



HILLSDALE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK
20 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517)437-7395 x-106

Joanne Sheldon, Chair
Pastor Julie Carey, Vice Chair

Minutes of Human Services Network - Corrected
November 17, 2009

Attending:

Joanne Sheldon – LifeWays
Diane Cranston – LifeWays
Ken Lautzenheiser – Co. Commissioners
Sarah Hartzler – SCMW!
Ginny Wood-Bailey – Region 2 Area Agency on Aging
Maxine Vanlerberg – CAA
Mark Williams – MSU Extension
Lesia Pikaart – MPRI
Robert Henthorne – Hillsdale Co. ISD
Sharon Roberts – ISD/Early On
Dave Wallin – Consumer
Jill Rodenhauser – United Way
Chris Clarke – Salvation Army

Wendy Warring – Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
Heather Albright – Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
Al Cousino – Hillsdale Housing Comm.
Laura Nye – DHS
Karen Lewthwaite – Legal Services
Kelly Schiller - LifeWays
Renee Batt – Hillsdale Comm. Health Center
Sarah Hill – American Red Cross
Sharon Bisher – Hillsdale Co. Comm. Foundation
Ginelle Skinner – Great Start Collaborative
Brooke Rains – Child Care Network
Terry Vear – Hillsdale Co. Senior Services Center
Laurie Brandes - HSN

I. Welcome and Introductions

The HSN met at the Hillsdale Co. ISD on September 15, 2009. Joanne Sheldon called the meeting to order at 8:35am. Welcome was extended, and introductions were made.

II. Approve Agenda

One item was added to the agenda – CAA Letter of Support for Head Start. A motion was made by Karen Lewthwaite, seconded by Maxine Vanlerberg, to accept the agenda as amended. **The motion carried unanimously.**

III. Approve Minutes of the September 15, 2009, Meeting and October 20, 2009, Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Terry Vear, seconded by Sarah Hartzler, to approve both sets of minutes. **The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Approval of HSN Budget 2009-10

Laurie Brandes presented an updated budget for 2009-10. On November 13, the Community Foundation held Match Day, and approximately \$5,100 was raised for Human Services Network. Because of those efforts, the HSN Coordinator will work 10 hours/week. A motion was made by Ken Lautzenheiser, seconded by Terry Vear, to approve the 2009-10 budget as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

V. Letter of Support – CAA – Head Start

The Community Action Agency is in the process of pre-applying for a Center of Excellence Award for their Head Start, Early Head Start, and Great Start School Readiness programs. If awarded, it could mean \$200,000/year for five years. A motion was made by Bob Henthorne, seconded by Karen Lewthwaite, that a letter of support be given to CAA for this award. **The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. Committee Report – Housing Continuum of Care – Maxine Vanlerberg

The Continuum of Care (CofC) has been implementing the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, including advocacy work, involvement in the Region 7 monthly meetings, the first Project Connect (with another planned for January, 2010), and a Point-in-Time Count of homeless in Hillsdale County in January, 2009. The CofC meets monthly, with Maxine serving as chair for 2009-10. The CofC works to distribute Emergency Shelter Grants (to Domestic Harmony and CAA), Rural Housing Initiative (CAA for Opportunity House), and HPRP (Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing) Grant. In the process of applying for the HPRP grant, the CofC reviewed the scope of housing services, including a Single Point of Entry (required by HPRP), and how to simplify the process for those new to seeking services. The CAA is the lead agency for HPRP, and an amount of approximately \$150,000 was awarded to Hillsdale County for two years. It will be used for rental assistance (both short-term and long-term), utility assistance, and security deposits. The CofC hopes to help 25 families over the two year time frame.

VII. Agency Spotlight – MI Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative – Lesia Pikaart

MPRI has been active in Hillsdale County for three years. Lesia gave an overview of their Annual Progress Report. Thirty-nine parolees returned to Hillsdale County through MPRI. MPRI helps parolees with housing, workforce development, transportation, substance abuse, mental health, healthcare, family support services, life skills, adult education, domestic violence treatment, sex offender services, victim services, entitlement programs, and collaborative case management. MPRI outcomes through September 2009 show a 32% relative rate reduction in total returns to prison.

