

CHAIRPERSON
MARC THOMAS

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
VICTOR CELENTINO

VICE-CHAIRPERSON PRO-TEM
STEVE DOUGAN

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
ANDY SCHOR., CHAIR
REBECCA BAHAR-COOK
CURTIS HERTEL, JR.
TIM SOULE
MIKE SEVERINO
STEVE DOUGAN

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 319, Mason, Michigan 48854 Telephone (517) 676-7200 Fax (517) 676-7264

THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M., IN **CONFERENCE ROOM A** OF THE HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING, 5303 S. CEDAR, LANSING.

NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING ROOM

Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of the [October 20, 2008](#) Minutes

Additions to the Agenda

Limited Public Comment

1. Ingham County MSU Extension - Resolution Authorizing Ingham County MSU Extension 4-H Youth Programs to Enter into a Contract with the Lansing School District to Provide 4-H After-School Programs to [Lansing Middle and High School](#) Students
2. Controller's Office – Resolution Authorizing [2009 Agreements](#) for Community Agencies
3. Board Referral – Letter from Board of Health Regarding [Coordinated Food Distribution](#) Efforts

Announcements **PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC**
Public Comment **DEVICES OR SET TO MUTE OR VIBRATE TO AVOID**
Adjournment **DISRUPTION DURING THE MEETING**

The County of Ingham will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting for the visually impaired, for individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five (5) working days notice to the County of Ingham. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Ingham in writing or by calling the following: Ingham County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 319, Mason, MI 48854 Phone: (517) 676-7200. A quorum of the Board of Commissioners may be in attendance at this meeting. Meeting information is also available on line at www.ingham.org

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

October 20, 2008

Minutes

Members Present: Rebecca Bahar-Cook, Curtis Hertel, Tim Soule, Mike Severino, Steve Dougan and Board Chairperson Thomas

Members Absent: Andy Schor

Others Present: Jared Cypher, Randy Marwede, Marcus Cheatham, Dr. Sienko, Matt Wojack, Melanie Mack, Bruce Bragg, Chris Sherwood and others

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Bahar-Cook at 7:04 p.m. in the Personnel Conference Room of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar, Lansing.

Approval of the September 8 and September 15, 2008 Minutes

MOVED BY COM. DOUGAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. HERTEL, TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 8 AND SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Comm. Schor

Additions to the Agenda: None

Limited Public Comment: None

1. Public Hearing – On the Adoption of a Proposed Health Regulation – Amending the Current Regulation Prohibiting Smoking in Most Public Places and Worksites to Require Food Service Establishments to Improve Air Quality in Nonsmoking Areas by Mitigating Air Contamination Caused by Environmental Tobacco Smoke and to Increase Penalties for Violations Pursuant to and in Accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978, As amended

Dr. Sienko reviewed the amendments to the Regulation from the last draft this Committee received a few months ago. The significant amendments pertain to improve air quality. He stated clean air is not possible as long as smoking is allowed in an establishment. If smoking is allowed, the County should require the establishments to improve the air quality.

The Health Department is still working to determine how to measure the improvements. One practical way is to measure particulate matters. Dr. Sienko stated there are other, more expensive, ways of measuring improvements.

Dr. Sienko reviewed the timeline associated with the Regulation. The Regulation shall be effective 90 days from and after its adoption and affect all new construction and to extensive remodeling that requires a “Plan Submission Approval” as outlined in the Michigan Food Law by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. After five years after the initial effective date of this Regulation, all existing food service establishments which exceed the lowest Renewal License category established for food service establishments by the Ingham County Health Department’s Bureau of Environmental Health will be regulated.

Ten years after the initial effective date of this Regulation, all food service establishments within Ingham County will fall within its terms. A food service establishment may apply to the Health Officer for a variance, citing specific economic, operational or physical reasons that make full compliance infeasible.

Comm. Hertel asked that the County Attorney review the proposed amendments to the Regulation before the Committee takes action on this matter.

(Comm. Soule arrived at 7:14 p.m.)

