



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

**Sarah Hartzler, Chair**  
**Joanne Sheldon, Vice Chair**

**Minutes of Human Services Network**  
**August 18, 2009**

**Attending:**

Terry Vear – Hillsdale Co. Senior Services Ctr.  
Jane Munson – Key Opportunities  
Wendy Warring – Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
Heather Albright – Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
Laura Nye – DHS  
Kellie Schiller – LifeWays  
Vanessa Doellman – CAPA  
Robert Henthorne – Hillsdale Co. ISD  
Dan Boyd – Juvenile Court  
Dave Braxmaier – Sheriff Department  
Sarah Hartzler – South Central MI Works!  
Jill Rodenhauser – United Way  
Karen Lewthwaite – Legal Services of So. Central MI  
Roy Vargas – McCullough Vargas and Associates

Pastor Julie Carey – Ministerial Association  
Amber Yoder – Hillsdale Co. Community Foundation  
Sharon Turnbull – Dochas II Counseling  
Renell Weathers – Rep. Schauer's office  
Lesia Pikaart – MPRI  
Joanne Sheldon – LifeWays  
Diane Cranston – LifeWays  
Shannan Clevenger – LifeWays  
Rep. Ken Kurtz – MI House of Representatives  
Mark Williams – MSU Extension  
Brooke Rains – Child Care Network  
Cindy Rowe – CAA  
Lucy Booth – Hospice of Hillsdale County  
Al Cousino – Hillsdale Housing Commission  
Laurie Brandes - HSN

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

The HSN met at the Hillsdale Co. ISD on August 18, 2009. Sarah Hartzler called the meeting to order at 8:35am. Welcome was extended, and introductions were made.

**II. Approve Agenda**

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

**III. Approve Minutes of the June 16, 2009, Meeting**

A motion was made by Terry Vear, seconded by Jane Munson, to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2009, meeting. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**IV. Legislative Update – Rep. Ken Kurtz**

Rep Kurtz spoke about the budget process and the negative messages coming from Lansing. State revenues are anticipated to be \$38-40 million, down from \$44 million – there will be revenue, but the State will have to be much more careful about how the money is spent. Rep. Kurtz believes that the State will come through this tough time even stronger than before.

**V. Agency Spotlight – LifeWays – Joanne Sheldon, Diane Cranston, Shannan Clevenger**

Joanne Sheldon gave an overview of LifeWays, comparing it to an HMO for mental health services – they provide oversight of care, but do not provide services. They work primarily with people on Medicaid or who are uninsured. They have approximately fifty (50) employees, and a very large network of providers. Diane Cranston spoke on local community projects – Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) and Wraparound. Shannan Clevenger spoke on Children's Trauma Assessment Center (CTAC) and how people in Hillsdale County access services (Community Connections at Hillsdale Community Health Center). Joanne explained the financial details of LifeWays, including five areas of focus during these tough economic times:

- Reducing unnecessary inpatient stays
- Streamlining Medicaid enrollment
- Creating wait list for General fund consumers and developing creative, less costly options for serving them
- Further reducing administrative costs
- Legislative advocacy.

## **VI. Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) – Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition – Heather Albright and Wendy Warring**

Heather Albright presented a PowerPoint highlighting the results of the PNA given to students in three Hillsdale County school districts.

## **VII. Agency Announcements**

- **Renell Weathers of Congressman Schauer's office** distributed information on the health care plan. Schauer held five forums in July, and he has developed five guiding principles for reform (see handout). The House of Representatives has divided the bill into three parts, and each part has passed its respective committees. When Schauer returns in September, the three parts will be put together. He will study any proposed changes, and will consider introducing amendments if the legislation is not aligned with his guiding principles. Schauer is meeting with constituents and businesses – if anyone would like to schedule a meeting, please contact Renell. Renell also distributed information to combat a lot of misinformation about the Health Care Plan. Schauer's website [www.schauer.house.gov](http://www.schauer.house.gov) has a link to Health Care Reform with more information. Renell also thanked the HSN for help given to Rep. Schauer's office with a constituent issue – the HSN is a real asset to the community.
- **Pastor Julie Carey of Kings Kupboard** announced that Kings Kupboard Food Pantry continues to promote the Personal Care Program. Applications are taken during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of every month, with the packets available the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the next month.
- **Pastor Julie Carey of the Hillsdale Area Ministerial Association** announced that the first annual Loaves and Fishes Day on August 15 involved twenty-two (22) churches and served over four hundred (400) families! It is hoped that it will become an annual event.
- **Pastor Julie Carey** also announced that "The Sound of Music" is being presented at the Sauk Theater the next two weekends.
- **Lesia Pikaart of MPRI** announced that MPRI has submitted an RFP for the fiduciary role of MPRI and the comprehensive plan. They have added Monroe County to their plan, and they hope to hear something by the end of August.
- **Jane Munson of Key Opportunities** announced that Key is participating in the Farmer's Market in Jonesville and Hillsdale selling produce. They also, as a byproduct of their document shredding service, are selling paper clips – 100 small for \$.25, 100 large for \$.50.
- **Roy Vargas of Hope House** announced that renovations have been completed and they will begin accepting men. It is hoped that renovation of the Annex will be completed in September for residential treatment. Roy thanked Rep. Schauer's office for their help dealing with a veteran's issue, and Rep. Kurtz's office for their help with a DEQ issue.
- **Terry Vear of the Senior Services Center** announced a blood drive on August 25. The Women's Breakfast will resume in September on the third Wednesday and the Men's Breakfast on the second Thursday, with breakfast served at 7:30am and speaker at 8:00am. A health care forum will be held at the Center on Wednesday, August 26. The Senior Caregiver Picnic is scheduled for Friday, September 11, from 10:00 – 2:00. Meals on Wheels need volunteers for the routes in Hillsdale for Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
- **Brooke Rains of Child Care Network** announced that Child Care Network received a grant through ECIC (Early Childhood Investment Corp.) to be a Great Start Resources Center. Details to follow.
- **Jill Rodenhauer of United Way** announced that the United Way Campaign Kick-Off Breakfast will be September 15 at 7am at Johnny T's (Savarino's). UW is conducting a school supply drive with CAA and Salvation Army. There are drop-off bins at Walgreen's and Krogers. Have clients call UW to access these supplies. The United Way board is not interested in continuing the contract after it expires with 2-1-1, but will still contribute \$4,500. They are looking for another agency to step forward and assume the fiduciary role for 2-1-1.
- **Kellie Schiller of LifeWays** announced ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) Training will be held on August 24 and 25.
- **Bob Henthorne of the ISD** announced that Hillsdale ISD is one of fifteen districts in the state to receive an \$85,000 grant for renewable energy education. They will be installing a wind turbine, generator, two smaller wind turbines, a pellet maker and pellet burning stove, and accompanying education modules. It will initially be a part of the Home Building program, but will hopefully become a stand-alone program in the future.
- **Laurie Brandes of HSN** announced that Sharon Roberts of Early On brought more Infant Developmental Wheels for anyone who wanted additional ones.

- **Laurie Brandes** also thanked the agencies who contributed toward the Community Foundation's matching grant to help balance the HSN 2008-09 budget:
  1. MSU Extension
  2. South Central Michigan Works!
  3. Hillsdale County Senior Services Center
  4. LifeWays
  5. American Red Cross employees
  6. Hillsdale County ISD (pledged)

A motion was made to adjourn by Terry Vear, seconded by Jane Munson, at 10:00am. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The next HSN meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, at 8:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brandes  
HSN Coordinator