



“Improving the quality of life for all citizens of St. Joseph County through collaborative efforts.”

2022

Annual Report to the Community

Access to Healthcare

Adult Services Network

Child Death Review

Early Childhood Workgroup/
Great Start Collaborative

Housing Task Force

Project Connect Committee

Substance Abuse Task Force

Task Force on Family Violence



**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES
COMMISSION**

2022 HSC Members

Executive Committee

Chair, Kathy Olsen

Quality Assurance & Project Coordinator / WDB Liaison, Michigan Works! Southwest

Vice Chair, Stephanie Zann

Director, GSC, Help Me Grow St. Joe

Past Chair, Rebecca Burns

Health Officer, BHSJ Community Health Agency

Member at Large, Charles Rose

Dir., Department of Health & Human Services

Member at Large, Cameron Bullock

Exec. Director, CMH & SAS

St. Joseph County Commission, Fiduciary

Kathy Pangle, County Commissioner

HSC Body

Leasa Grffith

SJC Superintendent's Association Mendon Community Schools

David Shannon

CEO, Three Rivers Health, Beacon Health System

Teresa Belote

Superintendent, St. Joseph County ISD

Courtney Iobe

Director, Community Action Agency

Kelli Tackett

Executive Director, Keystone Place, Inc.

Kevin Kane /Judge David Tomlinson

St. Joseph County Juvenile Court

Tonya Howden

V.P. of Student Services, Glen Oaks Community College

Stacy Linihan

Director, Covered Bridge Healthcare

Pamela Riley

Executive Director, SJC Commission on Aging

Christian Garcia

Aetna Better Health of Michigan

Allen Balog

St. Joseph County Transportation Authority

Lynn Coursey

Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan

Matie James

Citizen Representative

Deborah Hackworth

Director, Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services

Tami Farnum

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Message from the 2022 Human Services Commission Chair

Greetings!

As Chair of the St. Joseph County Human Services Commission, I want to thank all the task force and workgroup members for their work and commitment to St Joseph County.

Our task forces and workgroups strive to enhance and fill gaps in human services within our community, making our community stronger.

This year's annual report highlights their accomplishments during 2022. We have continued to take great strides this year as we grow SJC Resources Google group. The task forces have also been instrumental in keeping the Resource Guide updated. Both are products of the St. Joseph County Human Services Commissions' workgroups and task forces.

Please join us as we celebrate our progress and move into 2023!

*Kathy Olsen, Michigan Works! Southwest
Chair, St. Joseph County HSC*

Mission & Vision

The MISSION of the SJC HSC is to “coordinate and leverage collaborative efforts to improve the quality of life for all citizens.”

Our VISION is to facilitate “seamless and efficient access to services that support individual, family, and community needs.”

The Purpose of the HSC

The St. Joseph County Human Services Commission (HSC) was established by the St. Joseph County Commission in 1995 as the single multi-purpose collaborative for St. Joseph County. Their resolution authorized SJC Human Services Commission to:

- Forge alliances
- Create a shared vision
- Mobilize resources for services to families whose needs are being met by multiple agencies

Currently HSC is comprised of 19 member agencies working together to coordinate health and human services across systems. HSC fosters collaboration and relationships among agencies to prevent duplication of services and provide better service to our citizens.

The HSC does this work through established task forces and workgroups.

To learn more about the work of the HSC, contact Collaborative Coordinator Laura Brott, at 269-625-1820 or BrottL@michigan.gov.

“Connection” Tools at your Fingertips

“Our agency appreciates all the resource tools and services the HSC provides for our county. We use them virtually every day.” - SJC Resources Google Group member

“Covering multiple counties in our region, I’ve noticed that St. Joseph County really has it together for resource connection among agencies and is a “best practice” model for other counties!”

SJC Resources Google Group member



With over 500 front line workers across the county in this email chain, **SJC Resources Google Group** continues to meet non-traditional needs countywide.

“Needs are met quickly without the hindrance of paperwork!”-

SJC Housing Task Force member



The **Community Resource Roundtable** quickly connects current agency and organization staff, providing a snapshot of services available in the county and the faces that provide these services. Over 75 front line workers attended the roundtable in 2022.

“The round table is such a great event! I learn so much and I am able to pass this information on to those I serve.”

“Your county works so well together! Your communication and how you partner together is stellar! You don’t see that in every county -Roundtable attendee



St Joseph County Human Services Commission on Facebook is one more avenue to connect to the public and push information out about the many events and resources in St. Joseph County. The page has 1,546 page followers. Popular posts include monthly food distribution locations and Thanksgiving meals.



