

Regular Meeting #20 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
May 5, 2020

Review

The Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, John Kochis, Jeff Porter, Laura Holton, Aunie Cordle, Dennis Lowe, Heather Shields, Tony Vogel, Jon Slater, and Innerphase Video. Joining via teleconference were Tom Lininger, Erin Frost, Todd McCullough, Joshua Horacek, Rick Szabrak, Larry Hanna, and Amy Brown-Thompson.

- Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone in attendance. This meeting was held at the EMA conference room on Baldwin Avenue in Lancaster. The EMA conference room was large enough to allow for public participation while maintaining physical distancing.

- COVID-19 Update

Mr. Kochis provided an update on the antibody tests. FEMA Region V originally believed the testing did not meet guidelines for reimbursement. FEMA V reached out to DC, and we still await an answer. The DC office indicated they have had several requests from across the country regarding the reimbursement of antibody testing.

Mr. Davis stated that the Governor's Office issued new guidelines regarding COVID-19 diagnostic testing. Mr. Davis believes the new testing is of no consequence to Fairfield County. The corrections officers still cannot get tested. Mr. Davis stated the only choice the county is being given is for disaster to strike and to then react.

Mr. Kochis stated he believed corrections officers fit into priority two, but it must be a designation by the local health official.

Mr. Davis stated he spoke with Dr. Aebi this weekend. Dr. Aebi does not believe the science is where it needs to be for antibody testing. He also does not believe that asymptomatic corrections officers qualify for testing. Mr. Davis reported Dr. Brown has submitted grant applications that would provide a funding source, and State Senator Schaffer advised that the State Senate could vote as early as tomorrow to send \$350,000,000 to local governments, with the potential of Fairfield County receiving about \$1,000,000; however the guidelines would still be the same as the federal guidelines mandating the money had to be spent on COVID-19 expenses. Mr. Davis reported he had additional conversation with Congressman Stivers who is hopeful the next bill that comes from Congress related to the pandemic will relax some of the requirements and will allow for funding to be used to address lost revenues.

Mr. Kochis stated the things they are able to purchase and who they can give them to are still limited. There is no guidance on whether or not they can give PPE to local veterinarians and dentists. They have to do what the state and federal guidance says even though it is not capturing the whole picture.

Mr. Levacy stated the FDA is about to approve antibody testing that is very accurate and asked Mr. Kochis about that.

Mr. Kochis replied that several tests have been approved with a level of accuracy.

Mr. Levacy believes the FDA approval is important to know the results are accurate.

Mr. Kochis agreed and stated there were issues of making the testing affordable to local governments.

Mr. Davis stated that Dr. Aebi is concerned about the antibody testing reliability yet believes a test with a good level of reliability will come sometime in June. Mr. Davis

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stated that Mr. Aebi does not disagree with what the county wants to do in being proactive.

Mr. Fix asked if the tests were available today.

Mr. Kochis replied they were.

Mr. Fix asked if the data would be valuable.

Mr. Kochis stated there is value in that those who had had the virus and have antibodies could donate plasma, for example. They, however, do not want there to be a sense of immunity when they do not know if the virus can be contracted again or not. Also, the antibody test would show if there is a level of antibodies that would require diagnostic testing.

Mr. Davis stated that the county is prohibited from diagnostic testing locally, and they are working on figuring out the financial structure of purchasing the antibody testing.

Mr. Davis added that Dr. Aebi does not believe antibody testing is an effective tool unless it is repeated. Mr. Davis believes there is a difference in opinion from a health professional prospective and the perspective of the Commission. He feels he is being advised there has to be a Marion County situation before they can respond. Mr. Davis asked Mr. Hanna if he had information to add to this topic of discussion.

Mr. Hanna stated he did not have much to add. He believes the Commission understands the situation. The antibody testing does have some value. The current testing flags coronavirus but does not necessarily say it is COVID-19, which is why he believes in two to three weeks, the testing will be able to show COVID-19.

Mr. Fix asked that that Mr. Kochis and Mr. Hanna work with the Sheriff's Office to see what their policies and procedures are and how they are in place to avoid a Marion County situation.

Mr. Kochis stated that he believed that was reviewed last week, as well. He also noted that Fairfield County is different than Marion, as in Marion the corrections officers come and go; but in a jail, the inmates come and go quickly.

