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MCA's Mission

To strengthen and inspire Community Action Agencies to champion solutions to poverty and to promote economic opportunity.

Upcoming Events

Community Action Partnership conference in Chicago, IL Aug 28-30

Directors Council meeting Sept 9 at MCA office in Okemos.

Board of Directors meeting Sept 9 at MCA office in Okemos.

Finance Committee meeting Sept 9 at MCA office in Okemos.

For a full list of events, visit [MCA's calendar](#).

Did you know?

Two hundred and twenty five Community Action staff have completed the MCA Leadership Development Institute led by Rebecca Kraus since the year 2011. Many have received promotions and other career advancement results after attending.

Catalyst welcomes input, story ideas

Is there a story or issue you'd like to see covered in Catalyst?

Let us know what's happening in your agency or region. Success stories? Recent events? People news?

We welcome your input and feedback. Please send your comments and ideas [here](#).

MCA Officers/Board Members 2017-2019

Jill Sutton
President
Mid Michigan CAA

Louis Piszker
Vice President
Wayne Metro CAA

Michelle Williamson
Secretary Treasurer
Community Action

Toby Berry
Urban Officer
Community Action Agency

Kerri Duff
Upper Peninsula Officer
Gogebic Ontonagon CAA

Art Fenrick
Lower Peninsula Rural Officer
Southwest Michigan CAA

Melinda Johnson
At-Large Officer
Blue Water Community Action

Doug McFadden
CAA Governing Board Officer
EightCAP

Matt Purcell
Directors Council Chair
GCCARD

Eric Schertzing
CAA Governing Board Officer
Capital Area Comm. Services

Summer Conference 2019: The Promise in Action!

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Erin Frisch, Chief Deputy Director for Opportunity at DHHS, provides a department update during Wednesday's breakfast at Boyne Mountain.

Nearly 300 Community Action staff and supporters descended onto Boyne Mountain Resort for the annual summer conference, July 23-25, 2019, with the intent to live the conference theme of "Putting the Promise into Action"—the Community Action Promise, that is.

The conference featured an amazing lineup of keynote speakers, breakout sessions along nine subject matter tracks, and plenty of social opportunities to network with colleagues and new friends. David Bradley of the National Community Action Foundation kicked off the conference with his prognostications for reauthorization of the Community Services Block Grant and the Weatherization Assistance Program, as well as his always anticipated handicapping of the upcoming Presidential and Congressional elections.

Policy was also the focus of keynotes from Erin Frisch, the deputy director of Michigan Department of Human Services, and such noted academics in the field of poverty research as James Sullivan of Notre Dame University and Kristin Seefeldt of the University of Michigan's Poverty Solutions office. Dr. Gail Christopher, former vice president of the WK Kellogg Foundation, provided a stirring examination of the racism in American society and how workplaces and cultures that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion can improve outcomes for all communities.

MCA thanks our attendees and all conference partners, sponsors, and exhibitors who took part in the conference, including the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, the Michigan Head Start Association, Mutual of America, PNC Bank, MSHDA, CLEARResult, Efficiency United, Consumers Energy, DTE, and SEEL.

It's not too early to pencil in next year's conference dates of **July 28-30, 2020**. We'll be back at Boyne Mountain. If you'd like to take part in the planning for next year's speakers and sessions, consider joining the MCA Training Committee and/or taking part in the planning session that will be scheduled in late October or early November this year.

Election Recap



Jill Sutton of Mid Michigan CAA was re-elected for a second term as president of MCA's Board of Directors

The summer conference also featured the MCA official annual meeting in which the board of directors' elections were held for the October 2019-September 2021 term. Here are the election results:

- President: Jill Sutton, Mid Michigan CAA
- Vice President: Michelle Williamson, Community Action (Battle Creek)
- Secretary-Treasurer: Kerri Duff, Gogebic Ontonagon CAA
- Urban Officer: Toby Berry, Community Action Agency (Jackson)
- Lower Peninsula/Rural Officer: Lisa Evans, Community Action of Allegan County
- Upper Peninsula Officer: Michelle LaJoie, Community Action Alger Marquette
- At Large Officer: Melinda Johnson, Blue Water Community Action
- Directors Council Chair: Matt Purcell, Genesee County Community Action Resource Department
- Governing Board Officer: Doug McFadden, EightCAP
- Governing Board Officer: Mary Ann Neapolitan, Monroe County Opportunity Program

Congratulations and thanks to all board members for their willingness to serve!

Weatherization Reauthorization Moving Forward



L-R Rep. Andy Levin, D-MI 9 and Rep. Fred Upton, R-MI 4

David Bradley of the National Community Action Foundation sent a July 31 email to CAAs and supporters across the country containing good news about the prospects of Congressional reauthorization of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). Both Senate and House versions of the bill have been reported out of committee and will likely be passed by both full bodies in September. The two bills are essentially the same and promise to reauthorize WAP for five years with a 12% increase in funding ranging from \$290 million in the first year to \$350 million in the fifth. Administrative funding is set to increase from 10% to 15% for WAP grantees. Also, the new version of the program will allow for more use of renewable energy sources. Bradley cited Michigan Congressmen [Rep. Fred Upton](#) and [Rep. Andy Levin](#) as being particularly helpful in moving the reauthorization forward.

MCA Opens Leadership Development Registration



This year's graduates of MCA's Leadership Development Institute at Boyne Mountain.

MCA has opened registration to join the eighth cohort of future CAA leaders in its Leadership Development Institute. Classes begin with a two-day session on October 28-29 at MCA's offices in Okemos. The deadline to register is September 27. To see a description and schedule of sessions, please click [here](#). To register for the 2019-20 cohort, please complete the online form [here](#). If you need help with the registration form, please contact [Nicole Caroen](#).

CCAP Study Group Forming

MCA will host several study group sessions for CAA staff members who are preparing for the Certified Community Action Professional exam in 2020. The group will be facilitated by CCAP emeritus Charles McCann and is a great way to get familiar with the exam format and questions. To learn more about CCAP, click [here](#). To sign up for this study group, fill out this [registration form](#) or contact [Nicole Caroen](#).

Mike Shalley Retires August 15



Mike Shalley at his retirement party

MCA Member Services Director Mike Shalley will retire from his post on August 15 after nearly 15 years with the association. "Working for MCA and the Community Action network has been the highlight of my working life. It's the job that most closely matched my professional interests with my personal beliefs. I am so proud of the work of Community Action. It's been my honor to work with you all," says Mike.

Anyone wishing to reach out to Mike following his departure can contact [Nicole Caroen](#) for his personal email and phone numbers.



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- \$4,000 grant toward a degree program for eligible students who enroll in a GuidedPath program by January 2019
- Additional 10% tuition discount for all eligible students* *Not combinable with select tuition discounts
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