St Joseph County’s comprehensive **Resource Guide** is located on the HSC website. This is a live document regularly updated with current services. Popular pages includes the food resources, free store hours, parent resources, and apartment complexes.

“I sure appreciate this county’s grassroots effort to collect information about the services available and share the information with front line workers and the public”

- SJC Resources Google Group member



The HSC calendar of supportive events and services includes community events, food pantry and free store hours, support & recovery groups, and much more. Users can add events directly to their own calendars from the site.

“I am on this calendar ALL the time. Thank you!! - SJC Task Force on Family Violence member

The HSC website was accessed by over 900 users each month in 2022.

Add the HSC website onto your mobile phone home screen or add as a favorite on your desktop!





COPE

A ThinkTank Experience

The St. Joseph County Human Services Commission partnered with Hope United and St. Joseph County United Way November 17, 2022 to present a COPE Event: Cost of Poverty Experience at Firm Foundations Ministries.



The Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) helps organizations, agencies, and ministries work more effectively with low-income families. COPE gives participants and volunteers an opportunity to experience poverty firsthand through the eyes of real families. The experimental nature of this training helps address the issues of poverty comprehensively.

This understanding leads to improved practices and approaches to better engage with low-income individuals. It also helps our community build broader partnerships to improve outcomes for low-income families.

Hope United led the efforts to organize this event. St. Joseph County United Way provided lunch for both attendees and volunteers and donated \$1,000 toward the cost. St. Joseph County Co-op also donated \$2,000 toward the cost. Firm Foundations donated the use of their facilities.

- 79 Individuals signed up to attend the event
- 17 community resource leaders facilitated

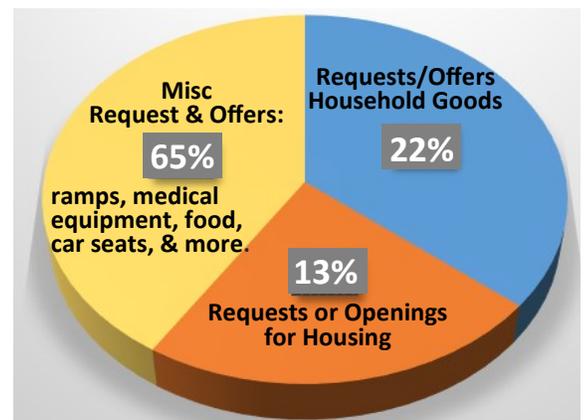
Hope United hopes to hold annual COPE events and desires to continue partnering with United Way and the HSC on these events.

The [SJC Resources Google Email Group](#)

was created among the task forces and workgroups in November 2016 and has grown to over 500 caring individuals and professionals working on the front lines in St. Joseph County across many human services agencies, groups, and faith based organizations. The group email service is used to share agency updates, upcoming events, and request help finding a service or meeting a need.

Front line workers in St. Joseph County can request to join the SJC Resources email group by emailing BrottL@michigan.gov

598 total Google Group posts during 2022:



2022 Project Connect & Veteran Stand Down

Project Connect is a collaboration of the SJC Human Services Commission, its task forces, and other agencies serving St. Joseph County. The 16th Annual Project Connect was held October 7, 2022 at the Fairgrounds in Centreville. It was held in conjunction with a Veteran Stand Down.

Event Impact:

- 168 households attended
- 447 persons were impacted (includes household members not present)
- 94% of attendees reside within St. Joseph County
- 139 out of 140 households indicated they received help they needed or were connected to a resource to help with their current needs
- 97 new households attended that did not attend in 2021
- 35 veterans attended
- Average household size was 3 persons
- Average age of attendee was 46-55 years old
- 12% of households had less than 12 years of education
- 15 households were currently homeless
- 2 households in process of being evicted
- 47 attendees currently unemployed
- 66% of attendees sought food assistance
- 27% of attendees sought healthcare assistance

Project Connect is a community resource fair for individuals and families who are low income, homeless, and/or veterans to give them a hand up and improve their quality of life. Free items, services, information, and help is available on site at this one-day event.

