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**Jewish Family Services welcomes increased number of refugees: emphasizes education and collaboration**



With national media headlines focused on immigration and the growing number of Syrian refugees in the country, resettlement agencies and communities are being called on to help more refugees than in the past. [Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County](#) (JFS) has agreed to resettle 300 refugees this coming fiscal year, beginning October 2016, which doubles the number of refugees (150) the organization resettled in the previous year.

This increased resettlement effort creates an exciting time as the organization and community collaborate to provide refugees with services to adapt and thrive in their new homes. This requires careful, thoughtful planning. JFS hired a new case worker, and hopes to use increased volunteer and internship assistance this year to meet these needs. JFS leadership is also considering how current services must change to meet higher demand, such as ensuring the JFS food pantry is stocked, and that adequate housing and transportation resources are available.

**WHI News**

**Washtenaw Health Initiative receives award from Huron Valley Ambulance for the Washtenaw Opioid Project**



L to R: Norman Herbert, WHI co-chair; Bob Guenzel, WHI co-chair, Stephen Strobbe, WHI Opioid Project co-chair; Theresa Dreyer, Center for Healthcare Research & Transportation (CHRT); Marci Scalera, WHI Opioid Project co-chair; Marianne Udow-Phillips, CHRT Director, Heather Guenther, CHRT

The Washtenaw Health Initiative received a Special Recognition Award in May 2016 from Huron Valley Ambulance for the WHI's efforts to reduce the rising number of opioid overdoses and deaths in the county. The award, presented at HVA's annual EMS Recognition Awards dinner, recognizes an organization or group for outstanding work in the community.

The [Ann Arbor News highlighted](#) the WHI Washtenaw Opioid Project's life-saving efforts, which earned the WHI the HVA's Special Recognition Award.

Co-chairs of the Washtenaw Health Initiative, Bob Guenzel and Norman Herbert, co-chairs of the Opioid Project, Marci Scalera, and Stephen Strobbe, and Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation staff Theresa Dreyer, Heather Guenther, and Marianne Udow-Phillips were present to accept the award.

The WHI Opioid Project formed in 2013 to combat the rising number of opioid overdoses and deaths in Washtenaw County. The group - which brings together more than 100 organizations including health systems, treatment providers,

Anya Abramzon, Executive Director of Jewish Family Services, emphasizes that it is not just JFS that should prepare for this increase: the community can prepare as well. Organizations can expect higher demand from refugees seeking services and resources, including translation services (especially Arabic), affordable housing options, and transportation accessibility. One of the most important things that can be done to prepare is to educate the community. This education is especially important in schools, where bullying and teasing can be particularly harmful to children who resettle here after possibly experiencing the trauma of war or other violence. JFS is working with the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, and the County government to develop a Welcoming Initiative, aimed at creating more welcoming, immigrant-friendly environments.

Ultimately, this coming year will require JFS to adapt to the new challenge set before them. It is also an opportunity for Washtenaw County-based organizations to open their arms and support JFS and the refugees who settle here. JFS offers resources to educate and build awareness for the community. If you are interested in having someone come to your organization to talk about resettlement and ways you may be able to help, contact: Shrina Eadeh, Director of [Resettlement Services](#), at [shrina@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:shrina@jfsannarbor.org).

### Quick Links



Stephen Strobbe and Marcia Scalera, Co-chairs of the Opioid Project

public health, law enforcement, and the recovery community - uses a framework known as the [Lazarus Model](#) that targets opioid use and addiction from multiple perspectives. The project's work includes increasing provider education on prescribing practices, developing best-practice guidelines for providers, and training law enforcement officers to administer Naloxone, a drug that reverses opioid overdose effects and helps prevent deaths.

Congratulations to the WHI Washtenaw Opioid Project and its members for recognition of their life-saving work!

## Other News

### Washtenaw County Public Health releases 2015 Annual Report



This month, Washtenaw County Public Health (WCPH) released its [2015 Annual Report](#), highlighting its recent national accreditation and creation of the Washtenaw County Board of Health. In August 2015, Washtenaw County Public Health became the fourth health department in Michigan to receive national accreditation from the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), and one of only 79 in the nation to receive the honor.

