

## COVID RELIEF SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

October 8, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.  
DeVos Place – Monroe Room  
<https://kentcountymi.zoom.us/j/94748076195>

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mandy Bolter; Vice-Chair Stan Stek; Commissioners Emily Brieve, Diane Jones, Stan Ponstein, Phil Skaggs, and Robert Womack

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Jim Talen (participated virtually)

Chair Bolter called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

### I. WELCOME

Chair Bolter welcomed the group and thanked those who joined the meeting.

### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2020

Commissioner Brieve moved to approve the minutes from October 5, 2020 as presented. Supported by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried.

### III. RAPID TESTING

Dr. Adam London summarized the testing technologies available for COVID-19. Dr. London indicated that there is sufficient funding at this time regarding testing in the county.

Commissioner Jones asked what makes a test “rapid.” Dr. London answered it usually means near-immediate results which can take between 5-15 minutes. This type of antigen test is not as accurate as genetic testing, which can take a day or two. Commissioner Jones asked about a three-hour test as well. Dr. London explained that the testing itself is usually around three hours because there is a provider involved. The test analyses are shorter than that, but it also depends on how much laboratory capacity the place has.

Commissioner Jones then asked what will happen after December 30. Ms. Gail Brink, Health Department Finance Director, stated at this time there is no funding for testing after December 31. There is funding from the State of Michigan for contact tracing, however.

Commissioner Skaggs asked what Dr. London’s hopes would be for rolling out a K-12 program after the Godfrey Lee pilot program. He also asked how often students are tested. Dr. London stated there is very little cost that would have to be absorbed by the county. Regarding the frequency of testing, it is based on symptoms. They are not doing broad screening in general at this time but are following the recommendations and advice from the CDC, MDHHS, and the schools. Contact tracing will also be important as they make sure testing is available as quickly as possible for those who have been exposed.

Commissioner Womack stated there have been outbreaks in some southwest Michigan schools. He asked how many schools are open in Kent County and what precautions are being taken for in-person learning. Dr. London stated they worked with superintendents all summer to put together the playbook for schools. This playbook, grouped with PPE, contact tracing, and software improvements will hopefully prevent outbreaks like those from happening. The results from Kent County schools have been promising so far. Dr. London explained that the majority of cases occurring in K-12 students are from exposure outside of school.

IV. CARES FUNDING ALLOCATION BUCKETS REVIEW AND RESERVES OPTIONS

Mr. Stephen Duarte summarized the net reserves and how they could be allocated. Funding recommendations were included for meeting space, schools, gun shot detection and/or youth violence and crime prevention, continuation for small business grants and technical assistance, public safety, and post-grant costs such as recipient monitoring and audits.

Commissioner Stek asked for more information about the meeting space. Mr. Britt explained that the DeVos Place meeting rooms could be used for board and other meetings as well to accommodate for appropriate social distancing of a larger group. However, depending on future orders, the space may or may not be needed.

Commissioner Womack asked for clarification about the \$500,000 for youth violence and prevention. Mr. Britt explained that \$500,000 was approved at the Board of Commissioners meeting this morning. This would be an additional \$500,000 for youth violence and crime prevention and possibly gunshot detectors.

Mr. Villarreal from the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce explained additional needs surrounding the Kent County Small Business Recovery Program. This additional assistance could help more manufacturing and retail businesses as well as businesses with over 25 employees.

Commissioner Stek brought up the limited timeframe that remains to use these funds. Mr. Villarreal stated they are confident they can get the grants out by the end of October.

Commissioner Skaggs asked if there will be a new application process for this or if they will be using the recommendations from The Right Place. Mr. Villarreal answered they are working with The Right Place, but this program is open for all. The businesses recommended by The Right Place will need to apply.

Chair Bolter requested a vote to change the criteria for the Small Business Recovery Program. Approved by voice vote.

Chair Bolter then described a proposal from the Kent Intermediate School District for an additional \$1 million and the gun shot detection/youth violence and crime prevention funding proposal. The intention is to hold the allocation to see if they can use it for gunshot detectors. If that cannot be done with expediency, the funds will be used for other youth violence and crime prevention activities.

Commissioner Womack thanked the commissioners for their compassion when considering this project. Gunshot detectors could help the entire county, not just the larger cities.

Commissioner Womack made a motion to approve the administration funding recommendations to the subcommittee.

Support by Commissioner Ponstein.

Yeas: Commissioner Stek, Brieve, Jones, Ponstein, Skaggs, Womack, Chair Bolter – 7  
Nays: 0.

Motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Stek asked how they plan to address lapsed funds. Chair Bolter answered they can address that at a future subcommittee meeting. Chair Bolter suggested they consider donating leftover PPE from the PPE Program to schools if and when the time comes.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Chair Bolter adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL FOR DISTRIBUTION

*Pam VanKern*