

Administrator's Message

- Verna Mc Daniel

Sadly summer is coming to an end, and similar to the kids heading back to school, we, as an organization, need to stay informed and study up on what is occurring throughout the County.

October 2nd has been decided upon for Administration to present the preliminary 2014-17 Budget Draft to the Board of Commissioners. 2014-17 Budget Reduction Target letters were distributed to Departments and Elected Officials at the end of July (early August). Administration and Finance are working closely with Department Heads and Elected Officials to achieve their set target amount. Reports are due back to Administration by mid-September in preparation for the October 2nd Ways & Means meeting. At which point, I will be presenting a proposed balanced budget to the Board of Commissioners.

Building upon the Board of Commissioners Budget Priorities, a group of Commissioners has been selected to lead discussions on these priorities, which were voted upon and accepted at the Special Board of Commissioner meeting on July 24, 2013. Each leading member will be responsible for 1 of 5 Board Priorities. He or she, along with a selected team of Washtenaw County staff, focus on community impacts, to which that priority will encompass. More detailed information regarding this Board Priorities Process will be discussed later within this Newsletter issue.

I will continue to update you on the Budget progress and the Board Priorities Meetings as times goes on. I hope you enjoy your last days of summer, as we look forward to the upcoming Labor Day Holiday.



"Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action." - Benjamin Disraeli

News from the

- Administrator

Inside This Issue

2 2nd Quarter Budget Update

2 WCHO Outreach

3 United Way Activities

Tax Foreclosure Auctions

Coverage Counts

5 Did You Know?!!

2nd Quarter Budget Update

On Wednesday, August 7, the Board of Commissioners received the 2nd Quarter Budget Update. Our projected 2013 net revenue surplus is \$1,020,859. The projected net over expenditure is \$775,045. Simply put, we were planning to use \$2,842,092 in fund balance and we are projecting that dipping into our reserves for 2013 will no longer be necessary. Despite this fact, we need to remain vigilant due to trending of our fringe benefits, personal property tax reform, and the impact of state and federal budget cutbacks on several of our non-general fund departments and programs.



I encourage everyone to take a look at the <u>2nd Quarter Budget Update</u> and watch the <u>August 7th Ways and Means meeting webcast</u> to become familiar with the entire picture. Thank you for your work in monitoring the budget and becoming knowledgeable with our financial situation!

WCHO Outreach

The Washtenaw Community Health Organization's Community Development and Organization Team has been hard at work this summer spreading information about the WCHO and educating the Washtenaw Community about the importance of behavioral health. Led by Deputy Director of Community Organization and Development, Hazelette Crosby-Robinson, the team, which includes Katie Kettner, Florence Roberson and Khalila King, has been conducting grant-funded outreach in Washtenaw County's 48197 and 48198 zip code areas since 2010, after discovering that many community members needed to learn more about WCHO and the mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse services that are available in our County.



This year, the team has focused on outreach projects that emphasize the importance of the integration of primary and behavioral health care. Among their recent efforts, the team has attended and distributed information at numerous health fairs and community festivals; conducted street outreach at bus stops, farmers markets and libraries; presented their work at the University of Michigan's Silverman Research Conference Poster Session; and is teaching a 6-week-long health and wellness curriculum to 120 youth summer campers at the Parkridge Community Center in Ypsilanti.

WCHO's Community Development and Organization team plans to extend their outreach and engagement efforts to the entire County starting in October, 2013. The team is also planning a Behavioral Health and Wellness Symposium to be held September 20, 2013. The symposium will provide community education regarding integrating primary and behavioral health care in the County and how the Affordable Care Act will impact our local community. Speakers and panelists of the Symposium include: Senator Rebekah Warren; State Representative David Rutledge; Commissioner Felicia Brabec; WCHO Executive Director Eric Kurtz; WCHO Board Chair Linda King; Coordinating Agency Director Marci Scalera; Washtenaw Health Initiative Co-chair Bob Guenzel; and National Alliance on Mental Illness – Washtenaw Board President Mark Creekmore.

Additional information regarding the Symposium, including registration info, will be forthcoming, so please stay tuned!

United Way Activities



United Way Stuff The Bus

The 6th Annual Stuff the Bus was a Success! Thank you to all that participated.

After a week of steady deliveries, school supplies filled the bus located outside the Target on Carpenter Rd by the end of the event. Supplies have been sorted and distributed to our participating Washtenaw County schools: Ypsilanti Community Schools, Manchester, Chelsea, Whitmore Lake and Milan. On behalf of the United Way Planning Committee, thank you again to County employees and the public for making this a successful event! This event continues to help children in our community have the necessary tools they need to have a successful school year.

Look for our final numbers on eCentral coming soon.





WWWWWWWWWW



SAVE THE DATE!! Friday, September 20, 2013

**Registration Deadline: Friday, September 13 or until teams are full

*Watch eCentral This Summer for Details

Tax Foreclosure Auctions



ANNARBOR.COM featured an article in July, 2013, on how "Washtenaw County effectively manages tax foreclosures for com-

"Washtenaw County effectively manages tax foreclosures for community's benefit." The article addresses the 33% drop of properties heading into auction this year, 114 auction lots in 2013, from last year. This percent decrease is due in part to the Treasurer's office efforts in "actively helping homeowners understand the law and looking for solutions in hardship cases to prevent the foreclosure step."

The article also cites the creative schedule "open houses" that both Ypsilanti City and Township preform throughout the year.

The properties heading into auction this year are calculated to account for a total of \$1.58 million in unpaid taxes and fees. By prioritizing the efforts towards auction process, the Treasurer's office is able to recoup these funds for the County.

The full article can be found here: http://annarbor.com/news/opinion/editorial-washtenaw-county-tax-foreclosure/

Coverage Counts

Washtenaw County Public Health and Washtenaw Health Plan received a large federal grant to coordinate a program called Coverage Counts: Connecting Teens, Immigrant and Homeless Families to Insurance. Working in both Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, the project will engage the County Public Health Departments, County Health Plans, Educational Services Agencies (WISD and the Livingston Educational Services Agency), and local community organizations to enroll eligible children and their parents in health coverage. The project has a commitment from the school districts to identify teens through younger siblings' school lunch participation. They will co-locate outreach and enrollment workers in



schools and will provide training to partner organizations and will provide direct enrollment assistance.

The Board of Commissioners reviewed and approved the project at its August 7th meeting.

Did You Know?!!

Youth Arts Alliance!MULTI-COUNTY ARTS COLLABORATIVE GIVES VOICE TO AT-RISK YOUTH

CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO!







ANN ARBOR, MI – The Youth Arts Alliance (YAA!) is a four-county collaborative arts project in Southeast Michigan. The project developed out of a commitment of facility administrators to find more ways to color the black and white landscape that youth face in the Juvenile Justice System. With the support of community volunteers, students and social service professionals, our canvas screams prevention, possibilities and positive futures.

YAA! serves youth who are in residential treatment and detention services at Maurice Spear Campus in Adrian, Washtenaw County Youth Center in Ann Arbor, and Monroe County Youth Center in Monroe. Additionally, YAA! offers youth involved with the Livingston County Juvenile Court community-based workshops in Howell.

Each week, over 125 youth, express themselves in visual arts, creative writing and theater. A young woman from Washtenaw County Youth Center shares,

"I went in feeling apathetic and came out proud and enthusiastic." A young man from Maurice Spear Campus appreciates the opportunity, "It is the best thing in my stay here at Maurice Spear Campus." The workshops give strong emotions a place to land, a young man from Monroe County Youth Center shares, "I can take my anger and feelings out on paper." 92% of youth plan to participate in more creative arts activities upon returning to their communities.

"We're blown away by the incredible talent and powerful voices of the youth who participate in our workshops. We are so appreciative of the opportunity to provide safe spaces for creative expression. Together we build trust, take risks and explore our world and where we stand in it," YAA! Director, Heather Wilson.

YAA! showcased over 250 creative works during the YAA! Exhibition of Creative Works, an exhibition of art and writing by at-risk young men and women. The opening reception hosted over 100 youth, their family members and engaged community members. Those in attendance celebrated youth as they spoke to their creative work and shared their poetry. Approximately 400 people attended the show between June 7–June 21 at North Quad, Space 2435, 105 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 49423.



YAA! believes involvement in the arts facilitates personal growth and increased connections to the community. We offer at-risk youth creative workshop opportunities to encourage, support, and celebrate their artistic talents and social development.