

RESOLUTION

NO: 2020-03-074

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE: March 18, 2020

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**Resolution to Support “Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illness in Jails” – Board of Commissioners**

**WHEREAS,** counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year; and

**WHEREAS,** prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population; and

**WHEREAS,** almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

**WHEREAS,** adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

**WHEREAS,** county jails spent two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

**WHEREAS,** without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

**WHEREAS,** Livingston County and all counties take pride their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

**WHEREAS,** through *Stepping Up*, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping up*. We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels.
- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Michigan counties, the National Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of Counties, and members of our State and Federal leadership.

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**MOVED:** G. Childs  
**SECONDED:** D. Dolan  
**CARRIED:** Roll Call Vote: Yes (7): G. Childs, C. Griffith W. Green, W. Nakagiri, D. Helzerman, R. Bezotte, and D. Dolan; 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 18th day of March 2020, 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 April 2020, A.D.



*Elizabeth Hundley*  
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 ELIZABETH HUNDLEY, LIVINGSTON COUNTY CLERK

**BERRIEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Mac Elliott, Chair  
Bob Harrison  
Michael Majerek  
Teri Freehling  
Dave Vollrath  
Jon Hinkelman

Bill Chickering  
Ezra Scott  
Chris Heugel  
Don Meeks  
Mamie Yarbrough  
Jim Curran



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April 23, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
State Capital  
110 S. Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Governor Whitmer:

The Berrien County Board of Commissioners recognizes and fully supports the heroic efforts of frontline healthcare workers and first responders as well as workers in the service economy. Likewise, we appreciate the need for appropriate executive orders and policies to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus and promote public safety, while also protecting our state and local economies. Our region is dependent on agriculture and tourism. It is important that we preserve these economic engines and the jobs that are currently locked down. Accordingly, the Berrien County Board respectfully requests modifications to current and future executive orders to remain within the boundaries of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidelines.

Berrien County has 157,000 residents, and as of 3:00 p.m. on April 22, 2020 there were 177 confirmed positive cases out of over 32,000 in the State of Michigan. It is logical to recognize that the virus is significantly more impactful on areas with high population density, and will disproportionately affect people of color and senior citizens with pre-existing illnesses, such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Executive action should not be based on the notion that one rule fits all locations. What is necessary for Southeast Michigan is not proving to be best for Southwest Michigan, the Upper Peninsula and other regions. Local and regional flexibility is now appropriate, along with the ongoing need for responsible behavior including social distancing, good hygiene and personal protective devices for certain business and commercial facilities. Our businesses and jobs are essential to Berrien County and the State of Michigan. If we and the similarly situated counties are held to the same standards as the handful of counties in which COVID-19 is prevalent, there will likely be irreparable damage to our economies and to the entire state.

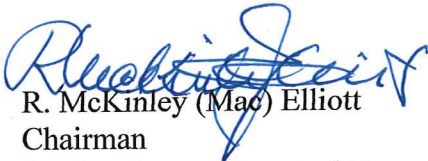
The Berrien County Health Department is doing an outstanding job of mitigating, communicating, and recommending best practices as we go forward. The Board of Commissioners trusts the local public health officials to continue in their efforts to monitor and promote reasoned advice in connection with a safe re-opening of Berrien County; we likewise trust the vast majority of our business owners and citizens to act responsibly. This Board asks that you revise current Executive Orders to provide regional flexibility concerning the restrictions and prohibitions of occupational and personal activities as identified below, and to ensure a sensible and safe framework that respects the constitutional guarantees of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens of the State of Michigan.

The County Board supports allowing workers in occupations which can successfully mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and socially distance themselves, to be allowed to return to work. This should include manufacturing, production, property maintenance and food services. We believe this can be done in a responsible manner and with due caution. We also urge you to allow citizens to purchase such things as grass seed, house paint and gardening supplies, and to engage in recreational and outdoor activities which common sense should allow.

Those of us in border counties can readily understand why citizens are flocking to Lowes, Meijer, Walmart or Home Depot stores in Toledo, South Bend or Elkhart. They are driving across the state line because it is unreasonable to prohibit the purchase of these items in approximately 75 of the 83 Michigan counties. As you might expect, while those border county residents are purchasing their home improvement supplies in Ohio or Indiana, they are also buying groceries and filling their gas tanks.

In summary, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners urges you to move forward with an objective plan of action for re-opening our economy in conjunction with input from local governments, and with continued attention to public health and safety.

Very truly yours,



R. McKinley (Mac) Elliott  
Chairman  
Berrien County Board of Commissioners

# DELTA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## RESOLUTION #20-05

### REQUESTING THE GREAT LAKES SHORELINE BE DECLARED A DISASTER AREA AND TO SEEK ASSISTANCE

**WHEREAS**, record high water levels in the Great Lake have contributed to ongoing shoreline erosion across the State of Michigan, and

**WHEREAS**, Lake Michigan water levels have caused damage to public infrastructure in the County of Delta, and

**WHEREAS**, Lake Michigan water levels are causing detrimental environmental impacts at other various sites along the shoreline, and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Delta recognizes the effects of storms, high water, and wind driven wave action that is causing severe erosion to the shorelines, infrastructure, and private property along the Great Lakes, and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions of the Great Lakes shorelines directly affect business and tourism in Delta County and the State of Michigan by limiting access to beaches, boat landings, and parks along the shorelines and loss and damaged property directly affects the local, county and state tax base, and

**WHEREAS**, Delta County, as well as other shoreline communities in the State of Michigan are desperately in need of additional resources to combat shoreline erosion and protection of natural resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Delta County Board of Commissioners requests that the Governor of the State of Michigan along with the State Legislature declare the Shoreline of the Great Lakes in the State of Michigan a disaster area, and that the Governor and State Legislature seek assistance from Congress and the President of the United States of America for the devastating situation which has an impact statewide.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Ed McBroom, Representative Beau LaFave, Congressman Jack Bergman,

Senator Debbie Stabenow, Representative Sara Cambensy, Senator Gary Peters, and all of the counties in the State of Michigan.

I, Nancy J. Przewrocki, Delta County Clerk and Clerk of the Delta County Board of Commissioners do hereby certify this to be a true and exact copy from the minutes of the statutory meeting of the Delta County Board of Commissioners held on April 14, 2020.

I, Nancy J. Przewrocki, Delta County Clerk do hereby set my hand and seal this 14th day of April, 2020.

  
Nancy J. Przewrocki, Delta County Clerk

