



Joe Moss for Ottawa County Commissioner

August 22 at 4:55 PM · 🌐



Press Release: Proposal to Return Public Health Budget to Historical Pre-Covid Levels.

This would save Ottawa County taxpayers millions of dollars and rein in the out-of-control spending.



JOEMOSS.COM

Press Release: Proposal to Return Public Health Budget to Historical Pre-Covid Levels

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Press Release: Proposal to Return Public Health Budget to Historical Pre-Covid Levels

August 22nd, 2023



For Immediate Release

Joe Moss, Board Chairperson, District 5

Sylvia Rhodea, Board Vice-Chairperson,
District 8

On Monday, August 21, 2023, **at a meeting** of the Finance and Administration Committee, Ottawa County Board of Commissioners Chairperson Joe Moss proposed returning the Public Health budget back to historical, pre-Covid levels. The graphic below includes a comprehensive review of Public Health budgets.

The recommendation discussed by the Committee was to bring the general fund allocation for Public Health Department back to historical levels. When the pandemic started, there were significant increases in Public Health expenditures by the prior Board of Commissioners. Moving forward, expenditure levels should be restored in line with prior levels, saving Ottawa County taxpayers millions of dollars.

In the past, high levels of funding contributed to the Health Department's ability to:

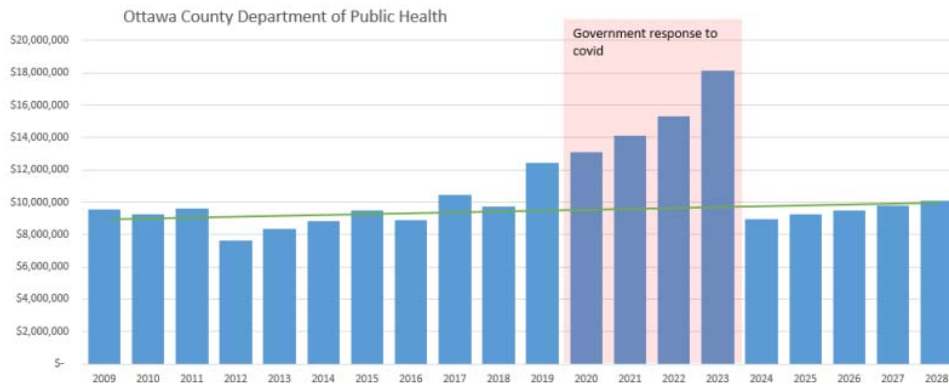
- Perform extreme levels of contact tracing on healthy individuals,
- Interfere with schools and parental rights,
- Increase student and athlete anxiety due to testing of healthy students,
- Sideline healthy students from sports competitions, graduations, proms, and the like,
- Threaten parents and school administrators, and more.

A majority of the current Board of Commissioners has clearly stated they will prioritize limited government, family values, individual freedoms, and parental rights.

It is time for Ottawa County to rein in the out-of-control expenditures and augmented influence of the Public Health Department.

The solution discussed would reduce the General Fund allocation to \$2.5M and allow the Public Health Department to retain a budget of approximately \$9M in 2024, providing the department the funds to fulfill statutory requirements and meet the needs of the community as it did historically.

Budget Amounts:



2024 General Fund Allocation, Recommended by Public Health	\$6,678,063
2024 General Fund Allocation, As Discussed	\$2,500,000
Taxpayer Savings, Reduction to General Fund	\$4,178,063
2024 Estimated Grant Funding	\$4,060,074
2024 Estimated Public Health Budget (Total)	\$8,967,821

* The Public Health Department currently has an existing fund balance of \$3M and has proposed an additional \$17,378,138 in spending for 2024.

