

**SO YOU WANT TO TALK TO A
LEGISLATOR**
ADVOCACY DAY PRESENTATION TO SCHA-MI MEMBERS

March 7, 2011



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LEGISLATORS ARE PEOPLE TOO!

- State Legislators are elected by the people to uphold the state constitution, promote the health and well-being of its citizens, and provide adequate resources to carry out the business of the state.
- They are not experts on all subjects!
- They need your expertise!



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OBJECTIVES

- You can make a difference
- Who's Who in the Zoo
- How to communicate with elected officials
- What to expect in a meeting

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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- You already have the knowledge you need to be an effective advocate!
- Elected officials work for you!
- Only 2.5 of 10 citizens vote; your voice carries weight!

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WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Advocacy involves activities undertaken in support of a cause, proposal or legislative action; it is a common term without any legal meaning.

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WHY IS ADVOCACY NECESSARY?

- **To protect a self-interest**
 - Equity in access to health care and clinical outcomes
 - Maintenance of CAHC funding

- **To educate and provide public awareness**
 - Medicaid outreach provided by CAHCs
 - Social determinants to health

- **To promote a cause via public/private events**
 - SCHA-MI 2011 Advocacy Day at the Capitol
 - K-12 School Aid Appropriations Committee Hearings

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WHO MAKES THE MOST EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE?

- Those who share a personal connection with the issue
- Those who could be impacted by the issue
- Anyone who wants to make a difference

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WHO'S WHO IN THE ZOO?

- The Context: the budget and term limits
- Structure of State Government
- Who are the players?
- Relationship of federal and local

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K-12 SCHOOL AID APPROPS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SENATE

- Howard Walker – Chair
- Bruce Caswell – Maj. V. Chair
- John Pappageorge
- Hoon-Yung Hopgood – Min. V. Chair

HOUSE

- Bill Rogers –Chair
- Earl Poleski – Maj. V. Chair
- Jon Bumstead
- Phil Potvin
- Ellen Cogen-Lipton – Min. V. Chair
- Jim Ananich

3/8/2011

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RESEARCH AND ONLINE RESOURCES

www.michigan.gov

www.michiganlegislature.org

www.milhs.org

www.michiganschildren.org

www.scha-mi.org

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HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH STATE LEGISLATORS

- **Face-to-face meetings**
 - Appointments with officials
 - Rallies and town halls
 - PTA, board meetings, and organization days
- **Internet**
 - Emails
 - Blogs/Twitter
 - Facebook, MySpace & YouTube
- **Phone calls**
- **Writing campaigns**
 - Letters, Editorials and postcards
 - Petitions
- **Media coverage**
- **Voting!!!**

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WHAT TO EXPECT IN A MEETING

- Format
- Role Play
- Legislator vs. Staff
- KISS
- Follow-up

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PREPARING TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

- My concern is...
- I am concerned about this because...
- Share a story, specific data or personal experience
- Ask: What can the legislator do to assist you with your concern.
- Don't forget to include your name, address, and phone number so they know you are a constituent.

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SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE "ASKS"

HELP Michigan Children Realize Their Full Academic Potential By:

- Maintaining CAHC funding consistent with Governor Snyder's recommendation.
- Supporting continuance of state waiver which enable Medicaid match of state appropriation.
- Supporting educational reforms that strengthen coordinated school health.
- Touring and becoming involved in the CAHC in your district.

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“This cried the Mayor, is your town’s darkest hour! The time for all Who’s who have blood that is red to come to the aid of their country! He said. We’ve got to make noises in greater amounts! So open your mouth, lad! For every voice counts!”

Horton Hears the Who! By Dr. Suess

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