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From the Director

Spring is just around the corner, and that time of the year always means one thing for MDHHS; its budget time again.

Last month, Gov. Snyder unveiled his fiscal year 2018 budget recommendations for the Department, which include a proposed \$25.5 billion budget and \$4.5 billion in general fund spending. Since then, your Deputy Directors and I have begun making budgetary presentations to the Appropriations Subcommittees in the House and Senate.



I'm excited about the budget proposals this year because they provide increased funding for many of our Department's top priorities, such as the Pathways to Potential program, state psychiatric hospitals and Adult Services. I am optimistic the Legislature will provide increased funding to hire additional staff for our Adult Services program, resulting in much needed caseload reduction for those offering adult protection services.

I am gratified to see continued support for the Healthy Michigan Program, which helps subsidize health care for more than 600,000 low-income Michigan residents. We are seeing this continued support even though the level of federal support for the program is dropping – as originally projected – to 95% in calendar year 2017 and 94% in calendar year 2018.

There are proposed funding increases in many other areas, including clothing allowances for needy children, foster parent recruitment, efforts to help foster youth make the transition to adulthood, homeless shelters and measures to reduce exposure of children to lead. All of these initiatives underscore our continuing efforts to protect our most vulnerable citizens and provide stronger futures for Michigan residents. More detailed information about the budget is available on Page 4.

Also, congratulations to Christopher Corbat, a Pathways to Potential success

Continued on page 2

Don't forget to check out the latest Director's monthly video posted at the top of Inside MDHHS.

coach in Midland County, and Monica Bowman, director of operations for the MDHHS Office of Child Support, for recently receiving Outstanding Mentor Awards. Christopher's efforts to pioneer the Pathways program in Midland County has helped to significantly reduce truancy rates in public schools. Monica has been exemplary in mentoring her employees, bringing out the leadership qualities in them.

I wish to thank all of those who completed the 2017 Employee Survey last month, helping us surpass our goal of 62% participation. This year, 67% of the staff completed the survey, compared to 56% during the last survey in 2015. That's a great achievement! Please know that we will carefully review all of the survey results as we make future plans for the Department, including improving employee engagement programs. Your input will be critical.

As warmer weather arrives, please go outside and enjoy the longer days. I hope that everyone has a great March!

Employees Should Take New Health Equity Training

MDHHS employees are strongly encouraged to complete a new web-based training that is designed to help them to improve health equity and lessen health disparities in Michigan.

The training, which became available March 1, can be accessed through the [Learning Center](#) at Inside MDHHS. The training, which will take between 45 minutes and one hour, consists of four easy-to-use learning modules and can be exited, saved and returned to as needed. Please see [these instructions for employees](#) and [these for contractors](#) on accessing the course.

Health equity is essentially the idea that everyone in the state has a fair opportunity to live a long, healthy life.

This training will help employees better understand the factors that contribute to health inequities, the populations that are most affected, the impact of health inequities and how MDHHS employees can improve the health equity for state residents. This training has been in development since 2015.

Much of the training relates back to the purpose for the creation of MDHHS as well as the department's work going forward. Key aspects of the training include:

- Conveying that MDHHS was created to focus on better serving individuals based on their needs. To do so, much of our efforts has centered on improving their experience working with our department and improving our processes to better meet their individual needs.
- Recognizing and understanding the inequities residents face, understanding how to be culturally competent and applying that understanding in developing our processes and interacting with residents.
- Applying a health equity lens to our everyday work, integrated service delivery efforts and our overall perspective when working with residents. This will greatly enhance our ability to fulfill our mission and vision to better serve the state of Michigan.

Veterans Receive Improved Service in Collaborative Effort in Macomb County

A successful effort to integrate MDHHS and Veterans Affairs offices at one location in Macomb County is one example of MDHHS's emphasis on customer-oriented service and interagency collaboration.

This effort, developed by MDHHS's Office of Interagency Collaboration, in partnership with Macomb County MDHHS and Macomb County Veterans Affairs, is designed to provide a host of MDHHS and veterans services to veterans at one location and help ensure they receive all the assistance to which they are entitled.



Organizers hope the program will help reverse a long-term state trend in which Michigan veterans receive fewer federal benefits than in other states and serve as a model for other counties. A 2010 study found that Michigan veterans ranked at the bottom of the list in the amount of federal assistance they receive, per capita, among those in 53 states and U.S. territories.

