

Human Services Network (HSN) Agency Announcements December, 2007

Agency Roundtable from HSN Meeting – December 18, 2007

- Pastor Julie Carey announced that Samaritan Place has openings (2) for homeless women with children. Contact Nancy Armstrong at Community Action Agency.
- Pastor Carey also announced that Kings Kupboard at Trinity Lutheran Church will be hosting a Christmas Room on December 19 and 21, 3:30-5:30pm. They do ask, for the Christmas Room, that persons bring ID, and identification and proof of custody or guardianship for children. For each child, they will receive a gift, stocking, and personal care package. Each adult will also receive a personal care package, and the family will receive a coupon for a turkey.
- Jane Munson announced that Key Opportunities Annual Reports are available on the information table.
- Matt Frizzell announced that the Hillsdale County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition received a grant to hold a town hall meeting to discuss underage drinking in Hillsdale County. It will be held the week of March 31. The HCSAPC is asking for community involvement in the town hall meeting – law enforcement, human services, health department.
- Bob Henthorne announced that Probate Court Judge Michael Nye has agreed to chair the Executive Committee of the Educational Leadership Initiative. Judge Nye has already made strides to include business leaders, parents and others in the Initiative, making it a community-driven initiative.
- Maxine Vanlerberg announced that the Community Action Agency has moved to their new building at 55 Barnard Street. The open house will be held on January 4, 2008, from 2:00-5:00pm.
- Laurie Brandes announced that the Kids Count 2007 information has been released. Please check the Agency Announcements (below) for more details.
- Sharon Bisher reminded us all of the reason for the celebration at Christmas, and urged us to spread hope to our neighbors in the county through support of agencies.

Other Announcements

2007 Kids Count in Michigan Report Released

Unless Michigan acts more decisively in the next few years the state will fail to meet many national standards for healthy children, families and neighborhoods. Fewer Michigan teens are binge drinking and smoking but more children are overweight and exercising too little, according to the 2007 Kids Count in Michigan report released today.

The report examines 18 wide-ranging health goals for children and teens that are set by the Healthy People (HP) 2010, a national initiative to advance health and well-being. Michigan is making progress, but it is not fast enough to meet the goals in many areas, and minority children and youth are further behind in meeting most of the targets. Read more about the

[2007 Kids Count in Michigan](#)

<http://www.milhs.org/information/default.asp?NavPageID=50096>

Grant Opportunity

The **Michigan Community Service Commission** is pleased to announce the availability of \$200,000 in grants to stimulate innovative strategies that increase and sustain strong volunteer initiatives.

Applications are due January 30, 2008. Please register now for the Technical Assistance Call on Tuesday, January 8th. For more information, contact Angelia D. Salas at salasa@michigan.gov or at (517) 335-4295.

From ConnectforKids.com:



Foster Care Resources

[Supporting Kinship Families: What State Policymakers Can Do \(December 17\)](#)

This National Governors Association webcast will bring together experts to discuss the benefits of kinship care and how states are supporting kinship families. The webcast will also give participants the opportunity to hear directly from a caregiver.

[Child Welfare and Child Well-Being: Bridging Research, Policy and Practice](#)

If you missed this recent Chapin Hall panel, you can access the audio and PowerPoint online. The event brought together a panel of experts and the authors of a new book -- *Child Protection: Using Research to Improve Policy and Practice* -- to discuss how research can shape effective policies and programs. It centered on two themes: interventions for vulnerable infants and young children, and evidence-based parenting programs for families in the child welfare system.

[Examination of Intensive Family Preservation Services](#)

Are Intensive Family Preservation and Reunification Services effective in strengthening families and keeping children in the home when safe and appropriate? A new National Family Preservation Network report finds substantial progress on several domains of family functioning, including the families' environment, parental capabilities, family interactions, family safety and child well-being. It also looks at race (disproportionality), substance abuse, type of referring problem (abuse vs. neglect), differences between intact and reunifying families, and follow-up services.



Juvenile Justice Tools

[Beyond Detention: System Transformation Through Juvenile Detention Reform](#)

The latest edition of the Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Pathways series documents the ways in which detention reforms in general -- and JDAI's comprehensive reform model in particular -- stimulate and support a broad array of other juvenile justice system improvements.

[Developing Safe Schools Partnerships: Spotlight on Juvenile Justice](#)

The federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students program has a resource guide outlining how juvenile justice can work in effective partnership with school and other partners to support youth. (It's the fourth bullet at the top of the National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention Resource Page; you'll find other great tools here as well.)

Health and Health Care

[Teen Birth Rate Rises for First Time in 14 Years](#)

The teen birth rate in the United States rose in 2006 for the first time since 1991, and unmarried childbearing also rose significantly, according to preliminary birth statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The rate rose from 40.5 births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 in 2005 to 41.9 births per 1,000 in 2006 -- a 3 percent increase.

[SCHIP Extension May be Proposed This Week](#)

Since Congress could not agree on comprehensive legislation to renew the successful bipartisan State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Democrats are poised to propose a one-year extension that includes \$800 million in additional funds to maintain 2008 projected enrollment levels and help states facing budgetary shortfalls avoid making program cuts, as the Kaiser Network reports.

[Election 08: Newspapers Examine Presidential Candidates' Health Care Proposals](#)

Also from Kaiser, summaries and links to recent articles examining the presidential candidates' health care proposals.

Hunger and Nutrition

[Are Food Stamps Reaching Those in Need? State Participation Rates](#)

Food Stamps, the largest federal nutrition assistance program, served 26 million people in an average month in fiscal year 2007. This policy brief from Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., looks at participation in 2005 and found that about 65 percent of eligible people in the United States received food stamp benefits. Only 57 percent of the eligible working poor participated in the program. Rates varied widely from state to state for both groups.



[CalorieKing Mobile](#)

Here's a potential tool in the fight against obesity -- a free database for mobile phones that offers calorie and nutritional information on more than 50,000 fast food items (there's a [Web version](#) too). Please check with your mobile phone service provider to be sure fees will not apply.

[CFK Childhood Obesity Resource Toolkit](#)

[Network for Good - Fundraising and Communications Help](#)

How to Tell Your Story, 5 Elements of a Good Story, Search Engine Marketing 101 -- just a few of the free resources for nonprofits on this site.

[Babies and the Budget: Opportunities for Action](#)

Decisions made by the federal government have a direct impact on how services are provided to infants, toddlers and their families in local communities. The next federal budget process begins in January. This ZERO TO THREE Policy Network advocacy tool can help concerned adults understand the budget process and seize opportunities for action.

[Youth Programs Resource Center and Clearinghouse](#)

To help smaller youth programs, the Finance Project and its partners (including the Forum for Youth Investment) have created a clearinghouse of information and resources related to supporting and sustaining youth programs, initiatives and policies. Here, you'll find data, tools, financing and funding strategies, policy guides and technical assistance.

