



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**

September 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call/Opening/Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Beedon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Greg McConnell, Jorja Baldwin, Jeff Bohm, Duke Dunn, Dave Rushing, Dave Vandenbossche and Lisa Beedon

Commissioners Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda

Moved by Jeff Bohm, supported by Duke Dunn, to add a Health Department update to the agenda as item 4A. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Dunn, McConnell, Rushing, Vandenbossche.

3. Citizens to be Heard

- Melissa Garcia, Yale - studies regarding natural immunity from COVID vs vaccinations regarding Health Department policies
- Kim Hortop, Yale - Board of Commissioners works for citizens
- Carolyn Richards, Avoca - current COVID rates does not support an epidemic Public Health Order; quarantining students unnecessary and disrupts education; discussed studies.
- Steve Richards, Avoca - Yielded 3 minutes to Carolyn Richards
- Randi Hastings - against student mask mandates and suppression of constitutional rights.
- Carey Fuller, Grant Twp - student masking does not work and vaccines are dangerous; consequences of mandates.
- Kevin G, Port Huron - mandates infringe on Constitutional Rights; vaccines are unsafe and ineffective.

- John Parkinson, Macomb - mandates and orders are not law and are unconstitutional; violates MCL for school prohibitions.
- Lindsay Chopp, St. Clair - opposes Public Health Order and quarantining healthy students; children need to be in school.
- Christine Hollen, Kimball - discussed increase in suicide rates due to isolation of children and death rate of flu versus COVID.
- Mary Powell, Port Huron - discussed public health code, quarantine order and warning letter being issued; government overreach.
- Bill Wonner - time in service and veterans outnumbering officials and protecting those who cannot protect themselves.
- Alice Dentel, Ira - let people decide what is best for them and not enforce mandates.
- Nicole - discussed quarantine warning letters and deciding what's best for her family and not complying with orders or mandates.
- Darrin Rushing, Port Huron - discussed various MCLs and enforcement of orders and overstep of authority.
- Shawn Treadaway, St. Clair - discussed current school enrollment numbers and number of voters; masking children and quarantine parental decision.
- Kim VanBaak, St. Clair - mental health effects from school closures, masking and quarantine requirements and increase in suicide rates in children.
- Pam Binsfeld, Marysville - oath of office and constitutional requirements and discussed quarantine warning letters.
- Lauren Schwehofer, East China - does not support masking of children and quarantine.
- Marcy McClelland, Yale - opposes mask mandates and local district authority to issue universal masking protocols.
- Geneva Bivens, Port Huron - constitutional rights violations.
- Julie Wessel, Avoca - effects of remote learning on students.

4. Updates

A. Health Department Update

Medical Health Director, Dr. Annette Mercatante, gave an update on the state of Covid. She discussed the total cases, positivity rate and the CDC Risk Level. Hospitalization rates have not increased. A brief recess was held. She discussed St. Clair County Covid Vaccine data. She then discussed the severity of the virus. She discussed the economic and social impact of the viruses. Dr. Mercatante discussed the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine. Finally, she discussed the use of face masks as a mitigation strategy.

She indicated the decision making process followed is by consulting experts for a consensus. The difference between isolation and quarantine was discussed as well as the role of Public Health in virus mitigation. Finally, she indicated she along with her staff face the same concerns and effects as the general population.

Commissioner Bohm indicated the Health Department will be putting together a document to address Frequently Asked Question to be posted on the website.

Corporation Counsel, Gary Fletcher, stated Dr. Mercatante has worked with them to determine her authority along with her responsibility to protect public health. He indicated quarantine is specified by the Public Health Code and she does have the authority as the Public Health Director. All of his comments will be composed into a written opinion to be included on the County website. He discussed a recent court ruling that addresses constitutional concerns, which will also be placed on the website.

Commissioner Rushing discussed a potential conflict between two State statutes, one being the

public health code and the other governing school conduct restrictions. Commissioner Vandenbossche inquired about the process for quarantine. Enforcement and authority were discussed at length.

5. Conceptual Initiatives

None

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

A. Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Contract Approval

Moved by Jeff Bohm, supported by Duke Dunn, to forward to the regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the agreement with Mary Kusion Consulting, LLC for a Community Health Improvement Plan in an amount not to exceed \$11,100. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Dunn, McConnell, Rushing, Vandenbossche.

8. Other Human Services Matters

None

9. Information Only

A. Health Department August Points of Interest

Moved by David Rushing, supported by Duke Dunn, to receive and file item 9A as information only. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Dunn, McConnell, Rushing, Vandenbossche.

10. Receive and File Packets

11. Adjournment

Moved by Duke Dunn, supported by Jeff Bohm, to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Dunn, McConnell, Rushing, Vandenbossche.

Committee Chair: Lisa Beedon

Note: The County complies with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" and if auxiliary aids or services are required at the meeting for individuals with disabilities, please contact Administrator/Controller's Office, Suite 203, 200 Grand River Avenue, Port Huron, MI 48060, (810) 989-6900 three days prior to said meeting.