



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

**Sarah Hartzler, Chair**  
**Tim Kelly, Vice Chair**

**Minutes of Human Services Network**  
**March 17, 2009**

**Attending:**

Terry Vear – Hillsdale Co. Senior Services Ctr.  
Lesia Pikaart – MI Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative  
Jane Munson – Key Opportunities  
Heather Helman – Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
Laura Nye – DHS  
John Robertson – Community Health Agency  
Lucy Booth – Hospice of Hillsdale Co.  
Pastor Julie Carey – Ministerial Association  
Sharon Bisher – Hillsdale Co. Community Foundation  
Kellie Schiller – LifeWays  
Steve Todd – Community Health Agency  
Ginelle Skinner – Great Start Collaborative  
Lt. Chris Clarke – Salvation Army  
Joel Johnson – Salvation Army  
Matthew Phelps – Salvation Army  
Sandy Tropp – Highfields  
Roy Vargas – McCullough Vargas and Assoc.  
Randy Yagiela – SCMW!

Tim Condon – The Condon Group – Workforce 1  
Karen Lewthwaite – Legal Services of So. Central MI  
Michael Derby – Legal Services of S. Central MI  
Dave Wallin – Consumer/Veteran  
Sharon Roberts – Early On/ISD  
Joanne Sheldon – LifeWays  
Lora Ward – Hospice of Hillsdale County  
Laurie Benzing – United Way  
Brooke Rains – Child Care Network  
Sarah Hill – American Red Cross  
Bob Johnson – American Red Cross  
Vanessa Doellman – CAPA  
Sarah Hartzler – SCMW!  
Maxine Vanlerberg – CAA  
Georgia Mason – Domestic Harmony  
Ken Lautzenheiser – Hillsdale Co. Commissioners  
Robert Henthorne – Hillsdale Co. ISD  
Laurie Brandes - HSN

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

The HSN met at the Hillsdale Co. ISD on March 17, 2009. Sarah Hartzler called the meeting to order at 8:32am. Welcome was extended, and introductions were made.

**II. Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by Terry Vear, seconded by Joanne Sheldon, to accept the agenda as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**III. Approve Minutes of the February 17, 2009, Meeting**

A motion was made by Joanne Sheldon, seconded by Terry Vear, to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2009, meeting. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**IV. Agency Spotlight – Hospice of Hillsdale County – Lucy Booth and Lora Ward**

Hospice of Hillsdale County is a not-for-profit organization that has been in Hillsdale County since 1983. Lucy spoke of the services available through Hospice, and Lora spoke of the bereavement and counseling services offered by Hospice of Hillsdale County. Volunteers are a vital part of Hospice – training for volunteers will be offered on April 16 and April 18.

**V. Hillsdale County Senior Services Center – Letter of Support – Terry Vear**

Terry distributed a copy of a letter of support to the USDA and outlined the issues surrounding the Senior Center millage and the county commissioners. A motion was made by Julie Carey, seconded by Bob Henthorne, to write a letter of support for the Senior Services Center to USDA. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**VI. South Central MI Works! Workforce 1 – Tim Condon**

SCMW! has contracted with Tim Condon to conduct an asset mapping of Hillsdale County. HSN members will be invited in the coming weeks to participate in an online survey.

## VII. Hillsdale County Intermediate School District – Update on Leadership Initiative and Special Education Millage – Robert Henthorne

Bob Henthorne gave an update on the Leadership Initiative. Local school districts are sharing administrators and business officials, and transportation services are being shared by three districts. These, and other savings initiated by the Leadership Initiative, have saved districts over \$500,000 last year, and approximately \$750,000 this school year.

On the academic side, it is difficult for small high schools to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Bob listed two things that need to be accomplished in Hillsdale County:

- High schools need to be on the same schedule;
- The fiber optic system needs to be used for remediation and AP courses.

A special education millage will be on the ballot in May. It will be a Headlee Override, back to the 3.0 mill authorized in 1986.

Bob spoke briefly about the Stimulus package and the money coming to local schools.

## XIII. Agency Roundtable

- **Sarah Hartzler of South Central Michigan Works!** announced that the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Breakfast will take place on **Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**, at the beautiful Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson. To reserve your seat contact Sarah Hartzler at shartzler@scmw.org or by calling (517) 437-0990 x171.
- **Maxine Vanlerberg of Community Action Agency** announced that **Head Start** is in the process of enrolling students for next year. Contact CAA at (517)437-3346. CAA has hired a **new Housing Specialist** – John Harmon - and will be hiring another Housing Specialist in the near future (see program below). CAA has received \$5.5 million for **weatherization** through the Stimulus package. CAA (Jackson-Hillsdale-Lenawee) will be going from weatherizing approximately 150 homes per year to approximately 1,000 in the next 18 months. For Hillsdale County, it will mean going from 15 – 20 homes per year to around 200 in the next 18 months. Work will be done by local contractors (interested contractors should contact CAA), and the contractors will be encouraged to purchase materials locally. See documents attached to email for additional information. CAA encourages everyone to refer qualified applicants to CAA. CAA is helping Hillsdale County residents with **tax preparation** until April 15. Call CAA to schedule an appointment.
- **Brooke Rains from Child Care Network (CCN)** announced that CCN helps parents find quality child care. Scholarships may be available to help parents afford quality child care. A conference is being held for child care providers and other interested parties on April 18, 2009 – contact Brooke at 1-800-777-2861 for more information.
- **Terry Vear of the Senior Services Center** announced that the **Women's Breakfast** will be held on March 18 at 7:30am – breakfast courtesy of Bob Evans, and Terry will be presenting the program. A **Talent Show** will be held at the Center on March 26 at 5:00pm – 9:00pm. Karaoke, Toe-Tappers, Hillsdale College Swing Dance Club and others will be sharing their talents. **Good Friday Breakfast** will be held on April 10, 8:00 – 10:00am at the Center. Free to all seniors. On Sunday, April 26, from 11:30am – 2:00pm, the **Good Ol' Days Celebration** will be held at the Center. The Community Garden will be tilled by draft horses, weavers and others will share their talents, and a meal will be provided.
- **Jane Munson of Key Opportunities** announced that Key Opportunities has a new paper shredder, which will allow KO to lower their prices on document destruction. Key will be offering a variety of services, including auto detailing and lawn care. Contact Jane at (517) 437-4469 for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.

The next meeting of the HSN will be April 21, 2009, at the ISD, 310 W. Bacon Street, at 8:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brandes, HSN Coordinator