



# The MAC

The CalWORKs/Welfare-to-Work Multiple Assistance Center

officially re-opened July 1, 2008 as a collaborative partnership of:



Department of Health and Human Services  
Social Services Branch  
CalWORKs/Welfare-to-Work

&



Redwood Community Action Agency  
Multiple Assistance Center  
Homeless Collaboration

# The Multiple Assistance Center

---

- A collaboration between Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Redwood Communnality Action Agency (RCAA)
- A residential program for homeless CalWORKs families designed to holistically serve parents and children
- Weekly integrated case management team meetings to ensure cooperation with Welfare-to-Work
- Unified service delivery provides families coordinated cross-agency program support for recovery and barrier removal

# Why this particular partnership?

---

- High Incidence of Homelessness among cash-aided families:
  - **Over 200 homeless CalWORKs families**
  - **Homelessness is a large barrier for individuals trying to meet Welfare-to-Work requirements and obtain employment**
- Other barriers and challenges to self-sufficiency and permanent housing:
  - **Mental Illness**
  - **Alcohol and Other Drugs**
  - **Family Violence**
  - **Lack of Childcare**
  - **Lack of Reliable Transportation**
  - **Prior Evictions**
  - **Child Welfare Services Involvement**
  - **Legal Issues**
  - **Chronic Unemployment**
  - **Learning Disabilities**

# Rural Transportation Challenges

---



# Barriers of Residents

Since MAC Opening Apr. 2005

<b>Apr.05-Jan.10 =953 residents</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>531</b>
<b>Barrier</b>	<b># adults</b>	<b># children</b>
Family Violence	131	59
Alcohol/Other Drugs	307	5
Mental Health Services	168	380
Legal~ Homeless Court	35	0
Physical Disability	141	7
Learning Disability	230	53
Unemployment history	380	0

# MAC Partners

## RCAA

---

- **Shelter and meals for families**



- **Case management services**
- **Child care**
- **Data tracking of outcomes**

- **Comprehensive Family Assessment to create a family action**

- **Increase and stabilize household income**
- **Increase ability to obtain and maintain housing**
- **Identify area to strengthen family ~ self-determination**

**Daily life skills classes including money management, nutrition education, anger management, parenting, alcohol and other drug education**

Working on the garden area.



Fully Licensed Kitchen provides 3 meals each day.





Life Skills classes provided.

---



We learn together.

---



# MAC Partners

---

## **CalWORKs**

- Preliminary screening and assessments for potential MAC resident families
- All children and adults screened for Mental Health issues
- Development of integrated Welfare-to-Work case plans
- Weekly case staffing, with MAC staff, to ensure seamless service delivery
- Continual monitoring of outcomes to ensure that MAC residents meet Welfare-to-Work participation requirements

# MAC Partners

---

## **Mental Health Branch**

- All adults and children are screened for mental health barriers
- Treatment planning and implementation for youth with serious mental illnesses
- Behavioral health services for adults with mental health/alcohol and other drug/family violence needs
  - Psycho-educational
  - Day treatment services
  - Coordinated care planning with Welfare-to-work, MAC partners
  - Information and referral

# Mental Health Services Provided

---

Current services for children:

- 100% Screened Using the Mental Health Screening Tool (MHST)
- 65.8% Opened for Services



# Making Peace

1. What is the problem?
2. Focus on the problem, not on person.
3. Listen to both sides.
4. Treat a person's feelings with respect.
5. Think of possible solutions.
6. Take responsibility.
7. Agree on a solution—  
Try it out!

Children are involved  
in creating the rules  
where all can  
practice living and  
playing together  
peacefully.

# MAC Providers

---

## Public Health Branch

### Addressing health needs

- Screening for tuberculosis / other health needs
- Public Health Nursing services provided
- Referrals to community agencies for needed services



# Project Lean-DHHS, Public Health Branch-Nutrition Classes

---





# MAC Providers

---

## **Child Welfare Services**

- Attend integrated case management team meetings as needed
- Participate with staffing of Child Welfare Services/Welfare-to-Work Linkages cases

DHHS supplied computers at site.

---



## Outcomes since July 2008

---

- 70% of families have met or are continuing to meet all of the requirements of their Welfare-to-Work plan
- 54.7 hours of life skill classes have been provided each month totaling over 2,023 hours
- Approximately 6,817 hours of community service have been completed by residents
- 27 Welfare-to-Work participants have obtained full time employment

# Building Community

---



# MAC

## Outcomes since July 2008

---

- 741 referrals to the MAC
- 152 families have received services at the MAC
  - 201 adults
  - 260 children
- Average of 20 families served per month
- Average stay of 112 days
- Through July 2011 cumulative resident savings = greater than \$135,913
- 34.2% of MAC families have moved on to permanent housing

# Playground Makeover



We learn to share!

---



We all help with chores.

---





# Community Support.

---



# Former Pepsi Bottling Company



# City & County Redevelopment through Community Development Block Grant

---



It is good to have a home.

---



# Contact Information

---

Barbara LaHaie

Assistant Director of Programs

Humboldt County

Department of Health and Human Services

[blahaie@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:blahaie@co.humboldt.ca.us)

(707) 441-5400

Simone Taylor

Director of Family Services

Redwood Community Action Agency

[Simone@rcaa.org](mailto:Simone@rcaa.org)

(707) 269-9590