



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

August 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call/Opening/Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

3. Citizens to be Heard

Ruth Habalewski - written comment provided: Dear Commissioners: I am very disappointed with Dr. Nevins', St. Clair County Health Department Medical Director, Memorandum changing the St. Clair County Public Health's services on September 1, 2025. The current Mission Statement is to prevent disease; promote healthy lifestyles and protect the health of the people we serve. As a user of Health Department services at the main location and at community events/outreach, how will the Health Department mission be achieved? Other questions are the following: What is the reason for the sudden change? What is the cost for the current services? Why will the County Intervention inmates be brought to the main location for services? What is the cost savings to eliminate outreach services? How many employees will lose their jobs? As a former environmental public health employee for 2 different health departments, I am very concerned that many

county residents with limited health care information and health care services will be negatively impacted with this sudden change in policy and ideology. Many county residents depend on the St. Clair County Health Department! Dismayed, Ruth Habalewsky, R.S. Retired from St. Clair County Health Department Former Environmental Field Coordinator.

Anthony Ferrell, St. Clair - re: Prayer

Susan Ingles, Burtchville - re: Fluoride in water

Angela Defrain, Fort Gratiot - re: Fluoride in water

Tiffany Francis, Port Huron - re: Health Department School Clinics

Carol Miller - re: Dr. Nevin

Liz Sommerville - re: Dr. Nevin

Robert Loureiro, Port Huron - re: Dr. Nevin and Fluoride in water

Libby Prill re: Health Department outreach clinics and Fluoride in water

Katherine Albright - re: Solar Energy

Dr. Randa Jundi-Samman, Fort Gratiot - re: Fluoride in water

Dr. Jason Souyias, Fort Gratiot - re: Fluoride in water

Leann Clink, Port Huron - re: Dr. Nevin

Trisha Jones re: Dr. Nevin

Dawn Fulk, Port Huron Twp - re: Dr. Nevin

Sarah Jones, Port Huron - re: Health Department outreach clinics

Kevin Watkins, Wales - re: Health Department outreach clinics and Fluoride in water

Barbara Payton, Port Huron - re: Fluoride in water

Kathy Bladow, Kimball - re: Health Department outreach clinics

Deb Roberts, Burtchville - re: Fluoride in water and Health Department outreach clinics

Diane Lois, Kimball - re: Health Department outreach clinics

Mike Grover, China Twp - re: Dr. Nevin

Patti Samar, Port Huron - re: Discontinue Intervention Center services, Health

Department outreach clinics, Fluoride in water and control

Paul Urben - re: Dr. Nevin

Robert, Port Huron re: Dr. Nevin

Diane Hulett, Riley - re: Dr. Nevin

Vanessa Davis, St. Clair Twp - re: Dr. Nevin

Reverend Marilyn Moncrief, Port Huron Twp - re: Health Department changes

Gary Lokers, Port Huron Twp - re: Fluoride

Chris Barto, Clyde - re: Dr. Nevin

Jill Barto, Clyde - re: Dr. Nevin

Ruth Habalewsky, Port Huron - re: Health Department outreach clinics

Lauren Martin, China Twp - re: Fluoride in water

Jay Wetzel, St. Clair - re: Fluoride in water

Ann Austin - written comment provided: As someone who has spent the better part of the last 16 years serving at-risk youth, single-parent families living at or below the poverty level, the long-term unemployed, the unhoused and the all-too many dealing with substance use, I am writing in opposition to Dr. Nevin's proposal to consolidate the clinical services that have been made available to residents across St. Clair County, in particular those who don't have access to medical care in traditional settings.

I wish to express my complete exasperation regarding current public health recommendations of Dr. Remington Nevin, MD, MPH, DrPH. I'm not sure why the BOC saw fit to hire a public health physician whose primary focus has been the study of the adverse effects of quinoline antimalarials, but he is here, he is part-time as our medical director, and now, our community is left to deal with the fallout of his beliefs and his decision making. Additionally, I will never understand why the BOC of largely rural county in which there are doctor shortages in so many disciplines, would consider it wise for the role of medical director to be part time. Meeting those who live on the margins of well-being where they are -- at places that are a one-stop-shop of services such as Harbor Impact Ministries, Senior Power days, local schools and more -- ensures that they receive important health and nutrition information, immunizations and an overall sense that they matter. Were it not for the Health Department's work at these satellite sites, many would go without such important care. Obtaining Medicaid/Medicare is a difficult task, compounded for many by phones that are frequently off due to lack of payment, a lack of technical skills, a lack of understanding of the questions they are asked and so on. For many, having to use MiBridges is daunting to say the least. Getting an appointment with physicians in this community, especially if you

are Medicaid-dependent, also is a difficult task, due to ongoing doctor shortages and each practice's level of willingness to accept the various Medicaid plans.

I implore you, and the rest of the BOC, to also recognize that getting anywhere in this county if you don't have a vehicle, money for the bus or you live out the bus lines, poses its own challenges -- and requires a level of determination many in our community have run of steam to manage. Each of you should spend a day trying to navigate St. Clair County without a vehicle and only a couple of dollars, or worse, no money in your pocket.

Perhaps the eye-opening experience that would be would help each of you to realize when we provide services in our communities at the places in which people gather regularly for other means of help, we are providing them necessary care to protect themselves and the greater public good. And in those moments, our actions tell them we both see and hear them, and we are doing our best to make their lives easier by improving their access to services. It seems to me, if Dr. Nevin were truly concerned about the well-being of all of those who make this county their home, he would have a broader understanding of the challenges our people face and more importantly, a desire to serve them. More importantly, instead of seeking to eliminate vital services, he would seek to become a full-time medical director. I ask each of you to vote no on this recommendation and instead look for a means within the county budget to make the position of medical director full-time and perhaps consider hiring a replacement for Dr. Nevin who cares about the needs of our most vulnerable. As someone who works with such individuals daily, I assure you, when the full force of the Big Beautiful Bill is realized, you will regret anything but a no vote, as waiting lists for services leave our most vulnerable at greater risk than they currently live.

4. Updates

Commissioner Fielitz - Dr. Nevin memo on Health Department clinics and Fluoride mandate

Commissioner Ange - Community First Health Center Ribbon Cutting

5. Conceptual Initiatives

None

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

A. Health Department Nursing Agreement with Marysville Schools

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Fielitz, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the agreement with Marysville Schools for the provision of nursing services in the amount of \$87,721.65 for the 2025-2026 school year. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

B. Library Board - Appointment

Moved by Commissioner Torello, supported by Commissioner Ange, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to appoint Harold Tiburzi as District 5 Representative on the Library Board for a five-year term expiring 08/26/2030. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

C. Commission on Aging - Contract Addendum - Hunter Hospitality House, Inc.

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Ange, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the contract addendum with Hunter Hospitality House, Inc. increasing the budgeted funds for 2025 by \$4,000, with a total not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

8. Other Human Services Matters

None

9. Information Only

A. Area Agency on Aging 1-B d.b.a AgeWays Nonprofit Senior Services FY 2026 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP)

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Fielitz, to receive and file item 9A as information only. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

B. Health Department Points of Interest - July 2025

Moved by Commissioner Vandebossche, supported by Commissioner Ange, to receive and file item 9B as information only. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None

C. Commission on Aging - Infrastructure/Equipment Budget Allocation 2026

Moved by Commissioner Vandebossche, supported by Commissioner Torello, to receive and file item 9C as information only. 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 Rushing, supported by Commissioner Fielitz, 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 Ange, supported by Commissioner Torello, to adjourn at 07:42 PM. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Ange Nay: None