Mr. Davis added he is not blaming Dr. Aebi, but he is frustrated with the state and federal governments for being four months into the pandemic and not having adequate access to testing.

Dr. Brown stated the testing protocol was in the review packet, noting that we indicated we needed more information on the efficacy of the antibody testing as well as the potential financial resources for the testing, whether that would be federal funds (passing through the state or not) or insurance funding. From an administrative perspective, once we have that information, we can move forward as necessary. The antibody testing would be voluntary.

Mr. Davis asked if there were more COVID-19 updates.

Mr. Hanna updated everyone that there were 153 cases, 27 hospitalizations, and 3 deaths in Fairfield County. The onset date range was as early as March 8th. 101 individuals have recovered. The numbers are very slowly trending down. There may be a spike here and there as parts of the economy are reopened. They will deal with those quickly and can then continue the downward trend, hopefully.

Mr. Kochis added that the hospital is the testing center for the majority of the county. Of 906 cases, 851 have been negative, and 54 have been positive. As asymptomatic testing occurs, the numbers will change. The number of diagnostic tests the county gets is increasing.

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Mr. Hanna stated they have about 250 testing supplies on hand and are expected to get another 50 today.

Mr. Levacy asked what the turnaround time for testing was.

Mr. Kochis relied it is typically 24 hours, including private labs.

Mr. Fix asked if there was anything the county should be doing to protect the employees and public that they are not doing today.

Mr. Kochis replied there was nothing more and that the county was doing more than they needed to.

Mr. Hanna commended everyone for their work as the numbers in Fairfield County are low in terms of the cases.

Mr. Fix thanked Mr. Kochis and Mr. Hanna for their work.

- Legal Update

Mr. Horacek stated that Mr. Lininger responded to Mr. Fix directly on the question from last week. The Prosecutor's Office does not represent the political parties, and they suggested they reach out to the Secretary of State or private counsel with questions.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Date Reminders

We wore orange on May 5 in honor of Supervised Visitation Awareness.

Anyone can email or text a question anytime:

Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov

(740) 777-8552

Date Reminders and Calendar Review

- May 25 – Memorial Day Holiday – Offices are Closed for Business
- June 5 – Wear Purple – Honor of Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 12 resolutions for the voting meeting.

We had a resolution to approve multiple proclamations. Proclamations were prepared for: Foster Care and Adoption, Fraud Prevention, Peace Officer Memorial Day, Supervised Visitation, Mental Health Awareness, Stepping Up Awareness, Military Awareness, Older Adult Month, In Demand Jobs Week, Career Signing Awareness, and Elder Abuse Prevention.

There were three resolutions to approve from the County Engineer for a bridge replacement project in Liberty Township:

- the contract with J&J Bridge Company, Inc. for the LIB-45, FAI-TR235-0.966 Poplar Creek Road over Poplar Creek Bridge Replacement Project;
- the notice to commence for the LIB-45 Bridge Replacement Project; and
- a related license agreement with ODNR.

There were *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve, such as:

- An extension of an advance for MCU;

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- An agreement for the DYS grant for Juvenile Court;
- Interest credits for March for the Health Department and Parks District;
- An account to account transfer for Juvenile Court (grant funds); and
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds (and accounting measures) for the County Engineer and Utilities (three resolutions).

There were additional financial and contracting resolutions in queue.

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

The review packet contained a list of administrative approvals. No questions were posed.

Operations During the Pandemic

We are providing critical services in a safe manner. Most services will be by appointment so that we can all manage physical distancing requirements. Teleworking (which has been effective) will continue.

Rachel Elsea, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, tweeted and sent a press release about our plans. We are:

- maintaining teleworking and alternate scheduling whenever possible.
- scheduling meetings, hearings, and appointments in ways that will help us maintain physical distancing.
- preparing our workplace with masks, cleaning supplies, and plexiglass barriers.
- using technology for services whenever possible.
- maintaining a high degree of service for the public.
- following current guidance of the Governor's Office and the federal government.

We will monitor all guidance (from state and federal agencies) -and- we will review this plan often. While the documents were under review, there was positive feedback about the guidance on work practices.

The guidance includes the key aspects of distancing from one another, disinfecting the workplace, and using masks (and barriers).

About 90% of JFS staff or 200 employees are working remotely and are accomplishing assigned tasks for the public very well.