Comm. Dougan asked about Section 1005, B, (a). Dr. Sienko stated this language is required by State law.

Mr. Titus, County resident, stated he supports the Committee's actions to reduce second-hand smoke in public establishments.

The Public Hearing was closed.

5. Health Department – Resolution to Authorize a 2008-2009 Agreement with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

MOVED BY COMM. SEVERINO, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SOULE, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A 2008-2009 AGREEMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Comm. Schor

2. Interviews – Department of Human Services Board

Vice Chairperson Bahar-Cook informed the Committee that Chairperson Schor wants to vote on this item; therefore, the Committee will not approve a recommendation this evening.

The Committee interviewed the following individuals for a position on the Human Services Board: Bruce Bragg and Chris Sherwood

3. Presentation – IMPACT System of Care

Mr. Wojack distributed the IMPACT System of Care's Annual Report to the Committee for their review.

Ms. Keefe spoke regarding her experiences with IMPACT. Her son has had difficulties at school and has been incarcerated at the Youth Center. Ms. Keefe stated her son's parole officer invited him to join project IMPACT. She is still in the process of creating an action plan for her son and the family. Her hope is to have the plan reviewed this week.

Ms. Keefe stated her son is 13 years old. He has seen therapists since he was four years old. The therapist through project IMPACT is very good for her son. Ms. Keefe also stated she continues to work on her parenting skills. The services she and her son have received through project IMPACT are better than any she found on her own. Ms. Keefe said she hopes her son can continue with project IMPACT until he is ready to leave the project.

Ms. Thayer stated she is 16 years old and is a student at Everett High School. She spoke about her troubles she had before she entered project IMPACT. Because of project IMPACT, she now is happy and enjoys life. She has learned how to talk about herself and to be more expressive. Ms. Thayer further stated she has short and long-term plans for her life. She then asked the Committee to review the Annual Report and to continue to support project IMPACT.

Vice Chairperson Bahar-Cook thanked Ms. Keefe and Ms. Thayer for sharing their stories with this Committee.

Mr. Wojack distributed copies of Criminal Justice History at Intake and 6 Months and Criminal Justice History at Intake, 6 Months and 12 Months. He then reviewed this data.

4. Department of Veterans Affairs – Resolution Defining Indigent Veterans and the Services Provided to Them Under PA 214 of 1899

MOVED BY COMM. DOUGAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. HERTEL, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION DEFINING INDIGENT VETERANS AND THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO THEM UNDER PA 214 OF 1899.

Mr. Marwede reviewed PA 214 of 1899 and then said it is up to the County to determine indigent veterans who are eligible for Veterans services. The VA Means Test was developed in 2003. Mr. Marwede stated 75% of the Ingham County Veterans who receive services through the Veterans Affairs Office meet the criteria for the VA Means Test. This Test will be used by the Department of Veteran Affairs to determine if a veteran is indigent.

Comm. Severino said he supports the Means Test. He further said he is supportive of this Resolution as long as the Millage funds will be used solely for the Veterans Affairs Office.

Mr. Marwede stated his Department will have a new benefits counselor next year to identify services it currently provides and the time it spends to provide those services. Mr. Cypher explained the Millage will help cover some of the lost revenue for the Office.

Board Chairperson Thomas said the goal the Board originally talked about was to meet the increasing needs for veterans. Veterans should be provided with information from the Office as soon as they return from action. Mr. Marwede agreed that it is important to provide this information as soon as a veteran returns home.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Comm. Schor

Mr. Cypher informed the Committee that the 2009 Budget includes the 0.0302 mills to provide services under this Act.

Announcements: None

Public Comment: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Neff

RESOLUTION STAFF REVIEW**DATE** October 22, 2008

Agenda Item Title: Resolution Authorizing Ingham County MSU Extension 4-H Youth Programs to Enter into a Contract with the Lansing School District to Provide 4-H After-School Programs to Lansing Middle and High School Students

Submitted by: Ingham County MSU Extension

Committees: LE____, JD____, HS X, CS____, Finance X

Summary of Proposed Action: (See the attached letter of explanation.)

