



MCCF 2003 Membership Roster

Organizational Members

- Allegan County 0-5 Services Network
- Allegan County ISD
- Assoc. for Children's Mental Health
- Berrien County ISD
- BHK Child Development Board-TAG
- Boys and Girls Republic
- Branch Intermediate School District
- Bridges 4 Kids
- Camp Fire USA - W. MI Council
- Capitol Area Youth Alliance
- Catholic Charities of Genessee/Shiaw.
- Catholic Soc Services of Grand Rapids
- Catholic Soc Services of Lansing
- Child Abuse Prevention Services
- Child/Family Services, Capital Area
- Child & Family Services of NE MI 4C
- Child and Family Services of Saginaw
- 4C of Detroit/Wayne County, Inc.
- Child Care Resources Kalamazoo 4C
- Children's Charter of the Courts of MI
- Children's Trust Fund
- Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Ed
- Comm. Assess. Referral and Ed.
- Comp. School Health Coord. Assoc.
- Covenant House Michigan
- Eagle Village
- Early Childhood Connections
- Early Success-Right From The Start
- Everybody Ready-Colina Foundation
- Family Ctr. of Grosse Pte./Harper Woods
- Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan
- 4C Child Care Unlimited
- Institute for Children Youth & Families
- Lutheran Social Services of MI
- Michigan 4C Association
- MI Assoc. for Infant Mental Health
- MI Assoc. for the Ed. of Young Cldn
- MI Assoc. of Intermediate School Adm.
- MI Assoc. of School Administrators

- MI Assoc. of School Boards
- Michigan Catholic Conference
- MI Coal. Against Dom./Sexual Violence
- MI Cncl. for Maternal and Child Health
- MI Cncl. on Crime and Delinquency
- Michigan Education Association
- Michigan Environmental Council
- MI Fed. for Children and Families
- Michigan Head Start Association
- Michigan League for Human Services
- MI Primary Care Association
- MI Protection & Advocacy Service
- Michigan Public Health Association
- Michigan State University Extension
- Michigan's Children
- Muskegon Family Care
- Nat. Assoc. of Social Workers — MI
- Planned Parenthood Affiliates of MI
- Prevention Network
- Priority Children
- School-Comm. Health Alliance of MI
- St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center
- Skillman Center for Children
- Student Advocacy Center
- Telamon Corporation
- VanBuren ISD-Early Care/Educ.
- Wedgwood Christian Services
- Whale Children's Center

Individual Members

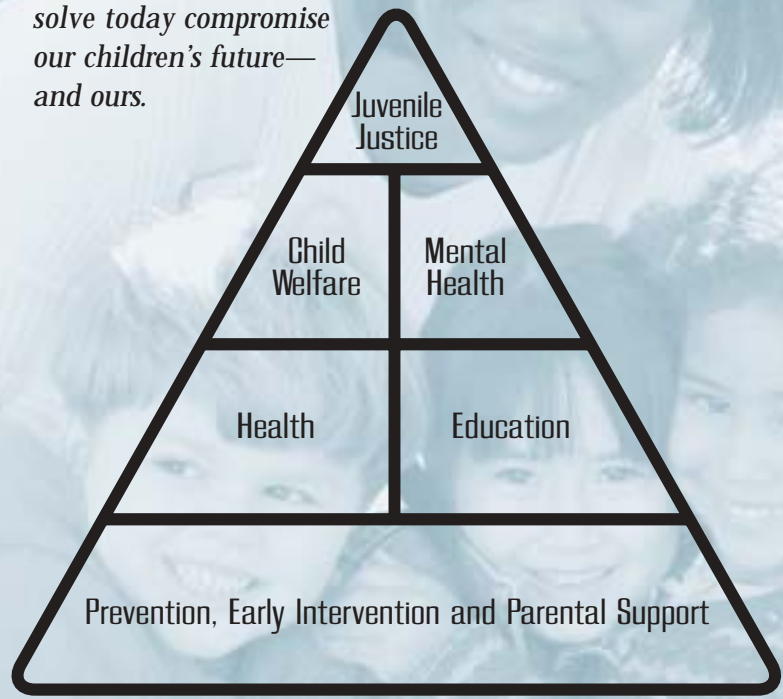
- Norma Eppinger
- James & Nancy Goodwin
- Meredith Mentzer
- Kay Randolph Back
- Robert Redmond
- Ellen Speckman-Randall
- Michele Strasz
- Diane Strickler
- Betty Tableman



Michigan Coalition for Children and Families

Children's Agenda 2003

The issues that we fail to solve today compromise our children's future—and ours.