In the near future, a plan to open up the Ohio Means Job Center will be devised so that customers can access personal support and computers.

Ways You Can Help During COVID-19

1. In any denomination, you can donate to the Fairfield County Foundation: fairfieldcountyfoundation.org
2. In any denomination, you can donate to the United Way: uwayfairfieldco.org
3. To encourage others, you can send a note to the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Agency or to the Sheriff's Office.

You can also participate in the "Drive In and Drop Off" Food Drive on Thursday, May 7, from 4:15 – 5 pm at JFS to support the Salvation Army food pantry.

Board of Revision Update

Earlier we discussed the Board of Revision schedule. We have been notified by the County Auditor's Office that there are more hearings expected beyond the

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original projections. The assignments for the Commission were in the review packet. The BOR anticipated using an "opt in" approach for video conferencing and is seeking large conference space to hold hearings, potentially at the Records Center.

Budget Update

Mr. Davis stated the county needs to continue the process of taking actions in response to the projected reduction in revenue. There are differences in opinion in the extent of the expected loss. He expects the loss will be higher than the projection of \$3.2M in 2020.

One concept discussed between Dr. Brown and Mr. Davis is the potential of some employees of Facilities Management being temporarily transferred to the Utilities Department. This would help conserve resources of the general fund while offering expertise to the Utilities Department. The skills would transfer very well to mowing, general maintenance, cleaning, and project management. The Utilities Department has as need based on their workload.

For about half of the year, this would result in more than \$192,000 conserved, and this would make a difference in the overall plan. Employees would need to recognize that services of the Facilities Management area could be delayed a bit, based on their availability.

Mr. Vogel stated that from a financial perspective, the Utilities Department has not slowed down on their activity and are seeing increases in usage. The construction of new houses has not slowed down and should get busier as contractors start doing more work. Access to the additional employees will be very helpful as there are a number of things that are not being done now due to limited staff. Some of those tasks include flushing hydrants and inspecting manholes.

Mr. Levacy stated the willingness across the county to share employees as needed (along with the willingness of the employees to take on those tasks) is to be commended.

Mr. Keller shared how operations will change in his department. This is very doable for the department. For half of the time they will do some of the Utilities tasks that the department is already familiar with. Most of the tasks are not anything unusual for them. They even work nearby Utilities buildings. They will use the FMX system to schedule work. They may fall behind on some building tasks for county buildings as they try to hit a target of 50% of the time spent on Utilities work, but they will prioritize projects.

Mr. Levacy echoed his sentiments from Mr. Vogel's update, thanking Mr. Keller for his willingness to work with this plan.

Mr. Fix thanked Mr. Keller for his willingness to share his team. He asked how backlogged they will get, and is it stuff that can be pushed back without causing long term programs?

Mr. Keller replied they would prioritize critical needs and repairs while setting aside renovations, redecorating, or painting. They will keep the mechanics and bathrooms working, prioritizing those things. They may fall behind on some of the mowing, but the grass growth will slow down later in the year.

While this is a change the County Administrator can make, Dr. Brown would like the blessing of the Commission prior to moving forward. There are still details to organize as we plan for a June 6 date to implement the new work assignments.

Commissioners Davis, Levacy, and Fix were all in favor of this temporary change.

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Mr. Davis stated this still leaves the Commission a fair amount away from addressing the revenue losses. The Commission came into the year with a good carry over. They will be able to use some of it, but they should not use it all. There have been many conversations with Dr. Brown with many ideas being considered. The main goal has always been to maintain services as long as possible and if they can avoid furloughs or layoffs throughout the balance of the year, they would like to do that.

Mr. Davis commented that one of the other concepts to explore is changing the employee share for health insurance from 15% to 20%. Mr. Davis discussed how difficult this was for him after working so hard with the retention and recruitment committee to look out for employees. He stated that everyone took great pride in putting in place the multiple recommendations in support of employees. Having to look at options now relating things that impact employees is very difficult.

Dr. Brown reviewed the impact of the change from 15% to 20% per pay (in the attached slide show). The projected impact of the GRF for 2020 would be \$85,900 saved if effective June 6th.

Mr. Levacy stated that this is a very difficult decision, but the worst thing to do is not do anything and then have to make major, drastic cuts in services and potentially have to proceed with furloughs.

