CHAIRPERSON BRYAN CRENSHAW

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
DERRELL SLAUGHTER

VICE-CHAIRPERSON PRO-TEM RANDY MAIVILLE

COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE
EMILY STIVERS, CHAIR
VICTOR CELENTINO
MARK GREBNER
RYAN SEBOLT
DERRELL SLAUGHTER
ROBERT PEÑA
ROBIN NAEYAERT

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

THE COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M., IN CONFERENCE ROOM A, HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING, 5303 S. CEDAR, LANSING AND VIRTUALLY AT https://ingham.zoom.us/j/87805478336.

Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of the August 17, 2021 Minutes and March 2, 2021, April 20, 2021 and May 4, 2021 Closed Session Minutes
Additions to the Agenda
Limited Public Comment

		Budget Book
1.	Budget Hearings	Section-Page
	a. Tri-County Regional Planning	3-151
	b. Treasurer	3-119
	c. Road Department	3-114
	d. Register of Deeds	3-106
	e. Purchasing	3-97
	f. Innovation and Technology	3-92
	g. Human Resources	3-87
	h. Hotel/Motel	3-85
	i. Financial Services	3-80
	j. Farmland and Open Space Preservation Millage	3-77
	k. Facilities	3-64
	1. Equalization	3-62
	m. Economic Development	3-57
	n. Drain Commissioner	3-44
	o. County Clerk	3-20
	p. County Attorney	3-17
	q. Controller/Administrator	3-11
	r. Board of Commissioners	3-6
	s. Advisory Boards	
	1. Women's Commission	3-1
	2. Historical Commission	3-1
	3. Equal Opportunity Committee	3-1

2. <u>Final Ranking</u>

Announcements Public Comment Adjournment

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES OR SET TO MUTE OR VIBRATE TO AVOID 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.

COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE

August 17, 2021 Draft Minutes

Members Present: Stivers, Celentino, Grebner (arrived at 6:34 p.m.), Sebolt, Slaughter, Peña,

and Naeyaert.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth, Linda Vail, Jim Hudgins, Mark Fergason, Bill

Conklin, Terrie Spurlock, Karen Chase, Rod Villarreal, Kalynn Lyons, Lindsey Lubahn, Jim Hudgins, Deb Morrissey, Krystal Davis, Jennifer McNeely, Brooke Fobes, Erin Gallaway, Kieran Fallon, Lisa Watts, Cindy Bettenhausen, Erica Brenton, Dana Watson, Edward Mogyoros, Scott

Hendrickson, Becky Bennett, Gregg Todd, and Mary Konieczny.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stivers at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan. Virtual public participation was offered via Zoom at https://ingham.zoom.us/j/85175793675.

Approval of the July 20, 2021 Minutes and October 6, 2020, October 20, 2020 and November 5, 2020 Closed Session Minutes

CHAIRPERSON STIVERS STATED THAT, WITHOUT OBJECTION, THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2021 COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AS WELL AS THE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2020, OCTOBER 20, 2020, AND NOVEMBER 5, 2020 MEETINGS WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN. Absent: Commissioner Grebner.

Additions to the Agenda

Substitute -

9. Controller's Office

- b. Resolution Authorizing American Rescue Plan Funds for Premium Pay for Essential Ingham County Employees
- c. Controller's Office –Resolution Establishing COVID-19 Vaccinations or Weekly Testing Requirements for Ingham County Employees

Chairperson Stivers stated Commissioner Grebner had submitted a substitute resolution for Agenda Item 9c. She further stated the proposed substitute would be discussed later in the meeting.

Limited Public Comment

Mark Fergason, UAW Chief Steward, stated he was speaking in the absence of the UAW Chairperson, to express member concerns that have been brought to the Union in regards to Agenda Item 9c. He then listed the questions that members had presented to the Union on behalf of the members.

Commissioner Grebner arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Bill Conklin, Road Department Director, stated he would be retiring in October after fourteen years of service as director. He further stated he would like to recommend Kelly Jones, Road Department Director of Engineering, for the position and spoke of her expertise in bridge engineering and capabilities.

