HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 16, 2020
Draft Minutes

Members Present: Trubac, Stivers, Tennis, Koenig (arrived at 6:33 p.m.), Slaughter, and Naeyaert.

Members Absent: Morgan.

Others Present: Marion Owen, Rich Estill, Linda Vail, Jared Cypher, Michael Tanis, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Trubac at 6:30 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room “D & E” of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the March 2, 2020 Minutes


Additions to the Agenda

Late –
3. Health Department
   1. Coronavirus Update

Limited Public Comment

Rich Estill, Ingham County Employees Association (ICEA) Professionals Union, stated that he had been working with Sue Graham, Human Resources Director, about the new policies that would be discussed at tomorrow’s County Services Committee meeting to ensure that everyone would be taken care of during the County closure. He further stated that he wanted to ensure with the Commissioners that everyone would be heard in terms of the details to make sure that everyone and their families would be taken care of, regardless of how “families” was defined.

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS:

1. Fair Office – Resolution to Implement an Online Ticketing System for the Ingham County Fair
2. Parks Department
   a. Resolution to Authorize an Application for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for Accessibility Improvements to Bunker Road Landing
   b. Resolution to Authorize an Application for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for Accessibility Improvements to Lake Lansing Park South
   c. Resolution to Authorize a Contract with E.T. Mackenzie Company
   d. Resolution to Authorize Contracts for Police Patrols in Ingham County Parks

3. Health Department
   a. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Michigan Public Health Institute
   b. Resolution to Amend Resolution #20-031 to Add 1.0 FTE Behavioral Health Consultant to Support Collaborative Care Model
   c. Resolution to Amend the Ingham Community Health Center Board Bylaws
   d. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Crossroads Nutrition Therapy, LLC
   e. Resolution to Authorize Agreements with Licensed Medical Providers
   f. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with MSU Health Team for Establishing a Collaborative Care Model for Psychiatry Services
   h. Resolution to Convert Jail Medical Nurse Positions ICEA County Pro Jail Nurse Scale to ICEA County Pro Grade 8
   i. Resolution Honoring Angela Fay Travis
   j. Resolution Honoring William Weiman
   k. Resolution Honoring Dr. Steven Pittel

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Koenig and Morgan.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Koenig and Morgan.

3. Health Department
   g. Jail Medical update (Discussion)

Linda Vail, Health Officer, stated that she understood in terms of Jail Medical discussion was related to the conversion of the Jail Medical Nurse. She further stated that what she understood the Human Services Committee requested was a salary market-study.

Commissioner Koenig arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Ms. Vail stated that when the Health Department attempted to do that in the State of Michigan, she learned that most of the counties had Jail Health operated by contracted providers. She further stated that, essentially, the contracted providers did not release that information.

Ms. Vail stated that when the Health Department conducted the study across the State of Michigan, with some comparable counties, they got one number, which was not a market analysis. She further stated that the rest of counties said they could not release that information.
Ms. Vail stated that what the Health Department did was research online, looking at the average salary for a Jail Medical Nurse. She further stated that she found some national studies that said the average salary was about $71,000 to $72,000 in the State of Michigan, and that salary was the top-end.

Ms. Vail stated that the State of Michigan lagged behind other states, and so the Health Department researched the average salary across the United States to find other places where they were hiring a Jail Medical Nurse. She further stated that one of the results was Johnson County, Iowa, and found those numbers to be consistent with the top-end figure.

Ms. Vail stated that when the Health Department did the reclassification of the Jail Medical Nurse position, and it landed in ICEA County Pro Grade 8, she thought that rather than doing a market exception, the removal of the Jail Medical Nurse salary band, which was separate from all of the ICEA salary bands, and placing the Jail Medical Nurse position in the ICEA County Pro Grade 8 band was a great first step. She further stated that this allowed the Health Department to see if it accomplished the desired outcome.

