

COLLABORATIVE MEETING
January 23, 2014 – 8:00-10:00 a.m.
MIWORKS! Conference Room
1209 S. Garfield Ave., Traverse City

Meeting called to order at 8:08 a.m. by Jim Moore.

Welcome and Introductions - Present:

Tina Allen, Continuum of Care
Diane Butler, Munson Community Health
Jane Butzier, MIWorks!
Ginny Coulter, GTC Planning & Development
Cynthia Drews, BASA
Tish Garthe-Shiner, NMCAA
LuAnn Heinert, Goodwill Workers on Wheels
Jim Holwerda, Father Fred
Sarah Lucas, NWMCOG
John McFadden, Salvation Army
Jim Moore, Disability Network
Marybeth Novak, Catholic Human Services

Christi Nowak, Munson Community Health
Kathleen Packer, GT Area Literacy Council
Sakura Raftery, Goodwill
Jim Rowlett, PRI
Juliette Schultz, Womens Resource Center
Ralph Soffredine, Commission on Aging
John Stephenson, NMCAA
Val Stone, Salvation Army/NW Food Coalition
Gwen Taylor, TBCAC
Sharon Vreeland, GTCC
Diane Wemlinger, TrueNorth
Lisa Zipser, TBCAC

Coordinator's Report: Sharon Vreeland is working on getting up to speed and visiting various agencies to meet people and get to know their operations. Reminders of current fiscal year dues will be going out to agencies that have not yet contributed.

Treasurer's Report – Cecil McNally: None

Workgroup Update Reports:

Health: Diane Butler (handouts attached) – particularly interested in obesity and maternal smoking.

- Obesity:
 - Pilot program with 4 local businesses to assess workplace wellness and setting goals for improvement. 6 month evaluation period.
 - Schools: on policy board. Have had nutrition and physical fitness policies rewritten.
 - Healthcare providers would like patient resources and training in motivational interviewing. Someone has been traveling to practices and providing this.
 - Community: new community awareness steering committee formed and planning.
 - Everything has been done in-kind so far, including participation by MLUI, TART, MSU Extension, and theYMCA. At point where funding is needed to proceed. Proposal written; looking for funding partners.
 - May hire a coordinator to oversee project and develop website – one-stop shopping for personal health.
- Maternal Smoking:
 - This group provided good ideas for how to approach.
 - Great Start Collaboratives in Northern MI have become involved across 21 counties.
 - Health Dept. nurses frustrated that despite their work, maternal smoking rates are rising. They also are being trained in motivational interviewing and understanding the stages of change.
 - Working on developing a consistent communication plan about the dangers of maternal smoking.
 - Passed out Munson Community Health Needs Assessment card with web address for extensive wellness data, best practices information, grant opportunities. Designed to be one-stop shopping for health information for the region.

Transportation: None

Food: None

Housing: None

Energy: None

Presentations:

Winter Heating Assistance: NMCAA, The Salvation Army, & TrueNorth Community Services:

NMCAA – Tish Garthe-Shiner: Heating assistance program began 3 weeks ago, a little later than usual. Grant came late, new staff needed to be hired. Seeing clients in all 10 counties.

- People need to contact them early – 3-4 weeks before they are out of deliverable fuel. There is some lead time for processing the assistance, and delivery can take 7-10 days for propane.
- New this year is the case management and education component. Grant requires that grantees receive services that help them move towards self-sufficiency.
- If people call in an emergency and need fuel right away, they are encouraged to schedule a consultation appointment, and also are given a list of others to call who might be able to provide immediate assistance.

Salvation Army – Val Stone:

- Provided a list of fuel delivery costs in October 2013 and in January 2014.
- Includes cost for mandated leak testing if tank is below a certain level of fill.
- There are requirements that in certain circumstances, the company owning a tank at a home must be the one to fill it, so it's not always possible to shop for the lowest rate.
- Salvation Army coordinates with Father Fred, Love Inc., and other agencies to get together enough funding for a minimum fuel delivery.
- Working on some potential new programs to enhance assistance

General Energy Assistance Discussion

- Currently no legislation, such as that for electric, that prevents propane shut-off.
- Prices expected to continue to rise during continued extremely cold weather.
- More money is available to help, even though it is taking longer to provide the assistance.
- Tish is finding that some wood providers are running short on inventory.
- Pastor Holwerda is hearing from propane companies that due to the extreme cold, people are burning through minimum fill levels within a month.
- One new rule for MPSC grant funding this year was that individuals could only be assisted by one agency. They have backed off on this rule and people will not be penalized for seeking assistance from multiple agencies, so they should be encouraged to do so.

TrueNorth – Jake Eckholm and Diane Wemlinger

- Diane lives in Manistee and is following Jake as new TrueNorth emPower representative for our region.
- TrueNorth seeks partnerships with all programs that serve people in challenging circumstances.

- Received same grants from MPSC as NMCAA and Salvation Army – 61 counties served with \$13 million grant.
- Has a phased-in self-sufficiency program
- GT area is considered “phase 2,” and eligible for energy optimization services along with fuel assistance. All clients are also signed up for energy newsletter.
- Diane seeks potential clients and refers them to the payment processing center for personal case assistance.
- Grant period 11/2013 – 08/2014. 70% must be spent 11/01/2013 – 04/30/2014; the balance can be spent in the summer to help with arrearages.
- Former per-client dollar caps are being removed. Application simplified down from 7 pages to 3. No decision letter required from DHS. TrueNorth will provide a co-pay to DHS payments if an SER is presented. Income verification and proof of ID are required.
- Last year 9,200 purchase orders for the season. This year to date already over 7,000 in first 2 months. Early problems with application turn-around times are being resolved. If someone has less than a week’s worth of fuel, they try to turn around assistance in 3 days. If there is a more immediate emergency, clients can work through their local relationship manager like Diane for faster assistance. They constantly monitor accounts that are at or near 25% fuel supply for potential to reach emergency status.
- Participating in *Consumers Cares* program, as does Salvation Army.