At 2022 Project Connect:

- 11 rides provided to and from event courtesy of SJCTA
- 420 meals served by St. Joseph County United Way
- 75 service agencies participated
- 200 hygiene kits provided
- 200 community help cards distributed
- 250 commodities boxes and 200 fresh food boxes distributed
- 72 shots administered
- 260+ health screenings provided

Project Connect Planning Committee

Chair: *Laura Brott, SJC Human Services Commission*
BrottL@michigan.gov

Angela Anderson, Community Action
Chuck Asher, Community Action
Stephanie Belote, Community Healing Center
Jordan Brinker/ Maria Bosnak, US Department of Veterans Affairs
Michelle Boudreau, South Michigan Food Bank
Holly Cerny, Community Mental Health
Marci Goodman, St. Joseph County Transportation Authority
Jill Gunn, Hope United
Aimnee Mullendore, BHSJ Community Health Agency
Cindi Pennington, KMG Prestige
Susan Pyles, DHHS- MYOI Program
Amanda Schemmel, Covered Bridge Healthcare
Stephanie Zann, GSC, Help Me Grow St. Joe



Access to Health Care

Chair: David Shannon, Beacon-Three Rivers Health

dshannon@trhealth.org

Participating Agencies:

- Aetna Better Health of Michigan
- Ascension Borgess Hospital
- Beacon, Three Rivers Health
- BHSJ Community Health Agency
- Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
- Covered Bridge Healthcare
- SJC Human Services Commission
- SJC Commission on Aging
- SJC Intermediate School District
- St. Joseph County United Way
- Sturgis Area Community Foundation



Collaboratively accomplished:

- ◆ Relayed COVID information to the healthcare workers, the public, and at-risk populations during the pandemic regarding CDC recommendations, testing sites, and vaccinations.
- ◆ Shared information regarding access to new health services in the county.
- ◆ Collaborated to efficiently provide vaccines and raise the level of vaccination in St. Joseph County. The group utilized a grant obtained through St Joseph County United Way to provide incentives for vaccination and vaccine hesitancy education.
- ◆ Increased community access to health services by providing outreach to hard-to-reach populations including the homeless, prisons, Amish, Hispanic, and others through mobile health services.
- ◆ Organized daily health presentations at the St. Joseph County Fair's Community Tent featuring these topics: early childhood programs, Marijuana: Knowing the Risks for Teens, Supporting Seniors: Promoting Independence, Stress and Women's Health, health screenings, and ESA service dogs.
- ◆ St. Joseph County United Way arranged a group strategic planning session. The group also provided input to the Sturgis Community Foundation regarding health criteria for a community dashboard and met with an independent consultant to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan for the health department in 2023.

Adult Services Network

Co-Chair: Nicole Notestine, St. Joseph County Commission on Aging, *nnotestine@sjcoa.com*

Co-Chair: Amanda Johnson, Covered Bridge Healthcare, *Amanda@sjccbh.org*

Participating Agencies:

- Absolute Homecare
- Aetna Better Health of Michigan
- Area Agency on Aging 3C
- Beacon, Three Rivers Home Health and Hospice
- Birch Meadows
- Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Covered Bridge Healthcare
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Disability Network Southwest Michigan
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services
- Fairview Rehabilitation Community
- Edgewood Healthcare
- Home Joy
- Promedica-Heartland Hospice
- Safe Haven
- Sparrow Assisted Living
- SJC Human Services Commission
- SJC Veterans Services
- SJC Commission On Aging
- SJC Transportation Authority
- Skaggs Assisted Living
- Thurston Cares

Collaboratively accomplished:

- ◆ Services to Victims of Elder Abuse Program 2021/2022
 - 16 St. Joseph County participants served
- ◆ 50 community partners involved in the ASN google group and 12 regularly attended the monthly meetings
- ◆ Collaborated with the Human Services Commission to update the Community Resource Guide pages pertaining to Seniors and Senior Health.
- ◆ Organized the 2022 Senior Resource Fair.
 - 25 agencies participated
 - 132 participants served



The Adult Services Network provides opportunities to discuss issues affecting the older and vulnerable adult population in St. Joseph County and to identify programs to implement.

