts eliminate several key programs, including the Great Start Collaborative (GSC), Great Start Family Coalition (GSFC), Home Visiting, and Imagination Library initiatives. These changes remove critical early childhood infrastructure and significantly limit families access to coordinated support services. As a result, home visiting programs are expected to conclude in June, with an emphasis on ensuring smooth transitions and connecting families to available resources. Playgroups will continue through the summer and may extend into 2027.

- Early Childhood Outcomes – will continue to align its work with Michigan's four core early childhood outcomes. Making sure children are born healthy, stay healthy are thriving, and developmentally on track from birth through third grade, children are developmentally ready for school at the time of entry; and children are reading proficiently by the end of third grade to support long-term academic success.
- Great Start Collaborative – The Women's Initiative at the Community Foundation of St. Clair County awarded a \$28,000.00 grant to the SCC Regional Educational Service Agency to continue early childhood playgrounds for one year while more stable funding is secured.
- Celebrate Your Child Day – save the date Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am – 11:30am at Pine River Nature Center. Registered families will receive a free book and fun activity bag. Meet your favorite blue heeler Bluey.
- Local Resource Map – the resource map was developed to supplement the SCC Help Card. This tool can help both families and professionals navigate and locate local resources and supports within the community.
- Help Me Grow – training continues for the new early childhood hub. MIEarlyChildhood.org, replaced the St. Clair County Early Childhood HUB referral system. This new platform provides families and providers with access to referrals for

Early On, Head Start, Strong Beginnings, PreK for All, Help Me Grow, and community partners.

- Strong Beginnings – three-year-old preschool pilot application is available on the RESA website. There are currently two classrooms for the 26-27 school year, located in the Memphis and at Rosebrook Child Development Center, no income requirements.

Next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 23rd**. See update included in packet provided for more information and details.

## VII. **Additional Agenda Items**

### A. CSCB Help Card Update

Ms. Alyse Nicols reminded attendees that the Help Card is updated annually and that the 2026 revision process is now underway. An email was distributed to all members with the current version attached for review. Members were asked to carefully review the document to ensure their organization's information is accurate and up to date, and to submit any necessary corrections. Additionally, members are encouraged to review the full document and provide suggestions for enhancements or additions that may improve its overall usefulness. Your timely feedback is appreciated to support finalization and distribution of the Help Card in early 2026.

## VIII. **Announcements (flyers included in packet)**

- **The Salvation Army** - Pickleball Drop In – Monday Mornings/8:30AM – 9:30AM, Monday Nights/5PM – 7PM, Wednesday Mornings/8:30AM – 9:30AM at The Salvation Army on Court Street, \$5 per person
- **The Salvation Army** – Toddler Gym Time – Thursdays, 9:30AM – 10:30AM at The Salvation Army on Court St. ages 2-4.
- **United Way of St. Clair County** – Light The Way Gala – Friday, March 27th starts at 6:00PM at the St. Clair Inn
- **Blue Water Area Rescue Mission** – Faith & Family Night – Friday March 27th starts at 7:05PM at McMorran Place.
- **Blue Water Safe Horizons** – Night at the Races fundraiser on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Knights of Columbus in Marysville.
- **CMH** – Resilience Rising – Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM – 12:00PM, see flyer to register online.
- **SCC Child Abuse & Neglect Council** – Dinner for Kids Sake – Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> starts at 5:30PM at Blue Water Convention Center.
- **Camp Grace Bentley** –
  1. Dine to Donate on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 3PM – 9PM
  2. Allen Yeitter Memorial Run on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM starting at Fraternal order of Eagles 3702 on Howard Street
  3. Special Needs Summer Camp & Respite – from May – October call for information.
  4. All Ability Summer Camp – from August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, ages 7-17, call for information.
- **CMH** – Run for Recovery – Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at CMH first run starts at 8:30AM
- **BWROC** – Strides for Recovery - Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> starts at 9:00AM at Pine Grove Park.
- **Dementia & Alzheimer's Association of SCC** – Find the Cure – Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> begins at 9AM at Kiefer Park near the Port Huron City Building.

IX. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 27th from 2PM – 4PM at The Salvation Army**

X. **Adjournment**

With no further business to address, Ms. Debra Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:15PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed and Approved by,

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Gloria Valentin  
Recording Secretary

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Debra Johnson  
CSCB Chair