

ISSUES UPDATE – April 2009



The first quarter of 2008 presented many challenges and opportunities for Ingham County Government. The need to balance a budget for 2010 that presents a 5 million dollar shortfall in revenues will be extremely difficult; however, the cooperation of Elected Officials and Department Heads throughout the County will greatly assist the Commissioners. Ingham County will continue to provide a high quality of services to its residents. The Board of Commissioners has placed particular importance on providing uninsured residents with access to health care, improving the adult and juvenile justice systems and expanding recreational opportunities.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the Housing Commission to accept a \$256,100 Community Development Block Grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to rehab six apartments for rent to low to moderate income persons in Williamston. This grant will be at no cost to the County.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution that modifies the Managerial/Confidential/Professional Manual for 2010 and 2011.
- The Ingham Intermediate School District (IISD) will be contracting with the MIS Department to provide technical support for the Student Records. MIS and the IISD have been meeting to consider collaboration efforts to save funds for both the District and the County.
- The County and the Animal Control Officers and the Animal Shelter Operators, represented by the Fraternal Order of the Police, reached a new contract agreement for 2009, 2010 and 2011.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to revise the Travel, Vehicle and Employee Reimbursement Policy. The information was shared with the Managers and Department Heads at a quarterly meeting.
- Dr. Myers invited all non-managerial employees to meet with him to discuss the financial challenges faced by Ingham County on February 20, 2009. Dr. Myers met with over 50 Ingham County employees to discuss the 2009 and 2010 budgets to accept cost-saving ideas from the employees.
- An application was submitted for \$1 million in federal funds through Senator Stabenow's office. Ingham County received notification from Senator Stabenow's Office that \$500,000 in federal funds were allocated to the County for law enforcement/technology purposes. The funds will be appropriated to use electronic monitoring (EM) to track and supervise

offenders in the community; fund the replacement of our current Video Surveillance system with a new state-of-the-art IP-based system to enhance our current security within our Courts, Sheriff's Office, Jail, and Youth Center; and replacement of core network infrastructure.

- As a consequence of the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the Ingham County Health Department was awarded a \$1.3 million federal assistance award (grant) with the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the Community Health Center Network's Cedar Community Health Center, Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic, St. Lawrence Community Health Center, and the Well Child Health Center. The direct federal assistance and the resultant associated program income will enable the Health Department to increase its services to an additional 4,766 unduplicated users by the end of year two. This increased capacity is projected to result in an additional 18,426 health care encounters per year by the end of year two. In addition to the direct federal assistance provided through this Notice of Grant Award (NGA), the sites included in the Health Department's grant application are now authorized as Section 330(e) Federally Qualified Health Centers under the Public Health Services Act. As a consequence, Cedar Community Health Center, Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic, St. Lawrence Community Health Center, and the Well Child Health Center are now 330(e) Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- Once again, as a part of Ingham County's 2010 and priority setting process, County departments and agencies were asked to submit 1) strategic planning background information, 2) performance measures, and 3) activity indicators. In addition, this year the Controller's Office asked departments to provide information on the key services that they deliver. The information provided will be used by the Controller's Office and the Board of Commissioners to aid in the development of the 2010 budget. The full report can be found online at: <http://ingham.org/CO/2010StrategicPlanning.pdf>
- Ingham County has submitted a total of three (3) proposals for funding through Senator Stabenow's Office for FY 2010. The total of these three proposals is \$1.25 million. The summary of each proposal provided to the Senator's Office is below.
 1. New IP- based 911 phone system (\$650,000): Ingham County is in the process of merging the operations of the 911 Dispatch Centers in the Cities of Lansing and East Lansing into a new Ingham County Consolidated E-911 Central Dispatch Center. This will include new construction in order to create a state of the art Consolidated Dispatch Center with new facilities and technology, at a lower cost than operating the current separate 911 Centers. Ingham County is in need of a new IP-Based 911 phone system for

the future Center. The current system utilizes old technology and is in need of replacement.

2. Ingham County Health Department Facility Renovation (\$300,000): ICHD's main campus in south Lansing houses many different clinical operations. These include: a Public Health Nursing Office, a Women's Health Clinic, a Child Health Clinic, an Adult Health Clinic, an Oral Health Clinic, and an Infectious Disease Clinic. Because of the economic downturn, demand for health services from low-income and uninsured people is increasing. Yet ICHD is at its operational limits and cannot accommodate more patients. ICHD proposes a major renovation of its main campus which will expand the scale of its clinical facilities and streamline its services so that more people can receive care.
3. Ingham County Health Department Electronic Medical Records Implementation (\$300,000): Mid Michigan has a Regional Health Information Organization (the Capital Area RHIO or CARHIO) which will roll out the capacity for full featured health information exchange (HIE) in 2009, including results delivery, physician order entry, electronic referrals and electronic access to patient records. It is important to ensure that public health in Ingham County is equipped with an electronic medical records (EMR) system that is connected to CARHIO so that low income and uninsured clients are not left out.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized a two-year agreement with modified end user rates for the period of February 1, 2009 through January 31, 2011, with Evercom, Inc. a subsidiary of Securus Technologies, for new equipment to provide local and long distance service for all inmate telephones. This agreement replaces the former vendor and contract as they failed to perform satisfactorily. Efforts will continue to recoup all costs owing the County from the previous agreement.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners adopted the updated Ingham County Emergency Operations Plan and Hazard Analysis. This Plan embraces an "all-hazards" principle that most emergency response functions are similar, regardless of the hazard. The response includes the four (4) phases of Emergency Management activities: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.