Ms. Vail stated that the Health Department was using the best science to make decisions in light of the fact that comparable counties in the State of Michigan would not release that information, with the exception of Kalamazoo County, and they paid Jail Medical Nurses a lower salary than Ingham County. She further stated that the ICEA County Pro Grade 8 salary range was consistent with the information she found online and across the United States.

Ms. Vail stated that Johnson County was smaller than Ingham County, and they paid Jail Medical Nurses a higher salary, and so she thought that Ingham County should come closer to their salary. She further stated that the Health Department would find out if the ICEA County Pro Grade 8 salary band allowed them to recruit and retain employees, and if they were unsuccessful, she would quickly be in front of the Human Services Committee for a market exception.

Ms. Vail stated that this was a good place to start, it was a significant salary increase for the Jail Medical Nurses, and it would be a good recruiting tool for the Health Department. She further stated that she knew the Human Services Committee had asked for a market analysis, but the Health Department fell short of that when doing a market-study across the State of Michigan.

Chairperson Trubac thanked Ms. Vail for coming before the Human Services Committee.

3. **Health Department**

   h. Resolution to Convert Jail Medical Nurse Positions ICEA County Pro Jail Nurse Scale to ICEA County Pro Grade 8

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NAKEYAERT, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ITEM.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Morgan.
3. **Health Department**
   I. **Coronavirus Update**

Ms. Vail stated that COVID-19, or the coronavirus, changed every hour. She further stated that the Human Services Committee should expect the Governor of Michigan to announce an additional case in Ingham County.

Commissioner Stivers stated so two cases in Ingham County in total.

Ms. Vail stated yes. She further stated that there was lots of testing being done, with some going through the Health Department, but at the point that the testing shifted to where the hospitals or doctors could order the tests, she was not sure how many tests were being done.

Ms. Vail stated that what the Health Department would know was when the tests were positive. She further stated that she was trying to work with her partners to give the Health Department the number of people were being tested, to have a better idea of surveillance about what was going on.

Ms. Vail stated that, before students from Michigan State University even went on spring break, the Health Department came together with people from the City of East Lansing, both health systems, and Michigan State University to meet and form a COVID-19 team. She further stated that the District 1 Regional Medical Response Coalition and Medical Director Don Edwards also served on the COVID-19 team.

Ms. Vail stated that she had requested the Equal Opportunity Committee (EOC) to be partially activated to support their work. She further stated that her team did not have time to handle the logistical part of the response, including the possibility of quarantine facilities, in addition to the day-to-day tasks that her team was required to do.

Ms. Vail stated that the biggest concern with a quarantine site had to do more with the homeless population. She further stated that the best place for people to quarantine or isolate was in their own homes.

Ms. Vail stated that there would be a meeting at the EOC on Wednesday, March 18 to talk about the locations of quarantine facilities, and while the team had a few ideas, she did not want to make that information public as she was unsure who or who would not agree. She further stated that, as the Commissioners imagined, not the easiest thing to ask a local hotel for rooms to quarantine people for COVID-19.

Ms. Vail stated that she was having problems with McLaren over a number of issues, for example patients not being treated for COVID-19 being released from McLaren back to The Willows but The Willows would not let them back inside. She further stated that issues similar to that came up constantly.
Ms. Vail stated that the Health Department staff was working hard, in particular the Disease Control Nurses, who were the people responsible for all of the contact information. She further stated that she was probably going to bring in some temporary workers to help, but the problem was that what the Disease Control Nurses do was very technical and required specific knowledge.

Discussion.

Ms. Vail stated that she had continued to ask her staff what they needed. She further stated Jared Cypher, interim County Controller, had offered her anything she needed, including the support of people in other departments.

Ms. Vail stated that the Health Department was trying to get a handle on what was needed. She further stated that she had activated the incident command system structure and assigned people roles, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Ms. Vail stated that her team had set aside 9:30 a.m. to have hour-long meetings, and have had a meeting every day since it was created, to deal with the issues that arose. She further stated that people had roles, including logistics, planning, operations, a liaison to their partners, and an Information Officer, so that it was easy to sit in those meetings and identify the issues.