Nikki Notestine, Adult Services Network Co-Chair



Child Death Review

Co-Chair: Brian Stears, St. Joseph County Sheriff's Department, StearsB@stjosephcountymi.org

Co-Chair: Madonna Hilarides, BHSJ Community Health Agency, hilaridesm@bhsj.org

Participating Agencies:

- BHSJ Community Health Agency
- Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services
- Michigan Public Health Institute
- Michigan State Police
- SJC Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- SJC Human Services Commission
- SJC Intermediate School District
- St. Joseph County Sheriff's Department
- Sturgis Fire Department
- Sturgis Hospital
- Sturgis Pediatrics
- Sturgis Police Department
- Three Rivers Health, Beacon Health System
- Three Rivers Police Department

This interdisciplinary team of medical staff, law enforcement, and other professionals review child deaths within St. Joseph County to determine if these deaths of 0-18 years olds were preventable. When appropriate, they suggest community-wide prevention education to prevent future deaths.

- ◆ 6 cases were reviewed in 2022.
- ◆ A house fire and vehicular accidents contributed to preventable deaths of children reviewed in 2022.

Great Start Collaborative/Early Childhood Workgroup

Chair: Stephanie Zann, Great Start Collaborative/ISD, szann@sjcisd.org

- Aetna Better Health of Michigan
- Area Preschool Providers
- BHSJ Community Health Agency
- Burr Oaks Schools
- Centreville Public Schools
- Southwest Child Care Resources
- Colon Schools
- Community Action
- Community Mental Health & SAS
- Constantine Public Schools
- Council for Prevention of Child Abuse/Neglect
- Covered Bridge Healthcare
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services
- Foster Parent Liaison
- Kinship Care
- Mendon Schools
- Michigan Alliance for Families
- Nottawa Community School
- SJC Human Services Commission
- SJC Intermediate School District
Great Start Readiness Program
Early Headstart & Childcare Partnerships
Early On
Special Education
Parent Coalition
- SJC Probate Court
- Sturgis Pregnancy Helpline
- Three Rivers Schools
- United Way

Collaboratively accomplished:

The SJC Great Start Collaborative/Early Childhood Workgroup continued implementing its 4-year strategic plan.

- Continued the Talk, Read, Sing community campaign.
- Distributed 320 Ready Calendars to support school readiness skills at home.
- Offered 6 Conscious Discipline classes with 51 participants completed.
- Launched Help Me Grow St. Joe website to the community. Began to market Help Me Grow St. Joe with reach cards, magnets, and other materials.
- Screened 556 children with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire online system. Added a Family Access portal on the Help Me Grow St. Joe website enabling caregivers to screen their children at any time.
- Held 6 Book-Walks, in partnership with the Three Rivers Library, throughout the summer on Memory Island, and The Huss Project. The GSC supported Centreville Elementary to start their own Book-walk at the school.
- Continued the Trusted Advisor work focused on building early literacy skills with 4 Musical Storybooks and Music Together Family classes in partnership with Three Rivers Library, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and The Huss Project
- Held weekly Playgroups at The Huss Project and Grace Christian Fellowship, Sturgis. Began Eaters-to Readers parent education program after playgroup at the Huss Project to engage families in the community garden at the Huss Project and learn about healthy eating.
- Distributed 250 Welcome Baby Bags to new parents thru Beacon-Three Rivers Hospital and Bronson Hospital as a collaboration grant from the Exchange Club of Sturgis, and support from St. Joseph County Child Abuse and Neglect about parenting tips and local community resources.
- Hosted the "Celebrating Babies" community event for pregnant mom's and those parenting children under 1 year along with BHSJ Health Department, with 10 exhibitors.



Housing Task Force/Local Planning Body of Balance of State Continuum of Care

Chair: Jan Reed, Department of Health and Human Services, Reedj4@michigan.gov



Participating Agencies:

- Balance of State Continuum of Care
- Battle Creek VA
- Community Action
- Community Mental Health & SAS
- Covered Bridge Healthcare
- Disability Network
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services
- Elm Tree Apartments
- Fair Housing Center SWM
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hope House
- Hope United
- Integrated Services
- KeyStone Place
- KMG Prestige
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority
- Michigan Works! SW
- SJC Commission On Aging
- St. Joseph County Government
- SJC Intermediate School District
- SJC Veteran Services
- SJC Human Services Commission
- SJC Realtor/Renter Association
- St. Joseph County Transportation Authority
- Salvation Army
- Milestone Senior Services
- Sturgis Neighborhood Program
- True North
- United Community Assistance Program (UCAP)
- Woda Management
- City of Sturgis
- Sturgis Episcopal Church– Friday Friendship Meal