Report from the Creating Opportunities Summit - Sarah Lucas, NW MI COG:

- Connected to Framework for our Future: Tools & Strategies for Supporting the Grand Vision
- Looking for solutions to high development costs and regulatory (planning & zoning) barriers to increase in quality affordable housing stock
- Framework is the “how” to the Grand Vision’s “what,.” with a strong social equity focus
- PRI Focus Groups – “Authentic Voices at the Table” opportunity to hear directly from people living with poverty. Key issues are affordable housing, cost effective and timely transportation options, energy costs and weatherization, level of processed foods at food pantries. Quotes on website can be used by anyone to support their programs and presentations
- 250+ people attended summit, which included breakout brainstorming sessions identifying strategies and solutions to known issues. Results will be available and editable on-line.
- Goal is to finalize goals and strategies by April/May 2014
- [www.traversebaypri.org/\(FINISH\)](http://www.traversebaypri.org/(FINISH))

Point in Time Count - Tina Allen, Continuum of Care:

- Wednesday, January 29 is PIT Count Day.
- Continuum of Care is the mechanism for getting funding from HUD.
- HUD requires a count of literally homeless people (on streets, in shelters) during the last week of January. Local agencies desire to count other types of housing-challenged people.
- Special forms available from Tina. Volunteers to help with count also available. On-line 15-20 minute training sessions available through.
- Surveys ask for limited personal identifying data (portion of name and birthdate) that will be cross-referenced to eliminate duplicative reporting.

Member Sharing:

- NorthSky Nonprofit Network is sponsoring a free conference on collective impact on February 20 from 8:00 until 10:00 am at the Hagerty Center. David Harris from FSG (a worldwide consulting firm with expertise in collective impact) will join us for a wonderful presentation on collective impact: "Addressing Complex Social Problems through Collective Impact". You can find details on the NorthSky website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/addressing-complex-social-problems-through-collective-impact-tickets-9892936038?ref=ebapi>
- BASA:
 - \$20,000 to GT and Leelanau Commission on Aging from annual Senior Expo Event. Wednesday, May 21, 2014. Civic Center. tcseniorexpo.org
 - Consensus Training in March
 - 20-year anniversary Fall 2013
 - Watching legislation about elimination of mandatory landlines; concerned with impact on seniors.
- Ginny Coulter, County Planning & Development Housing Coordinator: Distributed information about fair housing. Available on HUD website as well. Also a flyer about home repair program for homeowners with mortgages and taxes paid current. Can lend up to \$35,000. March 11 Marjorie Green, federal Home Loan bank will be speaking. Used to be head of development for (check). Subject – new set aside for grants for up to \$10,000 through member banks for home repairs for seniors.
- Jim Rowlett, PRI: 18th Super Saturday Special on February 8. Free tax preparation, shopping and preparing for healthy and economical food, and how to enroll in Obamacare are the highlights. Word of mouth invitations are HUGE!
- Diane Butler – Munson: hosting Jen Hansen Feb 19 at hospital Lead navigator for Health Insurance Marketplace to learn more about it. Munson has certified application counselors at three locations available to help individuals seeing insurance, and has brochures to help people know what information they need to bring to enrollment appointment.
- Greg Paffhouse – CMH:
 - American Lung Association grant received, one of 5 issued and the only one in the nation for addressing tobacco use in the mental illness population. The grant will be used to assist clients in 6 county area to quit smoking through new screening and assistance, and may create tobacco free campuses at NLCMH facilities.
 - NLCMH and Central Wellness have been selected to pilot a Health Home – medical home for people with serious behavior health issues combined with at least one serious chronic medical condition. Initiative will start in July. Traverse Health Clinic is a key partner. Maximum number of people to be served is 550, and clients must affirmatively elect to participate. It's a wraparound type of behavioral health home.
 - Governor's Mental Health and Wellness Commission released a report Tuesday containing 60 broad recommendations.
- Workers on Wheels: Has 5 cars ready to go, but she needs qualified candidates to receive them. She can also help people find workable vehicles at less than they might find on the open market

- Jane Butzier –
 - Beaver Island School is recruiting.
 - MIWorks! and NMCAA are partnering to provide free tax preparation services; will start taking appointments soon.
 - Adult Ed Learning Labs are recruiting for new users. GED standards are more stringent with new changes for the first time since 2002. Flyers available that list the 7 lab locations. People can increase their employability skills for free through guided, individualized, self-paced programs.
 - Federal extension has not come in yet for unemployment – ended December 28. They are seeing more panicked people, and agencies may be seeing more people as a result. 20 weeks is now the maximum length of unemployment.
- Jim Holwerda: Father Fred February Frostbite Food Drive February 7-16.
- BCBS training regarding the Affordable Care Act is coming up

Meeting adjourned 9:52 p.m.

PROPOSED 2014 COLLABORATIVE MEETING DATES

January 23
February 27
March 27
April 24
May 22

June 26
August 28
September 25
October 23
November 27