Discussion.

Ms. Vail stated that the Commissioners were knowledgeable of the governor’s actions and what had occurred this past weekend, as the Health Department tried to respond to what was going on in one of the local cities. She further stated that she appreciated the Commissioners’ support as they dealt with that issue.

Ms. Vail stated that she connected the local city to the Michigan Attorney General’s Office and the Governor of Michigan’s Office, and she believed that they fell flat on that. She further stated that guidelines that required a maximum capacity of 250 people was not one-size-fits all, and for example, if there was a bar with a capacity of 800 people, that would be a drastic decrease, but that did not include places that had a maximum capacity below 250 people.

Ms. Vail stated that the guidelines did not accomplish what it needed to accomplish, but she did not fault the governor. She further stated that all officials were making decisions as rapidly as possible to do the best that can be done, which was why that order came out yesterday that capped everyone at 50 percent.

Ms. Vail stated that she had proposed going to a percent of maximum capacity, according to Fire Code. She further stated that Oakland County had proposed 50 percent, so she thought that Ingham County should be consistent.

Ms. Vail stated that that order remained in place, but seemed a bit moot in light of the governor’s announcement. She further stated that she would keep the order in place in case someone lost sight of what needed to be addressed.
Ms. Vail stated that it was only food establishments, and they were all handled, except for the cafeterias at Michigan State University because they were required to stay open to serve students. She further stated that many students had not left Michigan State University, so that order remained in place to keep them at 50 percent capacity.

Ms. Vail stated that she was trying to best to combat bad stories and to thwart misinformation. She further stated that when people took number of deaths and divided it by the number of cases, that was faulty mathematics, and when scientists knew that someone was asymptomatic and did not require medical attention, they knew how to extract that information to determine the correct numbers.

Discussion.

Ms. Vail stated that she respected Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and he had determined that 1 percent of people would likely be affected.

Discussion.

Ms. Vail stated that it would be ten-times more impactful than a flu season, which was a lot of people, but they need not panic. She further stated that the measures being taken were about getting ahead of what was going on to prevent it from getting worse.

Ms. Vail stated that she read somewhere that if a person went home and quarantined themselves for 14 days and nothing happened, that was the point. She further stated that as extreme as these measures seemed, it would help the healthcare system to have the capacity to keep people alive.

Ms. Vail explained two graphics to the Human Services Committee, one that misinformed the public and one that her team created that was more accurate.

Ms. Vail stated that people needed to be careful about attempting to correct misinformation to calm the public and the County employees. She further stated that COVID-19 was coming, and that there were probably more cases in the State of Michigan than what had already been announced, which was not all bad.

Ms. Vail stated that testing for COVID-19 was not about clinical care because there was no vaccine, no cure, and no specific treatment, but to care for the symptoms. She further stated that testing was about public care, and she was not sure if the United States would reach a point where so many people contracted the virus that testing was useless.

Ms. Vail stated that a vast majority of people who were infected by the virus would have mild symptoms and would recover. She further stated that a smaller percentage of those people would have more serious symptoms and would be hospitalized, and a smaller percentage of that, people would die.
Ms. Vail stated that it was a massive shift in the world, but it was the right thing to do. She further stated that, personally, she did not think the United States was as behind as people have said, and no matter if the federal government attempted to downplay the seriousness of the virus, every state had Health Departments and every County had local Health Officers.

Ms. Vail stated that the Health Department knew that COVID-19 would be serious and worse than the flu, and that people would be quarantined and isolated.

Commissioner Koenig asked Ms. Vail when testing was being done, and what triggered a test versus a physician or hospital visit.

Ms. Vail stated that what triggered testing being done was matching the case definition of having the right set of symptoms. She further stated that if a physician determined that a person had the right set of symptoms, they could send a specimen to be tested.