Mr. Fix stated that he too wants to do everything possible to avoid layoffs or furloughs. He asked if the projections were assuming no federal help.

Mr. Davis stated that was correct.

Mr. Fix asked if support does come and the lawsuit from Franklin is settled, is there a way to go back to the 15%.

Mr. Davis stated that if either of those were to come, that would create some flexibility. They may be able to add some health insurance holidays. There are ways to effectuate a reduction in the harm if those situations play out. Mr. Davis stated has more confidence in a favorable outcome with Franklin County over help from the state or federal government.

Mr. Fix stated that it makes sense to do this today, and it is his hope that help from the federal/state or from the Franklin case works out so they can "pay it back" to the employees who would be hurt by this decision.

Dr. Brown added that when reviewing all expense reduction options, this particular option has no impact to the public, and it has the smallest impact to employees. She indicated the fairest approach would be to request the unions join in on this effort. The goal would be to have all participants of the county health benefits plan participating in the same way.

Mr. Fix asked if there had been additional conversations with the Sheriff regarding potential bed space rentals.

Mr. Davis reviewed the history of potentially housing county inmates. He has had conversations with Chief Lape regarding this possibility. What is not known yet is if the current reduction in the inmate population would remain.

Mr. Fix stated he had spoken with both Chief Lape and Sheriff Phalen who both expressed their willingness to "do whatever they can" to help.

Dr. Brown provided an additional budget update. We talked about the 2021 parameters. Initial parameters for 2021 are flat parameters, with the exception of insurance, for which a 2% increase is anticipated. The level 1 (first review within the accounting system) input for the general fund budget for 2021 showed a budget

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of about 1.1% above the current budget (which includes the cuts from April). That is evidence of good cooperation and collaboration.

Casino Revenues - Prior to the pandemic, casino revenues were estimated at a flat \$1.75 M. Given the closing of casinos in March, the estimate is now \$923,261, which represents actual revenues to date. This is more than expected with previous discussions. No other casino revenue is estimated for 2020. The represents an adjusted estimated loss of \$826,739, as compared to the estimate of \$1.75 M. We are anticipating opening of the casinos in October for 2021 planning purposes. This is just a guess.

Attorney Fee Reimbursements for January 2020 totaled \$126,607, at 85% of the approved reimbursements. In January 2019, \$55,758 was reimbursed at 42%. About 16% more submissions were submitted in January 2020, as compared to January 2019, and the amount per submission is slightly lower in 2020. Average reimbursement in 2019 was 60%.

Fairfield County applied for **Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program** grants on April 30, 2020. In the **signing folder** is a letter that will authorize Carri Brown to serve as the signatory for the FEMA related Request for Public Assistance grants.

We continue to **advocate for state and federal support**. The review packet contained an article about advocacy for local support, especially for communities under 500,000 who were left behind in stimulus packages. Our leaders have indicated support for local funding. State and federal support is uncertain, though. We know we will experience losses in revenue.

We are encouraged with the **foundation of the past performance** of Fairfield County. This helps us to collectively weather this crisis.

We have already reduced the general fund budget by more than \$700,000, and the next steps under review, the savings will be about \$1 M.

We have already announced **the hiring freeze, no new hires, and no increases for salaries**. Dr. Brown thanked the elected officials and department heads for their innovation and support in meeting these parameters.

d. BRAVOs

Thank you to Jon Kochis, EMA Director, for picking up the masks for employees, to Jeff Porter, HR Director, for arranging for wellness dollars to be used for this purpose, and to Dennis Keller, Facilities Maintenance Manager, for organizing his team for delivery of masks.

From Branden Meyer, Clerk of Courts, thanks again to Tammy Smith, Supervisor, and the Facilities Maintenance team for their work in preparing plexiglass barriers.

From Rick Szabrak, Economic and Workforce Development Director, thanks to Larry Hanna, Board of Health Director, for his expertise and participation in a webinar; Rick Szabrak and Travis Markwood, Lancaster-Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Director, are planning to host Larry Hanna in additional webinars for the business community. There will be other stakeholders and partners working with this effort.

From Michael Orlando, BRAVO to James Stoner, a new employee with IT, for his patience and professional demeanor.

Thank you to Juvenile Court for their support and help with grant applications relating to Court Coronavirus preparation, prevention, and response plans for courts and law enforcement.

