



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

REPORT September
2022

We have come so far from the "NEMCA" as mentioned in this article. We have touched the lives of so many along the way. Returning from the National Community Action Partnership Conference in New York, I have been reflecting on NEMCSA as an organization - who we have been and who we have become. I am proud to say we are respected in this state and in the Community Action network as a provider of high-quality, efficient services that are responsive to the needs of our local communities. - Lisa Bolen



Article taken
from the Alpena News

Looking Back

**50 years ago
Aug. 17, 1972**

Although three of Alpena's five Catholic schools are closed this year, two of the buildings will continue to be used extensively as parish and religious education centers. The St. Bernard Parish Council voted Wednesday night to rent a maximum of four second-floor classrooms to NEMCA (NorthEast Michigan Community Action) for second-floor classrooms for use in the Headstart Day Care Program. The rental will run from 12 months beginning Sept. 1 and will include use of the classrooms for a maximum of eight

hours per day.

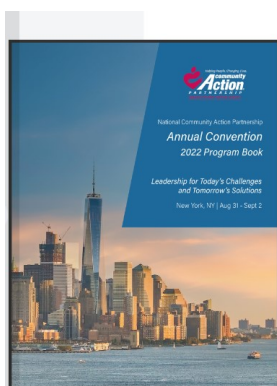
**100 years ago
Aug. 17, 1922**

Stony Point Park _ That Stony Point Park is more and more becoming a notable point of the city as well as northern Michigan, is quite evident from the number of tourist who have located at the point and are making use of the camping grounds. At present about fifteen tents are located on the grounds. The point is not only being used for temporary camping grounds, but Alpena bathers are enjoying the beach.

This information was compiled by the Special Collections Department of the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Library. Visit alpenalibrary.org or call 989-356-6188 for more information.

**Enhancing quality of life by empowering individuals and
strengthening communities.**

Last month Lisa Bolen, Tricia Grifka, Cathy Macfalda and Frances Ommani attended the Community Action National Partnership Annual Conference in New York City. In the spirit of this year's theme, Leadership for Today's Challenges and Tomorrow's Solutions, there were many sessions offered that addressed critical issues Community Action faces– from COVID-19 recovery to equity-centered solutions against poverty. The trainings provided resources to both equip established leaders and develop the kind of emerging leaders that can guide Community Action for the years and decades to come.



2022 Annual Convention Program Book



Shine Bright Volunteer Program

WE WANT YOU!

The Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency has ongoing needs for volunteers to serve our communities through fulfilling our mission of "Enhancing quality of life by empowering individuals and strengthening communities." Selfless acts of volunteerism can enhance the quality of life of others and make our communities better places to live.

JOIN OUR TEAM AS A VOLUNTEER!

WHERE CAN YOU SHINE BRIGHT?

Click here to apply today!

It is now easier than ever to join NEMCSA as a Shine Bright volunteer! You can now fill out our new online volunteer application at: Shine Bright Application. We are always on the lookout for volunteers to assist with various needs and programs. If you want more information on how you can help, call Rick today at 989-358-4637 or email shinebright@nemcsa.org

Need Help? Contact NEMCSA at 989-358-4700 or visit www.nemcsa.org.

NEMCSA now has funding for home energy needs including LP gas/propane, fuel oil, coal or wood.

IMPORTANT: Eligible participants must have proof of State of Emergency (SER) eligibility.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE. ENHANCING LIVES.

