

## By The Numbers

### HOMELESSNESS ON THE RISE

- by Beth McCullough

Lenawee County Homeless Education Coordinator



l e n a w e e  
**Community  
Mental Health**  
a u t h o r i t y

# GRAPPEVINE

throughout Blissfield Community Schools, Britton-Macon Area Schools, Clinton Community Schools, Deerfield Public Schools, Hudson Area Schools, Madison School District, Morenci Area Schools, Sand Creek Community Schools, Tecumseh Public Schools, and Lenawee Intermediate School District.

Youth. This program also serves students who are at risk for running away or becoming homeless. It provides emergency 24 hour assistance and crisis intervention. The counselors can meet with the youth up to twelve times to provide follow up and help stabilize the youth's living situation. There is no cost for this program. Contact information is: Do'chas II

• Homeless students

**O**ne of the first questions people ask me is "What are the numbers?" or "How many homeless students are you working with now?" I think this comes from the fact that the numbers are hard to believe. These numbers are important because they inform us of the reality of homelessness. Here are a few statistics of interest:

resided in the following places: 135 students were couch homeless, 78 students were in shelters, 18 students slept outside, 15 students were in motels.

**"I just want to get her back in school. You can't believe how much she wants to go to school. That will help make things normal again."**

- a parent and Hurricane Katrina survivor who temporarily relocated to Lenawee County. The homeless education laws made it possible for the child to register and attend school even without records, which were ruined.

Counseling Services, Linda Schwalm, Counselor (517) 902 - 4006; 24 hour crisis (800) 292 - 4517.

The second grant is for housing homeless and runaway youth.

*In the 2004 - 2005 school year:*

- 267 homeless students were served by the Homeless Education Programs of Lenawee County.
- 64 homeless students were "unaccompanied youth" who were homeless without a parent or guardian.
- 29 homeless students were preschoolers.
- 201 of these homeless students needed transportation assistance to get to school or back to the school they were in before they became homeless.
- 142 homeless students attended Adrian Public Schools. 125 homeless students were spread

*In the 2005 - 2006 school year,* the Homeless Education Program of Lenawee County has served over 205 homeless students in the first four months. Homelessness is on the rise.

### NEW PROGRAMS SERVE LENAWEE YOUTH

There are two new programs serving Lenawee County youth. Both programs started October 1, 2005 and both are state grants from the Department of Human Services. The first grant is for Runaway and Homeless

The program is located in Ann Arbor so we are still working out the details of how they are going to house Lenawee County youth.

The contact information is Ozone House (734) 662 - 2222. Ozone House has been in existence for many years, but their contract now includes Lenawee County.

The Lenawee County Continuum of Care and the Homeless Youth Committee worked diligently to make sure Lenawee County was covered by these grants that became available. We will continue to work to make sure the youth of our county have as many resources as possible. ■

## A Tip

### FROM THE OFFICE OF RECIPIENT RIGHTS

**D**id you know . . . that ALL staff (including full-time, contractual, and external contractual providers) are required to promptly report Recipient Rights violations to the Rights Office?

Yes, any staff member who suspects or knows that a consumer's rights have been violated must immediately report the situation to the Rights Office, regardless of whether the potential violation was witnessed directly or was discovered in some other way. Failure to report a suspected Recipient Rights Violation is very serious and can result in disciplinary action.

If you are uncertain whether or not a consumer's rights have been violated, please contact the Rights Office. Often a brief discussion will help clarify the matter. You can reach the Recipient Rights Officer at (517) 263 - 8905, ext. 292. ■

### DRA

#### Dual Recovery Anonymous Ongoing Meetings

Every Friday  
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
(You can stay the entire time or you can come from 12 - 1 or 1 - 2)

Human Services Building  
Demo Kitchen

For information call Member Services (517) 263 - 8905

Lunch & Beverages provided

## A Word With The Director

**T**his edition of the Grapevine is primarily devoted to exploring the issue of homelessness. Of course, we are concerned about that problem when it affects our consumers; but we also see it as a larger issue which the community struggles to understand.



We know that as an agency serving more than 1,000 people, we probably are in a key position to work on this issue. We also understand that "homelessness" may not be quite the best word to describe the problem as experienced by LCMHA consumers.

