

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

PRESENT: Comm. Stimpson, Bales, Collins, Goetz, Jenkins-Arno, Lapham, Tillotson, and Wittenbach

ABSENT: Comm. Bolton

ALSO PRESENT: Burke Castleberry, Kathryn Szewczuk, Craig Tanis, Bethany Teague, Jenny Escott, Lynn Vandebusch, Melissa Burnor (Blissfield Advance), Ryan Rank, Bob Knoblauch, Troy Bevier, Debby Lynn, Monica Hunt, Martha Hall, Lauren Priest, Marne Davies, Jeff Betz, Heidi Cannon, Jennifer Ambrose, Micah Hassenzahl, Scott Holtz, Mary Lowe (Daily Telegram), Cleon Broussard, Julie Lutton, Ken Carson, Erin Pruitt, Martin Marshall, Kim Murphy, and Roxann Holloway

The meeting was opened with an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comm. Bales moved to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2021, meeting, Comm. Collins seconded. Motion CARRIED.

Comm. Tillotson moved to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Comm. Goetz. Motion CARRIED.

Communications were read.

Public comments were received regarding the Vaccine Status Discrimination Resolution from the following: Ryan Rank, Bethany Teague, Julie Lutton, Debby Lynn, Lauren Priest, Erin Pruitt, Ken Carson, Martha Hall, Cleon Broussard.

Comm. Bales moved to approve the following consent agenda items, Comm. Wittenbach seconded,

#### **Board Appointments**

##### **Economic Development Corporation – 5 year term**

Appointment: Steve Muth

12/21

APPOINTMENT is hereby CONFIRMED

#### **Third Quarter Allotment of Appropriations**

**RES#2021-17**

July 1, 2021-September 30, 2021

**Whereas**, the 2021 General Appropriations Act provided for the allotment of appropriations on a periodic basis when financial circumstances warrant; and

**Whereas**, the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners deems that financial circumstances exist whereby the quarterly allotment of appropriations contained in the 2021 General Fund Budget is deemed desirable; and

**Whereas**, the financial circumstances dictate that other steps also be taken to contain expenditures during the fiscal year.

**Therefore, Be It Resolved** by the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners, that the expenditure of the 2021 appropriations as contained in the 2021 General Fund Budget be

established for the period beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021, and that the elected and appointed officials responsible for appropriations be so notified, and;

**Be It Resolved** that said County officials shall not cause obligations to be incurred against, nor shall payment be made from appropriations in excess of the amount provided in the schedule. Resolution #2021-17 is hereby ADOPTED.

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Motion to approve the consent agenda CARRIED by a Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

Comm. Collins moved to approve the following resolution, Comm. Tillotson seconded,

**MICHIGAN SOCIAL WELFARE ACT**

**RES#2021-018**

Opposition to Gearing Towards Integration Proposal

**WHEREAS**, Senator Shirkey's Gearing Towards Integration Proposal is not a public-private joint venture, but a wholly private managed care organization, leaving no role for the public management and oversight which is currently provided by our Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) system; and

**WHEREAS**, in the requirements for creating a new entity Senator Shirkey's proposal only outlines requirements to become a Medicaid Health Plan and is silent to all the roles and responsibilities of the current PIHP system (recipient rights, housing and employment supports, community collaboration, etc.) that are core to the social determinants of health, safety net role, and community collaborative work of the public system; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal does not eliminate any layers – Medicaid Health Plans will pick up the managed care functions from PIHPs at a much higher cost (15% versus 6%) and this money will be removed from the care our people are receiving today; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 116(b) of the Code (MCL 330.1116[b]) requires that the Department of Community Health shift primary responsibility for the direct delivery of public mental health services from the state to a community mental health services program whenever the community mental health services program has demonstrated a willingness and capacity to provide an adequate and appropriate system of mental health services for the citizens of that service area.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners strongly urges its State Senate and House of Representatives to oppose Senator Shirkey's Gearing Towards Integration Proposal and subsequent changes proposed to the Michigan Social Welfare Act which would privatize the public mental health system and essentially eliminate the public safety net; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners supports Lenawee Community Mental Health Authority as a public behavioral health system that provides necessary community safety net services and supports; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Dale Zorn (17<sup>th</sup> District), Representative Bronna Kahle (57<sup>th</sup> District), Representative Sarah Lightner (65<sup>th</sup> District), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Elizabeth Hertel, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration Senior Deputy Director Allen Jansen, the Michigan Association of Counties, and all Michigan counties.

