

# Tri-county effort launched to identify needs

For the first time, a group of prominent metropolitan Detroit organizations are involved in an innovative system for cooperatively identifying community needs in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

The result will be a new community needs assessment report based on comprehensive information from a community-wide spectrum of research and resources.

The final report should provide an overview of the area's shortcomings and shortfalls in meeting community needs. Service providers, funding sources and the community-at-large will be able to use this information to establish programs, solve problems and develop collaborative efforts and funding requests.

Nineteen prominent organizations have formed a partnership, sharing information and resources, to complete the major analysis of metropolitan Detroit's health and human service needs. The collaboration is called the Community Needs Assessment Partnership (CNAP). The needs assessment report will be ready in February and will be shared with the community at large.

Edgar Scribner, president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO Council, is chairman of the CNAP. CNAP members are: Citizens Research Council of Michigan; City of Detroit Mayor's Office; Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan; Detroit Economic Growth

Corporation; Detroit Renaissance, Inc.; Greater Detroit Area Health Council; Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce; Hudson-Walber Foundation; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; W. K. Kellogg Foundation; McGregor Fund; Metro Health Foundation; Michigan Department of Social Services - Wayne County; New Detroit, Inc.; Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG); United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit; United Way of Oakland County; United Way for Southeastern Michigan; and Wayne State University Center for Urban Studies.

"These organizations are committed to improving life in our community," said CNAP Chairman Edgar A. Scribner, president of the

Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO Council. "This is the first time we will all pool our information and resources for the good of the entire Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county area. I believe that this partnership will help reduce redundant research efforts, and will encourage better working relationships between the organizations in this and future projects."

The final needs assessment report will provide an overview of the problems and needed services in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Community organizations will find the compiled information useful in determining how to most effectively use their resources, for program planning and development, future research and program funding. Research for the report,

which began in April, will include 1,500 phone surveys conducted by Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies, 500 surveys distributed to providers of services in the community, several public forums to discuss and expand upon those findings and input from existing research.

United Way for Southeastern Michigan proposed the Community Needs Assessment Partnership concept in March to the various community groups involved. That organization is changing its fund distribution process and identified using a community-wide assessment of problems and needs as the best basis for developing a strategy for fund distribution.

## O&E writer analyzes political code words

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