In a recent series of interviews conducted by reviewers from the Department of Community Health, 22 out of 103 consumers (or 21%) from the

four counties in our affiliation (Livingston, Washtenaw, Monroe, and Lenawee) said they had "safety issues, most didn't think where they lived was safe." We want to do all we can to help correct that situation and to alleviate and prevent homelessness in all its forms.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and comments on this and other issues facing our staff, consumers and partners. Please call Member Services at (800) 664 - 5005 to voice your concerns. ■

## Homeless Youth Committee

**B**eginning in March of 2005, several Lenawee County agencies began meeting to discuss ways of improving services to homeless youth. Current participants in monthly meetings held at Goodwill Industries include: Department of Human Services, Catholic Charities, Lenawee Emergency and Affordable Housing Corporation (LEAHC), Lenawee Community Mental Health Authority (LCMHA), Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Michigan, Family Counseling and Children's Services, South Central Michigan Works, Adrian Public Schools, Lenawee Intermediate School District, and Lenawee County Commissioner KZ Bolton.

The purpose of this collaboration is clearly spelled out in its mission statement:

"Advance the well-being of displaced youth through collaboration to provide services."

Although the group's primary focus is youth, the issue of homelessness and its impact on all individuals and the entire Lenawee County community is inclusive in our efforts. While continuing to strive toward increasing awareness, we are

simultaneously working towards improving connectivity of resources between agencies. The purpose is to improve our ability to help the homeless formulate a long-range plan towards self-sufficiency.

If you have any questions or would like to hear more about our committee, please feel free to contact John Haught at (517) 263 - 2135. ■

## ~ Share the Warmth ~

**What:** Overnight Hospitality for the Homeless  
A safe, warm place to sleep

**Where:** St. John's School - 430 E. Church Street, ADRIAN

**When:** Every night from December 18, 2005 to March 25, 2006 • 9:30 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.  
*Breakfast will be available at The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen*

For more information: (517) 263 - 4681  
Volunteers are always needed. Also Laundry help is needed.  
Contact Rich Bays at St. Mary's church

## Blueprint For Change

**M**ore than a decade after the Federal Task Force on Homelessness and Severe Mental Illness called it "unacceptable" for people with serious mental illnesses to live in unsafe and threatening conditions, more than 630,000 individuals are homeless in this country on any given night. About half of all adults who are homeless have substance use disorders, and many have co-occurring mental illness as well.

Recent studies reveal that the cost of providing permanent, supportive housing for people with serious mental illness is more than offset by savings incurred by the public hospital,

prison, and shelter systems. When nothing is done, people with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders who are homeless often cycle between the streets, jails, and high-cost care, including emergency rooms and psychiatric hospitals. This is inhumane, ineffective, and costly. Further research reveals these people, *can* be engaged into service, *can* accept and benefit from mental health services and substance abuse treatment, and *can* remain in stable housing with appropriate supports. *Clearly, the time has come to end homelessness among people with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders.*

We know what works. Now we must put what we know to work.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has developed a Blueprint for Change to disseminate state-of-the-art information, which can be found on the SAMHSA website. A copy is also available in the LCMHA library. The Lenawee County Co-occurring Disorders work group will be sponsoring a community forum around the issues involved in treating individuals where homelessness is clearly a major issue. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Bertha Lopez or John Berridge at (517) 263 - 8905. ■

## WRAPAROUND

### A Community Conference . . . Working Together To Strengthen Families!!



**March 16 & 17, 2006**

Register on-line at:  
[www.solutionwhere.com/lisd](http://www.solutionwhere.com/lisd)

or call Kathy Campbell  
at (517) 265 - 1619

## Are People Homeless In Lenawee County?

**Y**ES! On January 25, 2006 members of the Continuum of Care and Homeless Youth Committee did a "snapshot" survey of motels, human service agencies, the woods, malls, the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, etc. On that day we found 24 people "unsheltered" (living outdoors or in cars). Another 85 were homeless but in some type of shelter.

