

## About the

### Upper Peninsula Children's Coalition

*The purpose of the UPCC is to work with all Upper Peninsula organizations and individuals concerned with children in order to identify children's needs, promote their services and rights, and provide long-range planning for positive change.*

#### Members:

4-Cs of the U.P.  
Cookie Aho, RN, BSN  
Judy L. Akkala  
Alger County Department of Human Services  
Alger Marquette Community Action Board (AMCAB)  
American Association of University Women - Marquette Branch  
Baraga Area Schools  
Baraga County Shelter Home  
Baraga/Houghton/Keweenaw Department of Human Services  
Bay Cliff Health Camp  
Big Brothers/Big Sisters Alger and Marquette Counties  
Catholic Charities  
Child and Family Services of the U.P.  
Concepts Consulting  
Bill Davis, LMSW  
Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District  
Dickinson-Iron Department of Human Services  
Eastern U.P. Intermediate School District  
Great Lakes Center for Youth Development  
Gogebic-Ontonagon CAA Head Start  
Joann Hakala  
Hannahville Visions Center  
Rachel Harmon, LLMSW  
Denise Him, LMSW  
Iron/Dickinson Children's Advocacy Network  
Mackinac County Child Protection Roundtable  
Marquette Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA)  
Marquette Alger Resolution Services  
Marquette County Health Department  
Marquette County Juvenile Court  
Marquette General Hospital Women's and Children's Center  
Medical Care Access Coalition  
Menominee County Intermediate School District  
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health  
MichUHCAN  
MSU Extension Marquette County  
Pathways/Northcare Network  
Fran Quinell, Ph. D.  
Schoolcraft County Community Collaborative  
Schoolcraft County Department of Human Services  
John and Theresa Scam  
Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan  
Upper Peninsula Association for Infant Mental Health  
UP Probate Judges Association  
Fran Waters, LMSW, DCSW, LMFT  
Wells Fargo Bank  
YMCA - Marquette County

### For more information

#### or to join the UPCC contact:

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Upper Peninsula Children's Coalition  
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www.upchildrenscoalition.org

#### What You Can Do:

If you want to help U.P. children or if you have a story to tell - please contact your congressional representatives at the state and national level. Lawmakers DO listen, but they can't listen if they don't HEAR from constituents.

To find your Michigan representative, go to:  
<http://house.michigan.gov>

To find your Michigan senator, go to:  
<http://senate.michigan.gov>

To contact Representative Bart Stupak, go to:  
<http://www.house.gov/Stupak>

To contact Senator Carl Levin's office, go to:  
<http://Levin.senate.gov>

To contact Senator Debbie Stabenow's office, go to:  
<http://Stabenow.senate.gov>

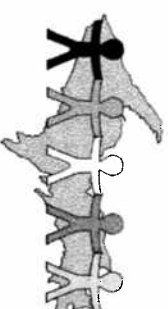
#### JOIN THE UPCCI!

The UPCC is an all-volunteer coalition supported by membership dues and donations from individuals, businesses, and agencies. Please consider becoming a member. An individual membership is \$25. An agency membership is \$50. Send your membership dues to the address below:

Upper Peninsula Children's Coalition  
P.O. Box 881  
Marquette, MI 49855



**Building Strengths  
& Removing Barriers  
For Upper Peninsula  
Children & Their  
Families**



**Upper Peninsula  
Children's Coalition  
Legislative & Community  
Priorities 2010-2011**

[www.upchildrenscoalition.org](http://www.upchildrenscoalition.org)

The Upper Peninsula Children's Coalition (UPCC) works with experts from schools, police departments, courts, hospitals, state agencies, tribal authorities, and nonprofit organizations across the Upper Peninsula to develop a U.P. legislative agenda that will benefit all the children of the U.P. from ages zero to seventeen. Every other year, through questionnaires and structured interviews, the coalition determines the legislative priorities that express the unique and diverse needs of agencies which support children and families in the U.P.

The UPCC has identified three priority areas to provide focus for our advocacy and educational efforts up to the election on November 2, 2010, and into the following legislative session beginning in January, 2011.

The statements in this document are recommendations formed by consensus with input from a diverse group of more than 200

experts in youth and family needs from across the U.P.



## **1. Put Children First in Systems Reform & Policy Decisions**

There are many programs that currently exist to assist families and children in the U.P., but there are barriers that stand in the way of accessing them. Barriers for many families might include things that some families lack, such as transportation or childcare. Barriers to access might also include things that the service provider lacks, such as flexible eligibility criteria or cultural sensitivity.

*The UPCC recommends that reform efforts include a focus on removing the systemic barriers that prevent children and families from accessing needed services.*

## **2. Protect, Empower & Educate Children & Families**

The children and families of the U.P. have tremendous strengths but sometimes families and children need help to tap into those reserves. Programs such as educational support, foster care and kinship care support (which include services to youth aging out of services), child abuse and neglect prevention and parenting education are just a few ways that families and children can find the strength within themselves to face the challenges in their lives.

*The UPCC recommends that laws be made and services be delivered in a way that respects and builds the strengths of children and families of the U.P.*

## **3. Promote the Emotional & Physical Health of Children & Families**

The health of children and families in the U.P. is critically important, but too many are experiencing health-related problems. Programs that promote health and improve access to services have the potential to vastly improve the quality of life for children and families in the U.P. Examples of critical programs include substance abuse treatment and mental health care to prevent suicide and treat depression, and services that address or prevent a myriad of physical problems like obesity and diabetes.

*The UPCC recommends that our communities be equipped to provide appropriate and accessible emotional and physical health care to children and families in the U.P.*