Motion to approve CARRIED by a Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

Comm. Jenkins-Arno moved to approve the following resolution, Comm. Wittenbach seconded,

**STAND AGAINST VACCINE STATUS DISCRIMINATION**

**RES#2021-19**

Within the Boundaries of Lenawee County

**WHEREAS**, America was established on the foundation of liberty, a fundamental human right as stated in the Declaration of Independence. Liberty is defined as the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views; and

**WHEREAS**, Governments have been instituted by the consent of the governed to secure our liberties, and to ensure that citizens are allowed the opportunity to pursue their interests and direct their lives as they please within the bounds of law; and

**WHEREAS**, the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right to due process and equal protection under the law, and requires that even in emergency situations, states cannot discriminate by making or enforcing any law that abridges the privileges or immunities of any citizen of the United States [or] deprives any person of life or liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID 19 virus has caused the government to institute emergency powers, which have restricted our liberties by implementing stay-at-home orders, constraining travel, limiting gatherings, and requiring face masks, among other things. According to the American Bar Association, "the Supreme Court has specifically recognized that the existence of an emergency cannot change the protections afforded under the Constitution;" and

**WHEREAS**, Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) vaccines have been introduced to the general public and are available at clinics throughout the county for those who voluntarily wish to receive it; and

**WHEREAS**, those who have contracted the virus, recovered, and have gained natural immunity do not require vaccines; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID 19 vaccines have not been mandated by law, allowing each individual and family to make a determination that is best for them based on their health, beliefs, or any other factor; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan allows for medical, religious, and philosophical exemptions from vaccines; and

**WHEREAS**, medical information is private. Under HIPPA, covered entities cannot disclose protected health information, and under the Americans with Disabilities Act, employers cannot discriminate based on vaccination status; and

**WHEREAS**, using vaccination status, or what is more generally known as vaccine passports, as a reason to limit access to businesses, restaurants, organizations, and sporting events, among other things, discriminates, and is an infringement on our basic human rights, including our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

**WHEREAS**, it is Lenawee County's current practice that if governmental offices and property are open to one, they are open to all with the intent that discriminatory restrictions based on vaccination status will not be enforced.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners does not support or endorse the introduction or passage of vaccine passport legislation on the state or national level, and we strongly urge our representatives to stand against any form of discrimination that would infringe upon the basic rights and liberties of our Lenawee County citizens; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** , that the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners encourages businesses, restaurants, organizations, sporting events, places of employment, and any other association to implement the practice of “Open to One, Open to All.” In so doing they will be protecting the liberties of all Lenawee County citizens,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, State Senator Dale Zorn, State Representatives Bronna Kahle and Sarah Lightner, the Michigan Senate, the Michigan House of Representatives, Michigan Association of Counties; and to the Clerk of each County in the State of Michigan.

Comm. Jenkins-Arno moved to amend the resolution as presented, Comm. Wittenbach seconded. Discussion followed.

Comm. Bales moved for a date certain of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, in regards to the resolution, Comm. Tillotson seconded. Discussion followed. Motion CARRIED by the following Roll Call Vote: YEAS (6) Comm. Bales, Collins, Goetz, Stimpson, Tillotson, Wittenbach. NAYS (2) Comm. Jenkins-Arno, Lapham.

Comm. Lapham reported from the Information Technology/Equalization Committee.

Comm. Bales reported from the Human Services Committee.

Comm. Lapham reported from the Rules & Appointments Committee.

Comm. Collins reported from the Criminal Justice Committee.

Comm. Lapham reported from the Physical Resources Committee.

Comm. Tillotson reported from the Personnel/Ways & Means Committee.

Comm. Stimpson reported from the Accounts Payable Committee.

Comm. Collins moved to approve May 13 – June 3, 2021, total vouchers for payment in the amount \$3,531,082.76, with the general fund’s portion being \$339,452.14, Comm. Wittenbach seconded. Motion CARRIED.

Comm. Tillotson reported from the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Comm. Bales reported from the Road Commission.

Comm. Lapham reported from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Comm. Lapham reported from the Lenawee Department of Aging.

Comm. Goetz reported from the Solid Waste Committee.

Comm. Bales reported from the Airport Commission.

Comm. Wittenbach reported from Michigan Works.

Comm. Tillotson reported from the CMHPSM.

Comm. Collins reported from the Veterans Affairs Board.

Comm. Collins reported from the Emergency 9-1-1 District Board.

Comm. Collins reported from the Health Board.

Comm. Wittenbach reported from MAC – General Government.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business: There was no new business

Public Comment: Clerk Holloway read an online Public Comment that was submitted by Thomas Wassmer, Ph. D., regarding the need for an Environmental Affairs Commission.

Bethany Teague addressed the board regarding the process of amending a resolution and suggestions for making the language more clear. Discussion followed.

Comm. Goetz moved to adjourn at 2:48 P.M. Comm. Collins seconded. Motion CARRIED.

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Roxann Holloway, County Clerk

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David Stimpson, Chair