The Prevention Pyramid Sets the Foundation

The MCCF recommends policy action across the continuum of services with particular emphasis on prevention, but also addressing high risk needs. Prevention services for families should rightly form a strong foundation in order for all children to develop into productive adults. Recognizing that the overwhelming bulk of state expenditures for children's services are currently in high-end interventions, spending more on the prevention service base will render future savings in the expensive areas at the pyramid top.

Michigan Coalition for Children and Families (MCCF)

MCCF is a statewide network of more than 70 organizations representing hundreds of thousands of individuals sharing the common goal of improving the quality of life for Michigan's children and families.

MCCF holds the following assumptions:

- **Children represent our future;**
- **Children are a nonpartisan concern**—a responsible government places their well-being at highest priority;
- **A healthy family is the best environment for children.**

MCCF actively promotes a legislative agenda for prevention—advocating for programs that avoid problems by ensuring that health, shelter, social, emotional and intellectual needs are met for children and families.

MCCF Guiding Principles of Prevention

- **Children grow best in families.**
- **Effective actions:**
 - are respective of racial/cultural/economic diversity;
 - focus on strengths of children and families, rather than weaknesses;
 - must view the child in the context of their families and their communities; and
 - are often community based.
- **Investment today:**
 - ensures that more children will grow up to become healthy, productive adults; and
 - saves taxpayer's money tomorrow.

Coalition members understand the economic problems facing our state and are acutely aware of the heavy responsibility Michigan legislators face in resolving the state's budget crisis. We believe, however, that taxpayer relief has been purchased at the expense of Michigan's children. The shortsighted cuts in prevention programs for children result in more costly long-term problems. Further, prevention dollars can be identified through more creative use of resources, use of less costly alternatives to imprisonment, and by Michigan doing a better job in fully accessing its allocation of federal dollars.

Additionally, the impact of over-representation and disparate treatment of minorities in the education, health, child protection and juvenile justice systems in Michigan has been raised in numerous studies. Serious efforts toward eliminating those disparities represent another important approach to render prevention savings.

When framing the issues and their resolution, MCCF urges the legislature to:

- **Hold children harmless** in budget cuts that will have to be made.
- **Review and address structural problems** in the state revenue stream; pursue alternatives to continued growth in the corrections budget; and maximize state receipt of federal dollars.
- **Re-establish the Senate-House Bipartisan Children's Caucus** in order to develop a consistent and integrated approach across departments to appropriations and policies affecting the well-being of children. There are connections between welfare reform, child welfare, child care licensing, Medicaid/MICHild, and education that make a difference in what happens to children.
- Direct appropriate standing and appropriations subcommittees to **review and recommend policy and budget changes** to reduce the disproportionate number of minority children being expelled from school as well as in child welfare and the juvenile justice system.

We also believe that it is time for Michigan to have an effective executive infrastructure for formal state interagency collaboration across education, public health, mental health, child and family welfare and other areas that impact the lives of children and families. The state should *at least* parallel the local collaboration that has been so effective in many Michigan communities. This state collaborative body would address barriers to effective use of existing resources, establish priorities, create interagency policy, and develop recommendations for legislative consideration.

