

Strong Communities

# CONNECTOR

news  from

## MACC

Alliance of Connected Communities

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formerly the Metropolitan Alliance of Community Centers

## March 2008



Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives Margaret Anderson Kelliher and MACC President Jan Berry at the Capitol on Jan. 15.

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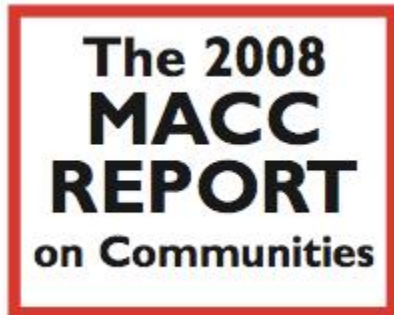
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### MACC NEWS

## Report on Communities



The 2008 MACC Report on Communities, a first survey of employees of MACC Alliance of Connected Communities 20 Twin Cities members, dramatically reveals the natural integration of social issues facing residents of the Greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. This MACC sponsored survey uniquely gathers data from over 400 front line workers and agency administrators, offering a snapshot of the multiple, intertwined issues that are barriers to success for thousands of Twin Cities residents and their families, as well as the neighborhoods in which they live. The information was presented to a meeting of legislators at the Capitol on January 15, 2008.



MACC Board Chair Molly Greenman, Family & Children's Service, discusses the research behind the MACC Report on Communities. State Representative Shelley Madore, Burnsville, and State Senator Scott Dibble, Minneapolis, discuss issues addressed in the report.

Among the findings:

- ✓ The top five reasons individuals and families are referred to MACC agencies are:
  - Education

- Employment
- Housing
- Violence / safety
- Health- physical or mental

Some issues which do not rank highly as a primary reason why individuals and families are referred to an agency often rise in importance when you look at the additional issues that emerge when MACC's front line employees interview new clients. Of particular note is the transportation issue.

This research makes it clear that a single issue approach to serving clients will not move us toward our goal of building strong communities. In addition, it gives us a huge amount of data that can be sliced and diced in various ways to demonstrate the complexities that exist in the lives of the individuals and families our agencies serve. MACC believes this will help us obtain critical support from legislators and funders to invest in holistic programs that work. MACC has plans to conduct this research with member agency staff on an annual basis. For a copy of the full report, visit [www.maccalliance.org](http://www.maccalliance.org).

## **Update on MACC Unleashing the Power Campaign**

We're pleased to report that ADC Foundation has given a \$25,000 grant to MACC help fund the cost of servers and networking equipment in the Commonwealth data center. MACC has now raised 83% of its capacity-building goal of \$1,700,000. Many thanks to all our donors for your generous support!

## **Welcome new member: Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis to MACC**



MACC is pleased to welcome our 22nd member to the Alliance, Jewish Family and Children's Services of Minneapolis. Founded in 1910 to aid large numbers of refugees moving to Minnesota from Eastern Europe, the agency's work consisted largely of assisting newly arrived families with food, shelter, medical care, loans and employment services. Since that time, JFCS has continually evolved as the needs of the community have changed. They serve adults and children of all ages in both the Jewish and general community. Inspired by the wisdom and values of the Jewish tradition, JFCS supports people of all backgrounds to reach their full potential. The MACC board accepted JFCS's membership at their meeting on February 19. Welcome to MACC, Jewish Family and Children's Service.

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## VALUE TO MEMBERS

### MACC Civic Engagement Initiative 2008 launched

MACC is excited to report the launch of its 2008 civic engagement effort! Throughout the year MACC agencies will find regular resources to increase civic engagement, and enthusiastic encouragement for staff and community members to get involved. MACC staff Sharon Haas will lead this effort, in partnership with Susie Brown, from member organization Family & Children's Service.

This year started with an effort to train people — staff and community members — to participate in the precinct caucus process, Minnesota's earliest and most local entry point into participation in the democratic process. And we're so excited that we did! With all of the attention and news about turnout and political involvement throughout the nation on February 5, we're glad to have helped some people understand the process and become involved. What a day that was for democracy!

