

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ALLEGAN COUNTY**  
**MULTI-AGENCY COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL (MACC)**  
Allegan County Agencies Working Together  
to Form a Partnership with the Citizens of Allegan County

*"To Enrich Allegan County by Providing Leadership, Administration  
and Coordinated Community Services"*

**More than 3000 served through coordinated efforts**

The Allegan County Multi-Agency Collaborative Council (MACC) is a collaborative group of health and human service agencies engaging in new ideas to improve service delivery, bridge gaps in services, reduce duplication, and improve service delivery. There are more than 50 members of MACC representing social service organizations, non-profits, schools, county government, law enforcement, health, and businesses. Over 3000 residents have received housing assistance, free health services, free mental health services, and improved school readiness skills as a result of coordinated efforts among agencies.

In 2005, MACC expanded beyond networking and collaboration to design workteams based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. These workteams include: Health, Children, Teens, Social/Intellectual, and Basic Needs. Each workteam brings agencies together to address common goals and initiatives based on the population they serve and community needs. The administrative services that support MACC are provided by United Way. The Social/Intellectual workteam is currently under reorganization and will be re-evaluating its focus and direction.

Members of the Health workteam engage in efforts to improve health services delivery. In 2012, they will assist in the development of plans of community issues that have social implications—such as the Suicide Prevention Plan, build a volunteer base of health professionals in order to attain the goal of offering free healthcare to the uninsured and underinsured, and improve access to free health services.

Childrens' workteam members collaborate to ensure coordinated care among providers of early childhood services. For 2012, they will focus on building a network of training workshops for service providers, such as trauma training, offer resources to improve child safety, and assess factors affecting childhood obesity.

Teen workteam recognizes issues that affect adolescents in our community and have improved visibility of teen services through the establishment of a service directory. This year, members will build a mentoring program to prevent adolescent suicide.

Members of the Basic Needs workteam continue to engage social service agencies to bring a coordinated effort to address housing assistance needs, reduce homelessness, and increase project-based vouchers to improve access to affordable housing.

In addition, MACC members are educated on transportation needs/issues and engage in efforts to improve advocacy with legislators. Each member brings a unique set of skills and knowledge to the table and provides innovative ideas to address community needs. The MACC meets the first Friday of each month from 11:30AM-1PM at the Human Services Building Karl Zimmerman Room 3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Allegan, MI 49010. For more information, please contact Rashmi Travis, MACC Chair at 269-673-5411 or [rtravis@allegancounty.org](mailto:rtravis@allegancounty.org).

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