

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Approved Minutes**

DATE: September 8, 2021

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Fillmore Street Complex

PRESENT: Allen Dannenberg, James Holtvluwer, and Randy Meppelink (3)

ABSENT: Joseph Baumann and Kyle Terpstra (2)

STAFF & GUESTS: John Shay, County Administrator; Rachel Sanchez, Chief Deputy; Lynne Doyle, Community Mental Health Director; J Douglas, Sheriff Deputy; Doug Van Essen; Corporate Counsel; Kim Wolters, Environmental Health Supervisor; Zoom attendants: Patrick Cisler, Human Services Coordinating Council Executive Director; Jen Brozowski, Community Action Agency Program Director; Lisa Stefanovsky, Health Officer; Kendra Spanjer, DHS Director; Gwen Unzicker, Medical Director

SUBJECT: CONSENT ITEMS

HHS 21-021 Motion: To approve the agenda of today.  
Moved by: Holtvluwer

UNANIMOUS

HHS 21-022 Motion: To approve the minutes from the July 14, 2021 meeting as presented.  
Moved by: Meppelink

UNANIMOUS

Joseph Baumann arrived at 9:02am

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Environmental Sustainability Program Update-Kim Wolters updated that this program used to be called the Waste Services Program. They rebranded recently and it has opened up a lot more communication between organizations throughout the County. She said that the program keeps growing. She highlighted some program statistics and talked about some grants that they have recently applied for.

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEMS

None

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Department Updates

- a. Public Health Department-Gwen Unzicker introduced herself as the new Public Health Medical Director and gave a little of her background. She started last week.

- b. Department of Human Services – Kendra Spanjer mentioned that their lobby is fully open and has been since July 19. She updated that there have still been food assistance exceptions as of last month and they haven't heard about September yet. She said that the child tax credit is not counted towards income for those applying for assistance. She then updated that they were able to send 2 staff members to help in Detroit recently. They have also been able to move two position on the child welfare side into prevention. The last two things that she would like to note are, September 20 is Project One Day. Second, they are working with Bethany Christian Services for the Afghan refugees that might be coming to Michigan.
- c. Human Services Coordinating Council- Patrick Cisler said that they continue to support the Health Department with vaccine sites. They are wrapping up the Healthy Ottawa planning process, then they will move into the implementation phase. They have also been talking about long term COVID impact with community supporters.
- d. Public Health Department-Lisa Stefanovsky commented that there is still a lot of COVID work in her department. They are back in schools with programs that they have had to put on hold over the last year and a half. They are trying to catch up on childhood vaccinations. She wanted to note that she has not even considered a COVID vaccine requirement for students to be in school. The mask mandate has no connection to a vaccine mandate. She then explained the need for the over \$2 million approved for staffing at the last board meeting. This allows them to keep staff that are already on and trained. These are sunsetted positions. And finally, she talked about some revamping of the Medical Director position to remove the infectious disease aspect of it. They are going to contract this out starting October 1.
- e. Community Action Agency-Jen Brozowski updated that the Community Services Block Grant funds were submitted at the end of August. It is out on the website for public comment. She also talked about some open positions in her office. Finally, she updated on a couple of programs that they are wrapping up.
- f. Community Mental Health-Lynne Doyle said that their numbers remain high and there is a greater need for services. Good news, more people are seeking mental health treatment, bad news, they are having a hard time finding qualified candidates to help with these services. They are continuing to get out into the public through social media. They received another new grant and she explained what this one covers. They are keeping a close eye on the stability of their provider network. Lynne then gave an update on the 2 bills she spoke about in previous meetings. Finally, she said that as of today, they are requiring masks to be worn in their offices.

HHS 21-023      Motion: To Adjourn  
                         Moved By: Holtvluwer

UNANIMOUS

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.