

**RESULTS OF THE MICHIGAN COALITION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES 2010
CANDIDATE SURVEY**

Table of Contents

BACKGROUND	2
DEMOGRAPHICS.....	2
TRENDS AND PATTERNS.....	2
Question 1- Family Support Eligibility and Benefits.....	2
Question 2- Michigan Tax Expenditures.....	3
Question 3- Coordinated School Health Care.....	4
Question 4- Child Disparities.....	5
Question 5- Family Planning Services.....	5
Question 6- Nutrition in Schools.....	6
Question 7- Oral Health.....	7
Question 8- Early Childhood Programs.....	8
Question 9- Community Mental Health.....	9
Question 10- Lead Poisoning.....	9
Question 11- Education.....	11
Question 12- Adoption.....	12
Question 13- Top Priority Rankings.....	12
Question 14- Top Children’s Issues.....	13
Question 15- Additional Information MCCF Can Provide to Candidates	14
Question 16- Candidate Information.....	14
SUMMARY.....	14

Background

In July of 2010, the Michigan Coalition for Children and Families created a survey in order to obtain primary candidates' views and knowledge about issues that impact children and families in Michigan. A postcard was mailed to all 600 candidates for the Michigan House and Senate to inform them of the survey, with 91 surveys opened, and 33 respondents overall.

The survey was complied through the website Constant Contact. In October 2010, a modified, second survey was sent out to those candidates who won their respective primaries. The survey had 15 questions and allowed the candidate to also input their own answers as a follow-up to each question. The survey closed on October, 15th 2010 and had a total of 19 additional respondents.

The following is an overall summary of the candidates' responses post primary.

Demographics

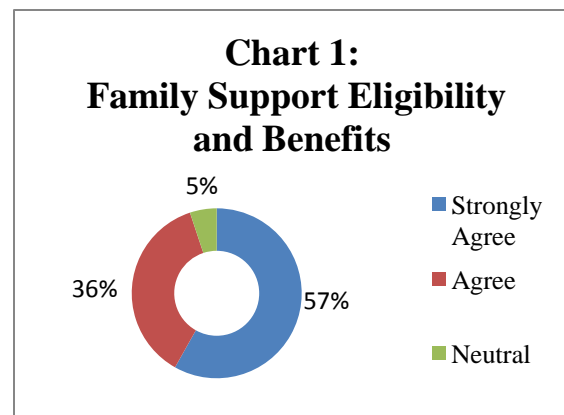
Of the 148 survey links that were sent out, 19 candidates opened the survey. Of the 19 who opened the survey, 19 candidates responded. This is 100% of those who opened the survey and replied. The majority of the “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” scale questions had a 100% response rate. Twelve of the candidates were Democrats, while 5 of the respondents were Republican and 1 was an Independent candidate. Of the 18 known responses, there were eleven House Representatives that responded and 7 Senate candidates. Of the 18 total known respondents, 22% were female, and 77% were male. One respondent remained anonymous.

Trends and Responses

Question 1- Child poverty in Michigan has escalated by over one-third over the past decade. Yet eligibility and payment levels for vital family supports, such as the child care subsidy, Medicaid, and cash assistance, have not kept up with inflation so many struggling working families cannot qualify for these programs or the benefits are so minimal that basic needs cannot be met. It is important to maintain eligibility and benefit levels in key programs for families affected by the economic downturn.

Question 1 Analysis

Of the 19 respondents, 93% “strongly agree” or “agree” with the statement when asked their thoughts about the importance of maintaining eligibility and benefit levels in key programs for low-income families. Five percent of the respondents answered “neutral”. The candidate responses reflected that the candidates are in overall agreement that it is important to maintain



eligibility and benefit levels for the families affected by the current recession. These results mirror the responses (33) from the previous candidate survey with the majority in overall agreement about assisting families with programs with 91 % answering either “strongly agree” or “agree”. See Chart 1.

Question 2- Tax expenditures (such as tax exemptions and tax credits) continue to rise annually and are projected to be about \$36 billion this year. Currently there is no process requiring regular review of these tax expenditures. A regular review of tax expenditures is necessary to determine their effectiveness and if it serves a public purpose.

