

QUARTERLY ISSUES

AND

PROGRAMS REPORT

**WNEM TV5
BAY CITY/FLINT/MIDLAND AND SAGINAW**

January 1 through March 31, 2004

PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

OVERVIEW Based on WNEM TV5's ascertainment of community leaders and from data gathered from community organizations, the ten highest ranking problems and needs of the Bay City/Flint/Midland and Saginaw markets are:

1. **Education**
2. **Unemployment**
3. **Welfare/Poverty**
4. **Domestic Violence**
5. **Utility Cost (need for assistance)**
6. **Health Insurance Cost**
7. **Child Abuse/Neglect**
8. **Emergency Shelter**
9. **Prescription Drug Cost (need for assistance)**
10. **Crime**

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

OVERVIEW The following is the quarterly "Issues and Programs" Report placed in the public file of WNEM TV5 by April 10, 2004. The report covers the period from January 1, 2004 through March 31, 2004. The report is based on ten significant problems and needs determined by WNEM's community ascertainment. Below each problem/need is a brief description of some new segments broadcast during the quarter designed to call attention to or address the problem or need.

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January 1 through March 31, 2004

<u>ISSUE/TITLE/SOURCE</u>	<u>PROGRAM/TYPE</u>	<u>DATE/DURATION</u>
1. Education		
5PM "Virtual Schools" are a form of home schooling. A planned curriculum is followed and a certified teacher grades work by mail. Many states are reluctant to pay for virtual programs considering their success is still unproven.	LOC/NEWS	1/01/04 1:30
6PM Governor Granholm attends a Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon, but did not give a preview of any budget cuts. Saginaw Township has a "special assessment plan" so will not experience a money crunch. The City of Saginaw expects fewer dollars coming to them. Delta College feels higher education could see reduced state contributions.	LOC/NEWS	1/19/04 1:22
11PM The Grand Blanc School District is ready to go ahead with a \$94 million school bond issue. If approved, the district will build two new middle schools and make improvements in most of its buildings.	LOC/NEWS	1/29/04 :29
11PM Members of the Saginaw School Board voted "no" to the proposed secession request made by Kochville Township residents. The Board will leave it up to state education officials to decide if Kochville students can legally secede from the Saginaw Public Schools and attend Saginaw Township Schools.	LOC/NEWS	1/10/04 1:16
6PM Governor Granholm's State Budget Plan includes tax hikes. Republic House Speaker says the GOP has a problem with hiking taxes on liquor and cigarettes, and moving up the date in which county property taxes are due. The governor says she is not interested in cutting healthcare or education funding.	LOC/NEWS	2/13/04 :45
5:30PM The Bay City Board of Education is expected to put the finishing touches on next year's budget. School officials are looking at a variety of options, returning to a seven-hour class day for high school students and possibly won't fill some 20 to 30 vacant positions.	LOC/NEWS	2/16/04 :28

6PM LOC/NEWS 3/15/04 1:20
The Saginaw School District has begun its campaign to convince voters to approve a \$70 million dollar bond. If approved, the bond would allow for the building of two new schools, the renovation of eight others, and the closure of nine schools over a four-year time period.

5:30PM LOC/NEWS 3/22/04 :24
There is a tentative plan to discontinue the Michigan MEAP tests, so that students can take the ACTs, which is what many students take to get into U.S. colleges.

6PM LOC/NEWS 3/25/04 1:32
Falling enrollment, shrinking state dollars and rising retirement and health insurance costs force school leaders in Bullock Creek to make some changes. The number of classes per day will be cut, and one administrator, two custodians and 14 teachers are lost through attrition.

2. Unemployment

11PM LOC/NEWS 1/19/04 :18
The Family Independence Agency is working to extend food stamps, and assistance to those in need from three months to one year.

6PM LOC/NEWS 1/29/04 :16
The Opportunities Industrialization Center, or OIC, kicked off their 2004 fundraising campaign today. Their goals are to eliminate poverty, unemployment and illiteracy.

