



For Immediate Release

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County Executive finds a way to keep valuable health plan

The new form of County government has provided its residents a greater level of transparency. This transparency has given the County Executive's Office an opportunity to review practices of the prior administration and save the valuable Macomb Health Plan.

Funding for the nonprofit health care plan for uninsured Macomb County residents was a concern after Hackel's team discovered that since 2006, the County used the matching dollars from MHP to balance the budget. These payments were treated as a new revenue source rather than a reimbursement to existing programs. The result was an accumulated receivable from MHP of about \$5 million. In addition, the 2011 budget relied on another \$1.7 million from MHP in annual revenues that do not exist.

Macomb County's Finance Director, Peter Provenzano, worked diligently to prepare a proactive plan to get the \$5 million receivable paid back to the county over the next 10 years. Provenzano also worked to realign the relationship with the MHP to preserve programs in a fashion that would not negatively impact the County budget. The new proposal negotiated by the county with MHP will correct the error and recover any potential loss in revenue.

"MHP is such a great program," said Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel. "That's why we went to great lengths to ensure it continues to provide health care in the county for those residents who most need it."

In 2004, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners approved a partnership with MHP that brings more federal funding to the local community specifically to provide health care to those in need of assistance who meet certain age and income restrictions. Since that time, the program has helped thousands of Macomb County residents.

The Macomb County Executive Office provides direct access on online to detailed financial information. Visit www.macombcountymi.gov/finance/reportsdocuments.htm.

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