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Thanks to housekeeping, all team members, and ServiceMaster for their ongoing cleaning efforts.

Thanks to Jeff Porter, HR Director, for working with Dental Dental who has provided mini grants to the United Way, Family Y, and Community Action. Dental Dental will also be providing a credit to Fairfield County for the full April 2020 premium of \$56,000. Mr. Porter is seeking credits or rebates to support the county health benefits plan.

Great job, Chris Redding, JFS Maintenance Officer, for creating a hand sanitizer station to be used outside of a building, prior to entering a building.

- Old Business

- a. Protocol for Antibody Testing

The draft testing protocol was in the review packet. We discussed this topic at length earlier in the meeting.

- New Business (none)

- General Correspondence Received

- a. Correspondence from Brookview Village Condominium Residents

Mr. Vogel has already prepared a response to this correspondence. He will follow up again in 30 days.

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received (none)

- FYI

- a. Jail Population – 180

- b. Anytime, a public records request or a question can be posed to Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov or Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

- Open Items

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 beginning at 2:34 p.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jon Kochis, Mark Conrad, Jon Slater, Dennis Keller, Aunie Cordle, Laura Holton, Dennis Lowe, Jeff Porter, Heather Springer, Innerphase Video. Also joining via teleconference was Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, and Dana Moore.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Announcements

Commissioner Davis asked if there were any announcements.

There were no announcements.

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Public Comment

Commissioner Davis asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments.

No public comments were received through the web application or in person.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, April 28, 2020

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Thursday, April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Dave Levacy, and Steve Davis

Approval of the Commissioners' Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' Office resolutions:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2020-05.05.a | A resolution authorizing the approval of proclamations [Commissioners] |
| 2020-05.05.b | A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursement for Fairfield Department of Health – Fund #7012 & Fund# 7321 [Commissioners] |
| 2020-05.05.c | A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursement for Fairfield County Historical Parks – Fund # 7308 [Commissioners] |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Dave Levacy, and Steve Davis

Approval of the Engineer's Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Engineer's resolutions:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 2020-05.05.d A | Resolution to Approve the Contract with J&J Bridge Company, Inc. for the LIB-45, FAI-TR235-0.966 Poplar Creek Road over Poplar Creek Bridge Replacement Project. [Engineer] |
| 2020-05.05.e | A Resolution to Approve the Notice to Commence for the LIB-45 Bridge Replacement Project [Engineer] |
| 2020-05.05.f | A resolution to approve a License Agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. [Engineer] |
| 2020-05.05.g | A resolution of increase appropriations, appropriate from inappropriate, account to account and fund to fund transfer for WAL-38 bridge replacement [Engineer] |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Dave Levacy, and Steve Davis

Approval of the Juvenile/Probate Court Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Juvenile/Court resolutions:

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- 2020-05.05.h A resolution authorizing the Approval for an amendment to the FY20 Grant Agreement with the Ohio Department of Youth Services. [Juvenile Court]. [Juvenile/Probate Court]
- 2020-05.05.i A resolution approving an account to account transfer [Juvenile Court to Probate Court] [Juvenile/Probate Court]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Dave Levacy, and Steve Davis

Approval of the Major Crimes Unit Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Major Crimes Unit resolution authorizing the approval to extend the repayment date of an advance of funds – Fund #7858 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program Grant, Major Crimes Unit; see resolution 2020-05.05.j.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Dave Levacy, and Steve Davis

Approval of the Utilities' Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Utilities' resolutions:

- 2020-05.05.k A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Utilities Fund 5044 Sewer Admin [Utilities] [Utilities]
- 2020-05.05.l A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Utilities Fund 5046 Water Admin [Utilities] [Utilities]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Dave Levacy, and Steve Davis

JFS Fraud Prevention Update

The Commissioners met at 2:40 p.m. for a JFS Fraud Prevention Update. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, John Kochis, Jeff Porter, Laura Holton, Aunie Cordle, Dennis Lowe, Heather Shields, Tony Vogel, Jon Slater, and Innerphase Video. Joining via teleconference were Tom Lininger, Erin Frost, Todd McCullough, Joshua Horacek, Rick Szabrak, Larry Hanna, and Amy Brown-Thompson.

