LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE
June 11, 2020
Minutes

Members Present: Slaughter, Celentino, Crenshaw, Polsdofer, Schafer, Sebolt, Trubac.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Teri Morton, Heidi Williams, Sara Deprez, Scott LeRoy, Elizabeth Noel, and Michael Tanis.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Slaughter at 6:00 p.m. virtually via Zoom in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-75 regarding the Open Meetings Act.

Approval of the May 28, 2020 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SEBOLT, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 28, 2020 LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Additions to the Agenda

Late –

1. Animal Control
   b. Resolution to Accept a Two Seven Oh! Grant for Reimbursement of Medical Costs

4. Circuit Court Family Division
   a. Resolution Authorizing Amending the Contract with the Ingham Intermediate School District
   b. Resolution Authorizing Amending the Contract with Highfields

Limited Public Comment

None.

MOVED BY COMM. SCHAFER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. Animal Control
   b. Resolution to Accept a Two Seven Oh! Grant for Reimbursement of Medical Costs
2. Sheriff’s Office – Resolution to Continue Support Service Agreement with Carousel Industries for the Jail & Training Rooms Audio & Video Systems with the Ingham County Sheriff’s Office

3. Community Corrections – Resolution to Authorize Submission of a Grant Application and a Contract with the Michigan Department of Corrections for Ingham County/City of Lansing Community Corrections and Program Subcontracts for FY 2020-2021

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. Animal Control
   a. Update from Animal Control Director Heidi Williams

Heidi Williams, Animal Control Director, updated the Law & Courts Committee on the Animal Control Shelter.

Chairperson Slaughter thanked Ms. Williams for the update.

Commissioner Crenshaw thanked Ms. Williams for the update. He stated that she was doing great work at the Animal Control Shelter. He further stated that before COVID-19, there was a worry about the fostering of animals.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked if Ms. Williams had been able to get all of the animals fostered.

Ms. Williams stated yes. She further stated that, in a matter of 18 hours, the Animal Control Shelter moved 140+ animals into foster homes.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked if some of those fosters had resulted in adoptions.

Ms. Williams stated that nearly 70 percent of the people who had fostered animals adopted them, including herself.

Commissioner Crenshaw thanked Ms. Williams for coming on and redirecting the Animal Control Shelter in a positive manner.

Ms. Williams stated that she was thrilled to be here.

Commissioner Celentino thanked Ms. Williams for focusing on compassion fatigue, something he was unfamiliar with and that her employees had suffered from. He stated that he commended Ms. Williams for thinking outside the box.

Commissioner Celentino stated that before COVID-19, he had an issue with one of his constituents and so he thanked Ms. Williams for handling the situation.
Discussion.

Ms. Williams stated that she was happy to help.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he knew that Ms. Williams had rolled out an on-call program. He asked how that had been going with local law enforcement and if there had been a lot of requests.

Ms. Williams stated that they had not received an overwhelming amount of requests. She further stated that they found that local law enforcement was catching on to their night drop-offs, which was huge for them to be able to drop-off animals where it was safe.

Ms. Williams stated that it had been working out well. She further stated that there had not been any major problems with it.

Commissioner Trubac stated that he wanted to second what Commissioner Celentino said. He further stated it was very important work and he appreciated Ms. Williams for doing it.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he wanted to compliment Ms. Williams for her work. He further stated that he had always dragged his feet with the Animal Control Shelter because of some of the other priorities he had focused on in the County.

Commissioner Schafer stated that Ms. Williams was doing incredible work. He further stated that he was amazed at the initiatives and thought that she was a great addition to the staff.

Ms. Williams thanked Commissioner Schafer for his compliments. She stated that the Animal Control Shelter had incredible staff.

Chairperson Slaughter stated that the Animal Control Shelter would be open on Monday, June 15, 2020. He asked how that was going to look in terms of implementing social distancing.

Ms. Williams stated that there will be signs on the door requesting the public to wear masks and to exercise social distancing requirements. She further stated that there were signs in the various rooms limiting it to six occupants.

