

Human Services Network

Agency Roundtable Announcements

January, 2008

Community Action Agency (CAA)

Maxine Vanlerberg announced that starting in late January, CAA will be offering free income tax preparation assistance for low-income individuals, with a focus on the Earned Income Tax Credit – call CAA (517) 437-3346 or 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment.

Key Leaders Survey for Hillsdale County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (HCSAPC)

Matt Frizzell of HCSAPC announced: As a part of our Community Readiness efforts, the HCSAPC has developed a substance abuse prevention questionnaire for Key Leaders in the community. The purpose of the questionnaire is to help the HCSAPC learn more about the community leaders' views related to substance abuse, community readiness and need. Note: The Key Leaders Survey is attached to this email. Please mail or fax to Matt Frizzell, HCSAPC, 3251 Beck Road, Hillsdale, MI 49242; fax (517)439-8706.

United Way Campaign

Laurie Benzing of United Way announced that their campaign is still underway and she distributed UW pledge brochures. The funding allocation timeframe has been pushed back to February.

MI Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative

Lesia Pikaart of MPRI announced the availability of volunteers through MPRI. If you have opportunities for volunteers in your agency or church (primarily physical labor), please contact Lesia (517) 780-7697.

Hillsdale County Senior Services Center

Terry Vear announced the Super Spa Sunday fundraiser is planned for Sunday, February 3, from 12 noon - 5:00pm at Perennial Park. They are also having a raffle drawing for a four-night cruise and other prizes. Again this year, the Senior Center is sponsoring a Sub Sale for SuperBowl Sunday – contact Terry at 437-2422 for more details.

County-wide Transportation Funding

Jane Munson of Key Opportunities announced that there is New Freedom transportation money available through application, targeted specifically for people with disabilities; however, it can also be used for low-income seniors. One difficulty is that it must be for a new service, and there also must be a 50% local match (that might be waived if there is money left after awarding all grants with matches). Jane is looking for creative ideas – the application is due mid-March – contact her at Key Opportunities – 437-4469.

Educational Leadership Initiative

Bob Henthorne of the ISD announced that Judge Michael Nye has accepted the position as chair of the Educational Leadership Team. There is also a School Board Advisory Council, with one representative from each school board in the county. This will enhance the communication between the ELI and local boards.

He also announced that Kim Svacha, Bob's secretary at the ISD, has been designated as the Hillsdale County contact person to develop and implement a crisis communications plan.

Bob announced that Christmas vacation next year will be two weeks for every public school in the county, and Spring Break will be March 31 – April 4, 2008.

Hillsdale County Counselors Association

Keila Kilgore reminded everyone that HCCA is active in the county – it consists mainly of school counselors and some private-practice counselors, but it is open to all. They meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at Warner's Restaurant on Beck Road. Contact Keila Kilgore (517)812-5947 for more details.

WhyTry

Keila Kilgore explained about the WhyTry program that helps individuals overcome challenges and improve outcomes in the areas of truancy, behavior, and academics. Trainings will be offered in Adrian on February 28 and 29 - the Why Try flyer is attached to this email, or can be accessed at www.whytry.org.

New Address for Legal Services

Karen Lewthwaite announced that Legal Services has moved their offices to the United Way building in Jackson: 540 N. Jackson Street, Jackson, MI 49201

New HSN Contact List

Laurie Brandes announced that an updated contact list is available from HSN – please contact Laurie if you would like a copy – brandesl@bhsj.org or (517)437-7395 x-106.

Public Health Dental Clinic (Three Rivers)

John Robertson of CHA announced that there is a public health dental clinic open now in Three Rivers. It is primarily a Medicaid clinic, with six chairs (see flyer attached to email). Individuals in Hillsdale County with Medicaid may utilize the Three Rivers clinic. There are plans to open such a clinic in Branch County and also Hillsdale County in the not-too-distant future. One of the first tasks is to find a location for the clinics in those counties. Contact John with any ideas (517)279-9561 x-144.

Other General Human Services Announcements:

1/14/08

As part of the Alliance for Children and Families' Hot Topic teleconference and Web meeting series, *Families in Society* will be hosting a presentation on Feb. 1, about the working poor—those working families and individuals in or near poverty.

This Webinar by Dr. Sondra Fogel will provide participants with a overview on the condition and status of the working poor. There is increasing attention to the growing numbers of individuals and families across the life-span who are working, but yet remain in or near poverty levels. These income levels provide minimal opportunities for governmental assistance, leaving this group of individuals and families to face the realities of daily life without much support. Assisting those working but poor is a new challenge facing social service providers, clinicians, and program directors.

Topics will include:

- How the working poor are defined and the current demographic information;
- Factors contributing to the increase in the number of the working poor;
- Policies that impact the working poor;
- Clinical interventions to assist the working poor; and
- Promising practices for this population.