The report also notes the Washtenaw County Board of Health selected its first-ever board in January 2015. The board oversees WCPH programs and services, and advises the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners on health issues, health priorities, and potential solutions.

The report also includes WCPH's strategic goals for 2016-2018, which are:

- Ensure the Washtenaw County Dental Clinic reaches and serves low-income residents.
- Lead health improvements prioritized in the Washtenaw County Community Health Improvement Plan under perinatal health, access to care and vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Focus on health equity.
- Be a strong voice for public health, secure resources to improve health for all and fully support staff in accomplishing excellent, efficient work.



- [WHI Website](#)
- [WHI Member Portal](#)
- [WHI Steering Committee Meeting Key Actions](#)
- [Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation](#)

## Upcoming Member Meetings & Other Events

### July

- 8-** WHI Steering Committee (2:30 - 4 PM, CHRT)
- 15** - MH/SUD Workgroup (3 - 4 PM, CHRT)
- 15** - WHI Finance Committee (4 - 5 PM, CHRT)
- 18** - SIM Work Group (10 - 11:30 AM, CHRT)
- 19** - Opioid Project (11 - 12:30PM, 705 Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI)
- 22** - FUSE Stakeholder Quarterly Meeting (8-10AM, 1327 Jones Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48105)
- 25** - WHI Stakeholder Group (1 - 3 PM, Washtenaw Community College | Morris Lawrence Bldg Rm.101)
- 26** - Primary Care (1 - 2:30 PM, CHRT)

### August

- 8** - Medicaid & Marketplace Outreach & Enrollment (10 - 11:30, United Way)
- 12** - WHI Steering Committee (2:30 - 4PM. CHRT)
- 15** - WHI SIM Work Group (10 - 11:30AM, CHRT)
- 16** - Opioid Project (11 - 12:30PM, 705 Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI)
- 19** - MH/SUD Workgroup (3-4:30 PM, CHRT)
- 30** - Primary Care (1 - 2:30 PM, CHRT)

Further information and resources are available on the [Washtenaw County Public Health website](#). The WCPH also updated its [Directory of Obesity Programs](#) in October 2015, providing new information about resources available in the community. WCPH also released quarterly [Opioid Reports](#) in 2015, summarizing information on opioid-related overdoses and deaths occurring among Washtenaw County residents.

## SIM Update



The State of Michigan released more information on the State Innovation Model (SIM) since the last update in the WHI's March/April Newsletter.

Regionally, the WHI and CHRT are working with multiple organizations within the designated Community Health Innovation Region (CHIR), which includes Washtenaw and Livingston counties, to prepare for SIM implementation in late 2016. The WHI created a SIM work group, chaired by Doug Strong and Paul Valenstein, which meets monthly. The SIM work group includes representatives from Livingston and Washtenaw counties, including both health departments, the local Community Mental Health service providers, health systems, and Medicaid health plans. The SIM work group has also recently developed three subcommittees:

1. Patient Centered Medical Home / Accountable System of Care
2. Data and Information Technology
3. Community-Clinical Linkages to Reduce Emergency Department Use

A more in-depth update on the SIM and the WHI's involvement will be provided at the July 25 WHI Stakeholders Group meeting. General information and webinars about the SIM, the CHIR and other information can be found on the [state's SIM website](#). The WHI will continue to provide information as it becomes available.

## Share Your Story

Share your story ideas for the WHI newsletter with Carrie at (734) 998-7567 or [crheinga@umich.edu](mailto:crheinga@umich.edu)

## [Join Our Mailing List](#)

## About the Washtenaw Health Initiative

The [Washtenaw Health Initiative](#) is a voluntary, county-wide collaboration focused on how to improve access to coordinated care for the low-income, uninsured, and Medicaid populations. The effort includes representatives from the University of Michigan Health System, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, health plans, county government, community services, physicians, and safety net providers.

[Washtenaw Health Initiative](#)  
(734) 998-7567

