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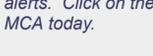
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**MCA's Mission**

To serve member agencies and strengthen their capacity to alleviate the causes and circumstances of poverty.

Announcements**We're Using Attendify for Summer Conference**

But it will be a little different than last year. Please join us during our webinar on Attendify, June 13 at 3:00. To register [click here](#).

For a full list of announcements, visit [MCA's website](#).

Upcoming Events

CAPLAW National Training Conference, June 20-22, Albuquerque NM - for details [click here](#).

MCA Summer Conference, July 10-12, Crystal Mountain Resort - for details [click here](#).

Community Action Partnership Annual Convention, August 28-31, Denver CO- for details [click here](#).

For a full list of events, visit [MCA's calendar](#).

Did you know?

Michigan residents can replace lost or missing Social Security cards through a free, online service.

Begin by creating a my account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount and then follow the online instructions. Replacement cards can be ordered through the website if you qualify for the service.

Catalyst welcomes input, story ideas

Is there a story or issue you'd like to see covered in Catalyst?

Let us know what's happening in your agency or region. Success stories? Recent events? People news?

We welcome your input and feedback. Please send your comments and ideas [here](#).

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Are You Registered? Deadline Nears for Summer Conference

The joint MCA-BCAEO summer conference is almost here! We'll be gathering at Crystal Mountain Resort in beautiful up North Michigan, July 10-12. Our registration deadline is June 29, after which all registrations will have to be done onsite. To register on line and to see an updated conference schedule, breakout session descriptions, and how to donate items for our live and silent auctions, please visit our web site: <https://mcac.memberclicks.net/annual-conference-1>

Once again, we will use a mobile phone app for our program and schedule. Be sure to register and attend the upcoming webinar on how to download and use the app on June 13. To register for the webinar, please click [here](#).

Innovative meals program leads GOCAA senior services

The dining area of the Mill Street Garden.

Providing meals and a place for seniors to congregate is often the role of some Community Action Agencies, but Gogebic-Ontonagon CAA (GOCAA) has taken the concept a bit further with its Mill Street Garden, housed in GOCAA's Bessemer headquarters.

"We've changed the dynamics of what a senior meal program is," says Chris Trola, senior programs director for GOCAA. "This is more like eating at a restaurant. We've kind of turned the entire concept and setting around. It's really the centerpiece of our senior citizens services."

Rather than seating diners at large, institutional-cafeteria-style tables, Mill Street Garden offers them the option of more private four-person tables. "That makes it easier for visitors and different groups to sit and visit and have lunch," Trola says.

Mill Street Garden also offers a deli-style menu that provides an alternative for those who'd prefer something other than that day's set meal.

Beyond its popularity with area seniors, as well as other members of the community who are welcome to dine there, the operation has garnered local media attention.

"It is an example of people helping people, with a dosage of government on the side, providing a place for people to congregate, fellowship and eat chow at the same time," states a recent article in the Ironwood Daily Globe.

GOCAA has operated Mill Street Garden since April 2009, after previously serving meals in a more traditional setting in the former Ironwood Senior Center.

The agency also offers senior meals in Wakefield and in Ontonagon County, there are three congregate sites – Ewen, Mass City and Ontonagon.

Mill Street Garden serves meals Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every third Friday it hosts an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet from 9 a.m. to noon. Monday through Thursday, the suggested is \$3.75 price for diners 60 and older and \$6.25 younger visitors. The Friday buffet for the over-60 crowd is \$5, while those under 60 pay \$7.50.

The operation usually serves about 75 residents on a daily basis and another 150 every third Friday.

Mill Street Garden is also supported with federal Older Americans Act funding administered by the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress, along with donations and local millage.

CCAP certification hones agencies' competitive edge

Michigan's CCAP graduating class of 2017 were honored at last year's Community Action Partnership's annual conference: Left to right, Toby Berry of Community Action Senior Center (Jackson), Jonathan Sherrod of Wayne Metro CAA, Susan Harding and Erica Karfonta of Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, and Kate White, Michigan Community Action.

When competing for grant funds, Community Action leaders with the Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) designation may have an advantage that extends beyond the agency.

The nationally recognized standard of professionalism in Community Action, the CCAP certification helped refine the passion for Community Action for Susan Cervantes, director of Kent County Community Action, a focus that she knows brings improved service for customers.

"For me, it increased the depth of my strengthened my team," says Cervantes. "It's really helped my leadership, and it's strengthened my team," says Cervantes. "It's not just a job. We've found our passion, and what I am hopeful about is that I can infuse that passion to our staff and that goes into customer service. With a designation like this, it opens up additional doors," she says. "It shows you are in good shape."

