

A Better Michigan Future/Mid-Michigan

May 2010

Over the last several months, a group of human services leaders formed a loose coalition, **A Better Michigan Future/Mid-Michigan (ABMF-MM)**. The **purpose** of this group is to foster decision making, by the state's policy makers, that ensures a stable, modern, and fair tax system – sufficient to support the state's and local communities' public infrastructure. This infrastructure includes the hard (bridges, roads, schools, health care facilities) and human (health and human services, public safety, education, environmental) segments of the infrastructure – an infrastructure dedicated to the common good of the state's residents.

The premise of the group's work is that, as community leaders and members, we recognize that we need to work as diligently to ensure a sound state revenue system as we do to ensure the soundness of the expenditure of public dollars.

The Group's work revolves around several areas:

- The development of a **clear and concise statement** in favor of a stable, modern, and fair state tax system – the system needed to ensure a civil society. In the interest of efficiency and to ensure a statewide approach to a statewide issue, **this statement will draw upon, and may actually be, the work of A Better Michigan Future and the Michigan League for Human Services.**
- The development of a set of recommended actions, and tools for taking these actions, that could be taken by the members of the Community Collaboratives in the three counties and any other stakeholder in the region's human services system to foster a stable, modern, and fair state tax system. **The recommendation for the use of these methods, by their members, is at the discretion of each Community Collaborative.**
- This set of actions and tools include the encouragement of Collaborative members and other stakeholders to:
 - **Join the statewide group, A Better Michigan Future**, through their website: www.abettermichiganfuture.org
 - **Respond to the calls for action, by A Better Michigan Future**, relative to this issue, including: writing letters to elected officials, writing letters to the editor, speaking at legislative hearings, hosting and attending educational forums on this topic
 - **Use the Advocates Handbook** (a handbook developed by this work group) which provides guidance in a range of citizen actions, many of which will be recommended by A Better Michigan Future.
 - **Host and attend community dialogues** on this issue
 - **Distribute materials** developed by A Better Michigan Future and others to stakeholders in our community

Questions: Contact Bob Sheehan, The Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties at sheehan@ceicmh.org or (517) 346-8212.