Commissioner Celentino stated Waverly Road.

Terrie Spurlock, County Employee, stated she was unvaccinated. She further stated she was unable to work from home during the pandemic and she had completed many tests and services on pregnant patients during the pandemic and had not contracted COVID-19.

Ms. Spurlock stated she was opposed to Agenda Item 9c, as the vaccine was not approved by the FDA, and she was concerned with the disclosure of health information and how it pertained to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). She further stated that people who have been vaccinated could still contract the virus and pass it on to others, and long-term side effects of the vaccine were still unknown.

Ms. Spurlock stated that her choice was to not get the vaccine at this time.

Karen Chase, County Employee, stated she had been a provider for four years and loved her job. She further stated that she wanted to echo Ms. Spurlock, as she did not approve of weekly testing, she was concerned about maintaining health privacy, and she had the right to make the decision regarding what was put in their bodies even if it contradicted a recommendation as autonomy was important to medical ethics.

Rod Villarreal, County Employee, stated that in his over 16 years of employment with the County, the Board of Commissioners had made some outstanding decisions, but the vaccine policy was not one of them. He further stated that the method in which this was presented was not cool.

Mr. Villarreal stated that the County had always made HIPAA a priority, but this policy made him feel violated. He further stated that to make him get tested in front of his peers likened it to a public "walk of shame" or a "scarlet letter," and he thought this was crossing the boundaries as something that should be a medical doctor's job and not the job of the Board of Commissioners, and it was a clear form of coercion.

Mr. Villarreal stated he felt singled out because of his private situations, whether it was medical or religious, which did not seem to follow the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) priorities of the County. He asked if DEI applied to his decision, and he questioned whether the notion of "my body, my choice" only applied when it was politically expedient.

Kalynn Lyons, County Employee, stated she had worked with the County for almost ten years, since she was in school and while she completed her advanced degrees. She further stated that she knew was a divisive topic, but she had done her own research and was the only person who had this degree for the department in which she works.

Ms. Lyons stated she had a lot of concerns, especially the vaccine's effect on fertility. She further stated that she worked in a clinic that did contact tracing and administered vaccines when asked, and at this point in time there have been concerns about the testing and that the testing itself can be seen as a scare tactic.

Ms. Lyons stated that this was supposed to be for the health of the people and her health was never put first during the pandemic. She further stated that at one point in time, she had to provide her own personal protective equipment for work.

Lindsey Lubahn, County Employee, stated that she was grateful for God's mercy, put her faith in God, and that included her decision to not receive the vaccine. She further stated that the peer reviewed studies of the vaccines have stated that there was potential for great benefits, but also potential for serious consequences.

Ms. Lubahn stated that testing was never needed for employees during the pandemic and this was coercion, which would cause segregation in the workplace. She further stated that data had shown that people could still get the virus, so she questioned why all employees would not be required to get tested.

Ms. Lubahn stated that she had respect for her coworkers and would not come to work if she was sick, and she was also concerned about her workload if she tested positive and was concerned about false positive results. She further stated that employers would not require her to undergo chemotherapy if she had cancer, so she does not know why, if someone was concerned about contracting the virus and took all of the precautions they felt necessary, anyone had a say in her health choices.

Commissioner Grebner stated he arrived at 6:31 and the doors to the building were locked. He further stated that he was told to go away, which was illegal.

Deb Morrissey, County Employee, stated that she chose to be vaccinated for personal reasons and the employer did not have the right to enforce anything, per the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. She further stated that she was concerned what would come next and where it would end.

Ms. Morrissey stated that if the Board of Commissioners passed the resolution, the County would assume responsibility. She further stated that there was still more to learn and education was key.

Krystal Davis, County Employee, stated that she was unnerved that the employees were not notified that this meeting was happening. She further stated that it took away the employees' choice, and while she understood, she thought incentivizing employees should be tried before mandating vaccinations. She further stated she was concerned that if employees chose not to be vaccinated, they could be terminated.