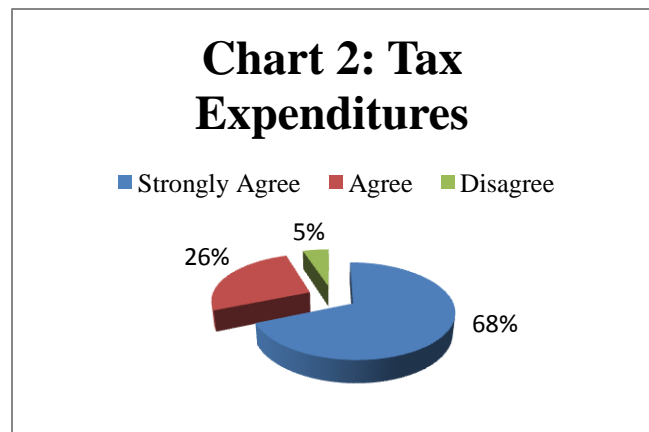
Question 2 Analysis

The responses were varied regarding candidates view of regularly reviewing tax expenditures in Michigan. Eighteen out of 19 candidates either “strongly agree” or “agree” with reviewing tax expenditures for their effectiveness and how it helps constituents. One candidate disagreed with the statement. This contrasts with the previous MCCF candidate survey in that Question 2 obtained mostly positive responses from candidates on the idea of reviewing tax expenditures as an elected official.

Respondents either answered “strongly agree” (82%) or “agree” (18%) (n=33). See Chart 2.

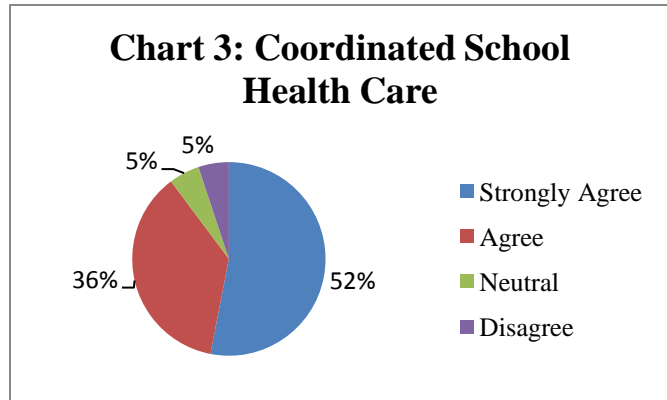
Candidate Responses

Ten candidates included their own responses to the whether or not they believed a review of tax expenditures is necessary in Michigan. Some of the responses included;



- “This provides a mechanism for accountability and transparency. Legislators can then ensure the promises made to obtain the exemption are meeting the goals and deferring tax revenue wisely. A 7 year mandatory sunset would ensure enough time to develop new business or industry and decrease volatility for market development”- Kathleen Law-D, Senate.
- “Much of our revenue problem has to do with tax breaks for large companies. If tax abatements are given job creation must be linked to it. Good jobs have left our state while companies continue to ask for further tax relief. Working families are left with jobs that fall short of taking care of their needs. As stated in question #1, families need help, and job creation is the best way to relieve our over burdened state agencies”- John Spencer-D, Senate.

- “Although I see a need to have tax exemptions and tax credits, I strongly agree that they need to be periodically examined for effectiveness as well as making the results of that review public”- Jodi Estes Gabert—D, House.



Question 3- Research demonstrates that for a variety of reasons, many children and youth only have access to primary and preventative health care in their school setting. Research-based Coordinated School Health Programs efficiently and effectively deliver prevention and treatment through school-based health centers, the Michigan Model for School health curriculum, school nursing health services, and physical activity programs. Investing state funds in coordinated school health will improve students' health and academic achievement.

Question 3 Analysis

Question 3 discussed coordinated school health care. The 19 candidates has a wide range of responses to whether investing in coordinated school health care would improve the health and academics of students. Fifty-two percent of candidates “strongly agree” that these programs would be beneficial, 36% “agree”, and 10% answered either “neutral” or “disagree”. In the previous candidate survey, 28 candidates overall responded positively to investing in coordinated school health programs; 20 “strongly agree” and 9 candidates “agree”, with 4 respondents answering “neutral”. See Chart 3.

Candidate Responses

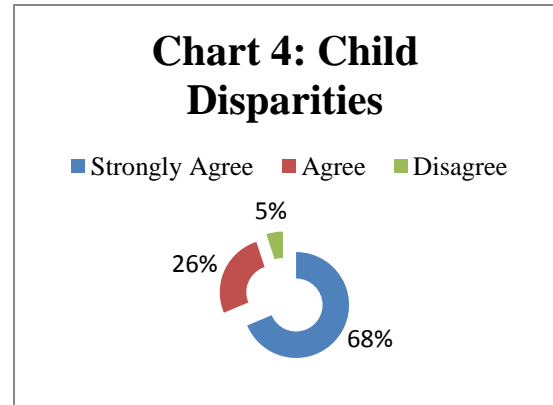
The candidates were positive overall in their responses about coordinated school health programs. Two of the responses included; “Best health is central to everything, academic achievement is no exception” – Bob Carr, D-37th, and “I’m more effective & efficient at work when I am feeling well, nourished and in good health. The same goes for our children as well. Research shows that when students are healthy, their ability to excel academically increases dramatically. Investing state funds in coordinated school health would be extremely useful in improving students' health and academic achievement by ensuring, through cooperation between schools, families, and the community, that students are receiving proper nutrition”, Patrick Pokorski I- 106th. However, other responses indicate that education on the benefits of coordinated school health programs needs to be provided to candidates; “I need to review where the money is going. I don’t want any funds going into contraceptives”- John Chouinard, R-2nd and “There are no funds to invest, and the parents are primarily responsible for the well being of the children, not the state”- Timothy Moede, R-68th .

