

RESOLUTION

NO: 2021-02-029

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE: February 22, 2021

Resolution Calling Upon the Governor and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to Retract their SVI Social Factor Based Plan and Replace it with a Scientific Medical Factor Based Plan that Results in a Pro-Rata Uniform Distribution to Michigan's Most Medically Vulnerable Population

- WHEREAS,** the 2020-2021 Covid-19 Pandemic and the State of Michigan's handling of said pandemic remain cause for serious concern for Livingston County residents; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Michigan is responsible for distributing the limited supply of Covid-19 vaccine; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Michigan has failed or refused to perform its constitutional obligation to distribute the limited amount of vaccines efficiently, fairly, and uniformly; and
- WHEREAS,** Livingston County is home to approximately 188,482 residents, approximately 41,000 of whom are eligible to receive Covid-19 vaccinations under the terms of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) current priority phase, and at least 18,300 eligible persons over 65 years of age have expressed an interest in receiving vaccinations according to the vaccine interest survey on the Livingston County web page; and
- WHEREAS,** the State has only allocated 6,300 vaccine doses for first dose administration to the Livingston County Health Department – a grossly disproportionate amount as compared to other counties and based on the size of the vaccine eligible population; and
- WHEREAS,** it is generally accepted, based on the commentary from the CDC and the State of Michigan, the population most vulnerable to Covid-19 are those 65 years of age and older; and
- WHEREAS,** the CDC has specifically said that “We do know that older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like obesity, diabetes, or heart or lung disease are at higher risk for developing more serious complications when they have COVID-19”; and
- WHEREAS,** for nearly one year, the State of Michigan experts have emphasized repeatedly to Michigan residents that Covid-19 is especially deadly for seniors, especially for those with underlying conditions; and
- WHEREAS,** based on the best available health information, we understand that compared to young, healthy individuals, 65-74 year olds have an increase in the relative risk of death of 90-times, 75-84 year olds have an increase in the relative risk of death of 220-times, and individuals 85 years old and older have an increase in the relative risk of death of 630-times. Additionally, we are informed that comorbidities also play a role in an increased risk compared to young, healthy individuals, ranging broadly from a 2- to 3-fold increase in relative risk of hospitalization. We also understand that race and ethnicity play a role in increasing risk compared to young, healthy, non-minority groups, with estimates of a relative risk of increase in hospitalization of 4-fold and an increase in the relative risk of death of 3-fold; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Michigan's Plan for the distribution of Covid-19 vaccine was not updated until January 31, 2021, more than one month after distribution of the vaccine began; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Michigan has chosen for unknown reasons to use an algorithm based upon social factors versus medically established risk factors as the basis on which to allocate vaccine to Michigan counties, and the Michigan experts selected the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) as a means to prioritize vaccine shipments to counties; and

