



# HSCB Focus

HSCB is the state-designated community collaborative for Macomb County.

## Thompson Center Updates

### UPDATES

- John Iras is the new President and Chief Operating Officer of Big Family of Michigan, 41757 Irwin Rd., Harrison Twp., MI 48045, (586) 415-6968.
- Free shuttle transportation for a veteran with a confirmed morning appointment at the John Dingel VA Medical Center in Detroit is now available. Pick up locations are in Shelby Township, Clinton Township, and Roseville. The veteran must be ambulatory - no wheelchairs or oxygen - and be able to walk without assistance. To be placed on the pick-up schedule, the veteran should call no less than two days in advance of the appointment to Macomb Veterans Services, (586) 469-5315.
- Haven Place in New Haven, MI is a new Community Center for veterans and their families. Activities include: connection with job opportunities, free events and services, peer mentors, educational classes. For more information, call (586) 484-8540 or [dmonewhaven@gmail.com](mailto:dmonewhaven@gmail.com)



Since the Grand Opening of the Thompson Center in Warren, MI on March 6, 2015, services have grown to meet the

ongoing needs of children and adults in southern Macomb County. The Center houses four public agencies: the Children's Healthcare Access Program (MCHAP), MSUE, Macomb Community Action, and the Health Department's Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

**MCHAP** - This year, MCHAP begins its first year of operational services to the community through its new home at the Thompson Center. MCHAP, an HSCB affiliated collaborative, is a collaborative effort to create a coordinated, integrated system of early childhood support services.

Families referred to MCHAP have the benefit of receiving support in getting the best possible healthcare for their child. In addition to helping families sign up for and navigate Medicaid, MCHAP helps find medical homes for children, provides asthma education, fitness and nutrition programs, and free transportation to and from doctor and dental appointments.

For more information about MCHAP, call (586) 459-5108 or visit their website at: [www.macombchap.org](http://www.macombchap.org)

**MSUE** - MSU Extension services at the Center include 4-H youth development programs; a financial and homeownership education program; and health and nutrition programs. For more information on MSUE services at the Center, call (586) 469-7614.

**Macomb Community Action** - Macomb Community Action offers emergency utility, rent and mortgage assistance; tax preparation assistance; transportation for medical appointments and more to individuals and families utilizing the Center. For more information on Macomb Community Action services at the Center call (586) 759-9150.

**Health Department** - Family Planning and WIC services are available. WIC offers nutritious food for pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women; food for children from infancy to age 5; and referrals for medical care. In the planning stage is providing immunizations for families participating in WIC.

Also, the Macomb County Health Department received a \$13,000 grant from St. John Hospital to remodel a space in the building to have a functioning kitchen with plans to offer cooking classes in the fall of 2016.

For more information on Health Department services at the Center, call (586) 469-5491 (Family Planning) or (586) 469-5471 (WIC).

## MCCSA name change

For 50 years, the Macomb County Community Action Agency (MCCSA) has served as the county’s designated Community Action Agency (CAA). A CAA is a local non-profit organization that carries out the Community Action Program founded by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act to fight poverty by empowering the poor as part of the War on Poverty.

A Community Action Agency is a primary source of direct support for the more than 34.5 million people who live in poverty in the U.S. The majority of CAA program participants are extremely poor, with incomes below 75 percent of the federal poverty threshold, or \$9,735 for a family of three (the average family size for the client population).

As of January 1, 2016, Macomb County Community Action Agency changed its name Macomb Community Action.

*“MCCSA completed a comprehensive strategic plan in 2015,”* stated Rhonda Powell, Macomb Community Action Director, *“and we ultimately changed our mission - as well as our name - in response to community feedback and to better align the agency with its future. Our new mission statement reflects that focus: **Persistent action to diminish poverty and promote independence.**”*



Rhonda Powell,  
Director, Macomb  
Community  
Action

The agency’s major focus is to reduce the cyclical effects of poverty across generations and engage community partners to address the disturbing increase in poverty among children and seniors.

The list of Macomb Community Action services are listed on their website:

[mca.macombgov.org](http://mca.macombgov.org)

Also find them on social media: [facebook.com/mcaction](https://facebook.com/mcaction) and on Twitter @ [mcaction](https://twitter.com/mcaction).

For more information about Macomb Community Action, call (586) 469-6999.

