



Healthy Kids, Healthy Michigan

Advocates for Healthy Weight in Children

2011 Policy Priorities

Education Policy Action Team (EPAT)

Physical Education and Health Education Requirements: *Providing specific guidelines for health education and physical education instruction in grades K – 8 and outlining specifics for frequency and class size.*

Legislation will be introduced in the Michigan House and Senate that will provide specific guidelines and will not allow extracurricular activities to be substituted for physical education. Health education and physical education curricula will be aligned with grade level content expectations approved by the State Board of Education. Throughout 2011 EPAT will continue working with the legislature to turn this proposed legislation into state law.

Implementing District Coordinated School Health Councils: *Require coordinated school health councils.*

The goal of EPAT is to introduce legislation that will require districts to create and maintain a council to annually develop a Healthy School Action Plan, establish who should be a part of the council and how often the council will meet. Districts will be provided technical assistance in drafting, implementing, and evaluating plans. School districts will be required to submit their Healthy School Action Plans to the Department of Education annually.

State Nutrition Standards for the School Campus: *Statewide adoption of Michigan's Nutrition Standards.*

The goal of EPAT is for legislation to be introduced in 2011 and become state law by January 2012 to ensure a healthy food environment in all Michigan schools. In late 2011, data from several Michigan school districts currently participating in a pilot implementing the *Michigan's Nutrition Standards* will become available. This data will be used to create a toolkit outlining how to implement the State Board of Education recommended *Michigan Nutrition Standards* into schools using a cost neutral approach.

Health, Family and Childcare Services Policy Action Team (HPAT)

Medicaid Coverage of Childhood Obesity: *Raise awareness and strengthen physician knowledge of billing practices as it relates to childhood obesity.*

In 2011, the policy action team will continue to promote the childhood obesity policy clarification (L-Letter) published by Medicaid. In an effort to increase provider knowledge regarding coding and payment procedures related to pediatric obesity services HPAT plans to clarify current Michigan commercial health plan and MICHild health plan coverage. Also, a priority will be on the evaluation of the effect the L-Letter has had on "well child" visits. In addition, HPAT will encourage health plans to provide incentives to providers to screen for pediatric obesity.

BMI Surveillance: *Complete the work, which began in 2009, to finalize MCIR BMI programming.*

In 2010, HPAT made significant strides in developing a statewide system to monitor Body Mass Index (BMI) that would be integrated with the state's current system, the Michigan Care Improvement



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Registry (MCIR). Going forward, HPAT efforts will focus on modifying governing statutes and regulations to facilitate

providers reporting of children's data for BMI surveillance, assessing data quality and producing reports for surveillance purposes, and assessment of obesity-related quality of care. HPAT will prepare communication strategies to roll out the MCIR BMI/Growth Module statewide.

Child Care Nutrition and Physical Activity Regulations: *Advance policies to improve nutrition standards, increase the required daily physical activity and limit screen time in child care settings.*

In 2011, HPAT will focus on revising the 2008 Licensing Rules for Child Care Centers which are currently enforced in licensed child care centers in Michigan. Policy changes will specifically focus on limiting screen time, increasing physical activity time requirements and changing beverage intake related to water, milk and juice. The Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing (BCAL) has opened the Licensing Rules for revision. The Child Care Policy Work Group has submitted its proposed recommendations to BCAL in the areas of screen time reduction, increased physical activity and beverage regulations in an attempt to bring Michigan child care policies in line with other forward looking states.

Community Policy Action Team (CPAT)

Michigan Complete Streets & Safe Routes to School: *Supporting state and local Complete Streets policy change, and encouraging active transportation throughout school transportation and facility management decisions.*

Often the built environment makes it difficult to integrate physical activity into a daily routine by walking or biking to work, school, grocery stores or other points of interest. In order to encourage children and families to be physically active, our built environments need to offer opportunities for active transportation and physical activity. In 2010, Complete Streets legislation was passed that supports this goal.

In 2011, the CPAT will continue to focus on changing the fabric of our communities and create built environments that support physical activity by supporting Complete Streets policy changes at the state and local level through training and resources, assisting the Complete Streets Advisory Council, and advancing policy that enables school districts and local communities to consider active transportation when making school transportation and infrastructure management decisions such as siting, closure, and consolidation of school facilities.

Access to healthy food through community and school gardens: *Advance policy to increase the number of community and school gardens in underserved areas.*

Community and school gardens can not only provide fresh foods to families in underserved areas, but research has shown that school gardening programs positively impact the amount of fruits and vegetables consumed by youth involved in these programs.

In the coming year, CPAT will continue to develop strategies and tools to target policy and local ordinances, work with affected stakeholders to determine needs and awareness, and identify state and local resources for community and school garden programs.



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Access to healthy food through healthy food retail: *Advance policy to support supply and increased demand for healthy food options in low-income and underserved areas.*

In 2008, legislation was passed that offered a tax incentive to food retailers who open stores in underserved areas. The subcommittee will continue working to increase access to fresh foods by addressing consumer demand for healthy food options in low-income areas.

To build on previous success, CPAT worked to adjust Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, the program formerly known as food stamps. In 2011, the Michigan Department of Human Services will begin to phase in a new distribution timeline for SNAP, currently, benefits are distributed over a short period at the beginning of each month. In many low income areas, this caused a decrease in availability of healthy foods as benefits were depleted accompanied by a decreased need for retail staffing until the window of opportunity closed. In addition, the emergency food system was also taxed more heavily at the end of each month as benefits ran out. With the new distribution system, benefits will be distributed over a 21-day period, allowing local stores to better stock their shelves with fresh produce and other healthy items throughout the month.