

Michigan Community
ACTION
Helping People. Changing Lives.
WEEKLY UPDATE

Volume 4, Issue 8

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MCA's Mission

*To strengthen and inspire
Community Action Agencies to
champion solutions to poverty
and to promote economic
opportunity.*

Upcoming Events

Announcements

Governor Whitmer releases new [Executive Order](#) for Safeguards to protect Michigan's workers from COVID-19

This order creates an enforceable set of workplace standards that apply to all businesses across the state. These standards will have the force and effect of agency rules and will be vigorously enforced by the agencies that oversee compliance with other health-and-safety rules. Directive to Michigan employers to develop a COVID-19 preparedness and response plan, consistent with recommendations in Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, developed by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

Related guidance from OSHA: [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)

Community Action Together: Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency

Watch David Bradley, CEO of the National Community Action Foundation, as he talks to Kim Smith-Oldham, Executive Director of Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency in Benton Harbor, MI about how COVID-19 has effected her CAP and her community. [YouTube](#)

Community Action Agencies Expand Emergency Programs Across Michigan; MDHHS thanks Consumers Energy Foundation for \$450,000 grant

Michigan families hit hard by the financial and health-related impacts of COVID-19 will benefit from a \$450,000 Consumers Energy Foundation grant to eight community action agencies working to meet the emergency needs of low- and moderate-income residents in 43 counties. Read more.

RehabSpot.com

[RehabSpot.com](#) is passionate about helping those who are struggling, and their loved ones, by educating people on the substance abuse treatment process. Their goal is to create a brighter future for individuals dealing with substance-related issues. You can find their link on our website <https://mcac.memberclicks.net/other-resources>

Webinars/Trainings

Working remotely: How to boost your organization's Microsoft 365 security, May 20, 2020 1:00 PM EDT. Hosted by Wipfli [Information and](#)

May 20 - Legislative Committee
10:30 AM EDT

June 03 - Training Committee
10:00 AM EDT

June 17- Legislative Committee
10:30 AM EDT

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

The Michigan Community Action Update is a new, weekly round-up of important information for members of Michigan Community Action. We may send more frequent updates when important information breaks that impacts the Community Action network. We welcome your input and feedback.

Please send your comments and ideas [here](#).

MCA Officers/Board Members 2019-2021

Jill Sutton
President
Mid Michigan CAA

Michelle Williamson
Vice President
Community Action

Kerri Duff
Secretary Treasurer
Gogebic Ontonagon CAA

Toby Berry
Urban Officer
Community Action Agency

Michelle LaJoie
Upper Peninsula Officer
Community Action Alger-Marquette

Lisa Evans
Lower Peninsula Rural Officer
Community Action of Allegan County

Melinda Johnson
At-Large Officer
Blue Water Community Action

[register](#)

Building Readiness: Reopening Our Doors. May 21, 2020 1:30 PM EDT. Hosted by CAPLAW [Register](#). See their FAQs and resources [here](#).

Prioritizing your technology needs for both short- and long-term goals May 22, 2020 12:00 PM CT. Hosted by Wipfli [Information and register](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Fraud prevention in a work-from-home environment. Hosted by Wipfli [Website](#)

COVID-19

Michigan Group Benefits has provided this [Coronavirus Employer Compliance Forms](#) package, including the following:

- Employer Action Checklist
- Sample letters to employees
- Telecommuting policy
- Health Screening for Visitors

CDC Releases Guidelines for Reopening Workplaces. Click [here](#) to see a decision tree to help decide if your business is ready to re-open.

Remote Work Resources

Tips for Preparing for Virtual Meetings: Do and Don'ts [Website](#)

The Benefits of Remote Work – The New Reality

View these resources from Yeo & Yeo [here](#).

Society for Human Resource Management releases 5 Steps for Creating a Mental Health-Friendly Work Culture

1. Awareness: Manager education is a good way to support mental health wellness in the workplace, according to EARN. Managers can be trained to recognize the signs of mental health issues and to create a supportive and inclusive environment.

2. Accommodation: Reasonable accommodations can help workers with disabilities—including those with mental health conditions—perform their jobs more efficiently

3. Assistance: Certified peer-support specialists can help workers rebuild trust and access the services they need, said Patrick Hendry, vice president of peer advocacy, supports and services for Mental Health America. Specialists may have diagnosed mental health conditions themselves and are trained to help others succeed. "Peer support is one of the fastest-growing labor forces in the country," Hendry said. He said helping employees get back to work is particularly important because work is "part of our identity."

4. Access: Employers can help workers access the tools they need to manage mental health conditions through an employee assistance program (EAP). The role of an EAP is to give both the employer and the employee options when a situation arises, said Greg DeLapp, chief executive officer

Doug McFadden

CAA Governing Board Officer
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Directors Council Chair
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Mary Ann Neopolitan

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of the International Employee Assistance Professionals Association. He encouraged employers to do more than just point to a policy or program. He suggested that managers have an open discussion with employees and ask them about what they need to succeed in the workplace.

5. Acceptance: Employees who are dealing with long-term mental health conditions should "accept that it's real; accept that this is something we now have to incorporate into our [experiences] and figure out how to manage," he said. "Also, the people around us have to accept that."

Employers must accept that some of their high-performers have experience with mental illness, Imparato added, and he encouraged people to be open about their own experiences to help remove the stigma and show what's possible.

We're here for you: We've made a number of changes at MCA so that we can continue to serve you and the network, including closing the physical MCA office and making arrangements for MCA staff to work remotely since March 16, 2020. All direct phone lines, as well as the general line have been forwarded to mobile phones and staff are all accessible by email as well.

Thank you. Be well and stay safe, everyone.

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