Jennifer McNeely, County Employee, stated she was proud of the work she has done with the County Treasurer and did not enjoy having to speak on behalf of her colleagues. She further stated that this needed to be in State Law. She further stated that she was concerned about the vaccine exemption process and the process by which the Board of Commissioners would figure out who was vaccinated.

Brooke Fobes, County Employee, stated she appreciated the opportunity to work for the County and she was honored to be here and serve our community and those who could not get vaccinated. She further stated she might be the first to speak in support of the resolution, because it was a public health interest and we needed to protect each other.

Ms. Fobes stated that she heard the need for communication and supported that and respected peoples' choice. She further stated that there was a strong recommendation to get vaccinated from the American Hospital Association and all hospitals around the state were requiring vaccinations, which was necessary when doing patient care.

Erin Gallaway, County Employee, stated that the County should trust its employees and a vaccine mandate would be bad for employee morale. She further stated that she was concerned what would happen in future public health situations if this was approved, for instance, during a Hepatitis C outbreak.

Ms. Galloway asked if people who were on unemployment needed to get tested, and there were breakthrough cases occurring which could change things. She further stated that she felt sorry that the Board of Commissioners was causing irreparable harm, and no one should be forced to take the vaccine.

Kieran Fallon, County Employee, stated he was vaccinated and he supported the mandated vaccinations as it was important. He further stated that people were claiming that the State or County did not have the right to mandate vaccines, but there has been legal precedent in the past.

Mr. Fallon stated that he wanted to do everything we could, and he understood that people have concerns, as he had concerns too. He further stated that there was no evidence that this impacted fertility to women at all, and he would rather take the chance his child being vaccinated.

Lisa Watts, County Employee, stated she wanted to thank the Board of Commissioners who had worked hard during the pandemic to help families and employees. She further stated that this was

well within the County's right to mandate the vaccine or testing, and while the full FDA approval of the vaccines was pending, the proof was in the pudding of the millions of doses that had been administered so far.

Ms. Watts stated that the vaccine was never supposed to stop people from contracting COVID-19, but rather to mitigate the symptoms so people did not die. She further stated that she appreciated everyone who had received the vaccine so far to help protect those with high risk and who were unable to receive the vaccine, as this was a public health issue.

Cindy Bettenhausen, stated she had emailed her statement to the Board of Commissioners and she hoped they would consider her points.

Erica Brenton, County Employee, stated that she was not an "anti-vaxxer," but she was against mandates. She further stated that many County employees were willingly being vaccinated and those that were not were being discriminated against.

Ms. Brenton stated that the vaccine efficacy was not 100% and the proposal did not guarantee the safety of the workers but did create a burden and undue stress. She further stated that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) had determined that masking was an effective way to prevent infection.

Dana Watson, County Employee, stated she was uncomfortable for her colleagues when the director had asked for their vaccination status and supervisors followed up if the survey was not completed. She further stated that union representation should have been present at the meeting.

Edward Mogyoros, County Employee and TPOAM Chief Steward, stated he had spoken with union members who had voiced strict opposition to Agenda Item 9c. He further stated he believed the policy was akin to a witch hunt that singled out unvaccinated individuals including those who had a natural immunity due to having already contracted the virus and eliminated the right to his own body.

Mr. Mogyoros stated his concern regarding the potential to have booster vaccines mandated in the future and would like to have more information as to if county employees will be guinea pigs to developmental vaccines and requested the Committee address answers to the policy questions himself and others have voiced.

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS:

1. <u>Innovation & Technology Department</u> – Resolution to Authorize the Reorganization of the Innovation & Technology Department

2. Drain Commissioner

a. Resolution to Allocate \$150,000 in American Rescue Plan Funds to Fund the Locating, Establishing, and Constructing of the Blue-Spotted Salamander Drain

- Resolution to Endorse Drain Commissioner's Request for State and Federal COVID-19 Relief and Infrastructure Funds to Fund the Maintenance and Improvements to Montgomery Drain that are Necessary for Public Health
- 3. <u>Public Defender's Office</u> Resolution to Authorize a Grant between the State of Michigan, Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC), Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and Ingham County to Provide Funding to Assist the County in Complying with the Compliance Plan and Cost Analysis Approved by MIDC and Creating Two New Grant Funded Positions
- 5. <u>Facilities Department</u> Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Tower Pinkster for the Professional Design Services of the CRAC Units at the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center

