

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Barbara Rogers, Mark Mudry, Blake Mulder, Jeanne Pearl-Wright and Dairus Reynnet

MEMBER ABSENT: Commissioner Tim Barnes

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jeremy Whittum and Brian Droscha; Gouri Sashital and John Fuentes

The December 6, 2021 regular meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairperson Mott.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Mulder moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2021 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment: Katherine Schmidt from Potterville; Amy Brown from Sunfield Township; Andrea Smith from Charlotte; and Frank Halls from Brookfield Township spoke in support of the resolution condemning federal vaccine and testing mandates on the Committee's agenda.

Commissioner Reynnet read and moved recommendation of approval by the Board of Commissioners of the following resolution:

Resolution To Condemn Federal Vaccine & Testing Mandates

Submitted by Commissioners Reynnet, Droscha, and Mulder on behalf of the Eaton County Republican Women Alliance, December 17, 2021

A resolution to condemn President Joe Biden's decision to impose vaccine requirements on private and public employers and healthcare facilities receiving funds from The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and urge the Governor and Attorney General of Michigan to pursue all available avenues to challenge these unlawful mandates.

Whereas, On September 9, 2021, President Biden announced his administration's plan to impose strict COVID-19 vaccine requirements on private businesses. Effective January 4, 2022, employers with over 100 employees will be required to ensure employees are vaccinated or impose burdensome weekly testing regimens; and

Whereas, On November 5, 2021, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) also issued a federal vaccine mandate for staff within all Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities including nursing homes, hospitals, dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical settings, and home health agencies, among others, as a condition for participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, as well as, federal contractors, and the majority of federal workers; and

Whereas, These requirements are capricious and arbitrary, infringing on Americans' civil liberties. Health care decisions, including whether or not to get vaccinated, are deeply personal and should not be subject to governmental edicts that cannot account for unique, individual medical needs; and

Whereas, The vaccine requirement will impact two-thirds of the nation's private sector workforce. Imposing sanctions, such as lost employment, on the most economically vulnerable is unnecessarily cruel; and

Whereas, federal overreach will exacerbate supply chain shortages; interrupt manufacturing production; risk destabilizing our critical water, sewer, and energy infrastructure; put additional life-threatening pressure on our health care industry; cause interruption in our education system; and cause additional labor shortages across all industries; and

Whereas, employers are already experiencing significant resource and workforce shortages that will only be made worse by adding additional requirements that limit the number of workers available; and

Whereas, To date, at least 27 states have filed legal challenges or expressly stated an intention to push back against this type of federal government overreach. Resistance to the federal mandate by state leaders has been bipartisan, as three states with Democrat governors – Kansas, Kentucky, and Louisiana – have joined the lawsuits. However, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel have thus far acquiesced to President Biden's intrusion upon our state's sovereignty and policymaking process; and

Whereas, on September 7, 2021, the administrator of the Eaton County Healing and Recovery center, Martha Richard, stated during her Semi-Annual Update that the vaccine mandate would further exacerbate staffing shortage:

Whereas, on November 6, 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit placed a hold on President Biden's vaccine mandate; and

Whereas, on November 12, 2021, the U.S Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, further affirmed, it's hold on the vaccine mandate; and

Whereas, on November 29, 2021, The US District Court of Missouri ruled against implementation and enforcement of CMS vaccine mandates;

Whereas, On November 30, 2021, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction to halt implementation of the President's mandate for health care workers, which had been set to begin this week.

Whereas, on December 2, 2021, the President clearly articulated that his policy goals for the business and medical communities has not changed or evolved in light of the afore mentioned judicial action. While announcing his Winter Covid 19 plan, President Biden stated he believes that "all Americans can rally around" this plan and stated that the plan, including vaccine mandates, "should get bipartisan support.", and left ALL of the afore mentioned vaccine mandates in place, with implementation pending judicial review; now here by, be it

Resolved by the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, That we, on behalf of the citizens of Eaton County, condemn President Biden's decision to impose vaccine requirements on both public and private employers; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel to join those leaders who have filed suit to protect the interests of their states and their citizens and pursue all available avenues to challenge President Biden's unlawful mandate; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Michigan Attorney General, and the commissioners of the other Michigan counties.

Commissioner Mulder seconded. Commissioner Rogers requested a roll call vote.

Discussion held. Commissioner Mudry expressed concern for potential liability created in approving the resolution and discussed the need to receive a legal opinion. Commissioner Rogers indicated that from the data provided by the Barry-Eaton District Health Department cases of COVID-19 are currently down. Commissioner Pearl-Wright expressed that the proposed mandates and current exhaustion among health care employees create a "catch 22" situation. Discussion continued. It was reported that the language of the resolution being discussed had been modified from the language that was included in the meeting materials and the materials were updated for clarification.

Roll call vote: Blake Mulder – Yes; Jeannie Pearl-Wright – No; Mark Mudry – No; Dairus Reynnet – Yes; Barbara Rogers – Yes; Jim Mott – Yes. Motion carried.

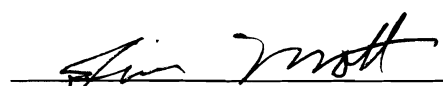
It was reported that Housing Services – Mid-Michigan has requested its current juvenile millage grant budget be amended to move \$23,000 of the current award from direct services to administrative services. This request does not increase the total award. It does not reduce the availability of funding for direct services due to the availability of other relief funding. The request is being made to provide continued funding for additional personnel to administer the available direct service relief funds.

Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to approve Housing Services – Mid-Michigan's juvenile millage grant amendment as requested and discussed. Commissioner Reynnet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mulder advised the Committee that the Board of Commissioners would be considering approval of partial settlements in the national opiate litigation, which would include future financial distributions to the County to fund substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs. The Ways and Means Committee will be considering the settlement agreements on December 10, 2021.

Chairperson Mott adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be held in January 2022 on a date to be determined by the Board of Commissioners at its Organizational Meeting scheduled for January 3, 2022.



Jim Mott, Chairperson