5PM LOC/NEWS 3/22/04 :18
Mid-Michigan unemployment numbers indicate Isabella County is in the best shape of all mid-Michigan counties with an unemployment rate of 4.9 percent. Arenac County has the highest, at 13.7. Mid-Michigan's overall rate is just under 10.2 percent.

3. Welfare/Poverty

5PM LOC/NEWS 3/29/04 1:20
Keeping up with medical advances and the recent downturn in the economy, coupled with rising health care premiums are reasons given for expensive health care costs.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 2/18/04 :34
The Tri-Cities' Michigan Works has lost \$1 million in funding for Centers in Saginaw, Bay City, Bridgeport and Midland causing a closing of the Bridgeport facility.

3. Welfare/Poverty (cont.)

5PM LOC/NEWS 1/20/04 :21
The State Community Health Department says budget cuts are leaving thousands of people without medical services. Those most affected are disabled, low-income pregnant women, the elderly and welfare recipients.

4. Domestic Violence

5:30PM LOC/NEWS 1/08/04 :26
A Bay City man is in jail tonight after police say he tried to start his girlfriend's house on fire while the woman and her two kids were still inside.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 2/05/04 :37
A Harrison man, Jared Wyman, chased a car driven by his younger cousin, and Wyman's live-in girlfriend. The 15-mile chase started in Clare County and ended in Gladwin, with a crash involving a sheriff's cruiser.

6PM LOC/NEWS 3/26/04 :32
If you're a woman involved in an abusive relationship, there is help available. There are women's shelters in Saginaw, Bay County, Midland and Genesee County. There is also a National Abuse Hotline.

5PM LOC/NEWS 3/26/04 1:21
A man allegedly beat his girlfriend at their Waterside Apartment in Saginaw Township. Authorities say the man has a history of domestic violence.

5. Utility Cost (need for assistance)

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 2/17/04 :35
Clear Michigan is a group of commercial energy customers that are upset with legislation signed back in 2000. They say Michigan's small business and residents could see energy price hikes of up to 30 percent unless the law is changed.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS January/04 :45
Consumers Energy says many natural gas customers could see their January heating bill jump by as much as \$47. Now is the time to look at ways to cut your utility bill. Check insulation, heating and cooling equipment, ducts, and install storm windows.

5. Utility Cost (need for assistance) (cont.)

6PM LOC/NEWS 1/29/04 :25

The Michigan Public Service Commission says utility companies have to restore power within eight hours, barring a catastrophic event. They are also required to answer a customer call within 90 seconds, respond to a customer complaint within 3 business days and have new service installed within 15 business days.

6. Health Insurance Cost

6PM LOC/NEWS 1/19/04 :14

There is a new and improved health care plan for uninsured adults in Michigan. The new adults benefit waivers will help more than 60,000 people who make at least 35 percent below the poverty level.

WAKEUP NAT/NEWS 2/13/04 :26

A recent survey indicates only one in four Americans have made plans in case of illness during retirement. Long term care is a serious concern for women. One solution is looking into long term care insurance.

5:30PM NAT/NEWS 2/24/04 1:07

A Birch Run woman was determined dead in a paperwork error by General Motors. Her husband died and she (on paper) was considered dead too. She received a letter from GM stating that health insurance, retirement, and pension had been cancelled. The woman called TV5 Investigates who contacted General Motors. The company assured TV5 this was an unintentional mixup and is currently being corrected.

5:30PM NAT/NEWS 2/26/04 :20

Lawmakers on Capital Hill are investigating the billing practices of 20 hospitals and health systems. Federal investigators are also looking into whether medicare law inhibits hospitals from offering discounts to the uninsured.

WEEKEND WAKEUP NAT/NEWS 3/27/04 :25

Health experts say 30 percent of people, ages 18 to 24, have no health coverage. That is double the rate for all age groups.