6. Road Department

- a. Resolution to Approve a Local Road Agreement with Lansing Township and to Amend Contract 30-21, Item III, with Michigan Paving and Materials Company to Resurface Kalamazoo Street, West of Grace to Hungerford Streets in Lansing Township
- b. Resolution to Increase Local Funding Participation in Relation to a State and Federally Funded Project on Okemos Road from Jolly Road to Central Park Drive
- 7. <u>Health Department</u> Resolution to Authorize Additional Positions for the Allen Neighborhood CHC

8. <u>Human Resources</u>

- a. Authorization to Start a Managerial and Confidential Ingham County Road Department Director of Operations Above Step 2
- b. Resolution to Approve Generic Service Credit Purchase for County Employee: Selina Marie Wood (fka Monroe)
- c. Resolution to Approve an Additional Modification to Appendix D Compensation Levels of the Managerial and Confidential Employee Personnel Manual for 2021 as a Result of a Reclassification Request

9. Controller's Office

a. Resolution to Approve American Rescue Fund Grant Requests from North Ingham Emergency Services Authority and Stockbridge Area Emergency Services Authority

10. Board of Commissioners

- a. Resolution Honoring City of East Lansing Mayor Jessy Gregg
- b. Resolution Supporting Michigan Senate Bills 242 and 245 that Extend County Commissioner Terms to Four Years
- c. Resolution to Recognize August 2021 as Breastfeeding Awareness Month in Ingham County

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. <u>Health Department/Sheriff's Office</u> – Jail Medical Update

Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth, County Sheriff, provided an update in regards to the vacant positions in the Jail Medical Clinic.

Linda Vail, Health Director, provided an update in regards to the challenges with filling the vacant positions in the Jail Medical Clinic.

Commissioner Celentino stated Ms. Vail should not think about feeling like a failure. He further stated his appreciation of both departments' transparency and frustration with the long-term issue, and was hopeful to see options that did not include privatization.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated there was no reason for Ms. Vail to feel like a failure and understood the frustration. She further stated this was a priority issue, and would like to receive comparatively sized counties data from the Controller so she could reach out to gain insight on how those counties handle Jail medical staffing.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated it was important to listen to what the Sheriff and Health Director requested of and presented as options to the Committee.

Commissioner Sebolt stated Ms. Vail should not feel like a failure and appreciated the multiple efforts the Sheriff has made to remedy the issue. He further stated he would be against privatization due to the recent outbreak that was caused by the food service vendor, and will have many questions that will be asked if it is presented as an option as it is the duty of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Grebner stated the staffing issue was at no fault of Ms. Vail, as it has been an issue for over 45 years. He further stated all should feel triumphant in the attempts that have been made, as many outside contracts have existed and many will need to be created or fixed in the future.

Commissioner Grebner stated the committee could consider requesting any current qualified medical staff to be a substitute staff member in tandem with offering a financial bonus upon agreeing to provide supplemental support. He further stated allowing inmates to die at the hands of the Jail was worse than privatizing.

Chairperson Stivers asked if people were not receiving the care they needed.

Sherriff Wriggelsworth stated the current needs of the inmates were met and were taken to Sparrow during times where county staffing issues created a barrier to care which resulted in an increased risk in security issues and financial burden while drastically decreasing the time the department had to do their currently assigned jobs. . He further stated there was not an emergency where inmates were unable to access secure care.

Chairperson Stivers stated she wanted to make resolving the issue a priority as the Chairperson of the Committee, as the current situation was unacceptable and must be fixed. She further stated she would be open to exploring increases in the Jail Medical Clinic staff salaries even if it meant negotiations with collective bargaining units, signing bonuses, new job classifications, or a trusted local partnership with private providers instead of privatization with a national vendor.