Question 4- Michigan continues to see increased disparities by race, ethnicity, and income in child well-being including infant mortality, child death rates, child abuse and neglect, juvenile

delinquency, and dropping out of school. Investing in programs that target child who are most at risk of poor outcomes because of disparities will improve the state's social and economic climate.

Question 4 Analysis

When asking candidates about investing in programs to reduce childhood disparities in Michigan, 94% of the candidates agreed that it was important to provide funds to programs that help the most at-risk children. Five percent of candidates disagreed (n=19). In the previous MCCF survey, the results were similar with 91% agreeing that it was important to invest in these programs. See Chart 4.



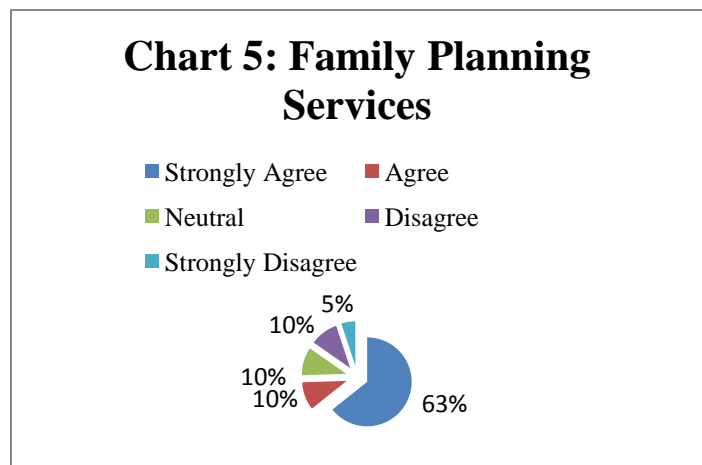
Candidate Responses

The candidate provided responses show that the majority of candidates agree that it is beneficial and worthwhile to invest in programs that reduce childhood disparities. Among the candidate responses there was a strong consensus to invest in these programs now, and reduce larger disparities later. John Spencer (D-17th) stated, “I believe that money would be better spent in these areas now, rather than in our corrections departments later. A balance needs to be struck and programs must be accountable for results”, and Investing in health and education of children is a proactive means to improve all facets of society including the business community”, Kathleen Law, D-7th.

Question 5- With recent state budget cuts, over 32,000 people who want access to pre-pregnancy family planning services will be turned away this year. In 2006 when services were more readily available, 56% of Medicaid births and 59% of uninsured births in Michigan were unplanned. Research shows unintended pregnancies often result in delayed prenatal care, increased birth complications, as well as increased likelihood of child abuse and neglect, depression, anxiety, and dependence on welfare. Family planning services is a wise investment given the future costs to Michigan taxpayers.

Question 5 Analysis

Question 5 asked candidates how they felt about investing in family planning services. This question garnered some of the most varied responses amongst candidates in the survey (n=19). Sixty-three percent of candidates “strongly



agree” and 10% “agree” that family planning services are a wise investment when considering the potential costs of unintended pregnancies. Ten percent of candidates answered “neutral”, 10% disagreed and 5% of candidates strongly disagreed with the statement. The previous candidate survey also asked candidates about investing in family planning. Their responses were 64% “strongly agree”, 24% “agree”, 6% answered “neutral”, 3% “disagree”, and 3% “strongly disagree” (n=33). See Chart 5.