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- WHEREAS,** the SVI Algorithm calculates a value, from 0 to 1, based upon 15 Social Factors rather than medical factors, with a lower value resulting in a county receiving less vaccine, while a higher value results in a county receiving more vaccine, and as a direct result of the application of this selected formula, Livingston County has been assessed as having the lowest priority of all 83 Michigan counties; and
- WHEREAS,** had the State of Michigan elected to fairly and objectively and uniformly distribute vaccine based on a county's population of its most at risk—e.g. its senior citizens—Livingston County should be prioritized as the 11th highest, rather than the lowest or 83rd; and
- WHEREAS,** a review of the State's Plan reveals that it has the direct impact of depriving Livingston County's most vulnerable citizens of their right to a fair share of vaccine because rather than allocating vaccine based upon demonstrated and accepted medical factors, State of Michigan experts primarily rely on social factors to allocate vaccine to counties; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Michigan's Plan specifically identifies the importance of vaccinating persons who, by way of example, are incarcerated and non-citizens, when these factors present little, if any, cause for Covid-19 risk or connection to protecting Michigan's and Livingston County's most vulnerable population; and
- WHEREAS,** this SVI or social factor approach was not used by the State of Michigan when dealing with the H1N1 Pandemic, when it, instead, relied upon medical factors such as age and pregnancy which directly correlated with the vulnerable population for that disease; and
- WHEREAS,** citizens desiring more information regarding this disparate treatment of Livingston County Residents are encouraged to read the attached report titled, "COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation: Social Equity vs. Vaccine Fairness."
- NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Livingston County Commission calls upon the Michigan Governor and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to rescind their SVI Social Factor Based Plan and replace it with a scientific medical factor based plan that results in a pro-rata uniform distribution to Michigan's most medically vulnerable population; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Livingston County Commission rejects any advice or opinion, expert or otherwise, from the State of Michigan that may be used to justify the selection of the SVI Social Factor Based Plan over a scientific medical factor based plan that fairly and uniformly addresses the needs of all of Michigan's most medically vulnerable population regardless of which county they reside in; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** we urge citizens to call, email, text, write, and otherwise correspond with the Governor's Office, the office of our state representatives, the office of our state senator, and the office of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to voice their rightful concerns with the fundamental inequities of the SVI Social Factor Plan and how it unfairly ignores the needs of the most medically vulnerable population in our County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution and the attached Report be transmitted to Governor Whitmer, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Representative Bezotte, Representative Bollin, Senator Theis, both United States Senators, all Michigan Members of Congress, the Speaker of the State House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the State Senate, the Michigan Association of Counties and all Counties within Michigan, along with the Michigan Township Association and all Townships, Cities and Villages within Livingston County, Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator and County Corporate Counsel are directed to investigate and report to the Board of Commissioners, by March 1, 2021, possible administrative appeals and legal avenues to compel the State of Michigan to protect our most medically vulnerable citizens by fairly allocating vaccine doses to counties based upon proportional vaccination phase population estimates and not based upon non-medical or social factors.

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MOVED: M. Zajac
SECONDED: J. Gross
CARRIED: Roll Call Vote: Yes (8): M. Zajac, J. Gross, B. Plank, W. Nakagiri, C. Griffith, C. Reader, D. Helzerman, and J. Drick; No (0): None; Absent (1): K. Lawrence

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
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 COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON)

I, **ELIZABETH HUNDLEY**, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Livingston, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting on the 22nd day of February 2021, the original of which is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed by official signature on this 23rd day of February 2021 A.D.



Elizabeth Hundley
 ELIZABETH HUNDLEY, LIVINGSTON COUNTY CLERK



THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN ADOPTS
THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners recognizes the heroic efforts of our front-line workers and first responders and applauds the citizens and businesses who have diligently adhered to mitigation measures; and

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners appreciates the need for appropriate executive and epidemic orders and policies to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus and promote public safety, while also protecting local and state economic interests; and

WHEREAS, Berrien County's cases and positivity rates continue to decline, hospital capacity continues to improve, and the number of citizens who have been vaccinated to protect themselves from the virus, increases daily; and

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners addressed the need to regionalize the response to COVID-19 in a letter to Governor Whitmer in April of 2020, recognizing that what is necessary for some areas of our state may not be necessary in Southwest Michigan; and

WHEREAS, those of us in border counties have seen a magnified effect on our economy due to our citizens being able to drive a short distance to Indiana, where the restrictions are less; and

WHEREAS, the proximity to Indiana has particularly impacted our local restaurant industry which is already struggling to recover from another dine-in closure order, followed by a curfew and 25% capacity restriction that lacks financial viability for most area establishes; and


WHEREAS, while some local businesses may have received some governmental financial assistance it was not enough to offset the losses of revenue due to closures and restrictions, thus many local businesses have been forced to close permanently due to the irreparable economic harm they have experienced throughout this past year and many more will follow if the state does not adopt a new approach to mitigation policies; and

WHEREAS, Berrien County has seen a consistent downward trend in the numbers affected by COVID-19, it is now time for all of our businesses, including but not limited to restaurants and banquet facilities, to remain open in accordance with CDC guidelines with industry-specific procedures and protocols aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19 in place.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners calls upon the Governor to implement a new, regional approach to mitigation that values local input; takes cases, vaccinations, seasonality, and regional differences into consideration; and sets clear benchmarks for the easing of restrictions on businesses for the public to follow.