Aunie Cordle, JFS Director, and members of her team provided an update on Fraud and Benefit Recovery. Fairfield County Job and Family Services is serious about investigating and pursuing allegations of fraud. The agency employs a supervisor (Heather Shields), investigator (Kaitlyn Canter), and specialist (Bekah Montgomery) for Fraud and Benefit Recovery. County incentives from benefit recovery increased to \$146,028 for 2019, the highest amount on incentives over the past five years.

The review packet contained a summary outlining the objectives of the program and 2019 statistics. Highlights included:

- An average of 54 fraud referrals are received monthly - 658 referrals were made in 2019.
- In 2018, more than \$480,00 was collected.
- In 2019, over \$600,000 in overpayments was collected.
- In 2019, the agency kept \$146,028 in fraud incentives from SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid.
- Incentive amounts are based on program area.
- In 2019, the Prosecutor's Office completed 12 prosecutions; all were found guilty.
- 99% of fraud cases involve unreported income or unreported household members.

- .05% of the total Food Assistance cases are prosecuted for fraud.



5/4/2020



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The Fairfield County Commission
May 5, 2020

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1

5/4/2020




3





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COVID 19 Update


Jon Kochis, EMA Director








Public Health
Prevent Promote Protect
Fairfield Department of Health





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5

Public Well-Being











FAIRFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



MEALS ON WHEELS
FAIRFIELD COUNTY
TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER



6

5/4/2020

Legal Update

7

County Administrator Update

8

5/4/2020

Email -or- Text

Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

740 777 8552

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Reminders

- **We are wearing orange today to honor the importance of supervised visitation.**
- **May 25** - Memorial Day Holiday
- **June 5** - Wear Purple for Awareness of Prevention of Elder Abuse



110VE • CORRECT • PROTECT

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5

5/4/2020

Highlights of Resolutions

12 resolutions

- Multiple proclamations
- 3 resolutions from the County Engineer for a bridge replacement project in Liberty Township:
 - the contract with J&J Bridge Company, Inc.
 - the notice to commence, &
 - a related license agreement with ODNR.



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Highlights of Resolutions

- There were 8 *financial and grant related resolutions*
 - An extension of an advance for MCU;
 - A DYS grant agreement;
 - Interest credits for March for the Health Department & Parks District;
 - An account to account transfer for Juvenile Court (grant funds);
 - Appropriations from unappropriated funds (and accounting measures) for the County Engineer and Utilities (three resolutions).

There were additional financial and contracting resolutions in queue.



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Administrative Approvals



- Administrative Approvals – in packet



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Operations post May 1

- Building Use
- Flyers/Fact Sheets
- Guidance for Employees
- FAQ Document

Always...

Barriers, Cleaning, Distancing



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5/4/2020

Ways You Can Help

Donate to the Fairfield Foundation:

Fairfieldcountyfoundation.org

Send a note to a youth or staff at the MCJDC or the Sheriff's Office

Donate to United Way

UWayfairfieldco.org

Participate in the "Drive In and Drop Off" at JFS at 4:15 -5 pm tomorrow to support the Salvation Army



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Administrative Items

BOR Review

Budget Update



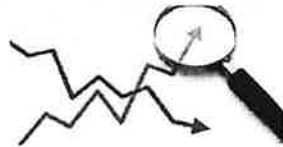
SEEK • CONNECT • PROTECT

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Planning for 2021 – First Level

The parameters envisioned now are flat parameters in all categories, except for insurance at a 2% increase.

Allocations will be held flat, except for the negotiated decrease with MCJDC.



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Casino Revenues

- **Casino Revenues** - Prior to the pandemic, casino revenues were estimated at \$1.75 M.
- Given the closing of casinos in March, the estimate is now \$923,261, actual revenues to date.
- No other casino revenue is estimated for 2020.
- The represents an adjusted estimated loss of \$826,739, as compared to \$1.75 M.




