

HSN Meeting Roundtable Announcements

June 19, 2007

Key Opportunities – Jane Munson

“Key Opportunities can now provide **transportation to work and work-related appointments**. This funding prioritizes low-income persons needing work-related transportation, but the general public can access it. Priority trips are nights and weekends, but, again, since the funds are being released so late in the year, I believe we can accommodate other schedules as well.”

“People calling for rides should be able to tell the scheduler who their case worker is – if they have one. This helps us with the documentation of low income, disability, senior status, etc.”

Contact Jane Munson (437-4469) – call and reserve rides with Jessie or Chris.

Key Opportunities – Jane Munson

Jane would like to schedule a **follow-up meeting to develop a coordinated transportation plan** to re-apply for Transportation to Work (JARC) and to apply for New Freedom funds for new transportation services for persons with disabilities. Please contact Jane (437-4469) to let her know when you would be available.

HSN Website: www.bhsj.org/hsn

Thank you to Sarah Hartzler, Marketing/Communications Committee chair and John Robertson of the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency for their hard work! These announcements will be posted monthly on the website.

Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI) – Lesia Pikaart

The Comprehensive Plan was submitted on May 31, and now MPRI is waiting for feedback to make revisions. Based on last year's number of returning prisoners, Hillsdale County could request \$1,600/person for 42 people.

For prisoners being release between now and October, there will be services offered through Community Placement Program for those returning to Hillsdale County (the number is not large). A Temporary Transition Team will be set up in Hillsdale to help set up services.

Samaritan Place – Rev. Julie Carey

There is currently an opening at Samaritan Place for a homeless woman with children. Please make a referral through Nancy Armstrong at Community Action Agency (CAA).

Adult Literacy Program – Community Action Agency – Sandra Schopmeyer

A new training session for tutors will begin July 14 – contact Sandra at 437-3346 to become a tutor! There is also a need for public places for tutors and learners to meet for an hour each week.

2-1-1 Service – United Way – Pia Seebach-York

United Way is going ahead with the launch of 2-1-1 in Hillsdale County. A corporate donor has put forward a matching grant up to \$10,000. If your agency has not submitted a data form, please contact United Way (439-5050).

LifeWays – Nancy Miller

A “Walk a Mile In My Shoes” rally to raise awareness about the stigma of diseases of the brain was held in Lansing a few weeks ago, with great representation from Jackson and Hillsdale Counties. Thanks to all who made that possible!

LifeWays is aware of situations in Jackson County of long-term care facilities who are reporting a high level of Medicaid participation (“good” numbers for their reports), with a large number of clients who are both Medicaid and Medicare eligible. The facilities are reimbursed at the higher Medicare level for these clients, and are excluding those who are straight Medicaid eligible. Please contact Nancy Miller (800-284-8288) if you have information about this happening in Hillsdale County.

Other Items of Information

MDCH Radically Expands Prescription Drug Web Site New Features Add Value, Versatility for Michigan Consumers

LANSING - Michigan Department of Community Health Director Janet Olszewski today announced extensive upgrades to the state's existing prescription drug web site, including the addition of 120 new prescription drugs that Michigan consumers can now evaluate to view lowest prices in their area.

"Since we first introduced our web site last year, we have repeatedly said that as we work toward expanding our site, more prescription drugs would be added as information became available. Today, Michigan consumers have the ability to evaluate the lowest available prices for 150 of the most commonly prescribed drugs in their area - from Amoxicillin to Zyrtec." Olszewski said. "We believe the increased utility of the state's web site will give citizens the access they deserve and the ability to save thousands of dollars on their prescription drugs per year."

The expanded web site - found at www.michigandrugprices.com - provides information to consumers so they may search prescription drug prices by city or by zip code. Users can select the pharmacy closest to them, or look at pharmacy prices from as far as 100 miles away from their homes - within Michigan's borders. As a new feature, users also have immediate directional access to the pharmacy of choice, as pharmacy locations are immediately linked via Mapquest.

Other new features on the web site include an A to Z listing of all 150 available drugs, links to programs and companies that provide free prescription drugs, and addresses and telephone numbers that make contacting pharmacies easy for consumers. Eventually, MDCH also will add expanded prescription drug warnings for all 150 drugs as well.

Most notably, the expanded site also includes a new feature that allows users to file complaints with MDCH when they believe drug pricing information is incorrect or price gouging may be occurring.

"The pricing complaint function allows consumers to communicate directly with us if they believe information to be incorrect or in error," Olszewski said. "We want citizens to have the ability to report possible prescription drug pricing inaccuracies as soon as possible, since prescription drug prices can vary daily."

The web site also contains links to five commonly used discount programs for prescription drugs: the Michigan Prescription Drug Discount Card (MI-Rx), the national Together Rx Access Card, the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP), RxAssist, and the Michigan Partnership for Prescription Assistance program.

Michigan continues to be a leader in providing assistance with the cost of prescription drugs. Since the state's MI-Rx card debuted in September 2004, more than 43,000 uninsured Michigan citizens have taken advantage of the program.

Implications of Age at Onset of Child Maltreatment

The age at which a child first experiences abuse may predict the extent and type of psychological problems the child experiences as an adult. In fact, children who first experience abuse as preschoolers may be the most vulnerable to psychological problems as adults. This was the finding of a recent study that explored the association between age at onset of maltreatment and adult psychopathology.

Using court records from a metropolitan area in the Midwest, the study included 496 substantiated victims of child abuse and neglect that occurred when the children were 11 years old or younger.

Researchers conducted follow-up interviews when the participants were approximately 30 years old, and again when they were 40 years old.

Results indicated that earlier onset of maltreatment predicted more symptoms of anxiety and depression in adulthood, while later onset of maltreatment predicted behavioral problems in adulthood. Maltreatment had the most significant impact when it occurred during the preschool years (ages 3–5), indicating that this may be a particularly sensitive developmental period. Implications for child abuse prevention efforts focusing on this age group are discussed.

The full study, “Age of Onset of Child Maltreatment Predicts Long-Term Mental Health Outcomes,” by Julie Kaplow and Cathy Spatz Widom, was published in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, Vol 116(1), and can be purchased online:

<http://content.apa.org/journals/abn/116/1/176>

Budget Basics – Information from Michigan’s Children about the 2008 DHS Budget

Copy and paste the link below to read an article titled:

Senate Appropriations Committee Approves FY 2008 Budget for Department of Human Services (6-12-07)

http://www.michiganschildren.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=193&Itemid=116