

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the October 10, 2019 **Personnel and Human Services Committee** Meeting.

Meeting held in Conference Room 4B. Attendance was as follows:

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	ALSO PRESENT
William Chickering		X	Bill Wolf, Nicki Britten,
Teri Sue Freehling		X	Michael Majerek
Dave Vollrath	X		
			Shelley Jasper

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

- Meeting called to order at 9:22 a.m.
- Commissioner Vollrath approved the minutes as presented.
- Resolution P1910010, September 2019 per diem payments totaling \$4,464.44, was reviewed and signed by Commissioner Vollrath.
- Motion by Commissioner Majerek, supported by Commissioner Vollrath to approve the monthly pension refunds/rollovers as presented. 2 years, 0 nays, motion carried.
- Motion by Commissioner Majerek, supported by Commissioner Vollrath to approve the advanced step hire request for Assistant Public Defender III candidate, Stephanie Low. Ms. Low will be compensated at grade 14, step 5, annualized salary of \$87,461. 2 years, 0 nays, motion carried.
- Commissioner Vollrath signed Resolution P1910314, a Resolution to approve the POLC collective bargaining agreement.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Officer, Nicki Britten introduced and explained the following Resolutions, which were signed by Commissioner Vollrath:

Resolution P1910307: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grant Award

Type of Resolution: Grant Award

Financial Implication: increase

Main Points: Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) serves adolescents in a variety of programs throughout the department focused on providing sexual health education, parenting support, and empowering healthy relationships. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has awarded a grant to the department for the provision of teen sexual health education to high risk teens for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV (application approved under Resolution P1906252). The teen birth rate in Benton Harbor is 42.8 births per 1,000 females ages 10-19 years of age, which is much higher than other at-risk cities in the state of Michigan. BCHD wishes to accept this grant from the MDHHS for a total of \$100,000, with a 25% matching contribution, to support teen sexual health and pregnancy prevention education during the grant period of October 1, 2019 through September 30th, 2020. These funds would be used to support staffing costs, evidence-based curriculum implementation with teens in Benton Harbor to reduce rates of teen pregnancy and STD/HIV.

Resolution P1910308: Tobacco Control Grant Award

Financial Implication: Increase

Main Points: Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) provides health promotion and prevention programming, inclusive of Substance Abuse Prevention services for residents of Berrien County and has submitted a successful proposal to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Department of Health & Wellness for the Michigan Tobacco Control Grant Program (application approved under Resolution P1907264). Tobacco Control Grant Program seeks to bring awareness to commercial tobacco and secondhand smoke exposure, by using policy, systems, and environmental change strategies that reduce health-related disparities and the burden of commercial tobacco on Michigan Residents. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in Michigan and this grant opportunity will support activities and actions that aim to reduce and eliminate tobacco-related deaths and diseases within Berrien County through a focus on preventing the initiation of smoking among youth and young adults, promoting quitting among youth and young adults, eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke, and identifying and eliminating tobacco related disparities among population groups. BCHD wishes to accept this grant for the Tobacco Control Grant Program and funding in the amount of \$40,000 annually for a 3-year period from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022 (FY20, FY21 & FY22) from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Department of Health & Wellness.

Resolution P1910311: ABEST Achieving Birth Equity through Systems Transformation Contract

Type of Resolution: Grant Award

Financial Implication: Increase

Main Points: Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) works to decrease infant and maternal mortality through partnership many other community organizations and individuals through the Raising Up Healthy Babies Taskforce. Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), through funding from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, desires to partner with BCHD and its partners through the Achieving Birth Equity through Systems Transformation (ABEST) Program. The ABEST Program goal is to address the root causes of racial inequities in maternal and infant mortality by developing systems change strategies that shift relationships, power, mental models and narratives that will drive sustained change. BCHD wishes to accept this partnership with MPHI and participation in the ABEST Program as it aligns with community and department priority areas and ongoing work to eliminate disparities in health outcomes and quality of life for residents of Berrien County. This partnership includes funding in the amount of \$5,000 for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30th, 2020 that can be used to support staffing costs, community trainings and meetings, and community-based interventions aimed at eliminating inequities in infant and maternal mortality.

Nicki then updated the Committee on Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) stating the upcoming weather change will help decrease mosquito activity. She advised the aerial spraying has been completed. She said there have been two confirmed human cases and one animal (deer) case in Berrien County. Nicki also advised that Community Health Services Manager Kim Wilhelm has resigned. She discussed the importance of the vacancy and discussed the difficulty in Nurse recruitment in general.

CHAIRMAN/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Wolf joined the Committee and responded to various questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Adjourned 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Jasper
Human Resources Director