

Livingston HSCB

HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2015

How to get Involved in the HSCB!

Join a workgroup.

Where do you want to make a difference?

- Transportation
- Foster care, Adoption, Kinship Services
- Substance Abuse
- Homelessness
- Healthy Youth
- Suicide Prevention
- Hunger
- Older Adults
- Young Children
- Community Data

Contact

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What's New in Livingston?

Special Education Millage

On Tuesday, November 3rd, Livingston County voters will be asked to vote on a 10-year, 1.0435 millage restoration to help fund the cost of special education in our local districts.

Here are some FAST FACTS from the Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA).

Why is LESA seeking a special education millage?

Special education services in our county are significantly underfunded. This means local districts must use general education funds to pay for special education services that are mandated by state and federal law.

What is being proposed?

The proposal will restore 1.0435 mills for ten years.

Why has special education funding dropped so much?

The \$15 million shortfall in special education comes from several sources, most notably, the drop in property values.

Why do special education costs impact general education budgets?

Local school districts are mandated by state law to provide special education. When current millage dollars do not cover special education costs, districts must use their general funds to pay for these services. This means there are fewer dollars to support programs for all students.

How much would this request cost tax payers?

Generally taxpayers can expect to spend \$1 for each \$1,000 of the taxable value of their property. Taxable value is not the same as the market value of your home.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2015.

Collaboration Works

Over the past year, Livingston County has addressed the Drug Addiction and overdose problem in our community head on. Local organizations, schools, businesses, township officials and concerned citizens have worked together to identify a county-wide, cross-sector approach to eliminating this problem.

Project Lazarus has pulled together over 100 motivated individuals to look specifically at Opiates and Heroin.

Now, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston is teaming up with the Livingston County Sheriff's Department, Brighton Rotary, Key Development Center, Karen Bergbower & Associates and Livingston County Catholic Charities to bring the first "Wake Up" call to Livingston County residents. This event is



dedicated to raising awareness about drug misuse and abuse in the community.

The event is on Sunday, Sept. 20th from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 2/42 Community Church located at 7526 Grand River, Brighton, MI 48114.

Our goal is to educate the public on current prevention initiatives and local treatment resources. The event will also include family-friendly activities and light refreshments. Prevention takes a community. "Do Your Part!" For more information visit wakeuplivingston.org.

Our Local Public Health Department Annual Numbers for 2014

With all the discussions about affordable health care and where to get connected, it is important that we do not forget the resources of our local Health Department

Here are just a few of the numbers:

- 567 Families enrolled in Children's Special Health Care Services
- 5,425 Hearing Screenings
- 10,599 Vision Screenings
- 1,384 Individuals immunized
- 2,078 WIC clients served
- 11 Nurses Welcome Newborn visits.
- 488 Tuberculin skin tests
- 672 Communicable disease cases
- 37 tests for HIV/AIDS
- 308 Sexually transmitted disease cases

For more information, contact :
517) 546-9850

www.livgov.com/health

Workgroups Hard at Work

Another "Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World" class is coming to an end, and the much deserved graduation was held on August 12th.

The "Getting Ahead" Investigators (participants) have been meeting together for the past sixteen weeks, as they investigated the causes of poverty, the different economic classes, inequalities in the rich/poor gap, community resources, and creating a personalized plan for

getting out of poverty. They have learned the steps that are necessary to make the changes needed to truly get ahead. Through their efforts, the "Getting Ahead" investigators (participants) are already well on their way to getting involved in changing the community so everyone can live well.

Are you interested in learning the same tools needed to "Get Ahead" in this just-gettin' by world? Sign up today!

The next workshop will start on Monday, September 14,

2015 at 6:30pm-8:30pm, at the 2/42 Community Church located at 7526 Grand River Ave., Brighton, MI 48114.

To sign up, please call: 517-546-8500 ext. 4116.



Legislation to Watch

Two new federal bills are being proposed to address the continued problem of childhood hunger.

The Summer meals act of 2015 would expand the existing summer nutrition programs in a few ways.

1. Easier to make a site eligible.
2. Allows local agencies and private non profits to feed children year round.
3. Provides funding for transportation, innovative approaches and mobile meal trucks.
4. Allows sites to serve a third meal.

Together these changes would eliminate barriers to feeding our kids.

The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act of 2015 would help families who are on free and reduced school lunches to cover meals over summer.

1. Provides a summer EBT Card to families with children
2. Targets those children who qualify for free and reduced lunches
3. Offers benefits of approximately \$150 per child to help with summer meals.

You may wonder why the focus now. According to the Food Research & Action Center, over the summer of 2014 only 1 out of 6 kids who receive school lunch during the year, received summer lunch.

As you may know, Livingston County has a strong Summer lunch Bunch program that truly is the difference of having lunch or not for some of our local kids.

Together, we can make sure no child goes hungry!



Livingston County Community Celebration

The Connection Youth Services hosted the 2015 Michigan Network for Youth and Families Youth Summit on June 17th at the Howell Opera House. The annual event is dedicated to promoting positive youth development by engaging homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth in being active leaders in their communities. The Connection Youth Services' Youth Council planned the event. Youth and staff from 11 homeless and runaway youth programs across the state attended this year's event.