Respectfully,
Berrien County Board of Commissioners



R. McKinley Elliott


Jim Curran

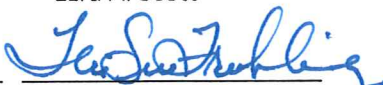

Julie Wuerfel

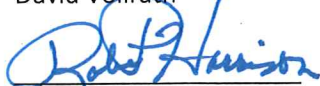

Ezra A. Scott

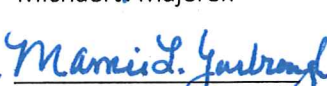

David Vollrath


Michael J. Majerek


Don Meeks


Teri Sue Freehling


Robert P. Harrison


Mamie L. Yarbrough


Jon Hinkelman


Rayonte D. Bell

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners, held in Room 100 at the County Building, 225 W. Main St., Gaylord, Michigan on the 23rd, day of February, 2021 beginning at 9:30a.m.

PRESENT: Henry Mason, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser, Doug Johnson, Jason Caverson, Bruce Brown.

ABSENT: Julie Powers.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Paul Liss, seconded by Commissioner Doug Johnson.

RESOLUTION NO. OCR 21-08
PANDEMIC RESOLUTION
OTSEGO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death with resulting widespread disruptions to everyday life and;

WHEREAS, the Otsego County Board of Commissioners recognizes that COVID-19 restrictions are having and will continue to have, direct short and long term impacts on all County residents, impacts which include, but are not limited to, physical and mental health care difficulties, educational constraints, and financial strains; and

WHEREAS, the Otsego County Board of Commissioners understands that many local private businesses and industries have suffered and continue to suffer economic harm due to COVID-19 thru no fault of their own; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 shutdown, pause, and mandates have created a desperate situation for our county's constituents, businesses, schools, and organizations.

WHEREAS, the Otsego County Board of Commissioners asserts that the vitality of our local restaurants, hotels, recreation venues, industries, service providers, etc., contributes substantially to the overall physical and mental well-being of residents of the County, and further asserts that the seasonal nature of our area places a heavy dependence for employment on the food and recreation industries and the loss of these businesses will have long term effects on employment for our citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is our belief that while public health must be prioritized, unconstitutional burdens have been placed on certain sectors of our economy, community groups, and citizenry. We believe Gubernatorial actions have polarized, politicized, and antagonized Michigan leaders in all sectors. These challenging times call for unity, coordination, and balance to protect lives and livelihoods with actions considered by the many hands that hold the responsibility.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the duly elected Commissioners of Otsego County, with the sworn duty to uphold the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Michigan, and responsibility to serve the people of Otsego County, do hereby resolve to oppose, the distress and destruction continuing to impact our community, our state, and our nation due to COVID-19 restrictions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Otsego County Board of Commissioners encourages the lifting of restrictions as soon as is feasible.

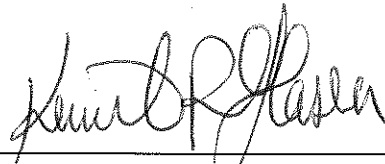
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call for actions that restore our faith in a Michigan leadership that is unified, not unilateral, and driven by decisions that serve the needs of the many without polarization. It is with the utmost serious reflection and responsibility, that we stand resolved in our sworn duty to serve our community and demand our freedom of choice be reinstated.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

