

# *Power of We Consortium*

## **2011 and 2012 Work Plan**

### **Goals**

- I.** Improve opportunities and outcomes for our residents' **Intellectual and Social Development**
- II.** Build and sustain a thriving **Economy**
- III.** Reduce inequities that hinder equal access to the resources that affect our **Health**
- IV.** Harness public and private resources to reduce violence and neglect that threaten our **Safety**
- V.** Strengthen supports and policies that assure a healthy and sustainable **Environment**
- VI.** Create and encourage opportunities for building trust, social connection, and civic participation to strengthen our **Community Life**

### **Objectives**

- A.** Support the **Birth to Five Great Start Collaborative** in its mission to foster every family's access to a universal, comprehensive, and collaborative system of community-based early childhood programs, services, and supports. ([www.cacvoices.org/birthtofive](http://www.cacvoices.org/birthtofive))
- B.** Collaborate with the **Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network**, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and partners in a community initiative to end homelessness by 2016. ([www.orgsites.com/mi/greaterlansinghrn](http://www.orgsites.com/mi/greaterlansinghrn))
- C.** Support the work of the Ingham County Infant Mortality Coalition to engage the community in a comprehensive, coordinated effort to reduce infant mortality, with a focus on disparities of African American infant deaths, and other issues including prematurity, low-birth weight, and maternal health outcomes.
- D.** Assist the **Ingham County System of Care Initiative (Impact)** in supporting children with SED (Severe Emotional Disturbances) and their families to receive seamless, integrated treatment and comprehensive community-based interventions in a family-centered approach. ([www.impactssystemofcare.org](http://www.impactssystemofcare.org))
- E.** Support the **Ingham Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition** which brings effective prevention services to our community through comprehensive collaboration. ISAP coordinates, plans, develops and evaluates a comprehensive countywide strategy that addresses locally determined risk and protective factors and achieves changes in substance use behaviors prioritized by our county. ([www.drugfreeingham.org](http://www.drugfreeingham.org))

- F. Work with the **Community Coalition for Youth** and its partners to facilitate and coordinate the development and implementation of a comprehensive, community-wide strategy to ensure youth make successful transitions from early adolescence to young adulthood and from school to career, community and family life. ([www.coalitionforyouth.org](http://www.coalitionforyouth.org))
- G. Partner with the **Asset Independence Coalition** to coordinate resources of public and private institutions to promote the financial independence of low-to-moderate income residents of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties through projects including access to Earned Income Tax Credits, financial literacy, IDAs, etc. ([www.assetindependencecoalition.org](http://www.assetindependencecoalition.org))
- H. Assist the **Long-Term Care Collaborative** which was established to address the long-term needs and preferences of older adults and persons with disabilities, and to increase choices for persons requiring long-term care. Members of the Collaborative are dedicated to serving or advocating for older adults or persons with disabilities and work together to develop and maintain the services and supports that people want. The LTC Collaborative/partnership in the Tri-County area is establishing an Aging and Disability Resource (ADRC). The ADRC- Capital Area Partnership in Michigan provides trusted information to individuals, families, and friends so they are able to make informed decisions, according to their culture, values, and preferences, regarding their long-term support needs.
- I. Support the work of the **Immigrant and Refugee Resource Collaborative** in its effort to create a community where refugees, immigrants and language minorities are welcomed and are able to integrate and participate fully in society at all levels. With that as an expectation, the IRRC will work to provide services, promote opportunities and build a network of relationships to foster the realization of Ingham County, Michigan as a home for people seeking a better life from all parts of the globe. (<http://www.cacvoices.org/organizations/irrc>)
- J. Encourage and support the efforts of the **Land Use and Health Resource Team** to educate and engage the community regarding impacts of the built environment on health, and to facilitate policy and environmental improvements that enhance cardio-vascular health. (<http://www.tri-co.org/> ; [www.re-news.net/moeth](http://www.re-news.net/moeth))
- K. Support and encourage the work of the **Lansing Community Economic Development Network** in its effort to coordinate the actions of local not-profit and municipal agencies working to improve the built environment in the city and promote economic well-being for Lansing neighborhoods, businesses and residents.
- L. Guide State-sponsored systems reform initiatives (**Strong Families/Safe Children, Ingham Family Preservation Initiative**) to include identifying opportunities to increase alignment of these efforts with community-defined issues and needs.
- M. Create access to **universal health care** for all residents
- N. Embed **social justice** tenants in local governmental and institutional policies
- O. Advance a co-created **Birth to Work** framework for transforming community systems and focusing resources on 3 key periods of development: 0-3 years; adolescence; & 17-26 years.