9. Controller's Office

b. Resolution Authorizing American Rescue Plan Funds for Premium Pay for Essential Ingham County Employees

MOVED BY COMM. GREBNER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Sebolt stated he was employed by the Michigan AFL-CIO, which advocated for premium pay at the State level.

Commissioner Celentino asked for reasoning for the substitute resolution.

Gregg Todd, County Controller, stated it was better to list "all eligible employees" instead of forgetting a specific Bargaining Unit. He further stated the resolution was also amended to state the American Rescue Plan rule that employees who worked entirely remote were not eligible for premium pay.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. <u>Controller's Office</u>

c. Controller's Office –Resolution Establishing COVID-19 Vaccinations or Weekly Testing Requirements for Ingham County Employees

Commissioner Celentino stated the resolution had a proposed substitute from Commissioner Grebner and preferred that resolution more than what was submitted by the Controller. He further stated it was important to receive input from Collective Bargaining Units before a resolution was passed.

MOVED BY COMM. GREBNER TO APPROVE THE SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COMMISSIONER GREBNER.

THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SUPPORT.

MOVED BY COMM. SEBOLT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CELENTINO, TO APPROVE THE SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED BY THE CONTROLLER'S OFFICE.

Discussion.

MOVED BY COMM. CELENTINO, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SEBOLT, TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION, AUTHORIZING THE CONTROLLER AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH EACH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT IN GOOD FAITH TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREEMENT FOR A VACCINATION POLICY AND TO BRING IT BACK TO THE RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES FOR CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION WHEN AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED.

Discussion.

Commissioner Sebolt stated his support of the concept of the resolution. He further stated it was imperative to receive buy-in from the employees that would be affected, and that Collective Bargaining Units should meet with the Controller before the resolution was voted upon.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated she believed collective bargaining units and supported having a conversation before a resolution was considered.

Chairperson Stivers stated the resolution was already contingent upon Union approval.

Commissioner Sebolt stated the policy would be edited if the resolution passed or was tabled and preferred to wait to only pass one resolution that included everything.

Chairperson Stivers stated she was concerned about the time it would take have the policy in place if the resolution were tabled.

Chairperson Stivers asked Ms. Vail to provide insight to the projected trends on infection and vaccination rates.

Ms. Vail stated the fall and school year were approaching which caused rapid growth and concern, similar to the fall of last year. She further stated her major concerns with waiting to pass a resolution included the upcoming school year and threat of the Delta Variant.

Commissioner Grebner stated he opposed tabling the resolution because his substitute resolution that failed would address the issues that had been presented.

Chairperson Stivers stated she would like to edit the substitute resolution to include the final two "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED" portions from the failed resolution from Commissioner Grebner.

Commissioner Sebolt stated the proper way to approve a resolution like this was to bring in all Collective Bargaining Units before taking any vote on the resolution. He further stated some version of the resolution would be passed in the future.

Chairperson Stivers asked what percentage of County Employees were unionized.

Gregg Todd, County Controller, stated he would need to research that answer, but guessed Unionized employees made up close to 80% of Ingham County employees.

Chairperson Stivers asked if a resolution could be passed that would cover the non-unionized employees.

Commissioner Sebolt stated the collective bargaining units were concerned of the safety and wellbeing for all employees and should be considered before making a decision that would affect any portion of employees.

Chairperson Stivers stated she was not against unions and was a fan of unions and a fan of people not dying. She further stated she felt they had a moral imperative to protect employees and the public.

Ms. Vail stated the resolutions could and should be passed and noted there were many conversations that will need to be had in regards to the required logistics behind enacting the resolution once approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Sebolt stated tabling a resolution did not prevent the departments to begin enacting the necessary planning.

Commissioner Celentino stated his agreement with Commissioner Sebolt. He further stated tabling the resolution showed the Board of Commissioners valued the input of employees.

Chairperson Stivers asked Ms. Vail if she would be able to return on September 21 with a plan to present to the Committee.

Ms. Vail stated yes.

THE MOTION CARRIED. **Yeas:** Stivers, Celentino, Sebolt, Slaughter, Peña, Naeyaert. **Navs:** Grebner. **Absent:** None.

Commissioner Grebner asked if his resolution would be on the next agenda.

Chairperson Stivers stated she expected elements from both resolutions would be used in September.

10. Board of Commissioners

d. Amending Vendor Policy to Ensure Vendor Employees are Vaccinated at or Above Ingham County Vaccination Rates (*Discussion*)

Commissioner Sebolt stated he wanted to explore the options and logistics of amending Vendor policy to have vaccine requirements for their employees.

Commissioner Grebner stated additional clarification as to which Vendors would be affected.

Commissioner Sebolt stated he wanted it to be as broad as possible and cover any vendor the County had a contract with, and proposed something akin to local preference agreements or additional incentives that could be leveraged.

Commissioner Grebner stated it made his head hurt to refuse a contract with CATA due to not meeting vaccination requirements.

Commissioner Celentino asked if the County Attorney had provided legal counsel.

Mr. Todd stated Corporate Counsel had been contacted and advised the County could ask if a Vendor complied but had no legal grounds to Verify.

Jim Hudgins, Purchasing Director, stated the first step in the process would be to define what a vendor would be required to adhere to the policy. He further stated it was important to consider the different categories of vendors, both purchasing and non-purchasing.

Commissioner Sebolt stated he wanted the policy to cover any vendor that was providing service on behalf of the County to be included. He further stated he believed there was a way to create a policy that would work.

Chairperson Stivers stated she agreed with Commissioner Sebolt.

Mr. Todd stated Mr. Hudgins would draft a resolution.

Commissioner Grebner suggested the vendor could provide self-certification of adherence to the updated policies under oath. He further stated corporations had many evils but tried to not violate the laws in ways that could get them caught.

Chairperson Stivers requested a resolution be presented at the next meeting.

Announcements

Commissioner Sebolt stated many of the public comments from tonight contained misinformation in regards to vaccination. He further stated vaccines had been proven to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 by 80% and every time the virus was transmitted it had a chance to mutate, leading to a mutation that would be inherently immune to any vaccine.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that every step we can take to control the spread of the virus was to save lives and protect people who were unable to get vaccinated due to health or religious reasons. He further stated when people chose to not get vaccinated they put lives at risk and was deeply disappointed by misinformation that was spread during public comment.

Commissioner Peña stated he had learned in a briefing from the Health Director the local hospital's ICU did not have any children on ventilators. He further stated Dallas Texas Children's hospital has a waiting list. He further stated the situation is dire and time is critical.

Commissioner Grebner stated the general constitutional power for a Government to impose vaccination requirements was unquestioned. He further stated similar or stricter decisions had been made for the sake of public safety during the Bubonic Plague, Smallpox, and Yellow Fever.

Chairperson Stivers stated, in response to some concerns that were expressed in public comment, the only exceptions to Agenda Item 9c that would be considered was for health or religion. She further stated it was not a vaccine mandate at the point where you have the option of choosing testing instead of getting the vaccine.

Chairperson Stivers stated the proposed testing should be rapid, private, and confidential, and would not create a situation within County facilities of segregation as a result of co-workers knowing a vaccination status. She further stated the testing was private there were drop sites for your weekly results that were made to be convenient to use and were located at the Health Department, as well as one potentially set up at the courthouse in Mason.

Chairperson Stivers stated it would be super easy for unvaccinated employees to go to a provider of their choice in order to get tested. She further stated, as a result of the plan in place, there would not be a situation of discrimination or any issues of inequity based on vaccination status, however; it should be a little bit annoying to have to get tested every week, instead of getting vaccinated, if it was an employee's choice and not a medical or religious reason to not getting the vaccine.

Chairperson Stivers stated she had to make a decision by Friday on whether her kids would go to school in two weeks and did not know what to do, because people in her community are not getting vaccinated and not protecting her children. She further stated anything that we can do any small thing that we can do to encourage vaccinations within county, we have to do, because kids had to go back to school, and parents could not keep homeschooling because it was too hard.

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None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.