

# Livingston HSCB

HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

## LIVINGSTON FACTS

- Livingston County youth initiate alcohol use at an average age 13.3 years and marijuana at an average age of 14 years.
- Livingston has a higher percent of crashes involving alcohol when compared to Washtenaw or Michigan as a whole.
- Youth 12-17 years of age in Livingston County perceive greater parental disapproval of alcohol and marijuana use compared to Washtenaw County youth, or youth nationally.

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## What's New in Livingston?

The Substance Abuse Monitoring Assessment & Recommendation Team (SMART), a Livingston/Washtenaw County collaborative dedicated to reviewing and monitoring substance use trends presented at LESA information gathered by local surveys that describes the health indicators of residents impacted by substances on June 22, 2011.

The audience included rep-

resentatives from the Livingston County Commissioners, the media, law enforcement, education, nonprofits, hospitals and the faith community— all eager to find out more about local data.

The presenters shared countless trends, shocking statistics, and inspiring new concepts that Livingston is embracing to prevent early substance use, increase parent awareness & boost

disapproval of misuse.

Livingston is on the cutting edge of substance abuse treatment as the Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) develops. This model embraces peer support and community based solutions over inpatient treatment programs. For more information visit: <http://www.co.livingston.mi.us/hscb/SubstanceAbuse/default.htm> and select the SMART Community Focus Report.

## Collaboration Works!

The Livingston County Hunger Council's Summer Lunch Bunch Program spearheaded by the Livingston County Salvation Army was a HUGE success! During the program, countless volunteer hours were donated to

distribute 1,264 hot meals prepared by Livingston Senior Nutrition (Meals on Wheels), and give out 844 "pantry packs," put together by Gleaners Food Bank (providing an additional 6 meals for home). The meals served this year far surpasses the meals provided to low-income children and families served last year, all in all 91 families were served by



the program this year. The Summer Lunch Bunch Program aims to close the hunger gap for children in Livingston County by replacing the meals kids miss during the summer months for families that receive free and reduced lunch at school. For more information about closing the hunger gap in Livingston County contact the Livingston Hunger Council.



# HSCB Groups Hard at Work



“There was not an empty seat on the LETS bus.”



Livingston youth advocate for continued funding at the “dome” with Cindy Denby.

The Youth In Transition (YIT) Workgroup of the Human Services Collaborative Body hosted their second annual *Community Connect On Wheels* June 1, 2011.

This event offers young people in the community that are approaching age 18 the opportunity to learn more about community services in a fun environment catered to teens.

There was not an empty seat on the bus provided by LETS that transported

youth around the community to organizations such as Michigan Works!, Cleary Community College, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA), Lansing Community College (LCC) Extension, the Department of Human Services, and Planned Parenthood.

At each stop youth got hands-on information and a chance to experience the process of how to access and benefit from the various services, a process that can

be overwhelming and intimidating at any age. Additionally, the young people were given a chance to ask questions in a neutral and educational format.

After the community tour the youth were dropped off at the new Connection Drop-In Center for pizza donated by Hungry Howie's. Youth relaxed and talked after their outing, many received raffle prizes provided by the community. For more information about YIT contact: [lbeaudry@cmhliv.org](mailto:lbeaudry@cmhliv.org)

## Dollars to Watch...



On April 26, 2011 young people from The Connection Youth Services, a program of the Livingston Family Center, went to Lansing to advocate for continued funding support for Homeless and Runaway Youth.

Livingston youth met with elected officials Bill Rogers, Joe Hune, Cindy Denby and Mike Rogers to share their stories and

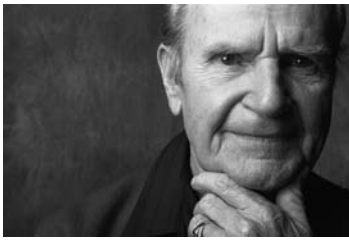
provide data that detailed how early intervention and prevention helps keep youth out of the court systems, foster care, and safe from other far worse fates.

The Connection youth urged legislators to continue adequate funding for at-risk and homeless teens. While this information was essential for legislators to hear, this opportunity also empow-

ered the youth to practice exercising their rights to advocate for themselves and promote programs, like The Connection that helped them gain the skills necessary to avoid an adult life of chronic unemployment and homelessness.

To join the youth in their quest you can contact your representatives and let them know how important programs like The Connection are to the Livingston community and urge them to continue funding the Homeless Youth & Runway Act managed by DHS.