The Keynote Speaker was a former homeless youth who completed a Transitional Living Program and is now in a college program for public speaking. She shared her own struggles and advice on how to be resilient when life makes it hard.

Common Ground Sanctuary's SaYes Theater Troupe, performed skits that represented typical scenarios of peer conflicts and struggles and Mama Sol a local rapper, poet, and motivational speaker ended the event.



Sierra L. Bognear, Miss Michigan 2015, spoke about how easy it is to give up before we achieve our dreams.

She shared her

experiences of being homeless and poor and the events that led her to where she is now.

Diane Steeh, a local yoga instructor, engaged the attendees in an abbreviated version of yoga that empowers at-risk youth through movement and mindful awareness using the practice of yoga.



Livingston Story of Hope

Recently a woman in her mid 60's fell on tough times and turned to Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) to see what help was out there for her. She had been working part-time until a multitude of health issues forced her to retire. She can no longer work and lives on \$702.00/monthly Social Security.

As a member of a local church, she went to church daily to pray for guidance to help her as she struggled to meet her basic needs. At one point she even felt suicidal. Then one day while in church, she was lead to LCCC.

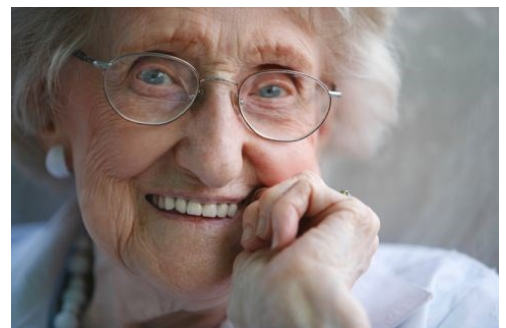
As she tearfully sat in LCCC's Older Adult Specialist's office explaining her situation and how she felt such

despair with her limited income and overwhelming costs for just the basic necessities, the Older Adult Specialist reassured her there were things that could be done to help strengthen her situation.

LCCC's Older Adult Specialists, who are Medicare/Medicaid Specialists as well, were able to get her signed up for a Medicare Savings Plan – saving her \$104.00/monthly; enrolled her in the Limited Income Subsidy – her Medicare Part D prescription plan premium is now paid for and prescriptions drastically reduced, saving her \$4,000/year; enrolled her in Medicaid, which covers medical expenses not covered by Medicare; helped her obtain a Bridge Card – saving her \$194.00/month; enrolled her in the Assurance program which gives her a free phone and frees up \$45/monthly that she was paying for a phone and service; put her in

touch with a local dentist who performed a tooth extraction for free; and helped move the date of her Social Security payment so that it no longer came after the deadline for her rent – ultimately saving her \$120/year in late fees. Additionally, she was referred to Gleaner's, which she had already been receiving.

This connection allowed her to get back on her feet and find the strength to handle her health challenges head on, thereby improving her quality of life.



Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

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Ensuring a system of support for members of our community.

What is the Purpose of the Livingston County HSCB?

The Livingston HSCB started in 1989 and was officially recognized as the county Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body by the state and county Board of Commissioners in 1995. Now, referred to as a Community Collaborative by the state, the HSCB is comprised of 26 appointed members that work together to coordinate health and human services across systems. The HSCB also:

- Develops strategies and programs to meet current and future needs
- Fiscally manages state-funded collaborative initiatives
- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative projects

The HSCB does this work through established committees and workgroups which have specific goals and objectives to complete. The HSCB and most workgroups meet monthly and consist of representatives from public and nonprofit organizations, business, and interested residents of the county. To learn about the work of the HSCB, contact Anne Rennie at arennie@cmhliv.org.

Upcoming Events in Livingston

*"Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean."*

Livingston County Department of Public Health is holding their next MAPP Meeting on September 10, 1pm -3 pm at new EMS Building.

Volunteer Livingston is holding a Thank You BBQ on September 15, 4 pm -7 pm at Cleary University

OLHSA is holding their "Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World" program. This is a 16 week class that begins September 16th.

United Way Kick Off Event on September 17, from 4 pm -7 pm at Rex Material Group Building.

"Wake up Livingston" Event is September 20th, from 2:30 pm -5 pm at 2/42 Community Church. More information on Page 1.

Bi-county Senior Connections Training—"Get Connected—Older Adults and Substance Use" September 23, from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm at Green Oak Township Hall. CEU's are available

NAMI Livingston is offering a free educational meeting at First Methodist Church in Brighton. Meetings are from 7 pm -8:30 pm. October 6th will present Mike Leahy, Executive Director at genesis House and November 3rd will present Deanna "Dee" Murray who is a nationally certified instructor for QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer), this is a mental health emergency response program.

St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Healthy Howell Kick-off Event. Fun filled day October 10th from 10 am – 1 pm. For more information visit stjoehealth.org/Livingston.

October 11th—Rotary Annual Tour de Livingston Bike Ride. Event begins at Mt. Brighton at 8 am. Registration is at 7 am or can be done on-line at tourdelivingston.org

AAA1B holding a "Creating a Competent Caregiver" Training at Be Our Guest. This is a 6 week course that begins October 12th.

AAA1B in Partnership with the Livingston Leadership Council on Aging—"Age Sensitivity Training" November 11, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Hartland Senior Center

The Connection Youth Services annual "A Home for the Holidays" fundraiser on November 21st at the Johnson Center