

Focus Macomb: A Partnership for Economic Development
Health Committee Meeting
May 22, 2007 -- County Administration Building
Summary

Members Present:

Susan Murphy (United Way for SE Michigan)
Joie West (Clinton Township Trustee)
Alisha Maria Baker (Dupont Auto Systems)
Mark J. Brady (St. John Health)
Andrea Cook (Plante Moran)
Rev. Michail T. Curro (Interfaith Center for Racial Justice)
Margaret Diamond (Henry Ford Bi-County Hospital)
James Gillespie (Goodman Factors, Ltd.)
Bryant Goodreau (First Independent Financial Group)
Michael Kaszubski (Extensive Horizons, Inc.)
Anne E. MacIntyre (Community Central Bank)
Mark S. O'Halla (Mount Clemens Regional Medical Center)
Roy Rose (Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick)
Thomas Scott (International Union of Operating Engineers)
Patricia A. Walford (Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center)

Members Missed:

Vasilis K. Pozios ((Universoty of Michigan, Dept. of Psychiatry)
Thomas J. Reed (Catholic Services of Macomb)

Guests:

None

Staff Liaisons: Philis DeSaele, Macomb County Board of Commissioners
Camille Silda, Department of Planning and Economic Development

Staff: Maria Zardis, Susan Bates,

Opening: Co-Chairs Susan Murphy and Joie West opened the meeting at approximately 8:05 a.m.

Maria Zardis and Roy Rose provided a brief overview of the history of Focus Macomb, the accomplishments of the inaugural year and the plans for the coming year.

Highlight: A formal presentation for the Macomb County Board of Commissioners will be scheduled for January 2008. A set of recommendations for improving the economic climate in Macomb from the Health Committee is expected.

Introduction: As a means of kicking off the first committee meeting, each member was asked to introduce themselves and provides some background information about what they would like to see accomplished through Focus Macomb.

Highlight: The diversity of expertise among committee members is impressive! The mix of hospital administrators, benefits specialists, practitioners and those that help to sell insurance products to others will surely help to add balance to the endeavors of this committee.

Guiding Statement and Charge of Focus Macomb: Provided with agenda. Will be posted on website

Overview of the Call to Care Program: Joie West provided a packet and presented information about this group's efforts in 2006 to inventory available health care services and programs in Macomb County. The group used the results of a survey to develop a set of suggestions to streamline services, thereby reducing expenses for all. The presentation prompted some questions:

If part of the purpose of gathering this info was to create a guide for available programs, it is possible that there small businesses and non-profits that should also be included in the grid?

Should the survey be redistributed to re-confirm information?

Could this information be packaged and distributed to business owners in the county as a resource for employees? Making the breadth of services available, especially for those with limited/no coverage, might help to reduce overall expenses.

Several members raised concerns that the "Call to Care" initiative is not directly linked to strengthening the economic climate in Macomb.

Discussion: A lively discussion ensued regarding the rising cost of health care coverage:

Should we survey businesses to learn what they think is most important in terms of health care?

Is there a purchasing group that small business could tap into to reduce expenses? (Yes, it is available through the Detroit Regional Chamber but several members stated that the coverage available is somewhat limited in terms of coverage, has high deductibles and is still very expensive).

There is a missing niche of consumers – those businesses that grow from small to large – how do we help them with their health care needs so that they are motivated to keep their business in Macomb County?

Who is driving the health care system? Is it the providers? The insurance companies? Why is it that insurance companies can dictate they type of care that people receive?

Prioritize Speaker List:: A list of suggested speaker was distributed; each member was asked to prioritize who might be invited to make a presentation to the group. Other speakers suggested:

MEDC as related to their expertise in health care issues of concern to business

Michigan Regulatory Board – what ARE the state statutes as they apply to health care coverage?

Small group reform – what is it?

Panel of coverage providers might be assembled. As a group, FM Health could develop a set of questions (that would be provided to each panel member).

Thought Challenge and Homework: Assigned

Next Meeting: June 12 from 3-5 p.m. at St. Joseph Healthcare (15855 19 Mile Road – west of Garfield) in the McAuley B. Conference Room. Scheduled speaker: Doug Plant, United Way for SE Michigan regarding the 211 program.

Future Meetings: A list of scheduled dates was distributed. Members were asked if they might be able to provide meeting space for approximately 25 people . . . if you are able, please contact Co-chairs Susan Murphy or Joie West.