The goals of the effort, which launched in 2011, are to:

- Increase the number of MDHHS recipients/veterans applying for veterans services.
- Take advantage of the co-location of both offices in the same building to enhance communication and cross referrals.
- Accurately identify all veterans at the application and open cases with MDHHS.
- Cross train staff of both agencies on veterans and MDHHS services.
- Establish a single point of contact for county veterans departments to work with MDHHS in assisting veterans.
- Provide a benefit model for veterans to demonstrate the increased assistance level with veterans benefits compared to merely MDHHS benefits.

In implementing this new integrated service, the most significant hurdle to overcome were policies related to client confidentiality, and much time was spent resolving this issue.

Under the process that emerged, MDHHS employees do their best to identify individuals who are veterans and then work with other agencies to ensure veterans receive all the benefits to which they are entitled. To help with this process, MDHHS has access to the Public Assistance Reporting Information System, which gathers information about clients and eligible benefits offered by the state, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and federal employers.



As a result of these integrated efforts, veteran services and MDHHS employees have been able to identify new federal benefits for clients who are veterans. Since the program's launch in 2011, MDHHS has identified more than 1,200 veterans in the system and shared information with Macomb County Veterans Services for more than 600 of them.

More than 44 percent have filed claims for benefits they didn't know were available. Not all veterans wish to file for Veterans Affairs services and benefits for a myriad of reasons. It is not a mandate for veterans to apply for Veterans Affairs benefits and services, even though these benefits are rightfully theirs for serving their country. Many of them indicated that the process is just too cumbersome and not fair to them. So consequently, they leave resources intended for them unclaimed. This collaborative effort has proven its value to the sustainability and improved quality of life for veterans.

See Veterans on Page 10

Proposed MDHHS Budget Provides Better Future for Vulnerable Children and Adults

A proposed \$25.5 billion budget for MDHHS provides funding for many of the department's top priorities in fiscal year 2018, including foster family recruitment and increased staffing for state psychiatric hospitals and adult services.



“This budget, as proposed, not only provides sustained funding for MDHHS to continue to provide core services enabling Michigan residents to lead healthier, more self-sufficient lives, but it expands funding in several key areas,” said Nick Lyon, MDHHS director. “With increased funding for Adults Services, state psychiatric hospitals, homeless shelters and foster parent recruitment, we can offer a better future for many vulnerable children and adults.”

The budget, which includes \$4.5 billion in general fund spending and is proposed by Gov. Rick Snyder, is now before the Michigan House and Senate. Director Nick Lyon and administration deputy directors have made budget presentations to House and Senate subcommittees. These budget presentations are available [at this website](#).

A final budget approved by the state Legislature and signed by Gov. Snyder will take effect Oct. 1.

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- **Healthy Michigan Plan** – General fund appropriation of \$200.4 million for the state's share of supporting the program, which helps subsidize health care for more than 600,000 low-income residents. The level of federal support for the program is dropping to 95 percent in calendar year 2017 and 94 percent in calendar year 2018.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** – Funding of \$2.7 million to increase the annual clothing allowance for at-risk children from \$140 to \$200.
- **State psychiatric hospitals** – Funding of \$7.2 million (\$4.9 million general fund) to add 72 acute care staff at state psychiatric facilities to better address the needs of patients.
- **Pathways to Potential** – Funding of \$5.6 million (\$3.3 million general fund) to expand the Pathways to Potential program to new schools. The program places MDHHS employees in schools and other facilities to help connect families to available resources and improve their chances of success.



See MDHHS Budget on Page 10

AASA's Steiner Coauthors Paper on Implementing the Savvy Caregiver Program



Sally Steiner, project director for Creating Confident Caregivers® for MDHHS Aging and Adult Services Agency, has coauthored a paper published in December's issue of the *Journal of Applied Gerontology* that describes the implementation of a dementia caregiver program in Michigan.

Steiner, who is a licensed master social worker, coauthored the paper with Carey Wexler Sherman, PhD, of the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, and Savvy Caregiver program co-developer. The paper, *Implementing Sustainable Evidence-Based Interventions in the Community: A Fidelity-Focused Training Framework for the Savvy Caregiver Program*, is about the program's innovative methods to ensure success.