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5/4/2020

Attorney Fees


- *Reimbursements* for January 2020 totaled \$126,607 - at 85%
- For January 2019, they were \$55,758 - at 42%
- About 16% more submissions
- Amount per submission - slightly lower in 2020
- Average reimbursement in 2019 was 60%



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Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program

Coronavirus (Court and Law Enforcement Related)	Total	Antibody Testing	Other Technology Equipment, Supplies, and Cleaning
Federal Allocation Grant	58,008	41,203	16,805
State Related Grant	123,091	20,016	103,075
Combined	181,099	61,219	119,880



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Advocate for State & Federal Support

- Article
- Directly to counties
- Population based
- Supports local economy
- Verbal and written support of Congressional Delegation
- Uncertainty



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Options

- Continue hiring freeze
- No new hires
- Flat wages for 2021
- Temporary work assignments
- Review of change to insurance plan




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22

5/4/2020

Review of change from "85/15" to "80/20"

- consistent with market
- increases share \$21.58 per pay for single/\$51.42 per pay for family
- conserves \$85,900 for the remainder of the year, beginning June 6
- contributes to a financial plan with *no layoffs* in 2020
- provides a measure of relief; shows how we are powerful together
- will be permanent - but we can authorize "holidays"
- employees with health benefits (*in all funds*) will participate - which helps conserve resources for all funds
- no exemption for elected officials
- *no impact to the public*
- no impact to PERS or other benefits



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Review of change from "85/15" to "80/20"


- Request unionized employees to join in the effort and accept the "80/20" plan
 - Demonstrates shared sacrifice
 - Additional \$52,105 in savings to the general fund
 - Communicate dedication to no layoffs through the end of 2020 (given participation in the effort with the change to "80/20")

To Consider:

Give formal notice to employees on *May 12* for change to "80/20"

Deductions to change *June 6*

Overall plan saves about \$1M in 2020



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foundation of past performance

- Past financial stewardship support us in this time of crisis.
- There is a *lot of uncertainty* right now.
- The crisis of the pandemic makes things tense for many people. Many spouses or family members of our employees have lost jobs. *One way we can help add a little certainty for a period of time is to announce that there will be no layoffs or furloughs in 2020 for Fairfield County employees.*
- We have already announced *the hiring freeze, no new hires, and flat increase for salaries.*



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BRAVO!



- Thank you to **Jon Kochis, Jeff Porter, & Dennis Keller**, for organizing delivery of masks.
- From **Branden Meyer**, Clerk of Courts, thanks again to **Tammy Smith**, Supervisor, and the Facilities Maintenance team for their work in preparing plexiglass barriers.
- From **Rick Szabrak**, thanks to **Larry Hanna** for his expertise and participation in a webinar.




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5/4/2020

BRAVO!

- From **Michael Orlando**, BRAVO to **James Stoner**, a new employee with IT, for his patience and professional demeanor.
- Thank you to **Juvenile Court** for their support and help with grant applications relating to Court Coronavirus preparation, prevention, and response plans for courts and law enforcement.
- Thanks to **housekeeping, all team members, & ServiceMaster** for their cleaning efforts.




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BRAVO!

- Thanks to **Jeff Porter**, HR Director, for working with **Dental Dental** who has provided mini grants to the United Way, Family Y, and Community Action.
- Dental Dental** will also be providing a credit to Fairfield County for the full April 2020 premium of \$56,000. Mr. Porter is seeking credits or rebates to support the county health benefits plan.
- Great job to **Chris Redding** for creating a hand sanitizer station to be used outside of a building, prior to entering a building.




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Old Business

Protocol for Antibody Testing

- draft protocol
- more information is needed
- seeking appropriate funding
- requested state and federal funding
- requested a policy review by FEMA




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New Business



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5/4/2020

Correspondence


Correspondence from *Brookview*
Residents



FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO

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Invitations




FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO

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Quick FYI

- Jail Population




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Have a Public Records Request?



Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



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5/4/2020

Have a question?

Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

Text 740 777 8552





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Enjoy...





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Fraud & Benefit Recovery Update

Highlights:

- An average of 54 fraud referrals are received monthly - 658 referrals were made in 2019.
- In 2018, more than \$480,00 was collected.
- In 2019, over \$600,000 in overpayments was collected.
- In 2019, the agency kept \$146,028 in fraud incentives from SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid.
- Incentive amounts are based on program area.
- In 2019, the Prosecutor's Office completed 12 prosecutions; all were found guilty.
- 99% of fraud cases involve unreported income or unreported household members.
- .05% of the total Food Assistance cases are prosecuted for fraud.



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Great job to the Fairfield County
Community!

thank
you!