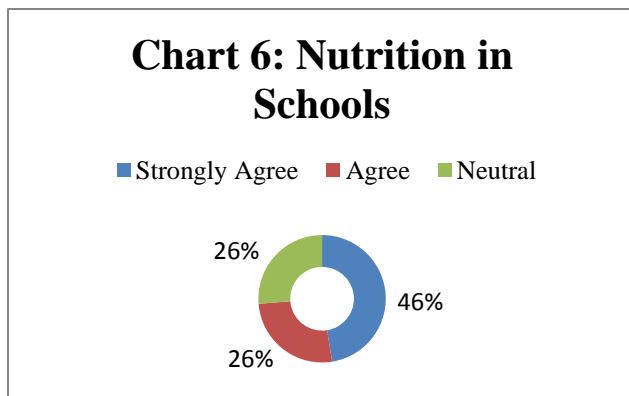
Candidate Responses

Only 3 candidates provided responses to Question 5. The majority of the responses (2) acknowledged the importance, implications, and beneficial outcomes of investing in family planning services. John Spencer, D-17th, stated; “We need to reverse the trend of children having children. Love needs to re-enter the family setting. Waiting until children become adults will result in wiser choices and stable families. Maturity is hard to council, but we must find a way. Everyone complains about generation after generation being on welfare. We must step up and make it happen. Birth control is also needed before young men and women become parents, we should not pretend that abstinence will work for everyone.” Additionally, Patrick Pokorski, I-106th, commented, “...Organizations and programs that provide family planning advice/assistance and support for low-income (often first-time) mothers can be extremely effective in their work teaching mothers healthy and responsible practices to raise healthy children and preserve taxpayer funds in the long term.”

Question 6- With obesity in children rising to epidemic proportions, developing healthy school food environments and strong nutritional standards for all food available in schools-both school lunches (USDA Child Nutrition Program Meals) and foods available in a vending machine are being discussed. The Michigan Nutrition Standards Recommendations for all Foods Available in Michigan Schools, currently in pilot stages, should be supported and implemented statewide.

Question 6 Analysis

Nine candidates responded “strongly agree”, 5, “agree” and 5 were “neutral” on implementing and developing nutrition plans for schools (n=19). The majority of candidates showed agreement that the Michigan Nutrition Standards Recommendations for all Foods Available in Michigan



Schools should be utilized in Michigan schools. These responses were similar to those in the first MCCF survey with 22 candidates strongly agreeing, 7 agreeing and 5 neutral. See Chart 6.

Candidate Responses

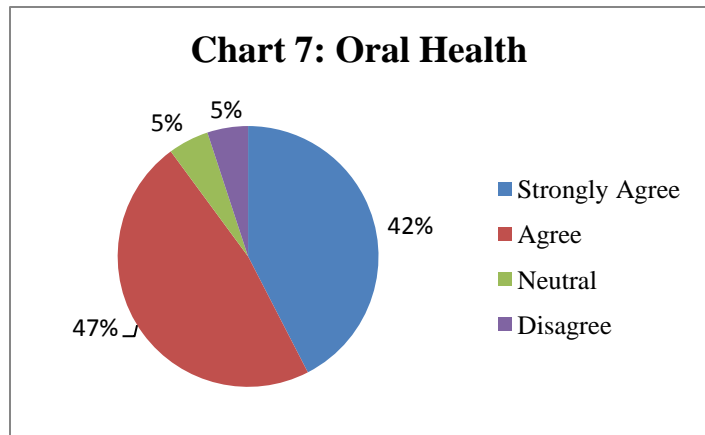
Nine candidates provided their own responses to whether the Michigan Nutrition Standards Recommendations should be

supported and implements. Some of the candidates said that more information would be useful before they could make comments on this issue. Other candidates believed there should be nutritional changes, and even stated that Michigan products should be utilized in school food. Candidate Patrick Pokorski, I-106th communicated important aspects of the proposed program, “The goal is to prevent obesity, chronic diseases, and to increase the social and behavioral approaches that promote healthful eating & physical activity. The program emphasizes reducing health disparities related to race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, geography, gender, age, disability and other factors. The long term effect would increase consumption of fruits & vegetables, decrease consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, reduce consumption of high energy dense foods, & increase physical activity”.

Question 7- Early childhood dental cavities have increased in children ages 0-5 years. 28% of young children have active dental decay even before they have permanent teeth. Oral health screening and fluoride varnish programs applied by doctors and dentists decrease the rate of active decay in young children. State funding for oral health screening and fluoride varnish should be expanded to prevent dental decay in young children.

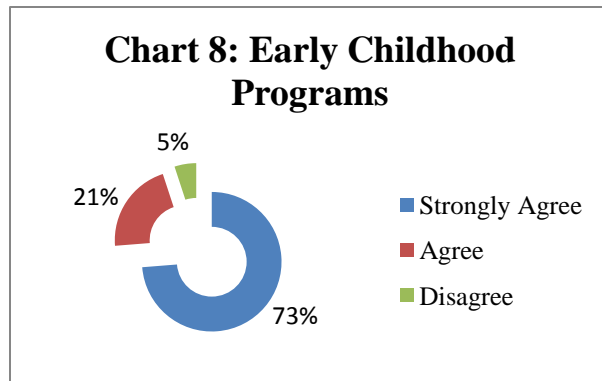
Question 7 Analysis

Of the 19 candidate responses, 8 “strongly agree”, 9 “agree”, 1 “neutral”, and 1 “disagree” about expanding state funding for oral health care to prevent dental decay in children . When comparing these results to the previous MCCF survey, the current candidate responses indicate a more diverse range of opinions. In the July 2010 survey, 98% of candidates (n=33) either strongly agreed or agreed with investing in oral health care. See Chart 7.



