



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

November 1, 2004

**Department of
Community Health
Lewis Cass Building
320 S. Walnut Street
Lansing, MI 48913**

Dear Community Collaborative Chairperson/Coordinator:

It has been several years since the human service directors communicated directly with you and your community collaborative membership. We are pleased to see that your innovative collaborative initiatives and work towards strengthening families and communities have continued and prospered over the years. This communication is intended to re-affirm our commitment to working more closely with you.

**Department of
Education
608 W. Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909**

In a meeting with several collaborative body members in March 2004, we heard many positive comments about collaborative activities; but we also learned that there are a number of policy, procedural and funding barriers that impede service delivery. Our state/local partnership is something that we take seriously, and we are committed to exploring ways to strengthen this partnership through improved communications. We plan to establish "*Communiqués*" for the sharing of information, re-establishing a website with information to assist collaboratives, revising and re-establishing a Barrier Buster process, and sharing our state priorities with you and your colleagues and asking you to do the same with us. We have charged key staff in each of our agencies to serve as an Interagency Planning Group (IPG) to take responsibility for assuring that this two-way communication process functions effectively.

**Family Independence
Agency
235 S. Grand Ave.
P.O. Box 30037
Lansing, MI 48909**

We applaud and thank you for your commitment to working together and your commitment to improving outcomes for children, families and special populations. We look forward to a closer working relationship with community collaboratives across the state.

Sincerely,

David C. Hollister, Director
Department of Labor & Economic Growth

Janet Olszewski, Director
Department of Community Health

**Department of Labor &
Economic Growth
611 W. Ottawa
P.O. Box 30004
Lansing, MI 48909**

Marianne Udow, Director
Family Independence Agency

Tom Watkins, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Department of Education