



On July 1, 1941 the Washtenaw County Board of Supervisors established the Washtenaw County Health Department. For the past 75 years, together we have worked to create a community in which every resident enjoys the best possible state of health and well-being.

Board of Commissioners & Board of Health - A Year in Review

Local governing entities are ultimately responsible for local public health administration and governance. These entities establish public health regulations and fees, approve the local health department's budget, approve its plan of organization and appoint health officers. As such, these entities are charged with the public's trust to be good fiscal stewards, while also protecting and promoting the health of the community. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, along with the Board of Health, provide vision, leadership and policy development to make our community a safer, healthier place to live. Over the past year, the Board of Commissioners and Board of Health have taken many steps to advance the health of our citizens.

- Approved Public Health's annual budget and our Comprehensive Planning, Budgeting and Contracting (CPBC) Agreement with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS). Since 1987, MDHHS has funded local public and environmental health programs through this agreement, ensuring we receive funds for communicable disease control; hearing and vision screening; immunizations; food service sanitation; sexually transmitted disease control; and other programs which promote health and protect the environment. As a result of Board of Health advocacy, the Board of Commissioners also approved an amendment to use County general funds to fill our projected budget deficit for the coming fiscal year.
- Supported equity work in our community. The Board of Commissioners supported the Equity Summit, invited our Health Officer to speak at a Working Session on the importance of equity work, and authorized our application for a grant to collaborate with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation to expand our community engagement work with four key resident groups (West Willow, South of Michigan Avenue neighborhoods in Ypsilanti, Whitmore Lake and members of the Latino community). Furthermore, the Board of Health is exploring "Health in all Policies" as a potential tool to advance improvements in health equity.
- The Board of Health passed a resolution in support of Tobacco 21 legislation, a nationwide effort to make it illegal for those under age 21 to purchase tobacco products. With this support, the City of Ann Arbor became the first city in Michigan to enact an ordinance banning tobacco purchases for those under age 21.
- The Board of Commissioners passed a resolution outlining its commitment to pursuing actions regarding remediation of the 1,4-dioxane groundwater contamination in our community.

Although not specifically Washtenaw County Public Health efforts, both Boards have continued to demonstrate their commitment to health for all in our community with the following measures:

- Approved a resolution fully supporting the Michigan Department of Education's Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students.
- Approved a resolution to join Eastern Michigan University in condemning racist actions discovered on its campus, reaffirming that, "racism, racial discrimination, and racial intimidation are to be opposed for the offense they pose to the dignity, safety, moral decency, and benefit of all individuals and society as a whole."
- Adopted a Washtenaw County Carryout Bag Ordinance, to become effective April 22, 2017, Earth Day. This ordinance will reduce plastic bag consumption, litter and contamination in recycling and waste streams.
- Supported the development of the Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan and Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Board.
- Approved a proclamation in support of Washtenaw County's participation in the Start by Believing campaign and declaring Washtenaw County a "Start by Believing Survivors of Sexual Assault" County.
- Approved a resolution proclaiming June 20 - 25, 2016 as Gun Safety Week in Washtenaw County.

For more information:

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