

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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BOARD LEADERSHIP WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024 AT 6:00 PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM A OF THE HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING, 5303 S. CEDAR, LANSING. A VIRTUAL LINK HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT <https://ingham.zoom.us/j/86246962326>.

Agenda

Call to Order
Approval of the August 13, 2024
Additions to the Agenda
Limited Public Comment

1. Presentation of the Ingham County Community Health Center Financial Assessment
2. Compensation
 - a. County-wide Elected Officials
 - b. Commissioners

Public Comment
Adjournment

A QUORUM OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE

BOARD LEADERSHIP MEETING

July 17, 2024

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Cahill, Celentino, Grebner, Johnson, Maiville, Morgan, Pawar, Peña, Polsdofer, Ruest, Schafer, Sebolt, and Tennis.

Members Absent: Lawrence and Trubac.

Others Present: Councilmember Jeffrey Brown, Jason Corburn, Julie Krupa, Charles Richardson, Dr. Paul Elam, Marlon Beard, Aaron Blankenburg, Sidney Black, Dr. Renee Canady, Dr. Adenike Shoyinka, Becky Bennett, Anika Ried and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sebolt at 6:15 p.m. in Conference Room A of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan. Virtual Public participation was offered via Zoom at <https://ingham.zoom.us/j/89160266022>.

Approval of the June 12, 2024 Minutes

CHAIRPERSON SEBOLT STATED, WITHOUT OBJECTION, THE OPEN AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2024 BOARD LEADERSHIP MEETING WERE APPROVED. Absent: Commissioners Lawrence and Trubac.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

None.

1. Presentation of Advance Peace Evaluation Report by Professor Jason Corburn

Dr. Paul Elam, Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) Chief Strategy Officer, provided an introduction of their team and explained they were present to update the Commissioners on Advance Peace, and the commitment MPHI had made with the Ingham County Health Department to build the capacity of the program.

Commissioner Johnson left at 6:19 p.m.

Dr. Elam stated their appreciation for the Health Department as their key partner, and for being very instrumental in allowing Advance Peace to provide local services to their fellows.

Commissioner Johnson returned at 6:22 p.m.

Jason Corburn, University of California (UC) Berkley Professor, presented the Advance Peace Evaluation Report, which was included in the minutes as Attachment A.

Julie Krupa, Michigan State University (MSU) School of Criminal Justice Assistant Professor, continued the presentation of the Advance Peace Evaluation Report.

Commissioner Grebner left at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioner Grebner returned at 6:42 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan left at 6:45 p.m.

Commissioner Celentino thanked the presenters and all those present for putting their life on the line and creating a safe neighborhood, and stated that, as a teacher, he appreciated their work. Commissioner Celentino further asked why the southeast area of Lansing had seen a spike in gun violence.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 6:47 p.m.

Krupa stated they received those numbers from law enforcement, but they were not always complete in terms of motive and perpetrator, as violence was a multifaceted issue which was often geographically concentrated. Krupa further stated that as more data came in, they would be able to parse out what was happening there.

Discussion.

Charles Richardson, MPHI Strategy Manager, stated that a part of the reason was opportunity, and with Advance Peace or law enforcement having a presence in the area, it could deter violence. Richardson further stated that one of the realities of violence was that it could happen anywhere.

Commissioner Grebner stated it seemed like the strategy was all about the individual and their social situation, and they did not seem to be focused on the generation of conflict by enterprises or customs. Commissioner Grebner further stated, for example, that people in the drug trade could not go to the police and so the only response to being robbed as a drug dealer would be to take it upon one's self.

Commissioner Grebner asked if and how they looked at all the underground institutions which gave rise to the situations where violence was the only response.

Richardson stated, for Advance Peace, it was a very clear approach and that if an individual was in the center of cyclical or retaliatory gun violence, they would be a candidate, and so it could be anything causing that situation.

Marlon Beard, Advance Peace Lansing Field Coordinator, stated they were definitely focused on the southwest Lansing area. Beard further stated that all individuals they targeted were at the center of gun violence, and they did not vet them to see if any other crimes were involved, as Advance Peace was all about interrupting cyclical and retaliatory gun violence.

Beard stated if they opened up that can of worms, they would be spread too thin, and so they were just dealing with that one thing. Beard further stated they likely did not even know if someone was into drugs or committing another crime, unless they reached the point of fellowship, at which point they started other processes like Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and life skills.

Beard stated they did not think they came into contact with the drug dealer thing often, as that was the area of law enforcement.

Aaron Blankenburg, MPHI Center for Racial and Social Justice Neighborhood Change Agent (NCA), stated they did perform street outreach, and if they heard of issues like what was mentioned, they would talk to the individuals involved, regardless of whether or not they were fellows, and try to calm the situation.

Corburn stated that Advance Peace Lansing had a staff consisting of four people and a smaller budget, so that one organization could not do everything, and their success was because they stuck to their mission of ending cyclical and retaliatory gun violence. Corburn further stated there were many other social service providers they connected individuals with that addressed other critical contributing factors, so from an evaluation perspective, Advance Peace Lansing was accomplishing their mission.

Commissioner Cahill stated they had witnessed a gun violence incident in the summer of 2022. Commissioner Cahill further stated everything Advance Peace Lansing was doing affected families and was just helping everyone.

Commissioner Polsdofer stated that Advance Peace Lansing had presented at a Law & Courts Committee meeting and he wanted to remind everyone that this was the third year of the three years of funding. Commissioner Polsdofer further stated he was very supportive of Advance Peace and would like to see it grow, so if it was possible, he hoped to start seeing numbers for another multiyear funding apparatus, in order to make sure they kept it going and hopefully expanding the program.

Commissioner Morgan asked, when the time came, if there was a way they could provide a line-item budget from October of 2022 to now, as well as details on what would be needed so the Commissioners and the County could see what was spent as they evaluated from a financial point of view.

Commissioner Maiville asked for clarification, as he believed the City of Lansing had also participated in the funding.

Commissioner Polsdofer stated confirmation and that the State, among others, were also involved. Commissioner Polsdofer further clarified it would be good to know what the entire pie was, so they could collectively figure out what was needed.

Chairperson Sebolt stated they knew correlation did not equal causation and asked how Advance Peace Lansing approached the data to understand and know that the data reflected their work and not just a national trend.

Corburn stated, as was in the report, they looked for correlation first, and of the violence interruptions or mediations, a majority were occurring in southwest Lansing. Corburn further stated they could then look spatially to see if they saw trends in the same location.

Corburn stated they also turned that back onto the social service providers, like police departments, and asked them what they may have done differently in that same time period. Corburn further stated they were then able to look at changes in their programs and see if a percent was the impact of Advance Peace intervention.

Corburn stated it was also about teasing out the data, which were victim demographics and which of the shootings were cyclical and retaliatory and which were not. Corburn further stated that in other cities, they saw a large percentage of shootings were often related to other causes which were not cyclical or retaliatory.

Krupa stated the focus of the program was on the individual fellows and their outcomes. Krupa further stated when they tried to assess for correlation of violence, they wanted to control that information, which could be really challenging, and might not be complete.

Krupa stated they needed a certain amount of statistical power to run those robust models with comparisons, so it was actually a good thing that the Lansing violence level was lower relative to Flint, for example. Krupa further stated, in regards to inputs needed to causally assess relationships, they needed more input, so as the program expanded and time went on, they would have more data to assess those relationships.

Commissioner Johnson asked what the Peace Keepers experiences were with the transformation of students and the response of parents.

Sidney Black, Advance Peace Peace Keeper, stated that after meeting with students, they could see them opening up about their issues so they could help them solve their problems and help them gain housing and employment. Black further stated that parents contacted them looking for the Peace Keepers when things happened in the community.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the reported shooting data was all shootings in the area or just the targeted demographic.

Krupa stated it was all fatal and non-fatal shootings in the area.

Commissioner Morgan asked, while those numbers were sad, if they could see the numbers showing shootings, specifically within the targeted demographics.

Krupa stated confirmation that they could run that data.

Commissioner Morgan stated it would be interesting to see how the trends compared to other places, to see those other trends, and how a lack of programs affected the numbers.

Krupa stated they could pull that data as well, but the one caveat was that they did not know what sorts of interventions other cities had implemented.

Commissioner Pawar asked what role MPHI and Dr. Shondra Marshall, Center for Racial and Social Justice Director, had played.

Dr. Elam stated they had worked with Dr. Renee Canaday, MPHI Chief Executive Officer, and determined they would institutionalize and incorporate Advance Peace into the work of MPHI, so they placed the initiative in the Center for Racial and Social Justice under the leadership of Dr. Marshall. Dr. Elam further stated they provided a lot of administrative oversight, as well as leveraging resources, and based on those efforts they had been able to bring in an additional 4.5 million dollars.

Commissioner Pawar asked, as far as cases went, what kind of help was being provided to the fellows, parents, and families under the supervision of Dr. Marshall.

Dr. Elam provided an overview of the Advance Peace model.

Discussion ensued regarding the model.

Dr. Canaday stated the entire team was employed under MPHI, and that Dr. Marshall kept track of how the team was doing as employees, so that was an additional benefit.

Discussion ensued.

Corburn stated that Advance Peace Lansing was one of a few programs across the country that was housed within a public health institute, so MPHI was a critical partner and leader in the successful implementation of Advance Peace in Lansing.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that Jeffrey Brown, Lansing City Council member, was present, and that the Lansing City Council would be receiving a similar presentation, but the Board of Commissioners had already invited the Lansing City Council, since they were already partners in this effort.

Councilmember Brown stated it was a privilege to work with MPHI and Advance Peace Lansing and provided an overview of the impact Advance Peace had on the City of Lansing.

Commissioner Schafer asked what percent of shooting victims were male versus female, and stated that she asked because she had read that their fellows were 100% male. Commissioner Schafer further asked if they were focused too much on one target and that as a female, it would probably be hard to talk to a male fellow.

Krupa stated that 79% to 84% of the victims were male.

Richardson stated their intelligence suggested there was a growing number of females either engaging or involved in cyclical or retaliatory gun violence, and that Advance Peace Lansing had just hired their first female Peace Keeper. Richardson further stated they were actively working towards looking at all variables as they related to engaging in their outreach with the individual and were very cognizant that it was more than just males involved.

Beard stated they were now recruiting female fellows and will probably pair them with their new female Peace Keeper.

Commissioner Ruest stated it was a fabulous program and they assumed Advance Peace was going after any grants that were available, and asked if there were any other grants they could go after to help prop up the program.

Dr. Elam stated that they raised an additional 4.5 million dollars beyond what the City of Lansing and Ingham County had committed, which was based on funding from the Department of Justice, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Michigan State Police (MSP), and they had worked on applications through the Center for Disease Control (CDC), as well as various philanthropies.

Chairperson Sebolt stated they appreciated everyone coming and that they appreciated the work Advance Peace was doing in the community.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.