



**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**  
**September 15, 2009**

**Attending:**

Terry Vear – Hillsdale Co. Senior Services Center  
Jane Munson – Key Opportunities  
Laura Nye – DHS  
Robert Henthorne – Hillsdale Co. ISD  
Dan Boyd – Juvenile Court  
Dave Braxmaier – Sheriff Dept.  
Sarah Hartzler – SCMW!  
Jill Rodenhauer – United Way  
Karen Lewthwaite – Legal Services

Pastor Julie Carey – Ministerial Assoc.  
Sharon Bisher – Hillsdale Co. Comm. Foundation  
Lesia Pikaart – MPRI  
Joanne Sheldon – LifeWays  
Brooke Rains – Child Care Network  
Maxine Vanlerberg – CAA  
Lucy Booth – Hospice of Hillsdale Co.  
Al Cousino – Hillsdale Housing Comm.  
Dave Wallin – Consumer

Ginelle Skinner – Great Start Collaborative  
Steve Todd – CHA  
John Robertson – CHA  
Renee Batt – Hillsdale Comm. Health Center  
Georgia Mason – Domestic Harmony  
Phil Harry – DHS  
Laurie Brandes - HSN

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

The HSN met at the Hillsdale Co. ISD on September 15, 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 Maxine Vanlerberg, seconded by Julie Carey, to accept the agenda as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**III. Approve Minutes of the August 18, 2009, Meeting**

Al Cousino of Hillsdale Housing Commission asked that correction be made to the minutes – he was in attendance at the August meeting. A motion was made by Terry Vear, seconded by Joanne Sheldon, to accept the minutes of the August 18, 2009, meeting as corrected. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**IV. Presentation of HSN Budget 2009-10**

Laurie Brandes presented a proposed budget for 2009-10. Because of changes in Strong Families/Safe Children funding from the state through DHS, there is a loss of over \$12,000 in revenue for the HSN '09-10 budget. With no changes in memberships, the funding could support 5.5 hours/week for the coordinator of HSN. Laura Nye of DHS reported that there could be money for SF/SC coordination, separate from HSN. A motion was made by Julie Carey, seconded by Bob Henthorne, to give members an opportunity to make an anonymous donation to HSN to offset the shortfall in revenue for 2009-10. **The motion carried unanimously.** Lesia Pikaart suggested that a letter be sent out to member agencies, detailing the effects of the possible reduction in coordination hours. The 2009-10 budget will be approved at the October Annual Meeting.

**V. Presentation of Slate of Officers for 2009-10**

The Executive Committee presented a slate of officers for 2009-10:

Chair – Joanne Sheldon – LifeWays

Vice Chair – Pastor Julie Carey – Hillsdale Area Ministerial Association

A motion was made by Karen Lewthwaite, seconded by John Robertson, to close the nominations. **The motion carried unanimously.** Election of officers will take place at the October Annual Meeting.

**VI. Hillsdale County Community Foundation – Community Match Day – Sharon Bisher**

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation (HCCF) will be hosting Community Match Day on Friday, November 13. They will be partnering with small non-profit organizations to raise funds on that day that HCCF will match 1:1. Agencies will be present at HCCF on that day, and will encourage donors to make contributions in person. Applications are available, and will be due on September 25. The goal of Community Match Day is to raise \$100,000 (\$50,000 matched 1:1) in one day!

**VII. Great Start Collaborative – Community Report Card 2009 – Ginelle Skinner**

Ginelle Skinner distributed the Community Report Card 2009 to those present, and explained the process used to prepare the Report Card. The next step is to use it in the strategic planning process.

### VIII. Helping Hand website – Department of Human Services – Laura Nye and Phil Harry

Department of Human Services has created a website [www.michigan.gov/helpinghand](http://www.michigan.gov/helpinghand) for people to apply for food assistance online (at the library or any public computer), without having to go to the DHS office. The website also contains information about jobs and training, unemployment benefits, health care, family support, and housing help. Applications can be made online for MI Child.