On February 12 the Minnesota legislative session began, and as it progresses we will provide information and encouragement for organizations, their leadership, staff and clients, to attend various "Days on the Hill" as they are relevant to the communities you serve. These are organized opportunities to come together with a group of like-minded people to raise the voice of organizations and community members on specific issues. These days often include rallies, educational opportunities, and meetings with legislators. They're fun and effective! On February 14 MACC members attended the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Day on the Hill, to talk to legislators about nonprofit property tax exemption. In late February and March there will be "Days on the Hill" related to domestic violence, affordable housing, immigration and other issues of interest to MACC agencies. We hope you'll be involved! After the session you'll hear from us about opportunities to get involved in the upcoming elections, through voter registration, voter education and get out the vote. These activities will be significant and important as there are critical voting decisions to be made by the community in local and national races such as school board, House of Representatives, and of course U. S. President.

*We're working hard to build a list of MACC staff who are interested in regular communication about civic engagement issues and opportunities. We encourage you to get involved by getting on our list and taking advantage of the opportunities that make sense for you, your organization, and your community. Please contact Sharon Haas at ([shaas@maccalliance.org](mailto:shaas@maccalliance.org)) to indicate your interest in getting regular information and updates from the MACC Civic Engagement Initiative.*

### MACC Staff Development offerings in 2008

The MACC Staff Development Team is pleased to offer a number of valuable workshops to MACC agency staff in the beginning of 2008. MACC workshops coming up include:

- **Responding to Child Maltreatment — Mandatory Reporting and Intervention options**  
(Thursday, Feb. 28, 9-12 at Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center)

This workshop covered Maltreatment definitions, mandated reporter responsibilities, and how to make a report. In addition, a practitioners panel, made up of Carrie Heim, Tubman Family Alliance; Michelle Ness, Neighborhood House; and Blenda Smith, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, discussed making wise choices, supporting children, how to support parents, and other considerations.

- **Ethical Issues in Practice: Dilemmas and Decisions**  
(Monday, March 24, 2-4pm at East Side Neighborhood Services)

This is an interactive scenario-based session, focused on a wide variety of work settings with many different populations. The session is designed to meet the ethics requirement for Licensed Social Workers, but is open to any staff member at any level of an organization who has ever struggled with an ethical dilemma (basically everyone).

- **Essentials of Supervision**  
(Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 6 — 22, Tubman Family Alliance).

This course is designed for social service agency staff who work in a supervisory role at various levels of the agency, including staff members who play a direct service role, but also supervise others in the direct service role. This includes program managers, and department heads who supervise groups of staff. It can also include volunteer coordinators who supervise volunteers and interns. We recommend that supervisors not attend the course with supervisees.

To find out more about these and other staff development opportunities, or to register, please contact Sharon Haas at [shaas@maccalliance.org](mailto:shaas@maccalliance.org).

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## Evaluation Capacity Building pilot launches

**The Link** and **Phyllis Wheatley Community Center** have stepped forward to take part as pilot agencies in an Evaluation Capacity Building project that has been developed through the efforts of the MACC Evaluation Capacity Building Team. An Evaluation Capacity Building Team has been named at each agency, and they began regular meetings in February. These teams will focus their efforts on assessing current evaluation steps and processes within their agencies and identify ways to further incorporate learning and evaluation into their systems and the ways they do their work. At the end of 2008, each agency will have an Evaluation Capacity Building plan in place.



The Link Evaluation Capacity Building Team (from left to right): Sai Vang, Kate Tobin, Kayla Dotson, James Kambiri, Erin Wixsten, Bob Schneeweis, and Jason Carver.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Humphrey Institute surveys MACC members**

As part of our ongoing partnership with Jodi Sandfort at the Humphrey Institute, all MACC member organizations were recently sent a survey about your finances, management, services, and policy advocacy efforts. This survey will provide MACC with an interesting picture of ourselves and allow us to benchmark changes that occur in our membership over the next few years. Because the survey resembles a larger Minnesota Nonprofit Survey (which Jodi is doing with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits), we also will be able to see MACC organizations in comparison to other metro- and state-wide human service agencies. Discussions about these issues will be the focus of an upcoming MACC Board Learning conversation. Please take the time to participate! It will make us all more informed. If you have any questions (or need another survey sent to you), please contact Jodi at 612-625-3536 or [sandf002@umn.edu](mailto:sandf002@umn.edu).