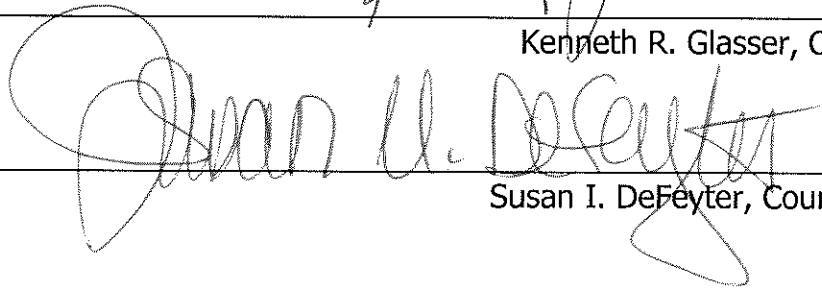
YES: Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Ken Glasser, Doug Johnson, Jason Caverson, Bruce Brown.

NO: Henry Mason, Rob Pallarito.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



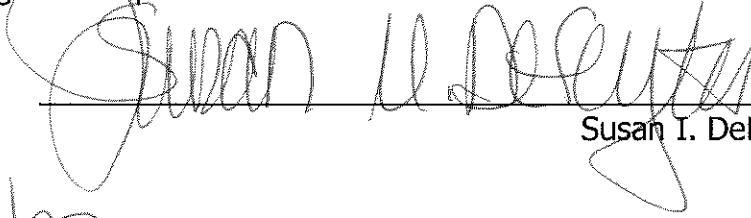
Kenneth R. Glasser, Chairman



Susan I. DeFeyer, County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
§
COUNTY OF OTSEGO)

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Otsego, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Otsego County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting held on the 23rd day of February, 2021, at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout and that an original thereof is on file in the records of the County. I further certify that the meeting was conducted, and public notice thereof was given, pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, and of such meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required thereby.



Susan I. DeFeyter, County Clerk

DATED: 2/23, 2021

CRAWFORD COUNTY RESOLUTION
Supporting Local Businesses -2252021

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID – 19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness and death; and

WHEREAS, the Crawford County Board of Commissioners recognizes that COVID-19 is having direct impacts on all County residents, impacts which include, but are not limited to, physical and mental health care difficulties, educational constraints and financial strains; and

WHEREAS, the Crawford County Board of Commissioners understands that many local businesses have suffered and continue to suffer economic harm due to COVID – 19; and

WHEREAS, the Crawford County Board of Commissioners furthermore recognizes that the local hospitality industry is being hit particularly hard with financial losses due to COVID – 19; and

WHEREAS, the Crawford County Board of Commissioners believes that the ability of county residents and visitors to patronize local restaurants, hotels, recreation venues, etc., contributes substantially to the overall well-being of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Crawford County Board of Commissioners is aware of many options to support Crawford County small businesses, such as ordering takeout food, making advance reservations and purchasing gift cards; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Crawford County Board of Commissioners encourages county residents to support local businesses at all times, but particularly during this global pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, that this resolution is sent to all counties in Michigan, the Michigan Association of Counties, Representative Daire Rendon, Senator Curt VanderWall and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.


APPROVED AS TO FORM

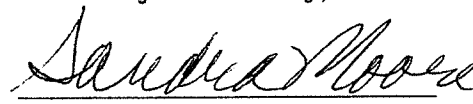
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|------------------------|--------|----------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Jamison | Yes | Commissioner McClain | Yes |
| Commissioner Priebe | Absent | Commissioner Jansen | Yes |
| Commissioner Pinkelman | Yes | Commissioner Powers | Yes |
| Commissioner Lewis | Yes | | |

ADOPTED DATE: February 25th, 2021

I, Sandra Moore, Clerk of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners and Clerk of the County of Crawford, do hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the said Board on February 25th, 2021.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County and Court at Grayling, Michigan, this 25th day of February, 2021


Shelly L. Pinkelman, Chair
Crawford County Board of Commissioners


Sandra M. Moore
Clerk/ROD