Candidate Responses

Prevention was a popular candidate response in the previous MCCF survey, but this trend was not reflected in the responses of the present survey candidate responses. Two of the positive responses regarding state funding for children’s oral health included, “Good oral hygiene is essential to good health and is something that should be instilled in our state's youth at a very early age”, Patrick Pokorski, I-106th; and one candidate addressed re-examining a program of the past, “When I was a child, we received fluoride treatments in the elementary school every year. This might be a great time to revisit this for our young children”, Pam Jackson, D-15th. Two concerns with investing in oral health care was that one candidate needed additional information, and John Spencer, D-17th looked at the issue from a different angle, “ Although I do not think that these programs are bad, and I realize that it will save us money in the future, funding is a



problem. We need to get people back to work and generate the revenue stream for these programs through income tax and sales tax. Only working people can help with this situation.”

Question 8- Studies show that the earliest years of life are critical, affecting brain development and setting the stage for all future physical, intellectual and emotional

development. Research has also shown the return on investment is over \$17 for every \$1 invested in early childhood. Programs such as nurse family partnership, childhood development screening and early childhood education and care are critical to prepare children to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

Question 8 Analysis

The reported percentages for Question 8 indicate that the candidates feel strongly about early childhood programming in Michigan. The 19 candidate responses were broken down as follows; 73% “strongly agree”, 21% “agree” and 5% were “neutral”. These responses were very similar to the previous MCCF survey with 71% “strongly agree”, 27% “agree” and 2% were “neutral” about the importance of early childhood programs. See Chart 8.

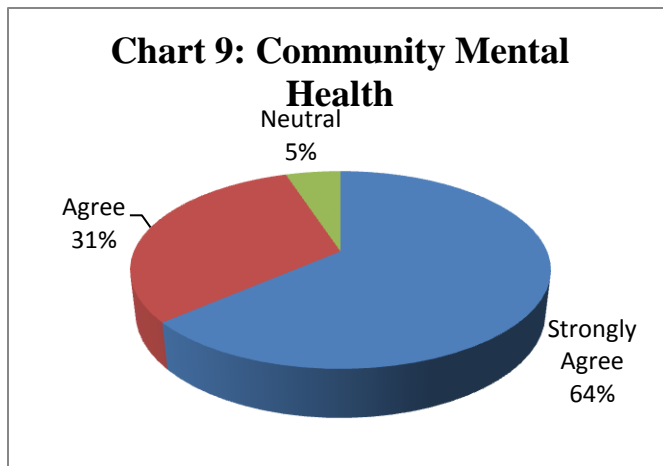
Candidate Responses

The majority of the responses to Question 8 showed support for early childhood programs. Some of the responses reflect the outreach that community early childhood partners are having on the messaging with candidates;

- “We often focus on population centers and must be aware of rural poverty and needs. Children and families at risk occur in every community, needs are great across the state”, Kathleen Law, D-17th.
- “According to many studies, early childhood education will result with less people on the welfare rolls, less incarcerations, and a more educated workforce with higher rates of employment. This is a great pro-active approach with long-term gains”, Pam Jackson, D-15th.
- “The recently released '2010 Right Start in Michigan' reiterates the fact that we need to support early childhood care and education as a means to encourage the development of Michigan's children mentally, socially & cognitively. Likewise, investing in the early years also shows taxpayers that the \$1 investment in highly qualified early child care & education saves taxpayers \$17 farther down the line on costs incurred for special education, criminal justice, welfare and other social services”, Patrick Pokorski, I-106th.
- Candidate Robert Murphy D-36th, also suggested that the state possibly expand early childhood teaching as well.

Question 9- National research has indicated that 50-75% of children within the juvenile justice system have mental health and substance abuse issues. Community Mental health workers often encourage families to file delinquency charges against their own children in order to access mental health services through the courts. But such desperate measures only funnel children into the vastly more expensive criminal justice system. Funding and strengthening the Community Mental Health System for children and juveniles will reduce the incarceration rate and divert juveniles to move to appropriate and less costly services systems.