The following letter and pictures were also sent to us:

*Dear Gratia,*

*Here are a couple of pictures I took while accompanying Warren Vassar, the Veterans*



*Employment Specialist, on his bi-annual search for homeless veterans in the surrounding wooded areas of Adrian. We checked under a couple of bridges, as well as in the abandoned silos on Logan Street. Although we didn't locate anyone, we found evidence that the silos were being used as a shelter. The*



*photos show makeshift beds, a water jug and candle, couch cushions, pallets, and a tarp which appears that it is being used to block out the draft.*

*As the Housing Resource Specialist at South Central Michigan Works!, I actively collaborate with the client and with local and regional*

*agencies in responding to persons in need of housing and employment assistance. This is done through wrap around services, as well as individual case management. I am able to assist with resume preparation and cover letters, locating affordable housing, and with connecting clients to other resources.*

*Theresa M. Rupley  
Housing Resource Specialist  
South Central Michigan Works!  
(517) 266 - 5627, ext. 213*

# Survey Results

## LENAWEE COUNTY LCMHA PROVIDER SURVEY

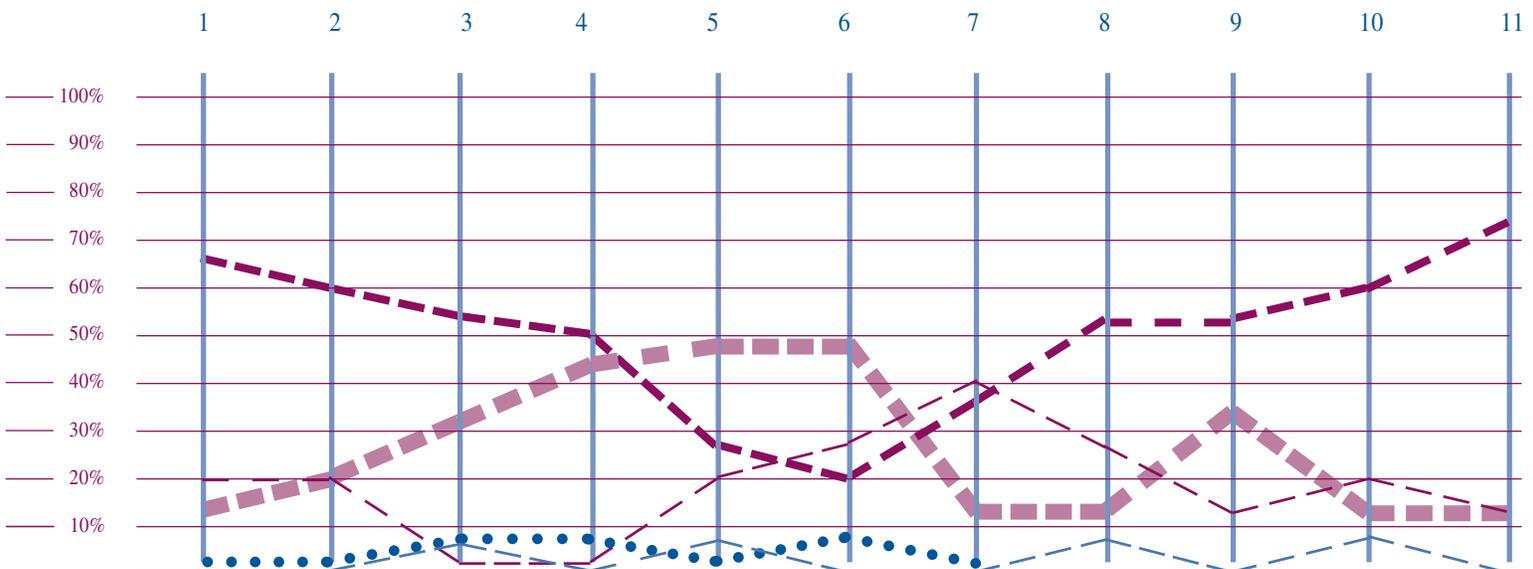
In the last issue of the Grapevine, we published the results of various surveys of our consumers. The following results are from our recent survey of our providers. Providers were asked to rate each of the following statements using the 1 to 4 scale below, or if not applicable to select N/A.

1. The information provided by Member Services through newsletters, Annual Report, Focus Groups, Public Hearings and Sharing Hope meets the needs of my agency.
2. When the Member Services Department follows up on a problem raised by a recipient of services, our agency feels that the process is done fairly, thoroughly, and efficiently.
3. The Utilization Management (UM) Department provides clear information regarding UM decisions.