VIII. System of Care – Diane Cranston – LifeWays

The MI Department of Community Health is requiring that each county have a System of Care “for children (ages 0 to 17) and their families that represents the organization of public and private services within the community into a comprehensive and interconnected network in order to accomplish better outcomes for all children and their families.” LifeWays is seeking that HSN form an ad hoc System of Care committee. A motion was made by Bob Henthorne, seconded by Julie Carey, that this committee be formed. **The motion carried unanimously.**

IX. Legal Services of So. Central MI – Case Priority Discussion – Karen Lewthwaite

Karen Lewthwaite gave a quick overview of their funding and who they serve. Over the past year, Legal Services has a full-time lawyer (Mike Derby) serving Hillsdale County, working with seniors, clients in poverty (domestic violence and related divorces and custody), foreclosures, SSI, etc. Karen asked that the HSN members let her know if there are legal needs in the county that aren't being met that Legal Services might be able to address.

X. Agency Announcements

- **Brooke Rains of Child Care Network** announced that there is a website available for parents to search for child care facilities. She is creating a list of places where parents can use the internet to search this site – please contact her if you have ideas.
- **Pastor Julie Carey of Kings Kupboard** announced that KK will have their Christmas Room open on December 14, 16, and 18. They will serve people with children (proof of children will be required). Each child will receive a gift and personal care packet.
- **Laura Nye of Department of Human Services** announced that they are in need of volunteer drivers. Please contact Dawn Harmon at DHS. DHS is also inundated with requests from families to be “adopted” for Christmas – please contact Laura or Dawn.
- **Sarah Hill of American Red Cross** announced that on November 30, at 8:30am, at the ISD, they will be holding a Community Briefing. They want input on the priority of services needed in Hillsdale County, as they will be opening a location in Hillsdale County.
- **Al Cousino of Hillsdale Housing Commission** announced that they are in need of healthy volunteers to help transport goods up and down stairs during the renovation of the elevator (between Thanksgiving and Christmas).
- **Sharon Bisher of Hillsdale County Community Foundation** announced that Community Match Day was held on Friday, November 13. The goal was to raise \$50,000; however, the agencies raised over \$173,000! Congratulations to Hillsdale County for their generosity!
- **Terry Vear of Senior Services Center** announced that today is National Alzheimer's Awareness Day. The Center is offering testing, a speaker, and a candlelighting service this evening to recognizing those touched by dementia. On November 18 is the Women's Breakfast at 9:00am. The County Commissioners have decided to reduce the Senior Millage rate from .5 mills to .15 mills, reducing the amount going to SSC by approximately \$500,000.
- **Ginelle Skinner of Great Start Collaborative** announced that they have discontinued Imagination Library, and are seeking another agency to assume responsibility for it. Contact Ginelle if you are interested.
- **Dave Wallin** announced that the Disable American Veterans have completed their fundraising for a van to transport veterans to Battle Creek and Ann Arbor
- **Chris Clarke of Salvation Army** announced that SA is accepting signups on Tuesdays and Thursdays through November for holiday help. He also stated that SA does have money available for emergency shelter.
- **Jill Rodenhauer of United Way** announced that they have prescription cards for those without prescription coverage (saves 30%). Partner Agency meeting has been moved to December 2 at noon. United Way is at 52% of goal. UW received a \$10,000 grant from Masco/Alsons - \$2,500 to Kings Kupboard, \$2,500 to Hands of Mercy, and to save \$5,000 for a CofC project.
- **Ken Lautzenheiser of County Commissioners** announced that Adams Township approved their first ordinance dealing with wind energy. There is a meeting tonight at Adams Township Hall dealing with alternative/wind energy.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am. The next HSN meeting will be December 15, 2009, at the ISD at 8:30am.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Brandes, HSN Coordinator