Question 9 Analysis The majority of candidates, 95%, either “strongly agree” or “agree” that it is imperative to fund and strengthen the Community Mental Health System for children and juveniles to reduce the incarceration rate and the amount of juveniles in the Criminal Justice System in Question 9 (n=19). The respondents felt very strongly about this issue and responded positively. The July 2010 MCCF survey results included 20 candidates strongly agreeing, 10 candidates agreeing and 3 candidates answering “neutral”. See Chart 9.



Candidate Responses

The candidates had overall positive responses concerning Question 9. Of the 5 responses, the majority were in favor of strengthening and funding Community Mental Health Systems. Two candidates have experience with children and juveniles caught in between Community Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System. Phil Fabrizio, D-44th, “I have represented abused and neglected children, as well as Juveniles in the Justice system,

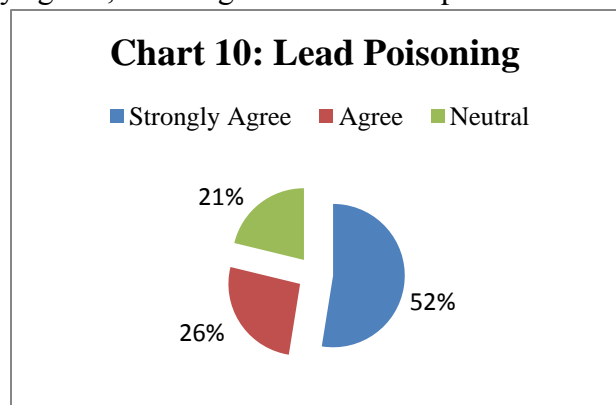
for over 30 years”, and an Anonymous candidate, “As a substitute teacher for five years in an alternative high school I have personally experienced the consequences of our mental health failures. It makes absolutely no fiscal sense to ignore this matter. 75% of Michigan's prison inmates have a treatable learning disability.” Candidate Patrick Pokorski, I-106th also described how children and juveniles with mental health disorders are often found in the juvenile justice system, “The 2010 Report for Michigan from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) describes how 2,760 children were incarcerated in Michigan's juvenile justice system in 2006. Nationally, about 70% of youth in such systems experience mental health disorders, with 25% experiencing severe mental health conditions. The Michigan Coalition for Children & Families 'Children's Agenda 2008: Legislative Issues' notes the need for comprehensive prevention and early intervention services for children and youth”.

Question 10- Currently, Michigan is ranked 7th in the nation for the number of children confirmed to be lead poisoned. Each lead poisoned child in Michigan will require at least

\$45,000 in education and human services to address learning and social problems. The Federal Center for Disease Control funds for lead poisoning ends in 2010 and the state of Michigan has eliminated state funding for lead poisoning prevention programs. In order to continue to qualify for HUD abatement funds awarded to the state, Michigan must sustain at least the current level of funding and identify new and sustainable funding streams for lead poisoning prevention and control. Resources spent to prevent lead poisoning are an investment in each child's life-long health, quality of life, learning and earning potential. The Legislature should support the recommendations of the Michigan Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Commission "Plan to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning in Michigan" for new and sustainable funding streams for lead poisoning prevention and control.

Question 10 Analysis

Question 10 discussed the importance of protecting Michigan's children from lead poisoning in their homes by supporting new and sustainable funding streams for lead poisoning prevention and control." Of the 19 candidates, 52% "strongly agree", 26% "agree" and 21% reported "neutral". When comparing these results to the previous MCCF survey, there are similarities in candidate responses; 69% of candidates "strongly agree", 14% "agree" and 17% were "neutral" on this issue (n=33). See Chart 10.



Candidate Responses

Two candidates stressed the need for more information about the topic before either agreeing or disagreeing about funding streams for lead poisoning prevention and control. Other candidates (n=8) recognized the important of funding lead poisoning prevention and control;

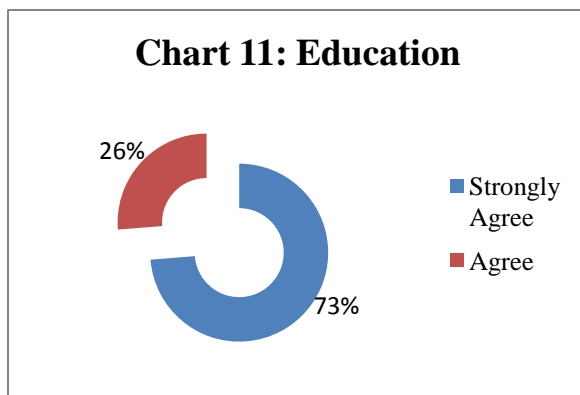
- "I believe we can find a "win, win" and add another "win" as well. We need to rebuild our aging homes. Lead removal equals win, energy savings equal win, and putting people back to work building/re-building our homes equals win. We spend money in the wrong places way to many times. This would be money well spent," John Spencer, D-17th.
- "The budgetary issues in this state are very serious but we must take leadership and find the money for important programs like this", Jim Ananich, D-49th.
- "For Michigan to succeed economically and otherwise, all children must have the chance to reach their full potential through quality education and access to basic health care services. Lead poisoning robs too many children, especially in our urban areas, of that chance by making learning more difficult and causing or exacerbating behavioral problems that lead to trouble in school and later in life, eventually increases costs for all taxpayers", Patrick Pokorski, I-106th.