This resolution authorizes Ingham County Michigan State University Extension to enter into a professional service contract with the Lansing School District to support after-school and summer 4-H youth programming for Dwight Rich Middle School and Eastern, Everett and Sexton High Schools for 32 weeks during the school year and six weeks during the summer. These 4-H after-school and summer programs will provide educational experiences that teach various life skills including leadership, decision making, financial literacy, team building, and multiculturalism.

Financial Implications:

The Lansing School District and Ingham County MSU Extension have agreed to contract for professional services to support an ongoing after-school and summer program to be completed by June, 2009, according to the following budget:

Temporary Employment -	\$19,000
Supplies -	\$6,000
TOTAL -	\$25,000 (\$6,250 per site for 4 sites)

Other Implications:

None.

Staff Recommendation: MM____ JN____ TL____ TM____ JC X

Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

MEMO

Date: October 22, 2008

To: Human Services Committee
Finance Committee

From: Randy A. Bell, MSU Extension Director

Re: Resolution to accept funds from the Lansing School District to operate after-school programs

The Lansing School District has agreed to provide funding (from 21st Century Learning Center grant funds) for the purpose of conducting 4-H after-school and summer programs for Dwight Rich Middle School and Eastern, Everett and Sexton High Schools for 32 weeks during the school year and six weeks during the summer.

4-H after-school and summer programs will provide educational experiences that teach various life skills including leadership, decision making, financial literacy, team building, and multiculturalism.

The Lansing School District and Ingham County MSU Extension have agreed to contract for professional services to support an ongoing after-school and summer program to be completed by June, 2009, according to the following budget:

Temporary Employment -	\$19,000
Supplies -	\$6,000
TOTAL -	\$25,000 (\$6,250 per site for 4 sites)

I recommend your approval of the following resolution:

Introduced by the Human Services and Finance Committees of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INGHAM COUNTY MSU EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH PROGRAMS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE 4-H AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS TO LANSING MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, Ingham County MSU Extension, through its 4-H Youth Development Program, provides Ingham County youth with safe, structured activities during non-school hours; and

WHEREAS, the Lansing School District agrees to provide funding for the purpose of conducting 4-H after-school and summer programs for one middle school (Dwight Rich) and three high schools (Eastern, Everett and Sexton) 32 weeks during the school year and six weeks during the summer; and

WHEREAS, 4-H after-school and summer programs will provide educational experiences that teach various life skills including leadership, decision making, financial literacy, team building, and multiculturalism; and

WHEREAS, the Lansing School District and Ingham County MSU Extension have agreed to contract for professional services to support an ongoing after-school and summer program to be completed by June 2009, according to the following budget:

\$25,000 (\$6,250 per site for 4 sites) to support the following:
Temporary Employment - \$19,000
Supplies - \$6,000

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes Ingham County Michigan State University Extension to enter into a \$25,000 professional service contract with the Lansing School District to support after-school and summer 4-H youth programming, to be completed by June 2009, according to the budget above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller is authorized to amend the 2008 and 2009 Ingham County MSU Extension budget to implement this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and the County Clerk are authorized to sign any necessary contract documents consistent with this resolution and approved as to form by the County Attorney.

Agenda Item 2

October 22, 2008

TO: Human Services and Finance Committees

FROM: Jared Cypher, Assistant Deputy Controller

RE: 2009 Community Agency Requests

As you know, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners has changed the way that community agency funding is allocated for 2009. For 2009, the Controller's Office has determined specific recommended funding levels for each applicant agency. Attached to this memorandum is a spreadsheet detailing the Controller's recommended funding levels for each applicant for the 2009 community agency appropriation. The 2009 community agency books containing the applications from each agency were distributed at the October 28, 2008 Board of Commissioners' meeting. Community agency applications will also be available on the County's web page (www.ingham.org under 'What's New'). **Please bring the books to the following November 2008 liaison committee meetings:**

- Human Services Committee meeting – Monday, November 3, 2008
- Finance Committee meeting – Wednesday, November 5, 2008

