

## Human Services Network Announcements – August, 2007

### Agency Roundtable Announcements:

- Roy Vargas of **McCullough Vargas and Associates** announced that the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (SAPC) was awarded \$6,000 by Strategic Prevention Framework – State Assessment Grant (SPF-SAG) to build capacity in our community. Hillsdale County has the highest rate of alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the state, a high rate of teenagers using smokeless tobacco, and a high rate of teen pregnancy. SAPC will use this grant money to build networks in the county to deal with these issues; specifically, SAPC would like to meet with the Executive Committee of HSN to talk about building capacity. Also, Mike Vennekotter has resigned from McCullough Vargas, and MVA is looking for a person to be the Prevention Coordinator – call Roy for more information.
- Melinda vonSydow announced that **United Way** Kick-Off will be September 19. The Kick-Off Breakfast will be at Savarino's that morning.
- Jane Munson of **Key Opportunities** announced that they are providing job-related transportation and gas vouchers for medical and job situations. Also, Key Opportunities is collecting gently-used furniture for the Family-To-Family program of DHS. Contact Scott Walker at Key to donate or access the furniture.
- Bob Henthorne of the **ISD** announced that the ISD has constructed a Low-Ropes Course at Lochaven with the help of Home Depot. It is available for team-building for any organization, along with the facilities at Lochaven. Also, the Secondary Committee of the Leadership Initiative will be making a recommendation to the Executive Committee that there be movement toward three confederated high schools in the county. The Initiative is working to provide a \$50,000 grant for the first two high schools that confederate (high school in one district, middle school in the other district).
- Terry Vear announced that the annual picnic at **Perennial Park** will be September 7, with the focus on caregivers.  
**Perennial Park** will also be hosting "Universe Story" – tapestries created by African women, telling their life stories. The panels will be on display in September and October.  
**Perennial Park** has also been chosen by Red Cross to be an Emergency Shelter. Perennial Park will be hosting two public forums on September 19 to discuss Affordable Housing.
- The **HSN Annual Meeting** will be Tuesday, October 30, at Perennial Park Center.

### **Save the Date! Tuesday, September 18, 2007**

#### **Multisystemic Therapy (MST) for Families of Youth Ages 12-17: Program Overview**

With Marshall E. Swenson, MSW, MBA  
Vice President for New Program Development  
MST Services, Charleston, SC  
Primary Goals of MST Program  
MST Treatment Principles  
Overview of MST Outcomes Research

Multisystemic Therapy (MST) was designed to provide communities with effective remedies for serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders. The goal of MST is to reduce youth criminal activity, substance abuse and antisocial behavior through an integrative, family-based treatment. Please join us to discuss how LifeWays would like to implement MST in Hillsdale County in cooperation with Hillsdale County's Circuit Court—Family Division and the Department of Human Services. Marshall Swenson will provide an overview of the MST Treatment Model for families of youth with severe emotional problems at home, school and the community.

**11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Hillsdale County Intermediate School District**

**310 W. Bacon St., Hillsdale, MI**

**Box Lunches Provided**

**Please RSVP by September 10: (517) 780-3384, or  
[kellie.schiller@lifewaysmco.com](mailto:kellie.schiller@lifewaysmco.com)**

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## **Rural Children Increasingly Rely on Medicaid and SCHIP for Medical Care**

One-fifth of U.S. children in poverty live in rural areas. A Carsey Institute report finds a higher percentage of kids in rural areas depend on Medicaid or SCHIP (State Child Health Insurance Program) for health insurance than children in urban areas, and that the number of rural children relying on public health insurance is on the rise.

### **Key Findings**

- In both urban and rural areas, 11 percent of all children lack health insurance which amounts to 8.3 million children nationally (the number is closer to 9 million if you include 19-year-olds, most of whom are eligible for SCHIP)
- Of the 8.3 million uninsured children about 1.3 million live in rural areas.
- 32 percent of all rural children rely on SCHIP and Medicaid compared to 26 percent of all urban children,
- In 2005, nearly 4 million children in rural areas depended on public-sector health insurance.
- Among children at all income levels, the use of Medicaid and SCHIP is 6 percentage points higher for children in rural America than those in urban America. But that is largely due to the fact that a higher percentage of rural children live in low-income families.
- In 2005, 17 percent of low-income rural children are uninsured which is nearly the same as the 18 percent rate for similar children in urban areas.
- Over half (53 percent) of low-income children in rural America rely on SCHIP and Medicaid which is nearly identical to 52 percent of low-income urban children.
- The percent of low-income rural children covered by private insurance declined by 8 percentage points between 2000 and 2005 compared to 6 percentage points for similar urban children.

To access the full report:

[http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/RuralChildHealth\\_final.pdf](http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/RuralChildHealth_final.pdf)