The Savvy Caregiver program is an evidence-based program for family members caring for a person with dementia living at home. The program is person-centered and empowers caregivers by increasing their knowledge of dementia, caregiving skills, and improving their well-being.

Michigan's framework for implementing the Savvy Caregiver program is Creating Confident Caregivers.

Between 2008 and 2015, Aging and Adult Services provided more than 500 Savvy Caregiver programs to 4,732 caregiver participants, under the federal Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program. Not only did the program attain measurable benefits for caregiver participants, 98.8 percent indicated they would recommend the program to other dementia caregivers.

In Michigan, Creating Confident Caregivers ensures the program is provided to participants as it was intended by its developers. Program consistency ensures that participants receive the same knowledge and training to help them care for their person regardless of where they live across the state. Creating Confident Caregivers also allows program evaluators to clearly see the link between the program's implementation and the positive outcomes for those who participate by ensuring fidelity.

Creating Confident Caregivers is now an approved caregiver service for Michigan's aging network and continues to be provided statewide. You can learn more about Creating Confident Caregivers by visiting [this Aging and Adult Services website](#).

MAIN Financial System Will See Changes July 31



Does this look familiar?

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***** WARNING PLEASE READ CAREFULLY! STATE OF MICHIGAN PRODUCTION LPAR *****

THIS SYSTEM IS GOVERNMENT FUNDED AND FOR AUTHORIZED USERS ONLY. THIS SYSTEM AND
ALL RELATED EQUIPMENT, NETWORK DEVICES, AND INTERNET ACCESS ARE FOR AUTHORIZED
USE ONLY. FILES AND DATA STORED ON THIS SYSTEM MAY INCLUDE SENSITIVE INFORMATION
PROTECTED BY FEDERAL AND STATE STATUTES. ALL COMPUTER SYSTEMS MAY BE MONITORED
FOR LAWFUL PURPOSES, INCLUDING AUTHORIZED ACCESS, SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT, SECURITY
PROCEDURES, AND PROTECTION AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS AND USE. ALL INFORMATION
PLACED ON OR SENT OVER THIS SYSTEM MAY BE MONITORED - INFORMATION MAY BE COPIED
EXAMINED, RECORDED, AND USED FOR AUTHORIZED PURPOSES. UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITY ON
THIS SYSTEM IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND SUBJECT TO ACTION BY GOVERNMENT OR LAW
ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES THAT MAY RESULT IN CRIMINAL, CIVIL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE
PENALTIES. THERE IS NO PRESUMPTION OF PRIVACY WHILE USING THIS SYSTEM.

USE OF THIS SYSTEM CONSTITUTES YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THESE TERMS
AND CONDITIONS. TYPE SELECTION FROM LIST, PRESS ENTER TO ACCEPT OR ALT-F4 TO EXIT

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      SMPCICS      SMDCICS      SMECICS      SMPTSO

YOUR IP ADDRESS: 10.25.220.34      YOUR TELNET PORT: 55758
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MA|+ a                                19/005
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If so, you may be a MAIN user and this information is for you:

Those using the Michigan Administrative Information Network for procurement will use the Statewide Integrated Governmental Management Applications (SIGMA) starting July 31.

The Michigan Administrative Information Network is the system the State of Michigan uses for all financial transactions, such as vendor payments and procurement. SIGMA is the new statewide financial and time tracking system.

In addition to replacing the Michigan Administrative Information Network, SIGMA will also replace the Data Collection and Distribution System, Mi Time and Expense, Buy4Michigan, the Information Technology Resource for the Acquisition of Commodities (iTRAC) and other agency-specific systems.

Starting July 31, new functionality with SIGMA Budget, as well as the Procurement and Vendor Self Service components, will go live.

On Oct. 1, the state will also implement its Core Financial components such as accounts payable, accounts receivable and general ledger. Then later in October, the state will change how employees will enter their time and leave, as well as being paid. This part of SIGMA is called TELL (Time, Expense, Leave and Labor Distribution). TELL training will take place in September, so employees will know how to enter their time.

Please see [SIGMA 101 PDFs](#) to learn more about SIGMA and its impact to Michigan employees.

Dr. Candyce Shields Honored by National Academy

Dr. Candyce Shields, an MDHHS psychologist, has been honored with The Distinguished Contribution to Forensic Psychology award, which is granted annually by the American Academy of Forensic Psychology.

