

## ISSUES UPDATE – JULY 2007



The second quarter of 2007 has continued to track the Commissioners' objectives as defined for 2007. As such, the following are areas that have been the focus of the County:

- Efforts to support recreational opportunities and intergovernmental collaboration have produced a final lease and operational agreement between the City of Lansing and Ingham County to allow the County to assume responsibility for the operational and maintenance of both Potter Park and Potter Park Zoo. The funds were generated through a millage passed in 2006. The final details of the agreement were negotiated and signed and the County assumed responsibility for the Park and the Zoo on July 1, 2007. A rededication ceremony was held on July 1, 2007, culminating in a ribbon cutting ceremony with the City of Lansing and Ingham County. A six month budget to operate the Park and Zoo was passed and work has begun to prepare for the accreditation process for the Zoo.
- The County Treasurer has continued the role of Foreclosure Agent for tax delinquent properties, and the Land Bank Authority continues to manage foreclosed properties. The County authorized a limited tax pledge to support the Land Bank Authority to continue its effort of acquiring, developing, improving, using, assembling and disposing of tax-foreclosed and other distressed property.
- The Ingham County Sheriff's Office is participating in a regional effort with other local law enforcement agencies in a records management system. This regional effort was made possible through the cooperative efforts of local governments, seeking an avenue to support public safety efforts, through regionalization. By combining resources, the public and law enforcement will benefit from the records management system, which will be installed and operational by the fall.
- The Ingham County Human Resources Department continues to provide the Tri-County Office on Aging with human resources services.
- The public safety wireless radio system is complete and will be receiving an enhancement to improve communications for law enforcement officers and fire fighters. The improvements are being funded by the 9-1-1 millage and from Homeland Security Grants from the City of Lansing and Ingham County.
- Plante & Moran is completing a study which will give consideration to consolidating the two current dispatch centers into one. After the original study was completed, additional questions emerged and the Board contracted with Plante & Moran to conduct an additional review of information submitted by East Lansing. Once completed, the report will be forwarded to the 9-1-1 Advisory Board for a recommendation back to the Board of Commissioners.
- The Task Force assigned to assist the Board of Commissioners in identifying an appropriate facility for "Continuum of Care" remains active in its attempt to secure a location to meet the needs of Circuit Court and various community partners. The Task Force continues to review possible locations that will provide the needed space and allow

for the programming to be provided by the “Continuum of Care Facility”, within the context of the budget limitations of the Juvenile Justice Millage/Child Care Funds available for this purpose.

- Labor negotiations remain stable. The MAP/Law Enforcement contract will expire in December 2007 and negotiations toward a new agreement will commence this fall.
- The Controller’s Staff has been working toward presenting a recommended budget to the Board of Commissioners for 2008. A review of revenues and expected expenditures for 2008 identified a 4.7 million dollars shortfall for a continuation of current services. While Ingham County will continue to provide excellent services for the residents, we must also recognize difficult choices must be made on how services will be delivered and what services can be reduced without affecting the objectives of the Commissioners. It will remain imperative that we review all services to determine if there are more efficient ways in which we can operate and yet still provide the services that are most important to the citizens.
- Thomas Shewchuk was selected as the Director of MIS. Numerous department officials assisted in the search which brought Mr. Shewchuk to Ingham County. The challenges facing MIS are broad and yet we remain optimistic that through new leadership of MIS many of the challenges will be met which will continue to place Ingham County as a leader in providing technological services second to none.
- The jail continues to be overcrowded. The Law Enforcement and the Judiciary Committees continue to review strategies aimed at reducing the inmate population. Recommendations will be presented and reviewed to determine feasibility, operational effectiveness and cost-efficiency.
- Efforts to expand access to health care for the uninsured have continued through the promotion of the Ingham County Advantage program and the reorganization of the Ingham Health Plan Bureau.
- Two grants were accepted for 2007 Community Development Block Grant Funding from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority totaling \$543,900, to assist with rental rehabilitation in Mason and homeownership rehabilitation in Ingham County.
- The Wellness Committee announced plans for the Annual Summer Picnic scheduled for Wednesday August 8, 2007, from 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Lake Lansing Park South.
- Human Resources announced plans for the Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony scheduled for Thursday, September 6, 2007, 3:00 p.m. at “Charlar Place” in Holt.
- The Ingham County Health Coalition comprised of representatives from management and bargaining units of Ingham County, Ingham County Road Commission, Ingham County Medical Care Facility, Tri-County Office on Aging, and the Capital Area District Library continues to meet to identify cost savings measures for health care. The firm AON Consulting Worldwide was selected as the vendor to provide consulting services to the Health Coalition.

- The Board of Commissioners adopted recommended changes in the hiring process as submitted by the Equal Opportunity Committee. The Commissioners requested and encouraged all Countywide Elected Officials and Chief Judges to voluntarily adopt these recommended changes in the selection process and to continue to work towards further achievement of the stated goals of the EOE Plan.
- The Board of Commissioners authorized an agreement with Delhi Township to provide for law enforcement services within the Delhi Township Parks.
- The Health Department presented an administrative reorganization plan which was adopted by the Board of Commissioners.
- The Board of Commissioners authorized the second phase of the Juvenile Justice Community Agency Process, awarding four grants totaling \$150,000 of Juvenile Justice Millage funds to contract with qualified vendors to increase the capacity of the county juvenile justice system for the treatment of delinquent and disturbed youth.
- The Controller presented an administrative reorganization plan for the Controller's Office which was adopted by the Board of Commissioners.
- The Board of Commissioners adopted the areas of priority emphasis to be utilized by the Controller's Office and the County offices, departments, agencies, and courts are developing proposed activities and budgets for the 2008 budget process.
- The Health Department secured external funding through the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) HIV Continuum of Care program, Ryan White Part B funding, to continue the provision of ambulatory HIV/AIDS services in Ingham County, through an agreement with Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners accepted the recommendation of the Controller's Office to transition from Project Sentry by the end of the 2007 budget year. A plan will be presented to the Board to transition to a new service provider to be utilized by the Courts.

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