



Melissa Lee,
Social Marketing Coordinator
(989) 272-7209

Kelly M. Johnson,
Director of Marketing
(989) 615-6063

PRESS RELEASE

Release date: Immediate

Health focused grant awarded to Saginaw County; \$50,000 provided for first year implementation

SAGINAW, Mich., Dec. 9, 2015 – In an effort to improve the health and wellness of Saginaw County children by better utilizing existing resources while reducing cost, United Way of Saginaw County (UWSC) and Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) will partner in the Michigan Children’s Health Access Program (MI-CHAP).

In conjunction with the Michigan Association of United Ways and with funding provided by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, a \$50,000 grant will be used during the first year in the development of a CHAP program.

MI-CHAP provides local organizations the opportunity to engage further in children’s health outcomes. Identifying Saginaw County as an emerging Children’s Health Access Program (CHAP) county/community, UWSC received the \$50,000 grant and will serve as local fiduciary.

“The MI-CHAP program aligns well with our efforts in the health impact area; providing opportunities for children and families to live a healthy lifestyle.” said Larry Sims, UWSC president/CEO. “We are proud to partner with SCCMHA and bring additional collaborations to the community.”

Through the partnership with SCCMHA, funds from the MI-CHAP will be put to use through the Saginaw Community Care HUB to create a CHAP on the ground in the community. The new program will become operational in February and will deploy Community Care Workers through the Community Care HUB to engage young referrals with home-based case management. Community Care Workers will work with families in an environment that is comfortable to them, helping to connect them to appropriate medical services and supports to better manage the overall health and wellbeing of their children.

“On behalf of the entire Saginaw Community concerned for the health of our children and youth, we are honored to be charged with the development of the new CHAP,” said Sandra Lindsey, SCCMHA CEO. “This program will help families access quality medical care for their children and overcome barriers to childhood disease management and overall child wellness. The resources represented by this check have made this past planning year possible, and the year of funding for operations to launch the new CHAP will make all the difference. We thank all of the stakeholders involved and look forward to seeing this program in action, making the lives of the children in our community healthier and more vibrant.”

- Continued -

The Saginaw Community Care HUB – a nationally Certified Pathways Community HUB – is a centralized resource serving at-risk populations having health care needs as well as social service needs. Working with provider partners, the HUB coordinates resources across Saginaw County and neighboring counties to ensure those with the greatest need have access to the services they require most.