Dr. Shields, assistant director of Evaluation Services for the Center for Forensic Psychiatry, will accept the award at the American Psychology–Law Society meeting this month in Seattle, where she will make a presentation entitled, “Diversity, Resolve and Professional Development.”

Dr. Robert Cochrane, president of the academy, said she received the honor because of her tireless work in helping the academy, particularly as board treasurer, teaching workshops, and her exemplary service on the American Board of Forensic Psychology examination faculty, which ensures that board certification in forensic psychology denotes competency and integrity.

Cochrane said Dr. Shields has been a champion and role model for early career applicants and others seeking board certification.

[Here is a list of previous psychologists](#) who have been recognized in past years.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Shields!



Given the concerns about the water situation in Flint, many MDHHS employees, particularly those in local offices, may be fielding phone calls from the public either inquiring about the situation or asking how they can help.

- In most cases, employees should be directing the public to www.michigan.gov/flintwater. Information about locations where people can receive water filters, bottled water, and more is available at this site.
- Information on how people can donate or volunteer to help Flint residents is available at www.helpforflint.com.
- Those with questions about lead can be referred to a fact sheet that contains much useful information about limiting lead exposure in the home and filtering lead from water. The fact sheet can be found by clicking [here](#).
- Those in the public with other questions are encouraged to call United Way 2-1-1.
- Flint residents who need crisis counseling can call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990.
- Flint water-related calls from the media should be referred to the Joint Information Center hotline at 888-EMD-TODAY (888-363-8632).

www.michigan.gov/flintwater

Pathways Coach Organizes ‘Telethon’ to Boost Student Attendance and Funding for Pontiac Schools



Pictured above is Michelle Peguese (in red) and four volunteers making calls to parents during “Count Day.”

An innovative idea by a Pathways to Potential success coach recently helped the Pontiac School District land an extra \$90,000 in funding because of higher student attendance.

To boost student attendance for Whitman Elementary School, Michelle Peguese, an MDHHS success coach, organized a “Count Day Telethon” after pitching the idea to the school principal. Count Day is an annual day that measures student attendance to establish state funding levels.

Before Count Day, she recruited parents and community volunteers to call the homes of absent students that day and developed slips to be filled out by teachers for absent students that morning and returned to Peguese.

That’s when the hard work began. That same day, Peguese and four volunteers began making calls to the homes of the 19 students reported absent. They spoke to parents and guardians about the importance of their child’s school attendance every day, the impact absences have on their child’s school success and the funding impact the absences have on the district for this specific day.

Each child counted that day resulted in \$7,500 in funding for the Pontiac School District.

As a result of the team calls, 12 of the 19 students reported absent came to school in enough time to be counted as present for the day. This helped the school district obtain an additional \$90,000 in district funding, which will be used for educational efforts in the district.

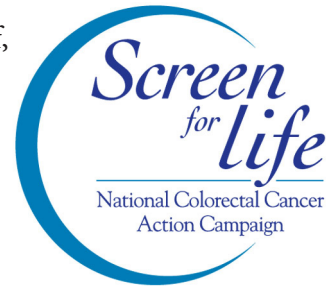
Due to its success, Peguese is planning to hold this event every year and is encouraging Pathways success coaches across the state to adopt the model.

Michelle Peguese, congratulations on a job well done!

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March is the perfect time to ask yourself, family and friends if it is time for colorectal cancer screening.

Colorectal cancer remains the nation's second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths for men and women. Early detection is key to discovering cancer before a person experiences any signs or symptoms. Regular screenings save lives by identifying cancers when they are most curable and treatment is most likely to be successful.



In Michigan in 2017, the American Cancer Society estimates there will be 4,660 cases of colorectal cancer and 1,680 deaths due to the disease.

Here's what you need to know:

- Many cases of colorectal cancer have no symptoms especially early on when it can be more effectively treated.
- Adults age 50 and older should be regularly screened for colorectal cancer.
- Colorectal cancer risk increases after age 50. However, if you have a family history of colorectal cancer or pre-cancerous polyps, talk with your doctor about starting testing before age 50.
- There are several screening options available including colonoscopy and simple take-home tests.
- Through proper colorectal cancer screening, doctors can find and remove hidden growths (called "polyps") in the colon before they become cancerous. Removing polyps can prevent cancer altogether.

