

**Focus Macomb: A Partnership for Economic Development**  
Health Committee Meeting  
June 12, 2007 – St. Joseph Healthcare  
*Summary*

**Members Present:**

Joie West (Clinton Township Trustee)  
Alisha Maria Baker (Dupont Auto Systems)  
Andrea Cook (Plante Moran)  
Rev. Michail T. Curro (Interfaith Center for Racial Justice)  
Phillis DeSaele (Macomb County Board of Commissioners)  
Bryant Goodreau (First Independent Financial Group)  
Michael Kaszubski (Extensive Horizons, Inc.)  
Mark S. O'Halla (Mount Clemens Regional Medical Center)  
Bill Pozios (University of Michigan – Department of Psychiatry)  
Thomas Reed (Catholic Services of Michigan)  
Patricia A. Walford (Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center)

**Members Missed:**

Mark Brady (St. John Health)  
Margaret Dimond (Henry Ford Bi-County Hospital)  
James Gillespie (Goodman Factors, Ltd.)  
Anne MacIntyre (Community Central Bank)  
Susan Murphy (United Way)  
Thomas Scott (International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 324)

**Guests:**

Bill Sullivan, Operations Manager – United Way 2-1-1 Program

**Staff:** Stephen Cassin, Camille Silda, Cheryl Bushbaker

**Opening:** Co-Chair Joie West opened the meeting at approximately 3:05 p.m.

Stephen Cassin expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners to Health Committee members for being a part of Focus Macomb. Focus Macomb, which is made up of five sub-committees, has been in existence for about one year. The County, with the input of the business community, institutions, and educational facilities, need to create a viable economic development strategy for Macomb County.

Approximately one year ago, there was a Study conducted by Intellitrends. They were commissioned by the Department of Planning and Economic Development to do a target industry study. We recognized that automotive manufacturing was on the decline and needed to attract key sectors of business throughout the world. The key issue of this Study was an extensive survey in research as to why businesses chose to do business in Macomb County.

Bryant Goodreau (First Independent Financial Group) distributed an article found on the internet regarding a health care plan (originating in Wisconsin) for small businesses. Discussion ensued.

## Bill Sullivan: 2-1-1 Operations Manager

A universal three-digit calling number for information and referral systems that better links users to vital health and human service resources. Over the past year, three of four callers to 2-1-1 sought assistance with utility bills, finding food, housing or other financial guidance. About 25 percent of callers sought health care, personal or family support services, and other nurturing resources. Through 2-1-1, United Way has the ability to track this kind of data in real-time, charting usage trends that local planners can use to deploy resources more efficiently. United Way has been using this system for approximately 16 months with 116,000 incoming calls. The projection for the next year is close to 200,000. 90% of the 2-1-1 Program is funded by corporate funding, 5% by grants and 5% by United Way.

The top ten service requests of 2-1-1 Program in Macomb County are: Utility Assistance, Food Pantries, General Information, Rent Payment Assistance, Job Search/Placement, Housing Search Assistance, Community Clinics, General furniture, General Legal Aid, Low Income Subsidized Private Rental Housing.

*Highlight:* Mr. Sullivan discussed in detail his research with the homeless people (approximately 600) in Macomb County. United Way's 2-1-1 Program can assist them in a number of different ways.

### Homework Review:

#### How is health related to Economic Development

- Good health necessary to thrive
- Barrier to business development
- Cost Carrier – Cost providers needed
- Decreased productivity with poor mental health
- Health industry advertising
- Preventive health services (solution with education)
- Decrease use of hospital services
- Health and economic development inseparable
- Hiring practices – part-time and contingent

#### Define Health

- Absence of disease and pain
- Health – mindset (mental and physical)
- Objective measure and how you feel
- Complete state of mental and physical
- Combine health and wellness
- Need good mental health
- Wellness – quality of life (Subjective experiences and behavioral)
- Productive in society
- Emotional/spiritual – something that is limiting productivity

#### What tools do you offer to participants

- Coding – how do people understand (doctor giving diagnosis and how do insurance companies code)
- Transparency with health care costs
- Hybrid plans – offered to businesses
- Pre-existing conditions – Federal guidelines – HIPPA
- Mental care health benefits and substance abuse
- What to do with help for substance abuse – legal ramifications
- Quality indicators regarding physicians

What is driving the costs so high

- Coordination of services (redundancy)
- Educational programs for proper utilization – what education do you give to the employers for employees – small business
- Cost drivers – how can we lower to make healthcare more affordable
- Carriers – what are they and what can we do with our legislators
- Health care has become a commodity and is a business

Discussion ensued on the direction of this committee. We need to make recommendations with greater economic stability. We want to make Macomb County more attractive to small businesses. There is a need to identify problems before there is a solution.

Macomb County is also the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest county with senior growth population – this will have a great impact for the future. Healthcare providers are the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> largest employers in the County. This is a huge implication the Board of Commissioners should be aware of.

**Next Meeting:** July 10 from 3-5 p.m. at Community Central Bank – 120 Main Street, Mount Clemens. Scheduled speaker: Gary Petroni, Southeast Michigan Health Association.

Health Committee is interested in hearing about healthcare trends, eldercare trends and demographics as well as utilization in the county. As discussed, the group is interested in learning about who/what drives the system.