4. The UM Department provides adequate information regarding the provider appeal process.
5. My Encompass support questions are answered promptly.
6. The Encompass training received prepared my agency staff to complete related job functions.
7. The Finance Department issues payments in a timely manner.
8. The information provided by the Finance Department is clear and useful to my agency.
9. Contract Unit staff are helpful and efficient in responding to Request for Proposal (RFP) applications.
10. Contract Unit staff are timely in processing contracts after all necessary documents have been submitted.

11. (Recipient) Rights Officers are available for consultation and/or reporting in a timely manner.
12. The reports that my agency received from the Office of Recipient Rights are straightforward and understandable.
13. Performance Improvement expectations and instructions are understandable.
14. The Performance Improvement department communicates PI data and results in a useful manner.
15. Administrative Leadership staff are responsive to my agency concerns.
16. Administrative Leadership staff are knowledgeable about issues that affect my agency.

17. The referrals that my agency receives from Access are appropriate for our program(s).
18. Access staff are responsive and willing to assist program staff when we have questions.
19. Staff at my agency understand how to access crisis mental health services for Lenawee County.
20. When my agency staff contact PES (Psychiatric Emergency Services) the interaction is handled appropriately.
21. Lenawee Community Mental Health Authority staff are helpful in directing me to the appropriate department.
22. The information on the LCMHA website and the WCHO - Regional website is useful.





# The Effects Of Being Homeless

## LENAWEE COUNTY CHILDREN LIVING IN THE CATHERINE COBB DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

The Institute for Children and Poverty reports that 49% of all homeless children and youth will be turned away from emergency shelters due to the lack of bed availability. Families become homeless for several reasons: evictions, job loss, lack of employment, financial crisis, lack of government assistance, and domestic violence.

Each year an estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence against their mothers by family members. As domestic violence becomes more prevalent, more children are entering the Catherine Cobb Domestic Violence Shelter in Lenawee County.

The table shown here represents the number of children from the year 2003 through 2005 that were homeless in Lenawee County at the Catherine Cobb Domestic Violence Shelter. These numbers also indicate how many children were here more than once and those who had become homeless due to domestic violence.

Some children living in the shelter struggle with mental health problems. These problems can include, but are not limited to:

- Nearly one in three children who are homeless have at least

# Provider Survey CUSTOMER SERVICE QUESTIONS

Continued from Page 5  
(Answer 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree, N/A)

• The information provided to me by staff is reliable.	1	2	3	4	N/A
1. Contract Unit	0%	7%	21%	50%	21%
2. Finance	0%	0%	29%	50%	21%
3. Performance Improvement	0%	0%	21%	43%	36%
4. Recipient Rights	0%	0%	43%	43%	14%
5. Utilization Management	0%	0%	29%	36%	36%
6. Access	0%	0%	36%	29%	36%
7. Member Services	0%	0%	23%	46%	31%
8. Information Management	0%	0%	21%	50%	29%
9. Psychiatric Emergency Services	0%	0%	36%	29%	36%

one major mental disorder that interferes with daily activities compared to nearly one in five school-age children who are not homeless.

- Almost half of children who are homeless have anxiety, depression, or withdrawal compared to less than one in five other school-age children.
- More than one in three children who are homeless manifest delinquent and aggressive behavior compared

to less than one in five other school-age children.

Children who grow up on the streets are likely to repeat the lifestyle with their own children. Educating the community should be a priority in order to reduce the cycle of homelessness. ■

- written by  
Shaileen Thompson  
Case Manager,  
Kelli Kamm  
Client Advocate,  
Jill Hicks  
Children's Coordinator



## RApline

RUNAWAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
1-800-292-4517

- Runaway & Homeless Youth Assistance
- Statewide 24 hour Family Crisis Intervention
- Runaway & Homeless Youth Information & Referral

ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND TOLL-FREE

Year	Number of Homeless Children	Number of Homeless Children due to Domestic Violence	Repeated Homeless Children
2003	125	51	2
2004	157	74	13
2005	145	76	25

# We Need YOU ! . . .

**W**e are looking for ideas, such as the one shown below, to encourage consumers to call ahead if they cannot make their appointment with the Doctor . . . so, of course, we are having a contest!