Ms. Vail stated that the testing was no longer being funneled through the Health Department.

Commissioner Koenig asked how testing was being handled.

Ms. Vail stated that tests were being sent to private laboratories. She further stated that there was lots of testing being done, including through Quest and LabCorp.

Ms. Vail stated that there were some tests that went through the Health Department to the Bureau of Laboratories, and originally, that was where all tests were being tested. She further stated that, thankfully, the private laboratories were beginning to test.

Ms. Vail stated that she heard the governor and Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, Chief Medical Executive for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, talking last night about a point in time where they may need to test the most serious or test everyone. She further stated that people did not like this answer, but if a person had a cold or the flu, they should stay home and take care of themselves because COVID-19 could be treated in a similar manner.

Discussion.

Ms. Vail stated that if a person had symptoms that became serious, they needed to seek care. She further stated that the urgent cares at hospitals are asking people to call ahead of a visit, including call them from the parking lot.

Ms. Vail stated that symptoms were the diagnostic criteria for submitting tests, and since physicians could do rapid flu tests in their office, they would do a flu test on a person first, and if the test came back negative, they would send it to be tested for COVID-19. She further stated that co-infection with the flu and COVID-19 was practically non-existent.

Commissioner Koenig asked if one of the symptoms was a temperature of 103°F.
Ms. Vail stated that, basically, shortness of breath or being unable to breathe, unable to drink water or eat food, and a high-fever that lasted for a long period of time that could not be managed through over-the-counter medicine.

Discussion.

Commissioner Slaughter asked Ms. Vail about the impact of COVID-19 on the homeless population in Ingham County.

Ms. Vail stated that, right now, people who were homeless should stay in place. She further stated that people who were homeless should be doing the best they can to distance themselves from people, as was being recommended.

Ms. Vail stated that what the Health Department was working on as quickly as possible was a place to quarantine. She further stated that quarantine meant that a person was exposed and it had been documented, and as long as the person stayed asymptomatic for 14 days, they would be done.

Ms. Vail stated that isolation was for the sick, and isolation could occur at home. She further stated that not everyone in isolation was at a hospital, and as for a person who was homeless who was sick from COVID-19, which had not happened yet, the Health Department would need to find a place for the person to isolate.

Ms. Vail stated that the City of Lansing had used vouchers for different hotels, but those were private businesses. She further stated that the likelihood the hotels would let the Health Department put COVID-19 patients in their rooms was not great, so she would be working through that to find a solution.

Discussion.

Ms. Vail stated that she had a number of places under consideration and would put some pressure on their community partners that had to be part of the solution with the Health Department. She further stated that once a quarantine or isolation location was found, she would need the Red Cross to help get people food and other items, being a part of the EOC.

Commissioner Stivers thanked Ms. Vail for her leadership. She asked if Ms. Vail could offer a public relations incentive to hotels to be a leader that saved people’s lives.

Ms. Vail stated that was a possibility. She further stated that, with decreases in travel, she might find that hotels could very well use people occupying their rooms.

Discussion.

Commissioner Tennis asked Ms. Vail when it came to cooperation, with either the Red Cross or the state or federal governments, who was taking the lead in making decisions.
Ms. Vail stated that it was the Health Department. She further stated that it was a Public Health Emergency.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he understood.

Ms. Vail stated that she told the EOC that she did not have the time to find a quarantine or isolation location, and so she needed them to do that. She further stated that she had to deal with how those people get good or medications, and her team could not do all of that.

Discussion.

Ms. Vail stated that she had a team of people who were working a lot of long hours. She further stated that her leadership team, her 3 Deputy Health Officers, herself, and her Medical Director, had decided to be at the Health Department one day a week because the office needed leadership.

Discussion.

Commissioner Trubac stated he was content with her answer, and he wanted to hear that it was her call.