Unfortunately many people aren't getting tested because they don't believe they are at risk or they aren't aware of the different testing and screening options. The importance of early detection cannot be overstated. This Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, make it a priority to discuss the different testing options with your provider.

Many health insurance plans cover lifesaving preventive tests. To find out the details of what colorectal cancer screening is covered, check your plan. For the uninsured, preventing colorectal cancer or finding it early doesn't have to be expensive. There are simple, affordable tests available for colorectal cancer screening.

If you have questions or are uninsured, call 1-844-I-GOT-SCR (446-8727) for more information about testing and prevention. Or visit www.michigan.gov/cancer.

*Screen
for
life*

MDHHS Budget | from page 3

- **Response in Flint** – An appropriation of \$13.4 million (\$1 million general fund) to support services in Flint. This includes distribution of healthy food through food pantries, outreach and support services for new mothers, physical and behavioral support services provided through Flint schools and toxicological services.
- **Child lead poisoning** – A general fund appropriation of \$2 million to begin to address the recommendations of the Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board. Its recommendations last year included expanding blood lead level testing and enhanced inspection and monitoring efforts.
- **Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative** – Funding of \$1.2 million to expand the program to all 83 counties. The program is designed to help foster youth age 14 and older make the successful transition to adulthood.
- **Foster parent recruitment** – Funding of \$2.3 million (\$1.7 million general fund) to establish regional resource teams to recruit, train and support foster families.
- **Adult Services** – Funding of \$11.3 million (\$8.1 million general fund) to increase the number of Adult Services workers who provide adult protective services, independent living services and adult community placement services for the elderly and those with disabilities.
- **Homeless shelters** – Funding of \$3.7 million to increase reimbursement rates from \$12 to \$16 per night for the state’s network of shelters that serve homeless people.
- **Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans** – Funding of \$45 million (\$14.2 million general fund) to support an increase in wages for direct-care workers involved with Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans, which provide critical hands-on support, personal care services and mobility support to eligible Michigan residents.

Veterans | from page 4

Aside from federal benefits offered through Veterans Affairs, Macomb Veterans Services has been able to identify sources of assistance not readily known to MDHHS workers including the Veterans Relief Fund and the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. Previously, many veterans did not know they could apply for the Trust Fund and Relief Fund Emergency Grants program, which helps provide veterans with many needed resources.

There are many notable successes since the inception of the project. For instance, a woman visited Monroe County MDHHS offices last year to seek State Emergency Relief for help with utility shut-off notices, and she voiced concerns about losing her home to foreclosure. MDHHS staff learned the woman’s husband was a veteran, who was ill and had not applied for veterans benefits; staff members reached out to Macomb County Veterans Services, which was able to provide assistance allowing utility payments to be made and shut-off avoided.

This collaboration also resulted in the veteran applying and receiving veteran’s pension benefits that provided more financial security for the couple.

Working together, staff from both agencies have been successful in streamlining the referral process and working quickly to get rightfully earned benefits in place for veterans in need. For these efforts, the Office of Interagency Collaboration, Macomb County MDHHS and Macomb County Veterans Affairs were given an Achievement Award in 2014 by the National Association of Counties.



Recognizing Our MDHHS Military & Veterans

Updates



Many of our finest men and women are currently serving or have bravely served our country. Let's remember to thank and honor those who have served and to keep those currently serving and their family members in our thoughts and prayers as we hope for their safety. Names in **red** are new additions. Names in **blue** are status changes.

MDHHS Employees Currently Serving

Employee

Gaines, Jennora
Patel, Nilima

Work Location

Dist Office North Central CFS
Washtenaw County

Branch of Service

Michigan Air National Guard
Army Reserves

MDHHS Employees Who Have Served

Employee

Andringa, Jana
London, Melissa

Work Location

Center for Forensic Psychiatry
Van Buren County

MDHHS Family Members Serving

Employee

Work Location

Relation

Branch of Service

Status

No changes/additions this month

For the full lists of **Employees Currently Serving**, **Employees Who Have Served** and **Family Members Serving** follow this link:

<http://inside.michigan.gov/dhs/Tools/EmpRecog/Pages/Military.aspx>

If you would like your name added to or removed from the list, please email Jason Holben at: holbenj@michigan.gov.