

GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A REDUCTION IN SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION AND INCREASED WATER CONSUMPTION AS A PRIORITY STRATEGY TO IMPROVE HEALTH IN FLINT AND GENESEE COUNTY

WHEREAS, sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) including soda, fruit punches, sports drinks, energy drinks, sweetened tea, and other carbonated or uncarbonated drinks that are sweetened with sugar, corn syrup, or other caloric sweeteners are the largest source of added sugar in the American diet today;

WHEREAS, Genesee County has a 36% adult obesity rate compared to 32% for the state of Michigan and 25% as the national benchmark and sugar-sweetened beverages are linked to more than 180,000 obesity-related deaths worldwide each year;

WHEREAS, a significant increase over the past 3 decades of caloric intake from Sugar-sweetened beverages includes an increased average portion size (from 13.6 ounces to 21 ounces) and an increased number of servings per day (from 1.96 to 2.39);

WHEREAS, since 1965, sugar-sweetened beverage consumption has increased significantly: Approximately a 100% increase for children (from 94 calories per day to 191 calories per day) and approximately a 250% increase for adults (from 55 calories per day to 195 calories per day);

WHEREAS, over consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages contributes to a myriad of chronic diseases and health conditions for both children and adults, including obesity, diabetes, hypertension, dental health and coronary heart disease;

WHEREAS, each additional 12-ounce soft drink consumed per day by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%;

WHEREAS, scientific evidence suggests that sugar sweetened beverages contribute to the epidemic of obesity in the U.S., with the effects observed to be strongest in children;

WHEREAS, the Greater Flint Health Coalition is a nonprofit Michigan collective impact organization whose mission is to improve the health status of the residents of Genesee County and to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of the health care system in Genesee County;

WHEREAS, the Greater Flint Health Coalition's strategic business plan has a focus area of Health Improvement with a goal to promote and advocate for policies and practices at multiple levels of society that engage our community's residents in healthy behaviors;

WHEREAS, the Greater Flint Health Coalition's *County Health Rankings Action Plan* identified an increase of healthy food access and improved nutrition and diet in workplaces, campuses, and other community settings as a strategy to be implemented to improve health behaviors in Genesee County;

WHEREAS, the Greater Flint Health Coalition seeks to support a reduction in sugar-sweetened beverage consumption and to promote the increased consumption of water, a readily accessible, calorie free and healthy alternative to SSBs as a strategy to improve the practice of healthy behaviors;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Greater Flint Health Coalition, composed of representatives and leadership from Genesee County's hospitals, physicians, healthcare providers, health insurers, business, government, educators and schools, organized labor, and community residents, strongly support a community-wide reduction in sugar-sweetened beverage consumption in Genesee County and Flint as it would: contribute to a decrease in the overall rates of overweight and obesity, encourage healthy behavior alternatives such as increased water consumption, and significantly decrease the likelihood of illness, disease, and death among residents due to the scientifically documented harmful side-effects of high consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

THIS RESOLUTION has been adopted effective February 9, 2015.



Peter Levine, Secretary