Ms. Vail stated that it was her call with her COVID-19 partners, as they looked to her for guidance. She further stated that she had an amazing partnership with the Sheriff's Department, and had been in-touch with them over issues of enforcement of the orders.

Discussion.

Ms. Vail stated that the Public Health Code gave the Health Officer the complete authority to enforce the code as appointed by the State of Michigan.

Chairperson Trubac thanked Ms. Vail for all of her work.

Discussion.

Chairperson Trubac asked Ms. Vail if she had any sense if people were taking this serious in the public.

Ms. Vail stated that it was not just bars, it was restaurants, cafes, coffee houses, taverns, brewpubs, distilleries, indoor and outdoor performance venues, gymnasiums, fitness centers, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, indoor exercise facilities, exercise studios, spas, and casinos. She further stated that the Executive Order was not posted online, so depending on the news source, there was better coverage of the order than others.

Discussion.
Chairperson Trubac stated that he had seen some conflicting information in the news on what role asymptomatic transmission was playing in this issue. He asked Ms. Vail she had any professional opinion on that topic.

Ms. Vail stated that there were people who were asymptomatic. She further stated that because people were asymptomatic, people did not know they carried COVID-19 and had the potential to transmit the virus. She further stated that she was concerned with young people and their crowding of the bars.

Ms. Vail stated that it was not affecting young people like it was elderly people, but if a young person who was asymptomatic goes home and visits their parents who had high-blood pressure, the person was not helping the Health Department protect the vulnerable.

Chairperson Trubac asked Ms. Vail, for young people who might be terrified of transmitting COVID-19 to their parents or grandparents, what were ways that COVID-19 could be transmitted.

Ms. Vail stated that, for example, if she touched her face and then touched a surface, and then an older person touched the surface and then touched their face, which was a primary way that could happen. She further stated that the Health Department did not have good idea of asymptomatic because you would have to conduct studies.

Ms. Vail stated that, at this time, the County was having the worst flu season in terms of pediatric cases that the County had had for a number of years. She further stated that there were a lot of pediatric hospitalizations, including 8 deaths announced the day before.

Commissioner Stivers asked if those numbers were nationwide or statewide.

Ms. Vail stated that it was nationwide. She further stated that one of her message points on that topic was that people were being hyper-diligent about the need to wash their hands, and if people had listened during flu season, those children would not have died.

Discussion.

Ms. Vail stated that she had a request of the Human Services Committee that she was on a timeline to present to the Commissioners a Health in All Policies (HiAP) implementation plan by May 18th. She requested if the Health Department could put a pause on that or propose a different deadline.

Ms. Vail stated that she did not have time to be the expert leading Department Heads and helping the interim County Controller to do that.

Jared Cypher, interim County Controller, stated that he also did not have time.

Ms. Vail stated that May 18th was the deadline that was put into the resolution, so she was not sure if the Commissioners needed to amend the resolution.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she believed all of the Commissioners could agree with Ms. Vail.
Discussion.

Ms. Vail stated that she would be at the Joint Caucus meeting on Tuesday, March 24th.

Discussion.

MOVED BY COMM. KOENIG, SUPPORTED BY COMM. STIVERS, TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES MAY 18, 2020 DEADLINE.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Morgan.

Discussion.

Mr. Cypher stated that he had talked to the Sheriff’s Department and offered the arena at the Fairgrounds as a potential quarantine or isolation site.

Ms. Vail stated that people needed to consider that people need bathrooms, showers, soap and water, and other basic amenities.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the arena did have showers and a place to cook food.

Discussion.

Ms. Vail asked to let the EOC know about the possibility of the arena.

Ms. Vail stated that the County had suspended operations, and there were people who were at home getting paid, while she had people who were working at the County. She further stated that, when this was over, the County would need to do something about the people were putting in countless hours during a time when operations had been suspended.