### IX. Agency Announcements

- **Maxine Vanlerberg of CAA** announced that CAA statewide is looking at piloting a program for “one-stop shop” – computer access to assist people in qualifying for various programs. A computer is available at the local CAA office for clients (with assistance) to access agencies and programs.
- Maxine also announced that the CAA Community Assessment is available. The Poverty Report will be available shortly. Head Start started today, with a waiting list of 70. CAA conducted a school supply drive with United Way – a few supplies are still available at CAA. The BPU Round-Up program has contributed over \$18,000 in 7 months – this money is given to CAA, who uses it to assist BPU customers with utility bills. They try to cap it at \$200/family, and have served over 60 clients. The CAA Foreclosure Specialist is busy – since January, she has served over 100 clients, and only 3 have had to go through with foreclosure. Adult Literacy program is up and running, and Budgeting classes are available at CAA. Opportunity House is full, with a waiting list. CAA has not yet received official notification that they have been granted the HPRP money. HARP vouchers might be available in January. Weatherization money is finally available – Hillsdale Co. had their first home weatherized last week – the first in the state!
- **Pastor Julie Carey of Kings Kupboard** announced that personal care packets will be distributed this week – please remind clients. Hours at Kings Kupboard will go back to regular schedule – 3:30pm – 5:30pm, M,W,F. A new intake system, with a permanent sheet for each client, seems to be working well, with clients being able to check in more quickly. KK could use agency people to work intake.
- **Terry Vear of Senior Services Center** announced a Tai Chi workshop will be held October 2,3, and 4 at Perennial Park. Men’s (second Thursday) and Women’s Breakfasts (third Wednesday) have resumed. A diabetic shoe clinic will be held on September 24. A seasonal flu shot clinic will be held on October 20 at the Center. The county-wide Health Fair (for all ages) will be Saturday, October 17.
- **John Robertson of the Community Health Agency** announced that Healthy Beginnings is not included in the 2009-10 Health Agency budget because of proposed budget cuts at the state level. The staff has been given layoff notices. John also announced that seasonal flu shots are available. The H1N1 flu vaccines will be coming through CHA, and hopefully clinics will be held in schools and other open clinics when the vaccine becomes available. Dave Wallin encouraged everyone to be fully informed about vaccines.
- **Jane Munson of Key Opportunities** announced that Key’s Helping Hands program (not to be confused with the State of MI Helping Hand program) continues to do yard work in the county.
- **Brooke Rains of Child Care Network** announced that they are now the Great Start Regional Resource Center. They are now focusing on training for child care providers and moving away from child care referrals. She also distributed a brochure on the importance of play.
- **Lucy Booth of Hospice of Hillsdale County** announced that they are sponsoring a “Scrapbook Your Memories” event on September 19. Call Lucy at 437-5252 to register.
- **Lesia Pikaart of MPRI** announced that the grant and the fiduciary have received verbal approval.
- **Sharon Bisher of Hillsdale County Community Foundation** announced that College and Career Night will be October 5 at 6:30 at Hillsdale College Field House.
- **Laurie Brandes of HSN** announced that on September 28, at Davis Middle School, there will be training, open to all HSN member agencies, on providing great customer service. It is an ISD training for school personnel that is being made available to human service providers.
- **Jill Rodenhauser of United Way** announced that the Kick-Off Breakfast was held this morning. They are currently at 11% of the \$175,000 goal.
- **Sarah Hartzler of SCMW!** announced that Smash Bash will be held at Lake View Church on September 18-19.

A motion was made to adjourn by John Robertson, seconded by Terry Vear, at 9:50am. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The next HSN meeting will be the **Annual Meeting and Breakfast on Tuesday, October 20, at 8:00am at Perennial Park, 320 W. Bacon Street.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Brandes  
HSN Coordinator