Question 11- Employers face a shortfall in its supply of skilled workers in Michigan. However, family literacy continues to lag in Michigan. About 18% of Michigan's workers have low basic

literacy skills, and 75% of unemployed adults have reading or writing difficulties. Only 30% of children scored at the proficient level in reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam as fourth graders. Strengthening economic development and attracting business is dependent upon Michigan's investments in both providing education and training opportunities for low-income workers and pre-K through 18 to increase a family's economic security and decrease their reliance on public assistance.

Question 11 Analysis

Question 11 asked candidates if they believed that providing education and training opportunities for low-income workers and pre-K through 18 is important in strengthening economic development and attracting business to Michigan. The responses (n=19) indicated that this is an important issue for candidates. Seventy-three percent of candidates “strongly agree”, and 26% “agree” that education and training opportunities are necessary for Michigan families to succeed on multiple fronts. These results are similar to the previous MCCF survey, with the majority of candidates, 96%, stating that this is an important issue (n=33). See Chart 11.



Candidate Responses

The candidate responses (n=5) show that multiple candidates hold a strong belief that ensuring educational and training opportunities are a necessity for strengthening economic development and attracting business in Michigan.

- “We must stay focused on our education system. I also propose that we bring adults back into our education system and allow them to earn

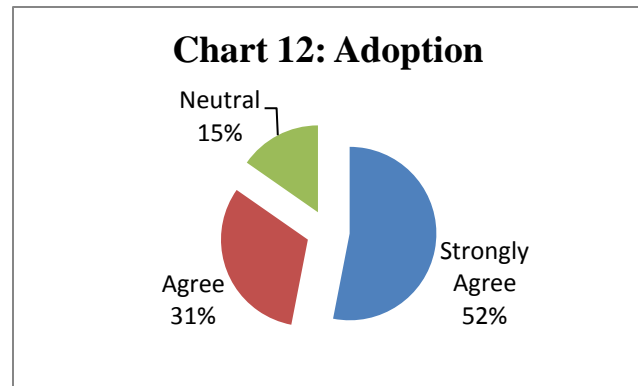
their high school diplomas... Elevating a large percentage of our adult population that may not have been mature enough to finish school can be achieved...” John Spencer, D-17th.

- “Michigan needs to be the premiere state in which small businesses flock to. Essentially, small businesses are the best instrument to get Michigan's economy moving, growing and creating jobs. And to make that happen we need to market our state by focusing our energies on the top three markers businesses look for. Those three focal points lie within a state's educational system, health care system, natural resources and recreation”, Patrick Pokorski, I-106th.
- “Having successfully worked with small businesses that employed the literacy challenged I know the economic benefit of this investment”, Anonymous.

Question 12- There are over 24,000 children in the state's foster care system. Over 7,000 of those children are available for adoption because their biological parents' rights have been terminated. Recruiting foster and adoptive families is challenging as state support services have been reduced due to budget cuts. Allowing single and unmarried adults to co-adopt a child will expand the pool of available adoptive families.

Question 12 Analysis

Allowing co-adoptions by single and unmarried adults to expand the pool of adoptive families for 24,000 children in Michigan foster care was the focus of Question 12. This question exhibited diverging candidate opinions in the previous MCCF candidate survey; however, there was more candidate response alignment with the second installment of the MCCF survey. In the previous survey, 54% of candidates “strongly agree”, 27% “agree”, 9% answered “neutral”, while 5% “disagree” and 5% “strongly disagree”. In contrast, the current survey results were 52% “strongly agree”, 31% “agree”, and 15% were “neutral”. See Chart 12.



Candidate Responses

Question 12 had a wide variety of candidate provided responses (n=7). Overall, a large portion of the candidates were in favor of allowing single or unmarried couples to adopt. This is also indicated by above results. Not all candidates agreed on this issue, and one candidate expressed the need for more information on the issue before making a statement. Responses included;

- “Arguments will fall of course toward gay and lesbian couples adopting. I think this is a smoke screen of sorts and I say people should grow up. There is too much need and little time to argue about yet another issue. We should move towards this and address problems that will probably not happen later”, John Spencer, D-17th.
- “I am not for same sex partners adopting children”, John Chouinard, R-2nd.
- “I lived in foster homes. Love is where love is: it is the glue between each other when found”, Bob Carr, D-37th.
- “It makes sense to increase the pool of qualified adoptive parents by allowing this. We have children who are waiting and needing families right now, they shouldn't have to wait any longer”, Patrick Pokorski, I-106th.
- “Single adults already do. I deal with this problem every single day. I have many children on my caseload who have been in the foster care system for years”, Phil Fabrizio, D-44th.