Prevention, Early Intervention and Parental Support

- Plan, promote, and fund community services for children aged 0-5 to ensure the health, safety, social-emotional and cognitive development of young children through:
 - programming such as **ASAP-PIE** (*formerly funded in School Aid*), to educate parents about early childhood health, educational and emotional development;
 - programming, including **0-3 secondary prevention** (*funded through FIA, School Aid, and formerly Community Health*), and infant mental health services addressing **prevention of expulsion from child care** (*formerly funded through Community Health*); and
 - expanded programming to strengthen welfare reform, specifically the wrap-around Michigan School Readiness Program and Head Start, to provide **full-day quality child care** for children in low-income working families (*formerly funded by School Aid*).
- Review and address adequacy of **child care licensing** to promote safe, high quality child care.
- Encourage multi-purpose collaborative bodies and schools to develop community-based coalitions and partnerships addressing **violence prevention**.
- Implement the MDCH's **lead abatement plan** to target the highest risk communities, and remove existing barriers to abatement activities.
- Assess availability of after-school services that reduce risky behaviors and plan for sufficient quality programs in every community.
- Institute a state **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**.
- Modify **unemployment insurance** rules to expand coverage for low-wage, part-time workers.
- Target **low-income workers for education and training opportunities** that will enhance wage-earning capacity.
- Provide an **adequate level of support** to vulnerable families with children.
- **Ensure services**—such as health care, nutritional support, and child care—required to support welfare to work requirements.
- **Expand the clothing allowance** for children in families receiving TANF support.

Health

- Ensure that **immunizations** are available and accessible to every child in Michigan.
- Require MDCH to monitor and report on compliance of health care providers with their contractual requirement to provide children under Medicaid and MICHild with **Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)**.
- Maintain existing **school health clinics** and school-linked community health care services and develop plans for statewide expansion.
- Maintain **comprehensive school health education** through the Michigan Model.
- **Prioritize prevention services** for children and families within existing Medicaid and MICHild funding, and hold health plans accountable for providing those services.

Education

- Direct standing and appropriations subcommittees on education to require a report from the Department of Education on information received from local school districts on school expulsions.
- Create incentives for collaboratively funded (several budgets) **alternative full-day education programs for expelled students** and require public schools expelling youth under current laws to facilitate student participation in programs.
- Build strong incentives into the School Aid budget to:
 - encourage **early childhood programming**;
 - encourage **before- and after-school programs** that meet the youth development and safety needs of children;

- target **technology and professional development grants** to schools with high concentrations of low-income students; and
 - improve **middle-grades education** through school reform models like the Michigan Middle Start model.
- Require the Department of Education and Court Administrators Office to develop, promote and coordinate **ready response models for truants**.

Child Welfare

- Require the FIA to:
 - provide access to **aftercare and follow-up services** when children are returned home from the foster care system;
 - increase **training and professional development** opportunities to address:
 - **cross system issues** related to child abuse cases involving both parental and substance abuse and domestic violence; and
 - the **duties and responsibilities** of medical, educational, and social work professionals and other **mandated reporters** of child abuse and neglect;
 - establish standards for **Court Appointed Special Advocacy (CASA) programs**; and
 - review the Foster Care **caseload ratios** of state and private agency systems to assess whether children are adequately protected, and develop a plan to address deficiencies in staffing patterns.
- Appropriate funding to:
 - provide benefits comparable to foster care for **low-income relative caregivers** of children removed from their homes for abuse or neglect;
 - develop and sustain community Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs.

Mental Health

- Require the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to develop plans:
 - for **adolescent suicide prevention services** consistent with the U.S. Surgeon General’s recommendations; and
 - with FIA for access to public **mental health and substance abuse services** for children in foster care and juvenile delinquency systems.
- Mandate **services to families who are in crisis** and need public services to address the behavioral needs of their children, upon a determination that without services the child would come under jurisdiction of the court.

Juvenile Justice

- Require that **state wards receive coordinated health, mental health and substance abuse services**—benefits to which they are entitled.
- Require appropriations subcommittees and standing committees on corrections to **review** the Department of Corrections **quarterly reports on safety, security and programs offered to youth in the children’s prison**.
- Direct appropriate standing and appropriations subcommittees to review and recommend policy and budget changes to **reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth in juvenile and adult corrections facilities**.
- Direct the State Court Administrator’s office to set standards, provide training and **monitor service quality of appointed counsel to youth** in family court proceedings.
- Review, evaluate and **promote effective strategies to serve female juvenile offenders**.
- Require the provision of **child and family services to youth expelled from school**.