## Strategies

1. Learn and share knowledge about our community and its many components through listening and communicating information.
2. Assist in creating a climate for change through:
  - Facilitating dialogues about community well-being and educating the public on emerging issues
  - Engaging communities and neighborhoods in their analysis of issues and solutions
  - Advocating for community voices by providing an open venue for the community to express its aspirations and issues,
  - Defining a process for planning that will lead to actions and achieve results,
  - Guiding and supporting grant applications developed through participatory processes, and
  - Fulfilling commitments made
3. Collaborate with faith-based and community organizations on various community and neighborhood improvement initiatives determined by community and neighborhood processes.
4. Facilitate community-building by:
  - Promoting community and foundation investment in our five community practices for the purpose of accelerating change in our indicators of community well-being:
    - a) Engaging and mobilizing community members
    - b) Facilitating dialogue and creating connections
    - c) Identifying and supporting civic leadership
    - d) Using all the assets of the community for change
    - e) Sharing and using data and information to support and monitor progress
  - Modifying organizational policies and practices in a way to promote and support community-building activities and social justice.
  - Sharing institutional assets/capacities with faith-based and community organizations.
  - Collaborating with faith-based and community organizations in the development and implementation of their action plans, and
  - Connecting community and neighborhood-driven initiatives and other collaborative efforts to the dialogue about community well-being.
5. Foster and support a sense of shared accountability by routinely engaging the community in dialogues about the 33 indicators of community well-being and measuring progress.
6. Assist faith-based and community organizations with their capacity building by partnering with institutional partners to more fully meet the needs of residents.
7. Continue to support actions and strategies articulated in the 2007 Action Plan for an Organized System of Care in the Capital Area, with particular emphasis on 1) community will for increased funding in support of covering the uninsured, 2) grassroots connection; 3) unifying the concept of health to include oral health, dental health, and substance abuse services; and 4) ensuring health equity.

8. Connect resources to our affiliated coalitions and agencies that are engaged in creating a healthier community.
9. Promote Birth to Work across PWC Coalitions by advocating and assisting PWC Coalitions to, where appropriate:
  - Focus on community systems (families, neighborhoods, organizations, service delivery systems, etc.) that support vulnerable children through the critical developmental stages with a special emphasis on children living in areas of concentrated poverty
  - Identify what works and does not work in translating research into action
  - Provide best practices and new knowledge to economic developers, child and youth associations and coalitions, educators, funders, state departments, service providers, community organizers, etc.
  - Implement specific strategies to inform policies to ameliorate barriers to access for marginalized groups
  - Use social marketing principles to drive change in targeted mental models, personal beliefs, and behaviors, and
  - Identify successful paths to creating effective policies and practice

## **Major Tasks:**

### **a) Power of We Consortium Membership**

- Learn about our community (ies)
- Engage in dialogue to stimulate thought and crystallize action
- Utilize community change practices to engage and mobilize residents, businesses, and community-based organizations toward improvement of the 33 indicators of well-being
- Provide opportunities for ongoing dialogue and action in support of social justice
- Identify and encourage PWC membership that is representative of our diverse community
- Support ongoing implementation of the capacity building project through the Compassion Capital Fund grant
- Support and expand the AmeriCorps\*VISTA and AmeriCorps\*State Programs
- Guide State/Local partnership regarding Strong Families/Safe Children, Early On, and Wraparound Services
- Support the implementation of the 2007 Action Plan for an Organized System of Care, with a special focus on access to healthcare, mental health, and substance abuse
- Create opportunities for neighborhood/community involvement in City of Lansing's Master Planning initiative
- Encourage community and neighborhood utilization of the Community Media Center
- Expand and enhance the capabilities of a continuously updated PWC website ([www.powerofwe.org](http://www.powerofwe.org))
- Articulate and grow a university-in-community partnership between MSU and its surrounding community, including coordination of the Birth to Work framework
- Expand partnerships with the business community to accelerate the advancement of community well-being
- Support and implement the recommendations from the Transportation Work Group
- Develop partnerships with existing and emerging groups and initiatives to assure that our food system is rooted in local communities and centered on food that is healthy, green, fair and affordable.

### **b) Community Data Committee**

- Continuously review, evaluate and select indicators of community well-being
- Support processes to disseminate data and inform indicator identification and clarification
- Engage community partners in development and completion of a continuously updated version of “The Power of We” Indicators Report, with links to related data documents, via the Power of We Consortium website ([www.powerofwe.org](http://www.powerofwe.org))

**c) Leadership and Practice Committee**

- Identify capacity building needs of faith-based and community organizations and coordinate efforts to meet them
- Create ongoing networking and training opportunities for faith-based and community organizations
- Support work groups in select high-need focus areas of organizational capacity building
- Serve as the advisory body for the AmeriCorps\*VISTA and AmeriCorps\*State Programs
- Produce and disseminate to area faith-based and community organizations the monthly capacity building e-bulletin “Connections”
- Explore options for the creation of a sustainable, physical Nonprofit Development Center to support regional nonprofits

**d) Investors’ Steering Committee**

- Coordinate, leverage, expand, and strategically invest local and external resources to maximize impact and achieve PWC goals
- Support PWC’s nonprofit capacity building efforts
- Support and oversee the AmeriCorps\*VISTA and AmeriCorps\*State programs
- Leverage funding in support of the Birth to Work framework with partner Michigan State University