Question 13- Please rank your top priorities for children and families in order of importance.

Candidate Responses

This question allowed candidates to rank eight child and family issues in order of importance. The issues listed by candidates by order of importance were; Jobs, Healthcare, Education K-12, Economic Security, Early Childhood Education, Child Abuse and Neglect, Mental Health and Safety. The previous MCCF survey rankings were; Early Childhood Education, Education K-12, Jobs, Health Care, Child Abuse and Neglect, Economic Security, Safety and Mental Health (n=33). The majority of the responses from candidates indicated that all were important issues and that they could not be ranked. A common theme from the candidate responses included how

all of the issues were interrelated and dependent on one another. The candidate provided responses were very similar to the first candidate survey as well.

Question 14- What are the top 3 children's issues you will work on once you are elected?

Candidate Responses

Question 14 asked candidates to fill-in the top 3 children’s issues that they will work on as elected officials. Table 1 is a comprehensive list of 19 candidates’ top three child and family issues. The top three children’s issues overall were Health/Health Care, Education and Early Childhood Education.

Table 1. Candidate’s Top Three Child and Family Issues

Children's Issues	# of Responses
Health/Health Care	11
Education	9
Early Childhood Education	6
Early Childhood Programs	3
Mental Health	3
K-12 Education Funding	2
Dental Care	2
Nutrition	2
Abuse and Neglect	1
Safety	1
Parenting Programs	1
K-12 Education	1
Environmental Hazards	1
Childhood Obesity	1
Reading	1
Economic Security	1
Helping At-Risk Families	1
Coordinate Health and Education Programs	1
Courts for Families	1
Early Identification of Learning Differences	1
Free Medical and Dental Care from Universities as Part of Medical Training	1
Attracting Business	1
Regulations	1
Foster Care	1

Question 15- Please let MCCF know what additional information you would like on child and family issues.

Candidate Responses

Question 15 inquired about additional information that MCCF could provide to candidates on child and family issues. Nine candidates provided a variety of requests about the information they would like from MCCF. Some of these included; more information on cognitive development learning theory, research on preventing high school dropout, and reliable data on many of these issues. Two candidates also stated that they would like to read any information that MCCF would like to share on child and family issues.

Question 16- Allowed for candidates to input their personal information.

The following candidates participated in the MCCF survey;

State Senate Candidates- John Chouinard (R-2nd); Kathleen Law (D-7th); Pam Jackson (D-15th); John Spencer (D-17th); Chuck Fellows (D-22nd); Jeff Mayes (D-31st) and Bob Carr (D-37th).

State House Candidates- Robert Murphy (D- 36th); Hugh Crawford (R-38th); Phil Fabrizio (D-44th); Mary Ward (D-45th); Jim Ananich (D-49th); Dave Rutledge (D-54th); Timothy Moede (R-68th); Peter MacGregor (R-73rd); Al Pscholka (R-79th); Jodi Estes Gabert (D-102nd) and Patrick Pokorski (I- 106th).

Summary

As with the first MCCF Candidate Survey of 2010, some of the responses highlight an important aspect of candidate surveys. Candidate education is greatly needed on issues effecting children and families. Candidates expressed that they themselves need more information on certain topics such as lead poisoning and prevention, coordinated school health care programs, the Michigan Nutrition Standards Recommendations, co-adoptions for single and unmarried adults, and oral health before making the decision of whether or not to support these important issues. The results of the survey also address the need to provide correct information to, and correct misinformation that clouds certain child and family issues for candidates as well. This provides a great opportunity to encourage candidates to become better informed of where they should be focusing their own efforts on children and family issues as elected officials.

A few candidates stand out as those who could champion for children and family issues, and support these as elected officials. Given their responses, they have the potential to be child and family advocates when elected to their respective offices. These candidates expressed the importance of addressing needs, services and investing in programs to help Michigan children and their families. Our job as a result, is to continue to communicate with these candidates and let them know that children and family issues are a top priority while they are in office. For the candidates that needed more information or were not clear about the importance of certain child

and family issues, it is crucial that we take the steps to educate them on these issues. These candidates may get elected and it is our responsibility to be a continual, visible presence for child and family issues during their term.