Please use the form at the bottom of the page, or email us at [customerserve@lcmha.org](mailto:customerserve@lcmha.org), to give us your ideas . . . ways to help people remember, ways to make rescheduling easier,

ways to use the time that comes up when people don't show for appointments or have to reschedule.

ALL ideas will be gratefully reviewed by our customer relations committee. The top 3 winners will each receive a \$25 gift certificate from Meijers. So, put your thinking caps on and help us out! ■

# Kitchens With A Mission

## HOMELESS LEARN COOKING SKILLS SO OTHERS CAN EAT TOO

**F**areStart's most public face in Seattle is its restaurant, where lunch munchers eat Swimming Rama, pumpkin-seed-encrusted catfish and macaroni and cheese for under \$10. But profit is not the bottom line. For those who have hit bottom, FareStart changes lives.

Not only does the organization make and deliver 2,500 meals

daily to homeless shelters and child care centers, it does so at the same time it runs a 16-week culinary program, the restaurant, a catering service, two cafes and a coffee kiosk. The restaurant's cramped kitchen also acts as a hands-on classroom for 250 students, most of whom are homeless as well. It's a \$3 million business operation that coordinates housing, transportation, job skills and life-management skills for its students, who get placed in new jobs 80 percent of the time.

The FareStart restaurant at 1902 Second Ave. is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday for lunch, but on Thursday, it adds a Guest Chef Night, a popular attraction pairing a local chef with mostly senior-level students to whip out a three course gourmet meal for \$20. It brings in \$4,000 to \$6,000 a week.

Not only does FareStart emphasize self-sustainability to its students, it has begun a new project to help organizations in other cities emulate its model of combining training and retail business. "People like the fact that we're not just asking constantly for money." said Bill Adamucci, co-chair of FareStart's capital campaign. "That's not lost on students. They're not getting a handout. They're making the meals to help other disadvantaged folks. They're earning their way."

*- excerpts from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, article by Athima Chansanchai, December 1, 2005*

## Don't forget your Appointment!



We are reminding you that it is now time for your next visit. The appointment schedule at the right shows your next appointment.

If the date or time is not convenient for you, please call this office immediately 517-263-8905 or 1-800-664-5005 to re-schedule.

HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH

1040 S. Winter St., Suite 1022  
Adrian, MI 49221

MON. \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_

TUES. \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_

WED. \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_

THURS. \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_

FRI. \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_

SAT. \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_

If unable to keep this appointment, kindly give 24 hrs. notice. Otherwise we reserve the right to charge for time reserved.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

My idea is . . . \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring this form to member services, or mail it to LCMHA, 1040 S. Winter Street, Suite 1022, Adrian, MI 49221

## Plan Now

**TO PARTICIPATE IN  
HOMELESS AWARENESS  
WEEK - NOV 12-18, 2006**

**N**ovember 12 - 18, 2006 will be designated "Homeless Awareness Week" throughout Michigan and the U.S. During this week the Lenawee County Continuum of Care (LCCoC), consisting of 27 human service agencies, will again be organizing many events to focus attention locally on the plight of the homeless.

Homeless Awareness Week activities provide an opportunity to share with the community the fact that homelessness is a problem, and it's a problem right here in Lenawee County. Some of our "neighbors" are



**Homeless Awareness Week  
November 12-18, 2006**

homeless and need our help! Increasing awareness not only improves services but has the potential to expand them as

well. It also provides an opportunity for each of us to be creative and to make a personal choice regarding how

we can help - maybe it's volunteering, or making a financial/in-kind donation.

Agencies such as Lenawee Emergency and Affordable Housing Corporation (LEAHC) (517) 264 - 0782 and Family Counseling and Children's Services / Catherine Cobb Domestic Violence Program (517) 265 - 5352, are two very valuable resources in our Lenawee community that provide an emergency shelter program. Please . . . if you can, choose to do something to make a difference for the people in housing crisis in Lenawee County!

Kristine Henson-Jones  
Co-Chair, LCCoC  
Executive Director, LEAHC  
(517) 264 - 0782

Visit [www.mhomeless.org](http://www.mhomeless.org) or contact your local homeless service provider to help!



l e n a w e e  
**Community  
Mental Health**  
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