Early Childhood Services

PROGRAM IMPACT

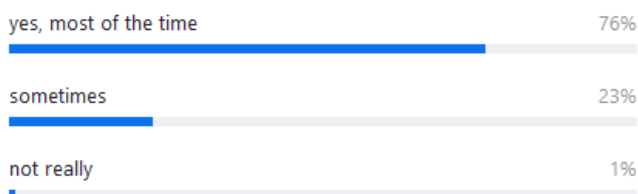
Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year

Full-time staff were welcomed back August 15 with messages on connection, resilience, and keeping a positive mindset. Utilizing both virtual and in-person meeting formats enabled staff to spend more of their time on-site. During his presentation, our speaker asked the following questions:



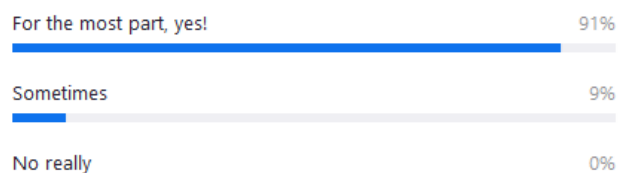
Connected Teams

1. Do you feel connected to your team members? (Single Choice) *



Productive Team

1. Do you feel like you team/department works well together? (Single Choice) *



Along with every other industry, we face significant challenges this year.

Despite the challenges, we continue to focus on providing high-quality services for young children and their families. The foundation of Head Start and GSRP is our connected and productive workforce working together with parents to ensure the best possible future for our nation's children.

Extra funds were used to call back both full-time and part-staff earlier than usual, providing more time to prepare for the school year and an additional week's wages.

Beginning-of-the-year celebrations were held to welcome back staff and start the school year as a strong team.



PROGRAM IMPACT

The School Success Partnership application and budget for the \$1.525 million in state funding has been submitted and approved! The state funding is 52% of the \$2.9 million total SSP budget. Additional funding for SSP is 38% School Partnerships, NEMCSA 7% and Other Funding 3%.



School Success is back in action for the FY 22/23 school year.

Above Pic: Some of our School Success staff celebrating the start of the school year.

On August 22, 2022, School Success Liaisons returned for the 2022 – 2023 school year to multiple announcements including the increased state funding and the expansion of the program with additional School Success Liaisons as well as the Truancy Intervention program and Truancy Intervention Liaisons.

As of September 6, 2022, the following positions have been filled:

School Success Liaison

Arianna Collins, Richardson Elementary
Brent Rellinger, Whittemore-Prescott Elementary/Middle
Jozie Appelgren, Fairview Area Schools
Holly Jore, Immanuel Lutheran

Truancy Intervention Liaison

Sara Hefele, Alpena Elementary
Rob Adams, Alpena Elementary
Jeana Bellenger, Alpena Secondary

The following positions remain open for recruitment:

School Success Liaison

Johannesburg K-8
Inland Lakes Elementary

Truancy Intervention Liaison

Cheboygan County
Iosco County (2 Positions)
Montmorency County
Oscoda County
Otsego County

All School Success program staff will be participating in a School Violence Prevention and Response Training as well as Poverty Education Training on September 12 and 13, 2022.

Food programs

PROGRAM IMPACT



NEMCSA Food Programs have been expanding their reach with the home delivery program thanks to a combined partnership with NEMCSA's Volunteer Services Department and the amazing volunteers that have signed up to assist with this effort. In the month of July & August, 58 boxes of food were delivered. In addition, 25 boxes of food were delivered to our community partner, Hope Shores Alliance, for their survivors at their various locations.

Going along with our home delivery program our Food Program was awarded \$25,000 from a Reach and Resiliency grant to be utilized for mileage reimbursement for our volunteers!



The Importance of Partnerships!

Pictured to the left is NEMCSA's very own Sherry Garner-Area Manager for Head Start along with Food Program recipient Terri Lafby. Terri reached out to our Food Program in crisis as her well stopped working and she had no running water for drinking or bathing. Amanda Bergeron, Food Program Coordinator, sent an urgent message to a group of her colleagues to find out who may be able to quickly assist Lafby in the Grayling Area.

Jodie Baker-Training & Development Coordinator, jumped in and recommended that we reach out to Sherry Garner as she is in the Grayling area. Sherry was briefed on the situation and jumped into action, delivering cases and gallons of water to Ms. Lafby. Other community partners are supporting Ms. Lafby with grants and other resources to repair her well. This is an excellent example of teamwork through multiple departments and agencies!