The recommended funding levels for each agency were determined using the criteria set forth in Resolution #08-197 (see attached). Thirty-four (34) agencies requested a total of \$277,828, and \$202,265 is included in the 2009 budget for community agency funding. Agencies who met the most significant of the criteria – "Meeting Basic Needs" – are recommended to receive approximately a 78% increase from 2008, up to a limit of their requested allocation, with the exception of Legal Services of South Central Michigan whose funding level was capped by Resolution #08-197. Those agencies not "Meeting Basic Needs" are recommended to receive an appropriation equal to the one they received for FY 2008, with the exception of Ingham Conservation District, which is not recommended for funding at this time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

JC/lrs

Attachments

cc: Matthew J. Myers, Ph.D, Controller/Administrator
John L. Neilsen, Deputy Controller
Teri Morton, Budget Director

Introduced by the Human Services, County Services and Finance Committees of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION APPROVING CRITERIA FOR RANKING 2009 APPLICATIONS FOR
COMMUNITY AGENCY FUNDING**

RESOLUTION #08-197

WHEREAS, since 1978, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners has provided financial support to various non-profit community organizations that provide a broad range of services for the purpose of advancing the County's adopted long-range objectives; and

WHEREAS, over the years the community agency process has grown to over 30 applicants requesting funding, with a total request of over \$250,000; and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners desires to make the process of awarding community agency funding more efficient and effective; and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners identified the following area of priority emphasis in Resolution #08-116:

"The Ingham County Controller/Administrator will score and rank Community Agency applications based on a set of criteria approved by the Board of Commissioners and make a recommendation on specific funding levels for each applicant to the Human Services Committee."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes 2009 applications for community agency funding to be evaluated based on the attached ranking criteria.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Controller/Administrator is authorized to evaluate, rank, and determine funding levels for each applicant as a recommendation for approval by the Human Services Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no agency shall receive more than 10% of the total available funding for community agencies in FY 2009.

HUMAN SERVICES: Yeas: Schor, Hertel, Soule, Severino, Dougan

Nays: None **Absent:** Bahar-Cook **Approved 7/14/08**

COUNTY SERVICES: Yeas: Nolan, De Leon, Copedge, Soule, Grebner, Severino

Nays: None **Absent:** None **Approved 7/15/08**

FINANCE: Yeas: Grebner, Hertel, Weatherwax-Grant, Celentino, Dougan

Nays: None **Absent:** Schor **Approved 7/16/08**

2009 Community Agency Ranking Criteria

These criteria are ranked in the order in which they will be used to judge each proposal - #1 is most important, #6 is least.

- 1. The extent to which the proposal directly contributes to addressing the County's long-term priority of "Meeting Basic Needs".**
 - a. Does the proposal directly address specific challenges faced by Ingham County residents that may be brought on by, or exacerbated by, the current economic climate; including, but not limited to problems such as homelessness, unemployment, poverty, domestic violence, alcoholism, drug abuse, etc?
 - b. Does the proposal provide basic necessities for those in need, such as food, clothing, and shelter or help to provide assistance in obtaining such things as household utilities, job skills and transportation that are needed by families and individuals?
- 2. The extent to which the proposal leverages other sources of funding.**
 - a. What other funding sources are being leveraged, including state, federal, other non-profit and private sources?
 - b. Will this funding be used as a match for a larger grant or to leverage other funding?
- 3. The degree to which the proposal demonstrates collaborative approaches to program and service delivery.**
 - What other agencies and organizations are participating in the proposed project?
- 4. The extent to which the proposal demonstrates creativity and innovation.**
 - a. Does this proposal represent proven "best practices" in its particular subject?
 - b. Does the program produce measurable results?
 - c. Has this proposal ever been tried before?
 - d. If the proposal is not new, then what is the track record of success, has there been a positive impact on the community?
- 5. The number of years the agency has received County funding (fewer years = higher rating).**
 - This will be a factor from FY 2010 forward. 2009 is a transition year for this criterion, as agencies will be put on notice for next year. How this will be scored in 2010 has yet to be determined.
- 6. Timeliness in submitting the proposal.**
 - a. Were deadlines (June 6, 2008) to submit the proposal met to a reasonable standard?
 - b. Was the proposal complete when submitted?