The Ingham County Emergency Operations Plan and Hazard Analysis had not been updated since 2004; the Plan includes many County Departments and during a disaster or emergency becomes the County directive to deal with the hazard.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the Ingham County Sheriff's Office to enter into a three (3) year lease/purchase agreement with L-3 Mobile-Vision for an in-car patrol vehicle digital camera system. This digital camera system will replace and upgrade the current system.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized a contract with M/A-COM, Inc., for the movement and installation of two Bi-Directional Amplifiers (BDA's) to enhance the Public Safety Radio Communications System in Ingham County, at critical buildings, for the Public Safety Wireless Voice Communication System. This included:
 - 1) Move and install an existing BDA from Sparrow Hospital to MSU Clinical Center;
 - 2) Move and install an existing BDA from the Lansing City Jail to Community Mental Health.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners accepted the Michigan Department of Human Services Title IV-E Reimbursement Contract. This Michigan Department of Human Services grant will allow the Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Family Division to receive new reimbursement revenue for the handling of neglect and abuse cases from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the acceptance of the 2007 State Homeland Security Grant, Regional Planner Grant from the Michigan Department of State Police, Emergency Management Division, subcontracted through the City of Lansing, for the time period of April 1, 2008 through March 30, 2010, for the expenses incurred for the temporary Regional Planner position. This temporary Regional Planner will perform research and provide data to support Regional Homeland Security efforts through the systematic planning, evaluation and analysis of program elements in the areas of equipment acquisition, training, exercising, and planning as identified in the region's homeland security assessment and strategy.

The Regional Planner will also research and provide data through the systematic planning, evaluation and analysis of projects in bio-terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive) elements.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the release of the Attorney/Client Privileged legal opinions from Cohl, Stoker, Toskey & McGlinchey, P.C. regarding the communications of October 30, 2007 for Road Patrol and the May 9, 2008 Township Special Assessment for Police Services. This information will be useful to other local units of government in Ingham County as they consider the level of primary law enforcement services that they may be interested in providing, given the budget

problems in Ingham County that are putting pressures on funding discretionary road patrol services through the County Budget.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners hereby formally declared via resolution “that the Ingham County Public Safety Radio Communications System building phase is now over, and states no further money is

available from the County for Bi-directional Amplifiers (BDAs) and Uni-directional Amplifiers (UDAs) to enhance the Public Safety Radio Communications System in Ingham County at critical buildings.”

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners resolution reiterated its position and urged all Ingham County municipalities to adopt Ordinances requiring public safety amplification systems for new construction and major renovations of buildings, within their communities, to safeguard Ingham County citizens and public safety officers.

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners resolution further reiterated its position and urged all Ingham County public entities, including all Ingham County School Districts, Lansing Community College, the State of Michigan, and Michigan State University to include public safety amplification systems for new construction and major renovations of their public buildings within Ingham County.

- The State Court Administrators Office has offered a second year of funding through a SCAO/OHSP grant for the 55th District Court Sobriety Court Program ("Sobriety Court"). The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized this contract with SCAO/OHSP for a grant award to the Ingham County 55th District Court, Sobriety Court Program, for the time period of October 1, 2008 through September 31, 2009.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the Ingham County Circuit Court/Family Division to accept profits and/or donations from various fund raising activities to be used for incentives, rewards, and activities as a part of the Ingham Academy and Pride Programs.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized entering into a contract with the Ingham Intermediate School District to provide educational services to the Ingham Academy for the regular school year and summer session, an agreement with Highfields, Inc. for the transportation and behavioral intervention of youth attending the Ingham Academy, and an agreement with Highfields, Inc. for the transportation and behavioral intervention of youth attending the Pride Program.
- During the months of February and March, the MSU Extension food and nutrition staff worked in partnership with Lansing Christian Services and Capital Area Community Services to present educational programs called “Smart Shopping” and “Stretching Your Food Dollar”.

- Conceived by the Community Coalition for Youth, the Ingham Change Initiative's mission is to provide policies and practices that will assure all youth in Ingham County have successful life outcomes. Under the leadership of Dr. Clarence Underwood, the Ingham Change Commission has elected work group chairpersons, developed mission and goal statements and began planning the roll-out of the Initiative to the public, including a press conference held on January 19 to introduce its work. Dr. Underwood also gave a brief presentation on behalf of the Ingham Change Initiative at the MLK Luncheon.

- Because of its unique combination of a large area of farmland and a close urban/suburban population, Ingham County farmers have great opportunities for direct-sales to end users. Ingham County MSU Extension Educators Dan Hudson and Susan Pigg presented an interactive workshop called "Web-site Whys and Hows for Your Ag Business".

- Seven students from Riddle Elementary School attended the six week long "Jump Into Foods and Fitness" after school program. Four students had perfect attendance and three missed only one day. A parent said her daughter "looks forward to Tuesdays because of the 4-H nutrition and fitness program that is held after school." Each week the students learned the benefits of the different food groups, spent time being physically active, and made healthy snacks that focused on each food group.

- The Ingham County Youth Commission members made baked goods and served them to residents at the Rescue Mission homeless shelter in Lansing.

- Currently, eleven adult mentors are matched in a one-on-one relationship with a youth who is involved with the juvenile court. A court officer commented that the 4-H Mentoring Program helped a young person to get out into the community and experience new opportunities that would never have been possible without a mentor. "The youth is a man of few words, but he had a very positive experience," said the officer.

- Ingham County 4-H has established an after-school program in East Lansing at Whitehills Elementary School. The Whitehills Service Learning Club started in March and consists of 11 fifth and sixth graders who are learning about service learning in the context of global and cultural education, ecology, citizenship and self-awareness. The students will finish their school year with a service project that demonstrates the concepts they have learned.

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