



MINUTES
St. Clair County Board of Commissioners
Human Services Committee

Board of Commissioners' Room
County Administrative Office Building, 2nd Floor
200 Grand River Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060

July 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call/Opening/Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Beedon called the meeting to order at 06:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Beedon.

Present: Kerry Ange, Lisa Beedon, Joi Torello, Robert Fielitz, Dave Rushing, Dave Vandebossche and Steve Simasko

Absent: None

2. Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Ange, to add Representative Green's presentation to the agenda and to delete the Health Department Agreements with SC4 and Marysville Schools Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Ange, to approve the agenda as revised. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

A. Delete: Health Department Agreement Extension with SC4

B. Delete: Health Department Nursing Agreement with Marysville Schools

3. Citizens to be Heard

David Hoffma re: Prayer

Libby Prill, China re: County Health

Mark Kennard, Yale re: Health Department and Dr. Nevin

Gary Lokers re: Animal Control and Water Quality and Fluoride

Tracy Birgy, Marysville re: Support for Board

Vanessa Davis re: Dr. Nevin

Pete Walters, Kenockee re: Dr. Nevin

Chris Barto, Clyde re: Dr. Nevin

Vance Richardson, Fort Gratiot, re: Dr. Nevin

Marilyn Strickler, Peck re: Green Energy Regulations

Diane Hewlitt, Riley re: Dr. Nevin

4. Updates

A. Representative Green Presentation

Representative Green read and presented the following tribute to Dr. Nevin:

"Let it be known that it is with deep admiration and respect that we recognize the extraordinary leadership of Dr. Remington Nevin, Medical Director of the St. Clair County Health Department.

A nationally respected physician, scientist, veteran and advocate, Dr. Nevin stands as a rare example of integrity, courage and compassion in public service. His visionary leadership has not only restored trust in the institutions of local health but has set a new gold standard for what principled public health governance can and should be.

Dr. Nevin's effort to align the county's vaccine exemption process with Michigan law reflect his unwavering commitment to both public health and individual rights. At a time when many institutions face crisis in public confidence, he has led with empathy and respect ensuring that parents and families are treated not with suspicion or intimidation but with dignity, transparency and fairness.

In addition to these efforts, Dr. Nevin has also taken bold science backed action to confront two of the most urgent environmental health concerns facing communities today. He has recommended the adoption of a proactive local regulations to prohibit the addition of fluoride and certain other additives to public water systems based on compelling and mounting evidence that prenatal fluoride exposure is associated with reduced IQ and other neurodevelopmental harms in children. His

position, backed by leading scientific bodies, and a 2024 federal court ruling, reflects his deep resolve to protect the most vulnerable, especially unborn children from preventable harm.

Dr. Nevin has also sounded the alarm on the unexamined health risks of industrial scale solar energy developments and data centers proposed in St. Clair County. In a detailed memorandum grounded in law, science and firsthand medical expertise, he identified these projects as potential environmental hazards and public nuisances, particularly to those living closest to such facilities. In doing so, he has reaffirmed the right and duty of the local health departments to act independently in defense of their own community health when state and federal authorities fall short.

Dr. Nevin's leadership is defined not only by his brilliance and expertise but by his moral clarity. He has shown what it means to lead with courage when it is difficult to speak truth when it is inconvenient, and to put people before politics at every turn. He is a tireless defender of the voiceless and guardian of the public good. His service to St. Clair County reflects the very best traditions of public health and the highest ideals of civic responsibility.

In a special tribute, therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to Dr. Remington Nevin for his extraordinary courage, wisdom and service as the Medical Director of the St. Clair County Health Department."

5. Conceptual Initiatives

None

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

A. Health Department Agreement Extension with SC4 for Sattelite Office

This item was removed.

B. Health Department Nursing Agreement with Marysville Schools

This item was removed.

C. Advisory Board of Health By-Law Revisions

Moved by Commissioner Torello, supported by Commissioner Vandenbossche, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the revisions to the Health Department Advisory Board by-laws. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

D. 2026 County Veterans Service Fund Grant Application

Moved by Commissioner Ange, supported by Commissioner Vandenbossche, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the FY 2026 County Veterans Service Fund Grant application in the amount of \$70,130.

Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

E. Library Board - Appointment

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Fielitz, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to appoint Margaret Smith to the Library Board as District 5 Representative for the remainder of a five-year term expiring 08/26/2025. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

8. Other Human Services Matters

Moved by Commissioner Simasko, supported by Commissioner Ange, to include the tribute presented to Dr. Nevin along with the letter from Representative Green into the minutes. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

The tribute is included in the updates section of the minutes. The letter from Representative Green reads as follows:

"Dear St. Clair County Health Department Officials,

We, the undersigned Michigan State Representatives serving St. Clair County, write in strong support of Dr. Remington Nevin, Medical Director of the St. Clair County Health Department.

Dr. Nevin's commitment to public health, coupled with his respect for individual rights, makes him an outstanding leader and a trusted advocate for our community.

As Medical Director, Dr. Nevin is charged with the important responsibility of interpreting and applying state health laws in a way that best serves the people of St. Clair County. His deep knowledge of public health law, particularly Michigan Compiled Law 333.9215, and his strong understanding of local values position him uniquely to guide policy decisions. His initiative to simplify the vaccine exemption process, allowing parents to submit a written statement of religious or other objections, is fully consistent with state law and eliminates unnecessary barriers for families.

Dr. Nevin's balanced approach benefits our community in meaningful ways. By streamlining the exemption process, he upholds parental autonomy, fosters transparency, and builds trust between residents and the health department. His efforts demonstrate a clear commitment to accessible public health services and responsive governance that meets the needs of St. Clair County.

It is important to recognize that Michigan's 45 local health departments vary in how they implement the vaccine exemption process. Some offer online submissions,

while others require in-person meetings. Dr. Nevin's proposal reflects this allowable local discretion and is well within the legal and policy framework established by the state. Though differing perspectives may exist, his recommendations are grounded in a careful legal review and a clear understanding of community priorities.

We urge you to support Dr. Nevin's efforts to refine and improve the vaccine exemption process in St. Clair County. His proposed changes promote an efficient, well-balanced system that respects both public health priorities and personal choice. Dr. Nevin's leadership reflects the kind of thoughtful, principled governance our community deserves, and we are confident that his initiatives will continue to strengthen and build trust in our public health system."

9. Information Only

A. Health Department's Points of Interest - June 2025

Moved by Commissioner Vandebossche, supported by Commissioner Simasko, to receive and file the Health Department Points of Interest for June 2025. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

10. Receive and File Packets

Moved by Commissioner Vandebossche, supported by Commissioner Simasko, to receive and file packets and all information received. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

11. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Torello, supported by Commissioner Rushing, to adjourn at 06:38 PM. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None