Ms. Vail stated that it might be a matter of putting hours into a leave bank, but people could be capped-out. She further stated that she would ask the Commissioners to consider that she was going to have a lot of employees who would be worn-out and frazzled if they did not deal with that issue.

Chairperson Trubac thanked Ms. Vail for coming before the Human Services Committee.

Public Comment

Marion Owen, Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA), stated that her office had prepared for the COVID-19 virus. She further stated that her office had closed all of the dining-sites, and there were 12 in Ingham County.
Ms. Owen stated that she was contacting the people who went to the site, and would deliver those people meals as they could. She further stated that, as a result, her office was delivering 5 frozen meals in shifts.

Ms. Owen stated that her office might need to resort contracting with the national meal service program called Moms Meals because there were so many frozen meals on-site. She further stated that, twice a year, clients were delivered emergency meals.

Ms. Owen stated that people had been wanting to volunteer, and for the volunteers who were not delivering meals, those people would be doing wellness checks on the clients. She further stated that for the community-based long-term care services for people eligible for nursing homes, but had chosen to remain in their homes, volunteers were calling those people daily.

Ms. Owen stated that her office had postponed assessments and adding clients to the MI-Choice program, and reassessments until further notice. She further stated that people in her office were not entering adult foster care homes, and had transitioned several people out.

Ms. Owen stated that their care managers were telecommunicating, including nurses and social workers. She further stated that there was a crisis line that was available 24 hours a day/365 days a year, and it was on their recording on their phone service.

Ms. Owen stated that she was waiting to hear back from the State of Michigan in terms of giving the office more flexibility some of the rules and standards. She further stated that she had 5 clients who were on ventilators and the office were keeping in touch with those people.

Ms. Owen stated that, if the caregivers become ill, her office would look into transitioning those people into adult foster care homes. She further stated that the access services information systems would continue to be available, but that did not include the tax system as the AARP stopped that service over the weekend.

Ms. Owen stated that her office had essential staff who were available, and had over 160 providers, so her office could do a lot of their work through their database. She further stated that her office would be putting out a press release and asking neighbors to check on older adults.

Commissioner Koenig asked Ms. Owen what the focus of the press release was.

Ms. Owen stated that it was to let people know about the senior dine-sites and to reassure people.

Commissioner Koenig asked Ms. Owen if she had updated their website.

Ms. Owen stated that there were some things already on the website.

Announcements

Mr. Cypher stated that he wanted to remind everyone that the County implemented the Suspension of County Operations policy, effective March 17, 2020 to April 5, 2020. He further stated that
there were departments, including the Health Department and the Sheriff’s Department, would have people at work.

Mr. Cypher stated that people were needed to support them with certain essential services, from the Purchasing Department, IT Department, and Financial Services Department. He further stated that it was not only about employee safety, but it was about public safety by not allowing people into the building unless it was necessary.

Mr. Cypher stated that there was a Late Agenda item at the County Services Committee meeting tomorrow night, which was the Health Administrative Leave Policy, which would give extra hours to County employees if they were sick or needed to take care of a child or elderly person, and were trying to be as employee friendly as possible.

Mr. Cypher stated that between tonight and tomorrow, the County would make sure that the Health Administrative Leave Policy and the Suspension of County Operations would not be contradictory. He further stated that the County was making decisions very quickly, and had the potential to be messy, but would address those concerns as they moved forward.

Commissioner Stivers stated that at Community Mental Health (CMH), all of the 24-hour services would remain available, with screening protocols at entry points per the governor’s orders. She further stated that every clinic would continue to provide direct service on-site and in the homes for people who were highest at-risk.

Commissioner Stivers stated that CMH had transitioned much of the work force as possible, with clinical staff working remotely and maintaining contact with their clients via telephone, telehealth, and on-site if needed. She further stated that CMH was working with employees who had children at home instead of school.

Discussion.

Chairperson Trubac stated that, to all of the Commissioners, their leadership in their respected communities was extremely valuable and thanked them for being there.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD