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Kent County Board of Commissioners Approves Contract for A Community Mental Health Consultant and Other Budget and Administrative Resolutions

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (Sept. 26, 2019) – The Kent County Board of Commissioners voted this morning to hire a consultant to analyze the community’s requirements and thoughts around crisis mental health services, validate the need for a crisis center, and recommend a financial plan to develop a center.

After an extensive review process, the national human service evaluation and management consulting company, TriWest Group, was selected to develop a plan for a quality and cost-effective community mental health crisis system.

In November of 2017, Network180 created a Crisis Center Task Force (CCTF) including representatives from health care systems, education, law enforcement, government, insurance providers, community advocates, and the mental health system. The task force was charged with studying the issue of mental health crisis care in our community and concluded:

- Kent County needs a centrally located all-hours crisis care center that immediately accepts all people without concern for payment type.
- Any crisis center should be created with the social determinants of health in mind and be prepared to help people deal with the stresses that are known to cause and/or exacerbate mental illness.

Upon completion of the report, the CCTF requested the [Kent County Population Health Consortium](#), a community-based initiative to address the health priorities of County residents, to take the lead in further examining and implementing the report’s recommendations. The hiring of an independent consultant to provide a five-year business plan for capital and operating revenue/expenses of a crisis center is the next step in the process.

“This has been a unifying and great collaborative process with leaders from across the health care community,” said Kent County Administrator Wayman Britt. “We look forward to rolling up our sleeves and getting to work to determine the best path forward to solve this complex community problem.”

Members of the Consortium – Forest View Hospital, Kent County Health Department, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Mercy Health Saint Mary’s, Metro Health University of Michigan Health, Network180, Spectrum Health, and Pine Rest Christian Mental Health – have all agreed to contribute financially to cover the

consulting fees and actively participate in the development of the plan that will result in a clinically-effective, cost-effective crisis system to serve the residents of Kent County.

It is anticipated TriWest Group will submit the final plan to the Kent County Population Health Consortium in mid -2020.

In addition to the approval of the mental health crisis center consultant, the Board acted on the following topics:

Child Care Fund Annual Plan for 2019-20

- The 17th Judicial Circuit Court – Family Division and the Kent County Department of Health and Human Services are required to prepare a plan showing how State Child Care Fund dollars will be spent by each agency. The plan encompasses in-home and out-of-home placement costs (e.g., foster care, detention, etc.) for children at risk of abuse or neglect as well as children determined to be delinquent.

Health Fund Budget Appropriation

The Board appropriated \$30,888,128 to the 2019-20 Health Fund budget and authorized the execution of the following grant agreements:

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) funds the Comprehensive Planning and Budgeting Contract, which is an annual agreement between the State and the County, to provide certain mandated public health services including immunizations, infectious and sexually transmitted disease control, hearing and vision screening, food protection, drinking water and on-site sewage monitoring, as well as several other state-funded programs.
- The Health Department administers additional grant programs for the Refugee grant program through MDHHS, Substance Abuse prevention programs through the Lakeshore Regional Entity and Network 180, a Lead Hazard Control grant from the City of Grand Rapids, and environmental health inspection programs through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- The Health Department also provides services that are funded primarily through fees and County General Fund appropriation for the Animal Shelter, Health Education and Promotion, and Laboratory services.
- Lastly, funding for a full-time Director of the Population Health Consortium and conversion of a part-time Animal Shelter Technician to full-time were included in this proposed budget.

Friend of the Court New Position

- A full-time position at the Friend of the Court beginning October 1, 2019 was approved to keep pace with the demand for child support audits. This position is funded by a five-year Title IV-D Grant Agreement with the State. If funding is eliminated or decreased, this position will be eliminated unless continuation funding is approved pursuant to County policy.

Project Agreements for Lowell Regional and Millennium Parks

- On March 22, 2018, the Board of Commissioners approved submittal of two grant requests to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) seeking funding to acquire approximately 122 acres of land to expand the Lowell Regional Park and four acres at the southwest corner of Maynard and Butterworth at Millennium Park. The MNRTF approved both projects and in order to proceed with the grant awards the Michigan Department of Natural Resources required a resolution for each grant indicating acceptance of the terms in the Project Agreement, including the appropriation of required funds.

Grant Agreements

Grant agreements for the Health Net of West Michigan-DentaQuest, Milk Meal Grant for the Juvenile Detention Center, 17th Circuit Court Mental Health Court Implementation, Office of Community Corrections, the Prosecutors' Youthful Sex Offender Treatment Program, Crime Victims' Rights Act and Title IV-E were approved.

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