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5/4/2020

Thank You - Elected Officials

- Commissioner Steve Davis
- Commissioner Jeff Fix
- Commissioner Dave Levacy
- Auditor Jon Slater
- Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer
- Coroner Dr. Varney
- Engineer Jeremiah Upp
- Judge Richard Berens
- Judge David Trimmer
- Judge Terre Vandervoort
- Judge Laura Smith
- Prosecutor Kyle Witt
- Recorder Gene Wood
- Sheriff Dave Phalen
- Treasurer Jim Bahnsen



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**Thank You - Appointed Officials
& Department Heads**


- County Administrator- Dr. Carri Brown
- Human Resources -Jeff Porter
- JFS - Aunie Cordle
- Facilities - Dennis Keller
- Economic/Workforce Development - Rick Szabrak
- IT - Mark Conrad
- GIS - Dave Burgei
- Dog Shelter - Todd McCullough
- EMA - Jon Kochis
- Board of Elections - Jane Hanley
- Utilities - Tony Vogel
- ADAMH - Rhonda Myers
- Board of DD - Jon Pekar
- Veterans Services - Park Russell
- Airport Board -Dr. Glenn Burns
- Visitation Center - Mandi Crist



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Commissioners'
Administration Team

- Rachel Elsea – Clerk to the Board of Commissioners
- Staci Knisley – Budget Officer
- Christina Foster – Payroll Officer
- Shar Bails – Account Clerk
- Christy Barker – Mail Clerk


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5/4/2020



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Fraud and Benefit Recovery Summary

Background: Fairfield County Job and Family Services is serious about investigating and pursuing allegations of fraud. We employ one full-time Fraud/Benefit Recovery Supervisor, Heather Shields, one full-time investigator Kaitlyn Canter, and one full-time Benefit Recovery Specialist, Bekah Montgomery.

Objectives

- To ensure that public assistance benefits are received only by those individuals who are eligible and in the correct amounts
- To recover tax dollars that were obtained by participants through fraudulent activities, unintentional participant error, or administrative error
- To deter future occurrences of fraud and maintain program integrity

Fraud: participant knowingly and willfully provides false information or intentionally fails to report changes in circumstances in a timely manner in order to receive benefits for which they are not eligible.

Referral: Any information received by the agency which could affect the eligibility of the case. The referral can be received from citizens, computer data matches, caseworkers, or other agencies. The public can contact the Fraud Hotline at 740-652-7616 or via the agency website www.fcjfs.org.

Investigation: A Fraud Investigator reviews the referral and determines if the information would impact eligibility and gathers evidence through multiple sources to determine if there is evidence to pursue fraud, whether the case should be closed or if it is an overpayment only.

Overpayment: The household received assistance in an amount they were not technically eligible for, but there was no intention of the household to willfully deceive. They are still required to pay the amount back.

Intentional Program Violation (IPV): The household intended to obtain benefits that they were not eligible for by false statements, fraudulent documents, or concealing facts. For the Food Assistance program, participants are disqualified for 12 months and required to repay the amount. For cash assistance or TANF the participant is disqualified until the amount is paid back.

Referred for Prosecution: Fraud Supervisor Shields and Deputy Director Holton review the evidence, the amount of the loss, and the intent of the household to determine if a referral to the Prosecutor's Office is warranted. Typically, cases over \$5,000 are referred. Supervisor Shields and Deputy Director Holton attempt to interview the participant for a confession. Supervisor Shields seeks guidance and investigative strategies from the Prosecutor's Office attorneys; Ken Oswalt or Investigator Scott Hargrove. Supervisor Shields prepares the Grand Jury packet. The Prosecutor's Office determines if they will charge the participant and seek an indictment from the Grand Jury. If they decline prosecution, FCJFS would impose an Intentional Program Violation.

2019 Statistics

- An average of 54 fraud referrals are received each month or 658 referrals in 2019
- In 2018, more than \$480,00 was collected. In 2019, over \$600,000 in overpayments was collected.
- In 2019, the agency kept \$146,028 in fraud incentives from SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid
- Incentive amounts are based on program area. SNAP incentives 35%, Medicaid 25%, and TANF 20% of dollars collected
- In 2019 the Prosecutor's Office completed 12 prosecutions; all found guilty
- Established 32 SNAP disqualifications
- 99% of fraud cases involve unreported income or household members
- .05% of the total Food Assistance cases are prosecuted for fraud

Fraud and Benefit Recovery
County Incentives
2015 -2019

