

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Kimberly L. Murphy
County Administrator

301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221
p: 517-264-4508 | f: 517-264-4512

[Website](#)



MEMBERS

Karol "KZ" Bolton, Kevon Martis, Dawn Bales
301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221

MEETING LOCATION

Chambers

Minutes: Monday, April 1, 2024

I. Call to Order

Present: Commissioners Collins, Bolton, Martis, Bales, Van Doren

Also Present: Administrator Kim Murphy, Marketing & Communications Jen Ambrose, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Health Officer Monica Hunt, Deputy Veteran's Service Director Timothy Ruple

Absent: Community Development Coordinator Francine Zysk, Department on Aging Director Cari Rebottaro

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: March 4, 2024

Motion by Martis, seconded by Bales to approve the minutes of March 4, 2024. Motion carried.

III. Veteran's Affairs Presentation- Timothy Ruple- Deputy Veteran's Service Director

A. Powerpoint

Timothy Ruple is the Deputy Veteran's Service Director at Lenawee County Veteran's Affairs office (LCVA). Timothy shared the history, mission and purpose of Veteran's Affairs here in Lenawee County. The staff are trained and accredited Veterans, Counselors, and/or Veteran service officers. They represent veterans and their surviving dependents. The organization is there to assist veterans and families with getting the resources available to them. Also, the services they provide are free to recipients. Timothy clarified the office is **not** the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Administration, and they are not VA Healthcare.

The Lenawee V.A. office can assist with applying for federal, state, and county benefits, processing claims, transportation, replacement of some forms, and temporary emergency assistance for Veterans and their dependents.

Veterans in Lenawee County received \$69,900,000 in VA benefits during 2022. The VA benefits were disbursed for various things including compensation, pension, medical care, education, and/or insurance. Timothy reported Lenawee County V.A. has been awarded a County Veterans Service Fund Grant in prior years and is expecting to receive the same grant this year for around \$97,800.

LCVA is open Monday through Thursday, 8- 4:30pm. Timothy also shared the VA Healthcare system has an Outpatient Clinic in Adrian, MI. Some services may be limited, but the local clinic is highly recommended and can save individuals a trip to Ann Arbor.

IV. Department Highlights

A. Health Department - Monica Hunt

Health Officer Hunt provided a verbal update for the Health Department. April 25th will be the Health Check held at St. Marys Church, in Adrian, MI. This event is partnered with United Way and ProMedica, where individuals may receive immunizations and blood draws. Also, the National Take Back day will be on April 27th, providing a space for people to properly dispose of their prescription drugs.

B. Department on Aging - Cari Rebottaro

Commissioner Bolton shared updates provided by Rebottaro at the Department on Aging, as Rebottaro was unable to attend. Rebottaro praised all the volunteers they have at the Department of Aging, and she stated they are "truly the foundation of this department". The Department of Aging relies on 38 drivers every day, for the important home-delivered meal routes. Approximately 100 rides per week are given by volunteer drivers, saving the department approximately \$105,000, based on minimum wage. The Michigan Medicare Assistance Program offers free health insurance counseling to Medicare recipients, saving Lenawee County residents thousands of dollars.

C. Community Development - Francine Zysk

Administrator Murphy verbally shared the report Coordinator Zysk provided. Zysk is currently traveling to Arizona for a PEER Exchange Opportunity, which is all scholarship funded. Lenawee County is one of four counties, nationwide, awarded into the program. The peer exchange program allows county and court leaders an opportunity to explore programs they may have an interest in implementing in their own county.

The Administrator shared Michigan Attorney General has listed Lenawee County on their website, for Opioid Settlement Funds Implementation in Action. The county is one of only seven listed.

At the recent Recovery Housing Sub-Committee, Zysk received information from the MSU team regarding the data on Community Needs Assessment. MSU shared the numbers would not always be 100% equal, because participants had the option to select multiple answers or none at all.

Zysk wrote she is a part of Region K of the MHSDA Regional Housing Partnership Subcommittee for Communication & Education. Region K will have the opportunity for \$8.8 million dollars on April 1, 2024, and again in October 2024. The Administrator stated these funds may be eligible to fund Maurice Spear Campus, if awarded.

V. Updates & Other Business

During the presentation from Lenawee County Veteran's Affairs, the commissioners wondered what the current mileage from the county to LCVA is. Commissioner Van Doren stated it was \$390,000 for V.A., that is kept in their General Fund.

VI. 2024 Goals

A. Visiting Community Organizations- List of local Organizations

Included in the packet are lists of community organizations the committee can have guest speakers and/or visit for a tour. Commissioner Van Doren would like to see Lenawee Now be added to the list, and ask if they would be interested in giving a presentation.

It was discussed to determine which Community Organizations receive ARPA funds, and ask for those organizations to come in to learn more about their organization and share what they were able to do with those ARPA funds.

The recent audio/visual updates in the Chambers have improved the ability to share what occurs at committee meetings with the public. Recording of the community organization presentations, could help raise awareness in the community, as they are shared on the public website. It was decided that while the commissioners can still visit public places, they hope to continue to have monthly speakers at each Human Services Committee.

B. Wells and Septic

Health Officer Hunt stated she has accumulated research on what the local well and septic codes are and plan to bring them to the next committee meeting. Commissioner Bolton recalls there being a Statewide Septic Code change, Hunt confirmed that is coming 2025. The committee would like to see some of the change highlights that may be implemented in 2025. Hunt will plan to also bring that next month.

C. Planning for Strategic Plan

Administrator shared she will be attending meetings in the future that may provide an opportunity to discuss this with her peers.

D. Scholarship Fundraising

Administrator Murphy reported the current scholarship balance is \$865 and 8 of 9 commissioners have made a \$100 donation. After the ninth commissioner donates, the balance will still be short. Commissioner Martis provided an additional amount during the meeting, to meet the \$1,000 goal. There will be two \$500 scholarships awarded. Discussion was held that in 2025, they would like to see the awarded scholarship be increased to \$2,000.

E. Attendance at Legislative Meeting- 5/13/24 Breakfast

Two commissioners have submitted their RSVP's for the breakfast in May. Commissioner Collins reported he would be out of the country at the time. Attendees should register for the event by 5/1/24.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Martis, seconded by Bales, to adjourn the meeting at 11:45am. Motion carried.