Are you in need of home delivery? If you live in Alpena, Alcona or Iosco County and need home delivered commodities, visit www.nemcsa.org.

Homeless & Prevention

PROGRAM IMPACT

Victoria Purvis, Homeless & Prevention Director was invited by Director Zaneta Adams of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to be a guest on the Detroit radio show for WJR to discuss rural homelessness and how it affects our Veterans. The show topic is "Helping with Housing", and showcases the severity of the issue and identify organizations that help. Check out the segment on WJR.com



Thank you, Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan, for selecting NEMCSA Homeless & Prevention for your July's Round up for Change. Goodwill provided 30 gift cards to our homeless community to purchase supplies from their local goodwill store. NEMCSA will be the recipient for this donation again in January 2023.



NEMCSA Attended several outreach events last week. Pictured to the left is Simone Latuszek at the Veteran's Fair in Cheboygan County

CERA is still open -

Emergency Rental Assistance still available!
Tenants must have a court order complaint to apply.
Contact NEMCSA staff for a secure portal log in to apply today.

- Past due rent
- Past due utility bills
- Mediation and Court costs

How Do I Apply?

989-358-4700 or email:
housing_intake@nemcsa.org



The Homeless and Prevention Services assist those that are homeless or at risk of homelessness to secure and retain housing.

Weatherization

PROGRAM IMPACT

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

The new DOE program year is beginning to ramp up and our LIHEAP FY22 is winding down, so it is very busy time in weatherization. We are still in a holding pattern as we wait for details on the new Bi-Partisan Infrastructure funding. The State of Michigan is expecting the funds to be available early this fall and we have a statewide meeting later this month to hear more about the process. Our Team is working hard as we have implemented a new strategy to help educate our clients about the program while also trying to boost the number of completed applications we receive. Thank you to Kristen Thoman, who is spearheading this new process and actually meeting in the client's home to walk them through the relatively complicated application process, while at the same time providing them with a good understanding of what to expect as the process moves along. Since implementing this new strategy, we have secured all but one application that was ready for approval. We look forward to continuing this crucial new process to even more success.



We recently had a chance to visit our shell contractor on site as they were completing a weatherization project. Bayview Insulation is a long-time contractor in our program and without their expertise and commitment to our program, we would be struggling to meet the State production goals as many other agencies around the network are. We appreciate all they do for our program and our community!



**How do I apply for the
Weatherization Program?**

**visit www.nemcsa.org or call
(989) 358-4700.**

Volunteer

PROGRAM IMPACT

Submitted by Heidi Powers FGP / SCP Project Director

August's Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs August In-Service meeting celebrated the upcoming return to school by welcoming retired Alpena Public Schools principal, Dr. Lisa Hilberg. Dr. Hilberg spoke to the group about best practices for working with children with difficult behaviors, what to expect in the classrooms, and how best to welcome the students back to caring and productive classrooms.

Senior Companions were not left out of the conversation. Our very own Brooke Mainville, AAA Special Projects Coordinator, provided information on the many types of dementia, how dementia affects behaviors, and how best to manage those behaviors while providing meaningful companionship to their clients.



In case you haven't seen it, here's what our recruiting post card looks like. We're very excited this has generated interest in our programs, and we will be holding our first new volunteer orientation since the start of the pandemic. FGP/SCP staff are looking forward to rebuilding and strengthening our programs going forward.

RSVP Out in the Community

RSVP staff and volunteers have been spending August out in their community! Recently staff and volunteers could be found at the Grayling Community Fair working alongside with many of our volunteer stations. CCCC Help Center Food Pantry, River House, Crawford County Baby to Toddler Closet, Crawford County Commission on Aging & Senior Center, NEMCSA Head Start and Early Head Start Programs, AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Volunteer Program, and MDHSS and many more all came together to showcase services available to community members in need.

RSVP Services Coordinator, Amy Cook Otto enjoyed meeting with community members who came out to the car show sponsored by the Roscommon County Commission on Aging. She's always working hard to get the word out about AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer Programs!