Agenda Item 2

Introduced by the Human Services and Finance Committees of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2009 AGREEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AGENCIES

WHEREAS, the 2009 Ingham County Budget has been approved by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, under the Community Agency Program a number of agencies have been allocated funds to provide important services that are consistent with the County's Strategic Planning Objective to Ingham County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Controller/Administrator has provided recommended funding levels for each agency, that were determined using the criteria set forth in Resolution #08-197.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the County Attorney to draft contracts for the period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, in the amount specified for each community agency listed on the attached, in accordance with the dollar amounts allocated in the 2009 Budget, as stated below, and for the services to Ingham County residents previously approved by the Human Services and Finance Committees.

Liaison Committee
Human Services Committee

2009 Budget Allocation
\$202,265

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Chairperson and County Clerk are authorized to sign the necessary documents after review by the County Attorney.

	Organization	Program	2009 GRANT REQUEST	2008 AMT.RECEIVED	2009 CONTROLLER RECOMMENDED	2009 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS	2009 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
1	Addiction Relief & Supported Recovery, Inc.	Joe & Shirley's Place-housing for individuals dealing with addiction*	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		
2	Boys & Girls Club of Lansing	At-Risk Youth Transportation Program*	\$7,897.00	\$7,897.00	\$7,897.00		
3	Capital Area Community Services, Inc.	Low Income Heating Assistance*	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00		
4	Capital Area Literacy Coalition	Literacy Services for Adults and Children*	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00		
5	Cristo Rey Community Center - NEW	Prescription Assistance*	\$4,000.00	n/a	\$4,000.00		
6	Ele's Place	Underwrite Participation of 12 Children in Middle School Grief Support Groups*	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00		
7	EVE, Inc.	Services for Victims of Domestic Violence*	\$15,540.00	\$7,860.00	\$14,028.50		
8	Garden Project of the Greater Lansing Food Bank	Gardening and Gleaning Programming*	\$5,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$5,500.00		
9	Gateway Community Services	Crossroads Homeless Teen Shelter*	\$15,299.00	\$11,000.00	\$15,299.00		
10	Haven House	Emergency Shelter for Homeless Families*	\$5,000.00	\$3,430.00	\$5,000.00		
11	Habitat for Humanity of Greater Ingham County (formerly Ingham East Habitat for Humanity, Inc)	Expansion of Construction Infrastructure*	\$9,835.04	\$4,015.00	\$7,164.50		
12	Legal Services of South Central Michigan	Legal Services for low-income persons*	\$40,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$20,226.00		
13	Leslie Outreach, Inc.	Food Pantry*	\$1,000.00	\$933.00	\$1,000.00		
14	National Council on Alcoholism/Lansing Regional Area, Inc.	Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Indigent Ingham County Residents*	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00		
15	Retired Senior and Volunteer Program - CAIR - NEW	Capital Area Interfaith Respite (CAIR)-respite for family caregivers*	\$2,700.00	n/a	\$2,700.00		
16	Refugee Development Center/Christ Lutheran Church	Vocational English as a Second Language Classes*	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00		
17	Rural Family Services of Ingham County	Support for families needing assistance with food, shelter, and utilities*	\$5,752.00	\$4,513.00	\$5,752.00		
18	Southside Community Kitchen - NEW	Feeding the Hungry*	\$2,000.00	n/a	\$2,000.00		
19	St. Vincent Catholic Charities/Ballentine Stepping Stones	Overcoming barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing*	\$5,000.00	\$2,031.00	\$3,623.50		
20	Stockbridge Community Outreach	Assistance with food,utilities, housing, prescriptions, and transportation*	\$2,000.00	\$1,805.00	\$2,000.00		
21	Women's Center of Greater Lansing, Inc.	Helping Women in Ingham County Attain Economic Well Being*	\$15,155.00	\$5,000.00	\$8,923.50		
22	City of East Lansing/ALFA Adult Day Services	Active Living for Adults	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00		
23	Cristo Rey Community Center	Roots and Wings Strengthening Families-anger management for teens	\$2,500.00	\$1,790.00	\$1,790.00		
24	Girl Scouts of Michigan Capital Council	OK2BU-helping girls overcome at-risk behaviors	\$2,000.00	\$1,846.00	\$1,846.00		
25	Lansing Area Aids Network	HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention Services	\$8,000.00	\$4,513.00	\$4,513.00		
26	Lansing Area Parents' Respite Center, Inc.	Lifespan Respite Program	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00		
27	Lansing Area Safety Council	Alive at 25-young driver intervention program	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00		
28	Listening Ear, Inc.	Ongoing Crisis Intervention	\$7,000.00	\$6,602.00	\$6,602.00		
29	MSU Detroit College of Law Clinical Programs	Maintaining Excellence in Community Outreach and Education	\$12,000.00	\$6,875.00	\$6,875.00		
30	New Way In, Inc.	New Way In Offender Program	\$7,100.00	\$6,025.00	\$6,025.00		
31	NorthWest Initiative	NorthWest Initiative's "Ex-Offender Outreach in the Neighborhoods	\$9,050.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00		
32	South Side Community Coalition	Southside Community Coalition Staffing Grant	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00		
33	Westside Community YMCA	"Y" Achievers Program-helping low income youth prepare for higher education	\$4,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		
34	Ingham Conservation District	General Operating Support	\$28,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$0.00		
		TOTAL	\$277,828.04		\$202,265.00		

