

**Michigan Coalition for Children and Families
Minutes from November 13, 2006 Meeting
Michigan Association of United Ways' Office**

Attendees

Michele Strasz – MCCF Co-chair – MI Council for Maternal & Child Health
Bill Long – MCCF Past Co-chair – Individual Member
Bob Parks – MCCF Secretary – School-Community Health Alliance – MI
Betty Tableman, MI Assoc for Infant Mental Health
Jane Zehnder-Merrell, MI League for Human Services
Erin Stringfellow, MI League for Human Services
Penny Gardner, Coalition for Adoption Rights Equality (CARE)
Jon Tomlanovich, MASA / MAISA
Stacey Range, Michigan's Children
Pat Sorenson, Michigan's Children
Mel Haga, MI County Social Services Organization
Nancy Lindman, Michigan Association of United Ways
Rachel Harris, United Way for Southeastern Michigan
Susan Miller, Early Learning Michigan Project
Joanne Riebschleger, individual member
Luanne Beaudry, Prevention Network
Mary Sutton, Michigan After-School Partnership
Tammy Lemmer, MI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Amy Krug, Priority Children

Meeting called to order at 1:35pm by Michele Strasz, MCCF co-chair

Welcome and introductions of attendees.

The agenda for the meeting was accepted after adding one agenda item: the presentation by Kathryn Summers-Coty, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency.

The minutes of the May 8, 2006 and the September 11, 2006 meetings were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Michele Strasz, in the absence of Treasurer, Breeann Anderson, gave the treasurer's report and handed out the most recent financial statement. As of November 13, 2006 there is a balance of \$250.00 in the checking account and a balance of \$1,828.77 in the savings account for a total of \$2,078.77. The treasurer's report was accepted. A copy of the treasurer's report is available upon request.

Membership Update

There was a discussion about MCCF membership renewal for 2007 and new memberships.

To date, eighteen organizations and six individual members have renewed their memberships for 2007. Additionally, new six organizations and one new individual member have joined MCCF.

Bob Parks will send a second renewal notice to MCCF members and will include an 'invitation to join MCCF' in the next issue of the SCHAMMI electronic newsletter. Bill Long suggested that the executive committee begin making phone calls to MCCF members to remind them to send in their membership renewals.

AD Hoc Committees

MCCF has two Ad Hoc committees: Early Childhood Committee and Adolescent Committee.

The Early Childhood Committee will meet in January 2007.

The Adolescent Committee was formed in October 2006 through the work of Michele Corey, Michigan's Children. Michigan's Children received a grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation to meet the needs of school dropouts. Michele organized the committee to ask MCCF members to partner with Michigan's Children in this effort. The first meeting of the adolescent committee was held on October 31, 2006. For more information, contact Michele Corey at 517-485-3500 or Michele Corey at corey.michele@michiganschildren.org.

Presentation by Kathryn Summers-Coty, Michigan State Fiscal Agency

Kathryn Summers-Coty, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency gave a presentation on the FY-07 and FY-08 budgets for the state of Michigan.

For the sixth year in a row, the state of Michigan is facing a structural budget deficit that – unless there is increased revenue -will result in further reductions in services to Michigan's residents. Ms. Summers-Coty said the General Fund will need to grow by 5.4 percent in order to meet the anticipated expenditures increases for corrections, education and health. The biggest percentage growth in recent years has been 2 percent.

Since FY-01 expenditures for corrections is up 15.4 percent, K-12 is up 8.9 percent and the Michigan Department of Community Health is up 56 percent.

The FY-07 School Aid budget (October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007) began the fiscal year with a deficit of approximately \$200 million. The General Fund budget is under similar stress because funding from the General Fund will be needed to balance the School Aid budget.

The Governor and the Legislature will have a Revenue Estimate conference in January 2007. Based on estimated revenues, the Governor will submit her executive budget to the Legislature in February 2007.

The budget for FY-08 (October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008) will be stressed because of pressures from required expenditures including: potential deficit from FY-07 budget (\$110

million), 21st Century Job Fund, Interest for Tobacco Settlement Bonds (\$50 million) and the Merit Scholarships (\$75 million).

New Business

Proposition 2

There is a discussion about the passage of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (Proposition 2). The School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan, with the help of the Kellogg Foundation, is incorporating a multicultural perspective into the organization's strategies, activities, and communications. Bob Parks will send information to MCCF members from the diversity consultant, Vision's, Inc. that may be useful to other organizations.

Advocacy

Jane Zehnder-Merrell suggested that MCCF narrow its advocacy focus in order to avoid diluting its messages. Jane suggested that MCCF select three priority issues to work on. There was recognition that our diverse MCCF membership may have difficulty agreeing on three issues. It was mentioned that individual organizations can continue to advocate for their issues, even if the issue is not selected by the MCCF membership.

This year, MCCF advocacy focus were on the economic benefits of providing services to children and the need to resolve the state of Michigan structural budget deficit.

There was discussion that the focus on 'prevention' may not be effective because limited-term legislators only focus issues that can be resolved in short periods of time.

Luanne Beaudry said that MCCF could continue to have multiple advocacy issues. She said it would be helpful to have MCCF provide research for specific issues that would help members in their advocacy efforts.

Children's Agenda

The first meeting to develop the 2007 Children's Agenda will be held on December 11, 2006 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the Michigan Association of United Ways' office in Lansing, Michigan. All MCCF members are invited to participate. Contact Michele Strasz at 517-482-5807 or mtstrasz@aol.com.

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee is being formed to identify candidates the 2007 MCCF executive committee. Luanne Beaudry, Jane Zehnder-Merrell, and Mel Haga volunteered to serve on the committee. Anyone interested in serving on the committee is welcome. The nominating committee will make its recommendations at the January 8, 2007 MCCF meeting.

The executive positions that will become vacant are: co-Chair (Michele Strasz) and secretary (Bob Parks).

In 2007, Elizabeth Carey (co-chair) and Breeann Anderson (treasurer) will continue to serve for a second year. Michele Strasz will replace Bill Long, as the past co-chair.

Announcements

Jane Zehnder-Merrell made two announcements:

- The Michigan League for Human Services' Public Policy Forum will be held on December 7th from 10am – noon at the Holiday Inn Lansing West in Lansing, Michigan. The forum is titled *A Public Sector for the Public Good: Engaging Citizens in a Shared Vision*. The cost is \$25 for MHLS members, \$35 for non-members. Visit www.MiLHS.org for more information and to register.
- The Kids Count Data Book will be released on December 12th. The emphasis will be on economic security issues for children.

The next MCCF meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2007 from 1:30pm – 3:30pm at the Michigan Association of United Ways' office in Lansing,

Michele Strasz adjourned the meeting at 3:35pm

Respectfully submitted, Bob Parks, MCCF Secretary