Ms. Williams stated that they worked with the Facilities Department to create the occupancy lists and they would have volunteers monitoring that. She further stated that they requested to people to make adoption appointments online to control the number of people in the Animal Control Shelter, but they would not turn people away who wanted to be with the animals because they recognized that not everyone had access to the internet.

Chairperson Slaughter thanked Ms. Williams for being creative and leveraging her resources. He stated that he was happy to have her on-board and the Board of Commissioners would continue to support her in any way possible.
4. Circuit Court Family Division
   a. Resolution Authorizing Amending the Contract with the Ingham Intermediate
      School District

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CELENTINO, TO APPROVE
THE RESOLUTION.

Discussion.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he understood what the Juvenile program went through, as he
went through a similar thing in his profession. He further stated that, as a teacher who worked with
students who had Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and had to come up with 23 Continuity
of Learning Plans (CLP), which was difficult because they had to get ahold of the parents.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he had read in the memo that the Ingham Academy and Circuit
Court Juvenile Division agreed that remote learning was not well-suited. He asked Sara Deprez,
Juvenile Programs Director, to speak to the technical difficulties faced and to how many students
were being serviced from April 20, 2020 to the end of the school year.

Discussion.

Ms. Deprez stated that Commissioner Celentino’s point was well-taken. She further stated that the
Juvenile program did not have students with IEPs, but they had students who were previously on
them and needed a high-level of service.

Ms. Deprez stated that the technical difficulties faced were related to technology. She further stated
that they had sent out a survey in contacting all of the families to ask if they had internet access,
unlimited bandwidth, or a device, including whether that device was shared.

Ms. Deprez stated that they looked at holes in resources. She further stated that they started to look
for holes in technology, and while many in the State of Michigan were scrambling for resources
at the time, they were able to secure Chromebooks. She further stated that they were surprised and
lucky that many of the students had access to technology.

Ms. Deprez stated that they had borrowed Chromebooks from Ingham Intermediate School District
(ISD) and some old laptops that had been stored at the Ingham Academy. She further stated that
another difficulty faced was that staff had desktops, so they had to find a solution to that problem.

Ms. Deprez stated that once they had everyone secured with a device, they created a schedule and
had virtual classes every day. She further stated that the next issue faced was getting the students
to participate.

Ms. Deprez stated that teachers were online and offered incentives, and they had some students
who wanted to success. She further stated that one of the things that parents had heard was that if
a student was on-track to graduate or to get their credits on March 13, 2020, they would receive
their credits.
Ms. Deprez stated that on-track was a subjective term and students were not on-track to graduate. She further stated that one of the other issues was getting parental support, as quarantine was hard on both the students and parents.

Ms. Deprez stated that they did not and continue to not have the resource of the Detention Center, but that was not a reason to detain someone because they were not sending in a Google Meet. She further stated that they had drop-off and pick-up days for schoolwork.

Ms. Deprez stated that he had a lot of communication with their principal during this time, and she said that they were not alone and it was not unique to them that they struggled with remote learning. She further stated that, for their students, the positive relationships and structure mattered so much.

Ms. Deprez stated that they finished their school year on June 5, 2020, so she had not yet heard how many credits were issued for Third and Fourth Quarters. She further stated that, to be transparent, the results would not be great, but she knew that the principal had focused a lot on students who were slated to graduate.

Ms. Deprez stated that, at the beginning of the academic year, they thought they had 8 students who were going to graduate this year, but they did not factor in a pandemic. She further stated that they had two students who met the requirements to graduate during this stressful time.

Ms. Deprez stated that she believed they would have 5 graduates this year, but they had obviously hoped for eight students to graduate. She further stated that she hoped she had answered Commissioner Celentino’s questions.

Commissioner Celentino asked if the teachers had implemented Google Classroom or Apex, and if students had a choice as to what program they wanted to use to participate.

Ms. Deprez stated that students were not really given a choice. She further stated that their principal had met with the teachers and went through every student to know what they had to work on, and they decided to use Google Classroom because Zoom was not acceptable to the school district.

