

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

301 N. Main Street, Adrian, MI 49221

p: 517-264-4508 | f: 517-264-4512

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MEMBERS

Dawn Bales, Nancy Jenkins-Arno, Jim Goetz

MEETING LOCATION

Via ZOOM

MINUTES: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 - 1:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Bales, Jenkins-Arno, Goetz, and Stimpson

Also Present: Wendy Knox, Martha Hall, Martin Marshall, and Kim Murphy

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Stimpson, seconded by Jenkins-Arno, to approve the January 12, 2021, minutes. Motion carried.

II. Habitat for Humanity

Wendy Knox, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity provided the Committee with overview of Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity was founded in Lenawee County in 1989. The organization builds and repairs homes, strengthen communities, and invest in our neighbor's quest to become a homeowner. Their vision is "A world where everyone has a decent place to live". The ReStore opened in 2006 and is located on U.S. 223. It is currently undergoing an expansion that will allow for construction services and other offices to move on site. This will keep all of the offices and services in one location.

One of their most visible projects is the constructing and renovating of homes. The application process for a family to acquire a home takes approximately 12 to 18 months from the beginning of the application to the time they take possession. This includes a requirement that they put in 200 hours of volunteer work in the home. Habitat provides them with financial counseling and works with them to secure a low interest loan.

Habitat is currently working on constructing two new homes. One at 424 E. Maple Street in Adrian which is expected to be complete in April, and another at 310 N. Locust Street, in Adrian. Students involved with the building trades courses at LISD TECH Center work with Habitat to construct these homes. This partnership has been in existence since 1995.

Habitat is also assisting the elderly who are wanting to stay in their homes longer. They help finding contractors, low interest loans, and find funding to assist in projects. Last year they were able to assist 14 homeowners with these types of projects.

III. Department Highlights

Health Department

- Martha Hall updated the Committee on the current COVID statistics. There has been a decline in positive cases and overall positivity rates. Lenawee County is seeing 6.9% of all COVID tests returning as positive where the State average is 4.3%. New cases per million on given a 7-day average are 187 cases in the County and 99.6 during the same time frame state wide.
- Prevention Strategies still important and need to be continued even after people have been vaccinated– especially given the new variants.
- There has been a decrease in testing both in county and state wide.
- The testing site for the county is still open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. People can register for appointments on the county website.
- There are also a number of other testing facilities in the county.
- Based on the guidance set by the Department of Health and Human Services, there are approximately 30,000 people eligible for a vaccine right now. This group includes: (1) All facets of healthcare workers (of which most are vaccinated that have asked to be); (2) 65 and older; (3) Pre-K through 12 teachers and support staff; (4) child care workers; and (5) first responders not included in Phase 1A such as EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, homeless shelters, adult and child protective services.
- There is a link on the website that allows for registration. A new system for registering and scheduling was set up this past weekend. For those who do not have internet and are over the age of 65 they can call 517- 592-1662 for assistance in scheduling. This is being done through a partnership with Area Agency on Aging and Department on Aging. For those that are under the age of 65 and do not have internet access, they can call the Health Department at 517- 264-5226 Option 5.
- First dose clinics are currently being held every Thursday at the Fairgrounds. All vaccine that is received weekly is being administered.
- Most second dose clinics are currently being held at the Health Department.

The Committee discussed the logistics of how people can register and schedule appointments for vaccines. They discussed how vaccines are currently be allocated from the State to the County. They also discussed what the County is doing to set itself apart as location that can offer 2,000 doses of vaccine each day so that when the vaccine does become available, we will have positioned ourselves to put our plans in place.

IV. Plan Objectives

Wellness: a number of people failed to complete the requirements for the 2021 program.

Financial Wellness: A number of people continue to take advantage of the financial wellness program.

V. Updates / Other Business

There were minutes from the Human Services Collaborative and the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging available for the Committees review.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Goetz, seconded by Jenkins-Arno, to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 p.m. Motion carried.

MM/klm