

Updates from County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, 02/14/18:



New Community Dental Center Coming Soon

The County is proud to partner with My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) to open a new public dental center in Battle Creek, targeted to open in late March or April. MCDC is a non-profit organization that works with county health departments to increase access to comprehensive dental services, with a focus on serving Medicaid and low-income residents. The County Board of Commissioners authorized the creation of this new center in December 2016, with the location still to be determined at that time. MCDC's market study indicated that in Calhoun County, only 30% of adults enrolled in Medicaid had at least one dental visit per year, with only 15% having a preventative visit. The data suggests there are still approximately 10,000 adult Medicaid enrollees and 6,000 children enrolled in Medicaid in this area that could benefit from these expanded dental services. MCDC will operate our new center and provide marketing dollars to the County Health Department, so that the center will be cost neutral to the County's budget. And the renovations are being partially funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Battle Creek Community Foundation. The new center will be located at 3566 Capital Ave. SW, in Battle Creek. Stay tuned for promotional materials to come, announcing to the community this new opportunity to provide a dental home, and help individuals and families achieve better health and productive lives!

County Awarded Economic Development Road Improvement Grant

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) announced today the approval of the County Road Department's application for \$294,890 from the Transportation Economic Development Fund for the widening and resurfacing of a stretch of F Drive North in Emmett Township west of 11 Mile Road. This funding, along with the County's match dollars, will provide for nearly \$500,000 in much needed road improvements to support increased employee and commercial traffic with Flex-N-Gate Battle Creek, LLC's \$24 million expansion, reported to result in 66 new jobs. The County Board meeting agenda for its 2/15 meeting includes approval of the related grant application, which is subject to continued state appropriations, and a final grant contract is expected for Board approval at a future meeting.

Opioid Epidemic Response Efforts Continue

Following the Board of Commissioners' closed session review on February 1 of a written legal opinion from Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer, the County is convening an internal workgroup to recommend a law firm to represent our interests in the growing state-wide opioid litigation effort. This workgroup, which will include two commissioners, will then help make a recommendation to the full Board for their approval of engaging these legal services. On a parallel track, the Calhoun County Opioid Coalition, led by Dawn Smith, CEO of the Substance Abuse Council, and the County's Medical Director, Dr. William Nettleton, are convening a community update meeting on February 21 to review data and initiatives around the opioid epidemic. We are also planning to share the Coalition's presentation with county commissioners from 13 other counties in

southwest Michigan at their regional meeting ton March 7, to be hosted by Calhoun County and held at the Marshall Regional Law Enforcement Center.

Community Involvement/Other

I attended on February 2 the annual Celebrity Server Event to benefit the Calhoun County Fairgrounds. The County was well-represented at the event, with Commissioners Frisbie and Potter serving, along with Undersheriff Tim Hurtt on behalf of Sheriff Matt Saxton, and many other county officials taking part. Board Chair Derek King and I gave county updates on the February 5 "Be Scene on Air" television show with Sherii Sherban on Access Vision in Battle Creek. On February 5, HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault and I facilitated our monthly Union Leadership Roundtable meeting, where we share updates, talk about rumors and continue to stress county and court administrations' commitment to valuing our employees. I attended the monthly Summit Pointe Board meeting on February 6, with Commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette chairing the meeting. Contract negotiations continued with the Road Department workers' Teamsters Local 214 group on February 7. We made some progress toward a new labor agreement, and are scheduled to meet again on February 22. On February 8, I attended the Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) 2018 Economic Outlook presentation, with Commissioners King, Potter, and Reynolds, Sheriff Saxton, Treasurer Wensauer and other county officials also in attendance. I attended the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce's Monthly Eye Opener event on February 13, with Linda Freybler, CEO of the Calhoun County Visitors Bureau presenting updates on tourism throughout the county, and the new Certified Tourism Ambassadors (CTA) program. I also attended the CVB Board meeting on February 13, with Commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette as chair. We previewed the 2018 Business Plan for adoption at the March board meeting.

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