Ingham County Board of Health

Administration, P.O. Box 30161, Lansing, Michigan 48909 Telephone: (517) 887-4489

Martha Adams
Jacqueline Day
Patricia Hepp
Mark Kieselbach
Maurice Reizen, M.D.
Saturnino Rodriguez, Ph.D.
George Rowan, Ph.D., Chair
Barry Saltman, M.D.
Beth Spyke
Donald Wasserman

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2008

September 25, 2008

Commissioner Marc Thomas
Chairperson, Ingham County Board of Commissioners
Ingham County Courthouse
341 S. Jefferson Street
Mason, MI 48854

Dear Commissioner Thomas:

As part of its effort to explore ways to improve the health of the people of Ingham County, the Ingham County Board of Health spent several meetings in 2007 and 2008 exploring the issue of food and weight. In the course of that exploration, we learned of recent efforts to improve coordination of local processes to distribute food to people on low incomes. We are also aware that the County Commissioners have reviewed recent reports on this subject, and that you offered several options to the key stakeholders in food distribution processes.

On behalf of the Board of Health, I am writing to applaud the options issued by the Board of Commissioners, and in particular to endorse the strategy of establishing a single entity to coordinate all food distribution efforts in the county. We believe that this matter is of critical importance to our community, particularly at a time when rising food and transport costs are putting more people at risk of going without food. We cannot afford to delay in bringing greater efficiency to the processes that ensure vulnerable Ingham County residents have ongoing access to nutritious food. We certainly cannot afford to allow turfism between agencies to inhibit the delivery of these vital resources. We support the establishment of a single coordinating entity for Ingham County food distribution systems, and we offer any assistance that we can provide in validating such a decision by the Board of Commissioners.

We also encourage all of the Commissioners to remain mindful of the complexity of food systems as

a whole, which encompass not only food distribution mechanisms for the poor, but also such stakeholders as farmers, markets, schools, food processors, and urban neighborhood-based farmer's markets. All of these should be seen as partners in addressing the larger questions of how we address hunger and poverty proactively and creatively in our county.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Rowan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" and last name "Rowan" clearly distinguishable.

George Rowan, Ph.D.
Chair, Ingham County Board of Health

cc: Greater Lansing Food Bank Director Sharon Krinock
American Red Cross Mid-Michigan Chapter Executive Director John Cauley