2022 Statistics

- ◆ 70 homeless people on Point-In-Time Count Day
- ◆ 300 literally homeless adults served in St. Joseph County in 2022
- ◆ 56 children served
- ◆ 453 households served by CERA other homeless prevention programs, equaling \$2,017,295.00 (This includes rent and utilities.)
- ◆ 35 households with 24 children served by rapid rehousing programs equaling \$183,596.00
- ◆ Over 20 cases coordinated through Interagency Services Team with focus of minimizing barriers to help people get housed and stay housed
- ◆ Used Mental Health grants to house 41 households with severe and persistent mental illness
- ◆ 168 families impacted through Project Connect (447 total persons in households)

Collaboratively accomplished:

- Oversight to our county's Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (Keystone Place); money received, spent, and outcomes to assure a comprehensive community-wide service and housing delivery system.
- Hope United and its member churches established RESET Day Center in Centreville to support and assist Keystone Clients, the homeless, and those at risk for homelessness. RESET helps individuals with such tasks as: obtaining essential documents like birth certificates and I.D.'s, completing job and apartment applications, and also provides classes on basic financial training and life skills.

Task Force on Family Violence

Chair: Deborah Hackworth, deborahh@dasasmi.org
Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services



Annual Candlelight Vigil

Participating Agencies:

- Aetna Better Health of Michigan
- Area Agency on Aging
- Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
- Covered Bridge Healthcare
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services
- Great Start Collaborative
- Hope House
- SJC Human Services Commission
- SJC Sheriff's Department
- SJC Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Sturgis Pregnancy Helpline
- Three Rivers Pregnancy Helpline

Collaboratively accomplished:

- ◆ Held annual Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil – approximately 147 attendees.
- ◆ Continued to compare emergency response calls to DASAS with cases submitted to Prosecuting Attorney's office.
- ◆ Community partner presentations at meetings to learn about and discuss systematic practices and effects on survivors.
- ◆ Maintained Task Force Facebook page to push out more information to public about healthy relationships.
- ◆ Task force was instrumental in promoting prevention education throughout the year.

Substance Abuse Task Force

Chair: Mikayla Finnerman and Mark Olsen

Community Mental Health & SAS

mfinnerman@stjoecmh.org

molsen2@stjoecmh.org



Participating Agencies:

- Aetna Better Health of Michigan
- BHSJ Community Health Agency
- Destiny Church
- Covered Bridge Healthcare
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services
- Great Start Collaborative
- St. Joseph County Community Corrections
- SJC Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- SJC Human Services Commission
- St. Joseph County Probation Division
- St. Joseph County Transportation Authority
- Riverside Church
- New Vision Withdrawal Management
- South West Michigan Behavioral Health
- Recovery Resource Center

Collaboratively accomplished:

Held 5 campaigns in FY 21/22: Methamphetamine, Underage Alcohol Use, and Underage Marijuana Use, RX Drug Misuse, Underage Vaping

- ◆ Grew email database to reach over 600 community members and front line workers.
- ◆ Social Media interactions: over 5,000 people reached on Facebook. Joeinsider.com ads reached 14,000 views per month.
- ◆ Expanded community sectors representation on Task Force.
- ◆ Created a Spanish Facebook page and established a Spanish speaking person to manage the page
- ◆ Increased school appearance with Too Good For Drugs program.
- ◆ **Alcohol/ Compliance Checks (to prevent distribution of products to individuals under age of 18)**
 - ◆ Provided education to 73 alcohol/tobacco retailers.
 - ◆ Completed 30 retailer alcohol compliance checks (29 passed).
 - ◆ Completed 71 tobacco retailer compliance checks (70 passed).
- ◆ **Opioid / RX Drug Mis-Use Campaign**
 - ◆ Campaign flyers reached 10,060 people on Facebook;46 individuals viewed virtual presentation about RX overdose.
 - ◆ Held Naloxone Training for the public. All fire departments in St. Joseph County are trained and re-stocked with kits.
 - ◆ 1,760 pounds of medication collected at drop off locations.
- ◆ **Methamphetamine Campaign**
 - ◆ 2022 Voices of Hope and Recovery Event for Meth Campaign– 48 in-person attendees / also offered live stream.
- ◆ **Underage Drinking Campaign**
 - ◆ Facebook posts reached 10,924 people.
 - ◆ Eddie Mackay presented at Riverside Church, 44 attended.
- ◆ **Underage Marijuana Use Campaign**
 - ◆ Facebook posts reached 9,095 people.
 - ◆ County Fair presentation– 13 attended / 775 individual interactions at educational booth.
- ◆ **Underage Vaping Campaign**
 - ◆ Reached 15,415 people through Facebook posts.
 - ◆ Gave presentations to Colon MS, Colon HS ,and Sturgis football teams.
 - ◆ Ran 90 thirty second commercials on both WBET and WTHD radio.
- ◆ **Continued Prime For Life Curriculum**
 - ◆ Served 155 individuals in Prime for Life classes.
 - ◆ Served 9 Juvenile Day Treatment Center students in program.
 - ◆ Created all posts and flyers in Spanish and English. Offered a virtual option in Spanish.