Cervantes celebrated her 20th anniversary with Community Action in March, having served as Kent County director since October and previously as an associate director in the region, including Ottawa and Allegan counties.

"Having staff members pursue professional development helps us better serve our communities and each other," says Kate White, executive director of Michigan Community Action. "As part of the Community Action Partnership's Excellence Initiative, we want the best-trained staff possible. Our agencies can grow to be even more effective when our staff members seek CCAP."

Potential candidates for CCAP must be current and future managers or leaders within the Community Action profession, and have two years Community Action service.

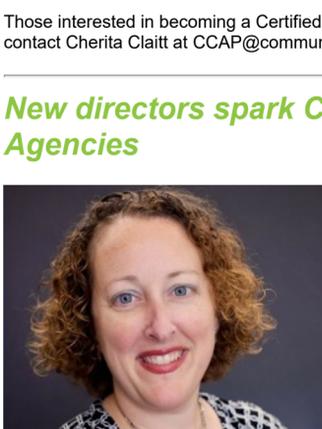
"We encourage our Community Action agencies to invest in training, just as we invest in our constituents," says White.

To begin the process, applicants must complete a candidate data form and an executive skills portfolio and prepare for an annual test. MCA sponsors regular study group meetings, led by CCAP Emeritus Charles McCann, where candidates review course materials and prepare for the test with other colleagues going through the process.

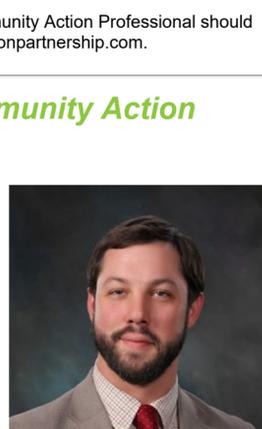
For CCAP candidates, the "Building Your Pathway to CCAP" GOCAA is designed to help those not yet ready for certification toward the CCAP goal.

The CCAP certification is administered by the CCAP Commission, guided by appointed board members who shape policy at the national Community Action Partnership (CAP).

Those interested in becoming a Certified Community Action Professional should contact Cherita Claitt at CCAP@communityactionpartnership.com.

New directors spark Community Action Agencies

Susan Harding, Executive Director of Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency.(L) Ernest Cawvey, Executive Director of Macomb Community Action



Over the past few months, there have been quite a few new directors appointed at several Michigan Community Action Agencies.

Dionne Bowens has taken over as executive director at Muskegon-Oceana Community Action Partnership Inc. (MOCAP). A graduate of Ferris State University with a master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration, she is a former educational consultant at the Benton Harbor Promise and as program director at Lake Michigan College. She is a former coach of the Benton Harbor Area Schools Lady Tigers.

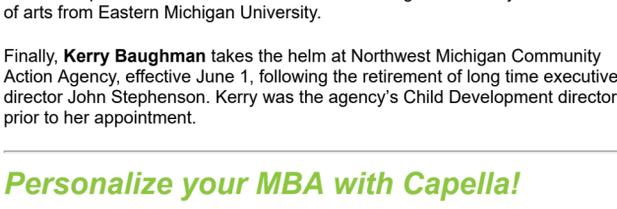
Ernest Cawvey began his new post at Macomb Community Action agency last fall. Formerly of Michigan Public Health Institute and ReThink Health, he holds a master's in public administration degree from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Cawvey has experience with state policy development, advocacy and community organizing.

Susan Harding welcomed 2017 as the new executive director of Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA), following the retirement of Ronald Bivogesser. With more than 20 years with the agency, she had previously served as early childhood director at OLHSA, securing Early Head Start/Head Start funding through 2021 which expanded the program's redesign and improved access for students. Additionally, she was the director for Community and Economic Services.

Michelle LaJoi began her new post as executive director at Community Action Alger-Marquette in May. A graduate of Lake Superior State University, she was the Housing Assets director at Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Agency. She brings experience in non-profit community development and grant writing.

Miguel Rodriguez began his executive director post at Capital Area Community Services in January. In 2011, he was the director of Kalamazoo County Community Action Agency, before joining Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He previously served Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity with Department of Human Services. He holds a master's degree focused in public administration from Eastern Michigan University and a bachelor of arts from Eastern Michigan University.

Finally, **Kerry Baughman** takes the helm at Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, effective June 1, following the retirement of long time executive director John Stephenson. Kerry was the agency's Child Development director prior to her appointment.

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- \$4,000 grant for those who enroll and start an eligible GuidedPath program
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Learn more at Capella.edu/MichiganCommunityAction