

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION

TO RECOMMEND THAT GENESEE COUNTY'S APPROPRIATION TO THE GENESEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BE MAINTAINED AT ITS CURRENT LEVEL FOR THE FORTHCOMING 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL CUTS IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ITS ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY ROLE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN GENESEE COUNTY BY PREVENTING DISEASE, PROMOTING HEALTH, AND PROTECTING THE PUBLIC FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TO HEALTH.

WHEREAS, the Greater Flint Health Coalition was founded in 1992 to examine the health and health care issues in Genesee County, Michigan;

WHEREAS, the Greater Flint Health Coalition is a nonprofit Michigan corporation 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 business plan has an overriding focus to "improve health status" of all Genesee County residents;

WHEREAS, the Genesee County Health Department is member of the Greater Flint Health Coalition representing the Government sector;

WHEREAS, the Genesee County Health Department is the local government entity with a sole responsibility and mission to improve the quality of life in Genesee County by preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the public from environmental hazards to health;

WHEREAS, the Genesee County Health Department is mandated to provide the following ESSENTIAL SERVICES to the community and its residents:

- Monitor health status to identify community health problems and prevent outbreaks and illness in Genesee County;
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in Genesee County;

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- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts such as smoking regulation, water well and septic system regulations, and restaurant health code inspection in Genesee County;
- Enforce laws and regulation that protect individual and collective health and ensure safety through license, permits, and inspections in Genesee County;
- Link individuals, families, and children to critical personal health services and assure the provision of health care to residents when otherwise unavailable;
- Prevent, prepare for, and respond to public health emergencies in Genesee County.

WHEREAS, consecutive prior year reductions in the County's appropriation to the Genesee County Health Department has already placed adequate delivery of these essential services at significant risk in Genesee County, as follows:

- The current 2010-2011 appropriation was reduced by 46.8%, or approximately \$2.4 million from 2009-2010, resulting in 30 fewer staff positions;
- The permanent closing of the Health Department's McCree North location;
- The consolidation of the delivery of WIC services (a health and nutrition program for women, infants, and children) to a single county site for all residents;
- The reduction in sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinic services to only three days per week for all residents;
- The consolidation of immunization clinic walk-in services resulting in significant daily access issues for residents in need;
- The loss of all staff for the Fetal Infant Mortality Review program;
- The consolidation of family planning services with breast and cervical cancer screening programs;
- The institution of significantly longer wait times for all essential services provided to Genesee County's most at-risk residents.

WHEREAS, due to prior year appropriation reductions as highlighted, (for comparison purposes) Genesee County, with a population of 436,000 has a health department staff of 97, which is less than Saginaw County, with a population of 210,000 (~48% of Genesee County's population), which has a health department staff of 100.

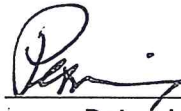
WHEREAS, the national *County Health Rankings* study of 2011 has ranked Genesee County 79 of 82 Michigan counties in Morbidity, 74 of 82 Michigan counties in Mortality, and 82 of 82 Michigan counties in Health Behaviors.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Greater Flint Health Coalition has taken the position by consensus that further County funding appropriation reductions to the

Genesee County Health Department could potentially have catastrophic public health impacts on Genesee County residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Greater Flint Health Coalition strongly recommend to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners that the 2011-2012 Genesee County appropriation to the Genesee County Health Department be maintained at its current level without any additional cuts in order to allow the Health Department to continue to provide its essential community role to improve the quality of life in Genesee County by preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the public from environmental hazards to health.

THIS RESOLUTION has been adopted effective September 19, 2011 and thereby encourages its members support this request made to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter', is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Levine, Secretary