B.O.S.S PROGRAM IMPACT



NEMCSA's new pilot program, BOSS (Bridges of Self-Sufficiency) is off to an amazing start. Our mentors have adopted NASA's "Failure is not an option" mindset with their empowerment case management support styles to their participants and it has shown. Pictured left is BOSS Mentor, Traci Schuekle with her participant Whitney who recently completed her GED. In addition to Whitney's recent success with her GED completion, she is now enrolled in College at ACC, has a job at a law office and has a housing choice voucher. Whitney's success is not only noteworthy, but inspiring at the same time. To add, Whitney & Traci volunteered together to pack food for NEMCSA's Food Program as it was one of Whitney's goals to give back to the community.

Pictured right is the Troyer family who recently welcomed baby boy #5 into their family. Through their BOSS mentorship with Amanda Bergeron, this family has been able to get their vehicles registered, insured and functioning properly to allow for proper transportation to work, school and everyday errands. In addition, the BOSS program supported the Troyer family with back-to-school clothing for all children, referrals to Early Head Start, Financial Coaching with Ashley Gagnon, School Success, Food Assistance and Weatherization.

The BOSS mentors, Traci Schuekle, Robyn Hart, Brooke Mainville & Amanda Bergeron are currently empowering a total of five families, and all are seeing great improvements. Each mentor will be with their family for a total of two years.



*Making a
Difference*
Each and Every Day!

Area Agency on Aging
(AAA)

PROGRAM IMPACT

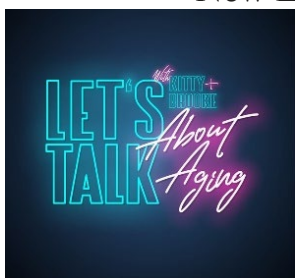


Laurie Sauer presented the Area Agency on Aging's Multi Year Plan on Friday, August 26th to the State Commission on Services to the Aging. The plan was reviewed and approved. Implementation will begin October 1.

Listen to the latest Let's Talk About Aging Podcast, protect yourself from scams, and hear important information about the AAA's programs and services.

(To Listen: Open your cell phone camera - Hover over the QR code on the left - Tap the screen when a box appears) OR Go to:
<https://www.nemcsa.org/services/senior-services/podcast.html>

Let's Talk About Aging Podcast New Episodes!



August 24 – Regional & Statewide Award Winning
MMAAP Counselors

August 10 – Adult Day Centers

Upcoming New to Medicare virtual presentation

New to Medicare virtual presentations are held at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month using the internet and Zoom, or by calling into the meeting by phone. Preregistration is required. The next presentation will be held on September 14, 10:00 – 11:00. Anyone residing in Region 9's twelve counties is welcome to attend: Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, and Roscommon. To register, please contact your local County Council/Commission on Aging or call MMAAP toll free at 1-800-803-7174.

Region 9 AAA hosted a free **Matter of Balance Lay Leader Training** on August 29th and September 1st. Seven new leaders were trained from five counties (Iosco, Montmorency, Roscommon, Ogemaw, and Otsego).

Matter of Balance is an eight two-hour small group workshop led by a trained leader that helps older adults who are concerned about falls; have had falls in the past or are interested in improving flexibility, balance, and strength. Workshops are designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Region 9 AAA provides workshops throughout the twelve-county region.

For upcoming workshops or if you are interested in becoming a leader contact Brooke at 989.358.4616 or mainvilleb@nemcsa.org.

Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Prevention Webinar Series

Region 9 Area Agency on Aging hosted three virtual Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Prevention Webinars that were held via zoom. A total of 26 participants attended the webinars. The topics covered included Challenging Perceptions: Sexual Violence in Later Life, Basics of Elder Abuse, and Basics of Reporting Elder Abuse. Participants walked away with a better understanding of the types of Elder Abuse, warning signs of Elder Abuse, what makes a person vulnerable to abuse and how and where to report. These webinars would not be possible without help from our partners: Hope Shores Alliance, Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program/ Michigan Elder Justice Initiative and Adult Protective Services.