Visit this website for more information:

<https://www.familiesinsociety.org/new/Teleconf/register020108.htm>

New on ConnectforKids.org

This week, from Connect for Kids and Child Advocacy 360:

[Getting Beyond the Foster Care System: What Works for Teens](#)



Could you have made it entirely on your own at 18 or 21? Each year, roughly 25,000 young people "age out" of the foster care system, many without family or economic supports. Without connection to a caring adult and other supports, these youth face steep challenges, including higher rates of unemployment, poor educational attainment, health issues, incarceration and homelessness.

But those are the problems, the statistics -- what about the potential of these teens, their desire to succeed? We spoke with **Betsy Krebs**, co-director of the New York City-based Youth Advocacy Center, about what works to help teens aging out of foster care succeed.

Kids & Politics: Election Fever

As we gear up for this year's presidential election, many child and youth organizations are working to make children's policies a campaign issue. Here are just a few of them.

[It's About Our Kids.org](#)

The Iowa Child and Family Center has created a one-stop shop for information on child policy issues and the 2008 election. You'll find: candidate's responses to a survey on children's issues and policies, a round-up of candidates' statements on their own sites and links to other organizations' surveys.



[Every Child Matters Election Watch](#)

Matters Education Fund asked all the presidential candidates to describe their plans critical children's issues, from health care to child abuse. As the responses come in, posted on this site.



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Also, check out Every Child Matters' booklet, [Homeland Insecurity: Why Children in the 2008 Presidential Campaign](#).

[Must be a Priority](#)

[Foundations Ask Presidential Candidates What They'll Do for America](#)

For more on where 2008 presidential candidates stand on issues that are important to children and families, check out the Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity initiative.

["Be a Big Voice for Little Kids in the 2008 Election"](#)

The latest Advocacy Developmental Milestone from ZERO TO THREE offers three easy steps to help make very young children a campaign priority in the 2008 election. It includes some information from the IRS about advocacy and 501(c)(3) status.

State Children's Cabinets and Councils: What They Are, How They're Working

The Forum for Youth Investment has kicked off a publication series on children's cabinets and councils, which are typically made up of heads of government agencies and child- and youth-serving programs who meet regularly to set and monitor common goals, outcomes and plans for services/programs for children.



[State Children's Cabinets and Councils: Getting Results for Children and Youth](#)

This paper delves into the "why" question: why children's cabinets and councils should be taken seriously, and why and how the way they work is consistent with the Forum's assumptions about change. It also identifies challenge areas, and introduces the Ready by 21 Change Model that is used to frame the issue briefs and directory.

[2008 Directory of State Children's Cabinets and Councils](#)

The 2008 Directory of State Children's Cabinets and Councils by the Forum for Youth Investment provides at-a-glance responses to questions such as: which states have children's cabinets and councils? Who is involved in them? What do they do? The guide provides summaries of interviews done with children's cabinet and council directors in the latter half of 2007.

[State Children's Cabinets and Councils Capitol Hill Forum](#)

In December, the American Youth Policy Forum and the Forum for Youth Investment co-hosted a lunchtime forum on Capitol Hill to launch the series and convene stakeholders to examine Children's Cabinets and Councils. Speakers from Kentucky, Ohio and Maryland shared their first-hand experiences with this sort of collaboration. Materials from the forum are online.

January is Mentoring Month

[National Mentoring Month](#)

The National Mentoring Month campaign 2008 is a joint effort of the Harvard Mentoring Project, The National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR) and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Get the latest on what Congress has done to support mentoring, and find out what's going on in your hometown -- or get something started!



- To learn about this year's Congressional funding in support of mentoring programs, [click here](#).
- The [Tutor-Mentor Connection](#) site has more great resources.

Reconnecting Youth



Ideas for Funding

[USDA Food Stamp Outreach Grants](#)

At least \$1 million in grants are available for the public and private nonprofit community and faith-based organizations to improve awareness of USDA's Food Stamp Program for low-income households. State and local food stamp offices and for-profit organizations are not eligible. Deadline: February 19.

[Cigna Foundation](#)

The Cigna Foundation provides support to nonprofits for projects in five areas, including women, child and family health, obesity prevention and reduction of gender disparities in health care. Deadline: Rolling

Other Sources Worth Checking Out This Year:

- [The Finance Project](#)
- [The Foundation Center](#)
- [Network for Good](#)
- [National Service Learning Clearinghouse](#)
- [FundsNet](#)
- [Corporation for National and Community Service eGrants](#)
- [Health and Human Services GrantsNet](#)
- [National Child Care Information Center](#)
- [Youth Action Net](#) (for youth-led efforts)