5PM LOC/NEWS 3/29/04 1:20

Anyone without health insurance, or who simply can't afford medical care, and is below the Federal Poverty Guideline, is eligible to use the new free clinic opening in Bay County. The clinic will offer free primary medical care, including specialty care. Nearly 100 volunteers and more than 50 practitioners have signed up to donate their time.

7. Child Abuse/Neglect

- NOON LOC/NEWS January, 2004 :21
The "Kids Count" survey shows abuse investigations have climbed 39 percent. Family Independence Agency officials say it's not due to more abuse cases, but the FIA doing a more thorough job on following up complaints.
- 5:30PM LOC/NEWS 1/21/04 :21
Governor Granholm signed legislation preventing women from abandoning their children in public places. The abandoned baby law allows parents to leave newborns at hospitals, police and fire departments within 72 hours without being charged with child abandonment, abuse, or neglect.
- 6PM LOC/NEWS 1/29/04 :23
Brian Urbanawiz loses his right to parent after police arrested him for allegedly using his own children in a child porn ring.
- 11PM LOC/NEWS 2/03/04 :18
Police have identified four more suspects, in a Bay City sexual abuse and internet exploitation case. Two teenagers were charged last week with having sex with underaged girls, and then posting their pictures on the internet.
- WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 2/28/04 :45
The Saginaw Diocese indicates only nine sex abuse allegations occurred in its parishes between 1950 and 2002. Thirteen credible sex allegations turned up in the Lansing diocese.
- 6PM LOC/NEWS 3/13/04 :20
Brian Urbanawiz will spend at least 4 years behind bars for his connection to an internet child porn ring.
- 5PM LOC/NEWS 3/16/04 :30
A judge has ordered a court review of the case against Donna Yost. Defense attorneys say prosecutors want to add charges of child abuse leading to murder.
- 5:30PM LOC/NEWS 3/29/04 :15
The Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Saginaw County is raffling off playhouses. The homes are on display at Fashion Square Mall.

10. Crime

6PM LOC/NEWS 1/15/04 :50
Tom Groening is a quiet collector of antique clocks, who was the victim of a brutal beating in his own home, just days before Christmas. Saginaw Police have arrested a 20-year-old man, they believe is Groening's killer.

5PM LOC/NEWS 1/19/04 1:18
Gladwin Co. police investigate the death of a 51-year-old man in Sherman Township. Neighbors are shocked as the area is a quiet, rural community.

5PM LOC/NEWS 1/19/04 1:00
Home owner in Saginaw arrived at her residence to surprise three teens who had just broken into her home. She called 9-1-1 and three officers arrived. Soon after suspects were spotted nearby and arrested.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 2/02/04 1:10
A nine-year-old boy, Xavier Laury was found with a gunshot wound to the stomach. Shortly after the shooting, police found the suspect-52-year-old Brady Williams, and arrested him.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 2/22/04 1:35
Trinity Methodist Church in Chesaning discovered someone broke down their church door and stole a small amount of cash. Police have arrested a 44-year-old Mt. Pleasant man, and more arrests may be made.

6PM LOC/NEWS 2/26/04 1:24
Timbertown Cleaning and Restoration not only cleans and repairs chimneys but cleans up after a crime scene. State and local crime investigators spent hours at this scene weeks ago but missed a possible piece of evidence, which was a bloody knife found underneath the mattress. This is an unusual find for the crime scene workers, although every scene can be disturbing and graphic.

5PM LOC/NEWS 3/23/04 1:30
A restaurant employee started at Denny's Restaurant in Saginaw Twshp, store more than \$100 in cash, "borrowed" a fellow employee's car, robbed a 7-11, threatened a clerk at Rite-Aid and then a Burger King in Buena Vista Twshp. He has been arrested by Saginaw police.

5:30PM LOC/NEWS 3/25/04 1:20
A Teen Summit, held at Saginaw Valley State University, is teaching Saginaw Co. high school students ways to cope and face issues like guns and drugs. Organizers say this summit is such a success, they are looking ahead to the next one.