# Livingston County Community Taking Action



**T**wenty-five older adults and advocates from Livingston County traveled to Lansing on June 15, 2011 to celebrate Older Michiganians Day.

The fourth annual statewide advocacy day gave the County contingent an opportunity to meet their legislators, State Senator Joe Hune, State Representatives Cindy Denby and Bill Rogers and urged them to make policy and budget decisions that are senior-friendly. Members of the Gregory and

Hartland Senior Centers were among those who participated in the days festivities. The Gregory group was able to reserve a LETS (Livingston Essential Transportation Services) bus to make the trip to Lansing possible.

The legislative platform of Older Michiganians Day 2011 asked legislators to:

- Prevent or delay dependence on costly Medicaid and institutional care by funding their programs such as home-delivered meals, in-home care, caregiver respite, and senior volunteers; and expand funding for the MI Choice home-based Medicaid nursing home alternative.
- Promote a stronger Michigan economy through provision of

affordable and accessible housing options, reliable transportation options, and person-centered health care models that improve quality, promote wellness, and achieve cost savings.

- Protect vulnerable older adults by passing laws that encourage reporting of physical and financial elder abuse, and increase penalties for abusers.

Over 750 older adults and advocates from throughout Michigan traveled to Lansing, and seniors and caregivers who did not attend the event were encouraged to contact their elected officials by phone, letter or e-mail.

For more information, check out the website [www.oldermichiganiansday.com](http://www.oldermichiganiansday.com).

**“Investigations of complaints of elder abuse have increased 31% since 2009.”**  
**-AAAIB 2011**



# Livingston Stories of Hope

**L**ivingston County Community Mental Health is pleased to promote the *Willard Suitcase Exhibit: The Lives They Left Behind* hosted by the Howell Carnegie Library August 2-September 2, 2011.

This captivating exhibit provides a chilling visual story straight from the attic of the New York Willard Psychiatric Center that closed in 1995 after being operational for over 125 years. Countless suitcases and bags were discovered upon the closure of the facility

containing the remnant belongings of the thousands of men and women who were committed there— many involuntarily for their entire adult lives.

The parcels share the stories of the lives that the Willard residents left behind as nurses, business owners, soldiers and promising youth and bring to light the shadows behind the ancient practice of institutionalizing community members with mental illness.

The treatment of individuals

with mental illness has rapidly improved in the past few decades. Instead of isolation and sadness clients are able to embrace self-determination and the dignity of clients with mental illness is valued. The exhibit is an example of how remembering the past can help guide the course of future action.

Everyone is invited to this timeless display, showcasing remnants of the past that bring with them hope for the future.





## Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

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*Ensuring a system of support for members of our community.*

### What is the Purpose of the Livingston County HSCB?

The Livingston HSCB started in 1989 and was officially recognized as the county Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body by the state and county Board of Commissioners in 1995. Now, referred to as a Community Collaborative by the state, the HSCB is comprised of 26 appointed members that work together to coordinate health and human services across systems. The HSCB also:

- Develops strategies and programs to meet current and future needs
- Fiscally manages state-funded collaborative initiatives
- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative projects

The HSCB does this work through established committees and workgroups which have specific goals and objectives to complete. The HSCB and most workgroups meet monthly and consist of representatives from public and nonprofit organizations, business, and interested residents of the county. To learn about the work of the HSCB, contact Lindsay Beaudry at [lbeaudry@cmhliv.org](mailto:lbeaudry@cmhliv.org).

*"Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much."*

## Events in Livingston

- The Livingston County Foster, Adoptive & Kinship Service Workgroup hosted their FAKS Picnic on July 14, 2011 from 5:30-8PM in Howell, MI. Foster, adoptive and kinship families were welcomed to attend for fishing, picnic and fun! Over 40 FAKS family members attended. A BIG thanks to the Gronows for donating the location for this event.
- Livingston Education Service Agency held its annual Backpacks for Kids event on August 18, 2011 from 6PM-8PM at the LESA Building located at 1425 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843. Over 1,000 backpacks were shared. The Livingston Homeless Continuum of Care provided additional resources including health and safety information and products, food, books and refreshments to augment the LESA effort.
- On August 11th Gleaners Community Food Bank held their Livingston Iron Chef fundraiser on Thursday, August 11, 2011 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m at Bordine's in Howell, MI.
- The Livingston County United Way hosted their Annual Day of Caring Event on August 17, 2011. Countless local residents were assisted and many more volunteered to be part of this annual community tradition.