## Month of the Young Child breakfast

A record number - 340 people from schools and community organizations - attended the Month of the Young Child breakfast held on Friday, March 4, 2016 at the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD). This annual event has been co-sponsored for the past 22 years by the MISD/Great Start Macomb and the Macomb County Human Services Coordinating Body (HSCB). More recent sponsors include the Macomb Great Start Collaborative and Great Parents Macomb.

Twenty seven (27) agency displays in the atrium highlighted early childhood resources. The main meeting room walls were decorated with artwork by the students from the Graphic Arts and Design Technology class from the L’Anse Creuse Pankow Center which illustrated the event theme.

After the breakfast was served, the Young Marines, a youth education and service program, marched down the main aisle, under the supervision of their adult sponsors, to post the colors and lead the participants reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.



Michael DeVault Superintendent, MISD and Lynn Fontanive, HSCB Executive Director, gave a welcome from their respective agencies. The Great Start Co-Chair, Monique Stanton, President & CEO of CARE of Southeastern Michigan, spoke about her agency’s role in providing parent education to Macomb families, CARE’s change in parenting curriculum to

Active Parenting, and the importance of character development. JoAnne Elkin, Early Literacy/Early Childhood Consultant at the MISD addressed celebrating early childhood.

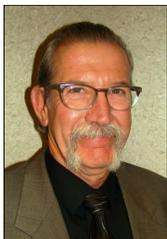
Michael Popkin, Ph.D., founder and president of Active Parenting, gave the keynote address “*Character and Disciple in the 21st Century*”. Active Parenting programs help parents rear responsible children who are able to cope with life's challenges.

The event ended with final comments by Kelly Isrow, the new Great Start Coordinator.

For more information on the Month of the Young Child breakfast, contact JoAnne Elkin, (586) 228-3480.

## From the Lead Agency Chair

**John Kinch**  
HSCB Lead Agency Chair



The HSCB has identified the need for changes in the response to domestic violence across systems in Macomb County and is preparing to take action.

Preliminary discussions with representatives from key HSCB member agencies, Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter and the Macomb County Domestic Violence Coalition revealed the need for increased and sustained training capacity and policy/procedure shifts to be more survivor friendly.

It was realized that what is sometimes needed is to have agencies work together in a more integrated and collaborative fashion with these families and to also address the issues of poverty, limited language proficiency or other challenges these families face.

A Domestic Violence Ad hoc Committee will take several months to explore the needs and refine the primary objectives. This Ad hoc group will be Co-Chaired by Carmen Wargel, Chair of the Macomb County Domestic Violence Council and Dawn Walker, from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The HSCB can coordinate participation from a number of our community partners and mobilize resources. We can provide representatives from our organizations to sit on the Ad Hoc Committee to share their agencies' rules and regulations around domestic violence which will help to identify an initial set of barriers.

Collaboration between our systems on this issue can lead to improved service delivery to families who are dealing with the issue of domestic violence.

## MVAC develops veterans flow charts

Three sets of flow charts have been developed by the Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative (MVAC), an HSCB affiliated collaborative, to help professionals working with veterans navigate specific services.

The first set of flow charts includes services for the prevention of homelessness, temporary housing and permanent housing for veterans.

*"What to Do Before and After A Veteran Dies"* flow charts were developed with the help of Vick Funeral Home in Mt. Clemens and the Macomb County Medical Examiners office. These flow charts include information on pre-planning for a funeral, information that will

help in funeral arrangements at the time of death, appointing a funeral representative, the decision to have a funeral or memorial service and arrangements to be buried at the VA National Cemetery. Also included is where to apply for financial help with funeral expenses, if needed. These charts show the flow of different death scenarios: whether the veteran dies in the home, in hospice care, in the street, homeless shelter or nursing home.

A third set of flow charts has been developed to show the various health insurances/health services available for veterans, including the VA Health System, Medicaid, Medicare, CHAMPVA, MI Health Link

Supplemental Security Income (SSI), TRICARE, and Social Security Disability.

The flow charts are posted on the Macomb County Department of Veteran Services website at:

<http://vets.macombgov.org>

A fourth set of flow charts relating to employment, education and training are also being drafted. A fifth set on transportation is also planned.

For more information about the flow charts, contact Laura Rios, MVAC Co-Chair, (586) 469-6507.