Strategic Planning



Much of our strategic plan for 2022 focused on changes internally to strengthen communication within our collaborative as well as communication with other bodies and agencies in SJC. The end result is residents are receiving services because both the frontline workers serving them know what is available in St. Joseph County and the residents know how to access these services.

Strategic Plan 2022 Accomplishments

HSC addressed the lack of housing in St. Joseph County by collaborating with municipalities, chambers of commerce, and agencies to develop a community master housing plan under the guidance of the South Michigan Planning Council. The plan was completed in 2021 and a SJC Housing Collaborative workgroup formed. In 2022 the work group completed a series of one page guides for directing the public and businesses to housing resources. It then requested the County hire a full time housing Collaborative Coordinator to lead the continuation of the housing plan work. Through a grant award, the county has agreed to fund a Housing Collaborative Coordinator position starting in 2023 for two years.

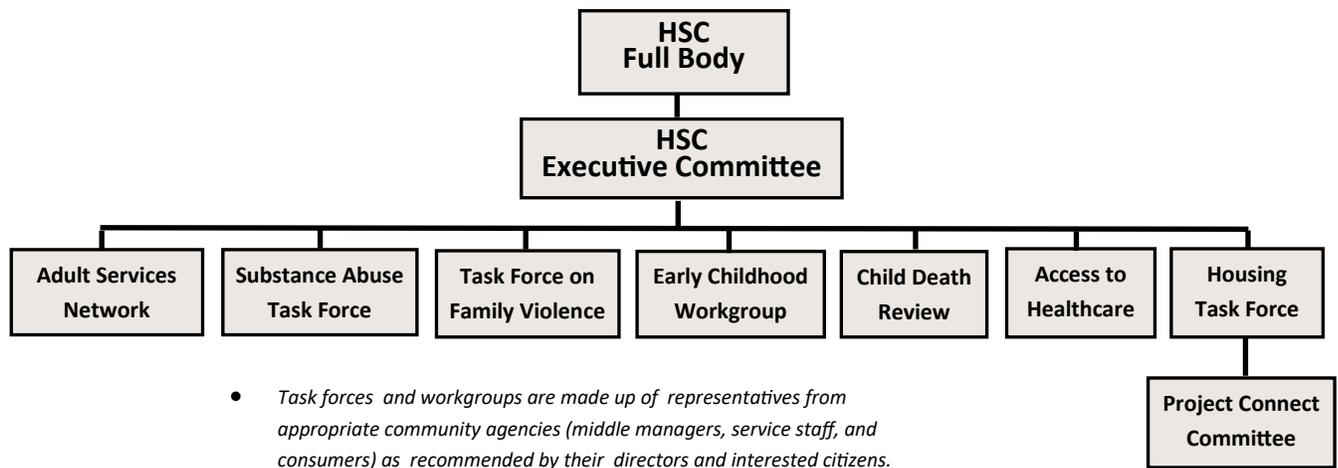
In 2022, the HSC's website of connection tools (including the community resource guide and community help card) along with its Facebook page and SJC Resources Google Group were an integral part of informing the community of services and events.

Focus for 2023

Housing continues to be a priority. The Housing Plan work group will start work with the new Housing Collaborative Coordinator to work on the county-wide housing plan. The HSC is working with the Sturgis Area Community Foundation on a Quality of Life Dashboard for our county. The HSC will also continue to build its network with community groups and marketing its resources website to agency workers and the public, county-wide.

The St. Joseph County Human Services' Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 can be viewed at: www.sjchumanservices.com

SJC Human Services Commission -Organizational Diagram



- Task forces and workgroups are made up of representatives from appropriate community agencies (middle managers, service staff, and consumers) as recommended by their directors and interested citizens.
- The HSC provides feedback to the workgroups on their goals and activities, and offers assistance and resources as needed and available.

To get involved in the HSC work groups, contact Laura Brott, 269-625-1820 or email BrottL@michigan.gov