Discussion.

Ms. Deprez stated that they used Edgenuity (E2020) for the Spanish curriculum, but some students, even before the pandemic, who were closer to graduating got an E2020 class to work on.

Commissioner Celentino stated that, in the contract, they had the money available for a summer school program, but because of the situation and technical difficulties, they had to amend both of the contracts because it was not working between the Ingham Academy and Circuit Court Juvenile Division. He asked if that was correct.

Ms. Deprez stated that he was correct. She further stated that Ingham Academy met every week to brainstorm ideas to engage students and historically, they struggled with attendance in the summer.
Ms. Deprez stated that they struggled with attendance when they went out to pick up students, and if they did not get on the van, they called them and went out a second time. She further stated that, not having that in-person instruction and the difficulties faced with remote learning, it was not a productive or effective way for students to learn.

Ms. Deprez stated that resources would be better spent on the fall since they did not know what things were going to look like. She further stated that classes were slated to start August 26, 2020, but with social distancing, they were not sure how they would have students be six feet apart and to wear masks, so they were going to have to be creative.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he and Commissioner Crenshaw were also not sure how the upcoming school year would look. He further stated that they were entering into a new agreement with Agenda Item Nos. 4a and 4b.

Commissioner Celentino asked what agreement was being entered into from only August 12, 2020 to September 30, 2020.

Ms. Deprez stated that their current agreement was for the Child Fund Fiscal Year, so it would have naturally expired on September 30, 2020.

Commissioner Celentino asked if they would have to do something after September 30, 2020.

Ms. Deprez stated that would be done through the regular budget process.

Commissioner Celentino thanked Ms. Deprez for her answers.

Discussion.

Chairperson Slaughter stated that he understood the challenges for providing instruction over the summer. He asked if there were concerns that students would be behind for not having this summer session.

Ms. Deprez stated that there were concerns. She further stated when they got students into their program, 95 percent were behind.

Ms. Deprez stated that, when looking at the Third and Fourth Quarters, those students were going to be further behind. She further stated that there would still be services provided this summer, as they would be assigned a Juvenile Court Officer and have access to all of their normal services.

Ms. Deprez stated that their Pride program was being done virtually, and while attendance was not great, there were incentives for students. She further stated that they would continue to receive an array of services based on their risk level and to address those problematic areas.

Ms. Deprez stated that she met with all of the staff to direct their targeted behavior to get student motivation so they understood where they were credit-wise. She further stated that time was of the essence, and not attending one or two school days was not an option, so they were looking to do
motivational interviewing over this summer to gain an awareness of what needed to be completed to graduate.

Ms. Deprez stated that she hoped that students would be able to return to in-person instruction for five days a week, which was her preference. She further stated that Governor Whitmer suspended the requirements for a work permit, sometimes students had trouble getting a work permit because they were often told that their first job was being a student, so this was an opportunity for them to get a job and receive credits.

Chairperson Slaughter thanked Ms. Deprez for her comments.

Chairperson Slaughter stated that he was interested in hearing via email or telephone the outcome of the summer. He further stated that he was concerned with students losing traction.

Ms. Deprez stated that she could provide them with that information. She further stated that she shared his concerns and if she could restructure the educational system, all schools would be year-round because it was hard to go three months without education.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Circuit Court Family Division
   b. Resolution Authorizing Amending the Contract with Highfields

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CELENTINO, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Announcements

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he did not believe he did this after the passage of the resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis, but he wanted to thank his colleagues for supporting that resolution. He further stated that he received nothing but positive feedback from the community, so he wanted to thank his colleagues for standing up and voting in favor of that resolution.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that, as a reminder, the County Services Committee would be meeting in-person on June 16, 2020 to deal with closed session items, among other items. He further stated that he was requesting everyone that was medically able to wear a mask when they attended that meeting.

Chairperson Slaughter thanked the Commissioners for supporting the resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. He stated that, like he had said to people, this was just the start and he looked forward to their future conversations. He further stated that he had received nothing but positivity and love from people who had also said that this was long overdue.
Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD