



# News from the Administrator

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

JANUARY, 2016



*“Tomorrow is the first page of a 365 page book. Write a good one.”*

*~Brad Paisley~*

## Administrator’s Message

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Hello everyone, and happy 2016!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and now, many happy memories of good times spent with family and friends. Here in Administration, we utilize the month of December to regroup and plan for the upcoming year.

As you are aware, the first order of business for the new year, is our Board of Commissioners will be interviewing 8 individuals for the position of Washtenaw County Administrator. The Board will conduct these interviews at a special, public meeting beginning at 8am on Saturday, January 23. It’s going to be a long day, but most certainly time well spent. I’m looking forward to meeting each of these candidates and learning more about them and their visions for the future of Washtenaw County. Once our new Administrator has been chosen by the Board, I look forward to transitioning into a

‘real’ retirement, some travel and lots of relaxation.

Our Board of Commissioners has some lingering issues to wrap up in 2016, like the Platt Road property and a new committee to replace our Accommodation Ordinance and Act 88 committees. The Economic Development Coordination Committee was formed in the late fall and will be holding their first meeting very soon. Tasked with serving as an advisory board to help maximize our economic development opportunities and promote tourism, this group of 17 members will undoubtedly do a fine job.

Next, we continue to work with our Community Mental Health Department to help them with their budgetary challenges. Just like in life, as soon as we think we have it all figured out, we’re thrown a curve ball. I’m thankful for the wonderful, cooperative partnership we have with Trish and her team, the Mental Health Board and the regional

PIHP Board. Together, through everyone’s hard work and dedication, we’ll come through this storm and continue to be the best mental health service provider in the State of Michigan.

Finally, 2016 is an election year for our Commissioners and other local leaders, but it is also providing us the opportunity to elect our next President. In what has already been a very interesting race, it will be fascinating to watch as the candidates are narrowed to just one per party, and then how each proposes to manage the issues this country is facing. I encourage each of you to pay attention to the process, involve yourself whenever possible, make your voice heard and most importantly, be sure you’re registered to vote. The first primary election is in February, so there’s no time to waste!

Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy 2016!

*~Verna*

# United Way Update



## Volunteer Center goes Mobile!



United Way of Washtenaw County's online Volunteer Center can help match your interests with local agencies in need, plus, it has just been upgraded to be mobile-friendly, check it out:

[www.VolunteerWashtenaw.org](http://www.VolunteerWashtenaw.org)



## United Way Annual Campaign

Goal Reached!

Hurray! We made our 2015 goal. We raised \$67,346.67 in donations this past year. We couldn't have done it without the kind, generous hearts of all of you! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!



## Washtenaw Cares

The United Way Committee in partnership with the Sheriff's Office collected new coats, scarfs, gloves, pants, snow pants, boots, sweatshirts, socks, and underwear for the Ypsilanti Schools Clothes Closet this past month. These items will go to schools children who are in need of these warm clothes items this winter. We here at Washtenaw County have the most generous and giving employees! We were able to donate over 908 items and over \$7000 in warm winter clothing to the Ypsilanti Schools Clothes Closet.

## 2015 United Way Campaign Calendar: Overall Goal \$65,000

2015 Events:			
EVENT	DATE	GOAL	OUTCOME
Food Drive	February 9-March 9	\$4,000.00	\$4,142.25
Day of Action	June 19-SafeHouse	20 Volunteers	14 volunteers
Stuff the Bus	August 3-7	\$15,000.00	\$10,866.00
Family Kickball	September 17	\$ 500.00	\$290.00
Annual Campaign	September—November	\$ 39,500.00	\$42179.00
Annual Online Auction	September—November	\$ 4,000.00	\$2844.00
Washtenaw Cares	November—December	\$ 2,000.00	\$7025.42

Click [HERE](#) to Like Your United Way Committee on Facebook!

# Wellness Committee Update!



The Wellness Committee has been hard at work developing ideas and healthy initiatives for you! Our goal is to offer healthy lifestyle opportunities in the areas of physical, mental, and financial health throughout the year. Our first opportunity in 2016 will be a sugar challenge which will commence on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Watch eCentral for the rules and information. Since our Win by Losing challenge was such a success the first time around, we have decided to participate again starting in February. We had 66 employees participate the first time around and lost a combined total of 344.6 lbs. Watch for more information coming soon on eCentral.



## Start 2016 With a Sugar Challenge!

It's likely you saw the [eCentral article](#) on the Sugar Challenge, but this information is worth repeating!

Your Wellness Committee is challenging you to start 2016 on the right foot and eliminate processed sugar from your diet for 30 days! You'll be amazed how great you feel! So, rally your co-workers, rely on one another for support and get that processed sugar out of your life — you'll be glad you did!



# Getting to Know: John Stacy



This month, I'd like to take an opportunity to introduce you to John Stacy, one of our 2015 Supervisors of the Year. John is a humble, shining example of public service at it's finest. Highly respected by his peers, he is insightful, committed and most importantly, he puts the wellbeing of his customers first. Please read on to learn more about John:

**Please tell us a little about your background.**

I am a licensed social worker. Ann Arbor is my home town.

**How long have you been with Washtenaw County?**

I began with the county in 2001 working at the Ellsworth location of Community Mental Health as a case manager. In 2008 I transferred my position to the Annex building where I became a case manager for a Community Mental Health jail diversion program known as JPORT. A few years later I was lucky enough to be hired as a supervisor for the PORT and Community Mental Health outpatient programs also located at the Annex building.

**What does your job entail?**

That is a surprisingly difficult question to answer. That is because the answer depends on which stakeholder you are considering- the State of Michigan and its various entities, the Joint Commission, the Board of Commissioners, grant funders, our own Community Mental Health Board, or the individuals who receive healthcare and support from us. As you can guess, there are multiple interests involved in what we do and their expectations don't necessarily align with each other in every circumstance though all their requirements are meant to help. Fundamentally my job is part of an effort to improve

the lives of those whom have significant vulnerabilities due to a disease of mental illness or a combination of mental illness and substance abuse. These efforts include such things as counseling, education, finding housing for the homeless, maintaining housing, protecting from violence, obtaining health and cash benefits, crisis intervention, linking to medical services, and working with local courts to name some but not all of what we do and are expected to do.

As a supervisor I then do my best to inform, guide, and monitor my teams achievements in meeting the expectations of all the interests who define what we do and how we do it. My personal task is to do all this but still manage to keep the importance on the individual who is in need of healing and not on the system through which we help but with whom we must still meet compliance.

**You are highly regarded by your co-workers and those you serve, what would you say is the secret of your success?**

I am humbled by the receipt of this year's award. I however don't believe I deserve it. That is because any achievement that I make is only as good as the team that I am part of. If I then bring anything to that process it is a belief in what teams can accomplish and then supporting the development of functional teams.

**As with any job, I'm sure there are challenges and rewards. What would you say is the most difficult and the most satisfying about what you do?**

The mission of Community Mental Health rests on the shoulders of its talented and altruistic team members. I cannot tell you how impressed and awed I am by the efforts I have seen my teammates deliver each day to our clients that have resulted in the improvement of lives and the healing of illness. These are

efforts that involve constant multi-tasking, difficult ethical decision making, high stress and a constant pace, consistently changing paperwork protocols, and task expectations that are always growing. I recently read in a book that to attract and retain talent, people must have certain rewards other than salary and benefits. Rewards as feeling good about themselves, being proud of the organization they work for, and knowing they make a difference. These concepts rang true for me when I read them. Currently the most difficult and satisfying part of what I do is trying to make these type of rewards known and felt by my fellow team members who I supervise.

**What's your favorite part of your job?**

I think my favorite part of the job is coming to know and help the people who walk in our front door for assistance, knowing each has their own pain or barrier that I need to understand. I often say I have met some the best people who have nothing in title or income.

**If you could share just one bit of advice to help others be successful in their role within Washtenaw County, what would that be?**

It is not about you.

Wow! John's last statement says it all, don't you agree? We all choose our careers in public service for our own reasons, but overall, we're all in it because we want to make a difference in our community. John, your ability to provide excellent customer service through empowering your fellow employees is the true secret to success — congratulations on a job well done!

"....I have met some of the best people who have nothing in title or income."

~John Stacy



~Verna