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## **MEMBER NEWS**

- All MACC member agencies have regular community events and activities going on at their sites. Please visit their websites, listed below, to find out more.

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## **PLEASE FORWARD THIS MEMO TO A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE**

To directly receive the monthly MACC email news memo, e-mail your request to [shaas@maccalliance.org](mailto:shaas@maccalliance.org). To be removed from the list, use the same contact address. Joining or leaving the Memo distribution list is the individual responsibility of people requesting the Memo.

The MACC Alliance of Connected Communities is the alliance 21 Twin Cities-based human service organizations. MACC's mission is "Unleashing the connective power of communities to build their own futures." Contact MACC director of operations, at (612) 302-3432 or [shaas@maccalliance.org](mailto:shaas@maccalliance.org)

### **MACC Member Agencies**

- Arc Greater Twin Cities; 952-920-0855; [www.arcgreatertwincities.org](http://www.arcgreatertwincities.org)
- City, Inc.; 612-377-7559; [www.thecityinc.org](http://www.thecityinc.org)
- Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota; 612-338-5282; [www.cscmn.org](http://www.cscmn.org)
- East Side Neighborhood Services; 612-781-6011; [www.esns.org](http://www.esns.org)
- Family & Children's Service; 612-339-9101; [www.everyfamilymatters.org](http://www.everyfamilymatters.org)
- Hallie Q. Brown/Martin Luther King Center; 651-224-4601
- Hennepin County Department of Human Services and Public Health [www.co.hennepin.mn.us](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us)
- Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis; 952-546-0616; [www.jfcsmpls.org](http://www.jfcsmpls.org)
- Keystone Community Services; 651-645-0349; [www.keystoneservices.org](http://www.keystoneservices.org)
- LDA of Minnesota; 952-922-8374; [www.ldaminnesota.org](http://www.ldaminnesota.org)
- The Link; 612-871-0748; [www.thelinkmn.org](http://www.thelinkmn.org)
- Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Centers; 612-871-2031; [www.lnbcc.org](http://www.lnbcc.org)
- Merrick Community Services; 651-771-8821; [www.merrickcs.org](http://www.merrickcs.org)
- Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center; 612-728-2000; [www.miwrc.org](http://www.miwrc.org)
- Neighborhood House; 651-789-2500; [www.neighb.org](http://www.neighb.org)
- Phyllis Wheatley Community Center; 612-374-4342; [www.phylliswheatley.org](http://www.phylliswheatley.org)
- Pillsbury United Communities; 612-302-3400; [www.puc-mn.org](http://www.puc-mn.org)
- Plymouth Christian Youth Center; 612-522-6501; [www.pcy-c-mpls.org](http://www.pcy-c-mpls.org)
- Sabathani Community Center; 612-827-5981; [www.sabathani.org](http://www.sabathani.org)
- Tubman Family Alliance; 612-825-3333; [www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org](http://www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org)
- Way To Grow; 612-874-4740; [www.mplswayatogrow.org](http://www.mplswayatogrow.org)
- West Seventh Community Center; 651-298-5493; [www.west7th.org](http://www.west7th.org)

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- 3M Foundation
- ADC Foundation
- Ameriprise
- Bigelow Foundation
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Bush Foundation

- Campbell Foundation
- Richard and Joyce McFarland Family Fund
- McKnight Foundation
- The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
- Carl and Eloise Pohlad Family Foundation
- RBC Dain Rauscher Foundation
- Saint Paul Foundation
- St. Paul Travelers Foundation
- Southways Foundation
- Thrivent Financial
- Travelers Foundation
- Warren F. Weck, Jr. Charitable
- Wells Fargo, MN Foundation
- Plus individual donors

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This e-mail was sent by:

**MACC Alliance of Connected Communities**

**414 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404-1081**

President, Jan Berry, (612) 791-2635 or [jberry@maccalliance.org](mailto:jberry@maccalliance.org)

General information, Sharon Haas, Operations Director, (612) 302-3432 or [shaas@maccalliance.org](mailto:shaas@maccalliance.org)

**[maccalliance.org](http://maccalliance.org)**