August 22nd, 2023

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Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 4:59 PM Finance and Administration Committee

Special Work Session, Commissioner Joe Moss proposed a general fund budget reduction for only the Ottawa County Department of Public Health. His proposal would slash Health Department funding from a \$6.4 million total general fund contribution to a total of \$2.5 million, a reduction of over 60%. This action brings the total operating budget for 2024 to \$500,000 less than the 2009 budget, which was during the wor... See more

The Finance & Administration Committee would like to see the Public Health budget in line with historical levels before us to work out the details of a budget using \$2.5 million general fund contribution and also incorporating all COVID-19 costs by Thursday August 23 close of business.



Administrative
New Orleans, Michigan 48401 | 616-726-6462

2024 Public Health Budget Request

August 18, 2023

Joe, you requested additional information yesterday on the Public Health fiscal year 2024 budget. Given the short timeline, I have tried to compile the pertinent information to provide context to help you to best advise the Board. As you know, the services provided by public health are mandated through the Michigan Constitution, state or federal laws, or local regulations. A reasonable level of funding maintains the systems that protect us or people from unsafe or hazardous conditions and prevent disease.

Request:

- Please provide me with a budget scenario that includes both of the following components:
 - General fund expenditures for Public Health set at pre-COVID levels, adjusted for inflation, for reference, or FY2021 – the last pre-COVID year – general fund expenditures for Public Health were approximately \$4.1 million, and in FY2022 general fund expenditures were approximately \$6.7 million, and;
 - The restoration of all FY21 COVID-related grants.

Summary:

- Ottawa County Department of Public Health is required to pay for Ottawa County administrative expenses, which will be an added cost. These costs are based on actual costs for administrative, Corporation Counsel, Human Resources, IT, Fiscal Services, Facilities Maintenance, and other support departments.
 - The fiscal year 2024 budget for administrative expenses shows a nearly 40% increase in cost over the 2022 budget, after adjusting the 2022 budget for population and inflation, and over a 150% increase when compared to the actual, unadjusted 2023 budget.
- Comparatively, the Public Health general fund operational budget shows a 30% increase in cost over the 2022 budget, after adjusting for 2023 budget for population and inflation, and a 20% increase when compared to the actual, unadjusted 2023 budget.
- COVID-19 related grants total over \$22 million dollars. These federal funds can be used for related services beyond COVID-19, including for the prevention of communicable diseases and outbreak investigation.
 - Over \$100,000 of these grant funds are utilized to pay for Ottawa County administrative expenses.
 - There are nearly 120 communicable diseases beyond COVID-19 that are nationally reportable and require public health action. For a complete list of reportable communicable diseases [click here](#).
- These state and federal grant funds are taxpayer dollars that are coming back to the community for services provided in Ottawa County. If denied, these taxpayer dollars are reallocated to other departments in the state and [Michigan](#) taxpayers will have to "pay" a amount that these dollars



300

113 498

Like

Comment




Author

OC Department of Public Health

In addition to cutting general fund allocation, the Commission is proposing to give up a significant amount of grant money, allegedly because of various political considerations. This grant money is used for various purposes including preventing the spread of communicable disease and health risks other than COVID-19. This hurts Ottawa County taxpayers in a variety of ways and is fiscally short sighted. These actions



Joe Moss  @RealJoeMoss · Aug 23

No more government overreach. Period.



Heritage Foundation  @Heritage · Aug 23

No more lockdowns or mandates. Period.

The government's authoritarian rule-making destroyed the economy, ripped kids out of classrooms, and had dire effects on collective mental health. #GOPDebate



5



3



7



1,072





Allison Miedema for Ottawa County Commissioner

August 23 · 🌐

If you are wondering about the news related to the health department and the county budget, I'm sharing a press release here written by fellow county commissioner, Joe Moss.

JOE MOSS



JOEMOSS.COM

Press Release: Proposal to Return Public Health Budget to Historical Pre-Covid Levels

👍❤️👏 17

31 🗨️

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Ruth Deemter

Commissioner Miedema, this saddens me to my core. By supporting this initiative you are changing the lives of countless Ottawa County parents who desperately need the help of CSHCS (children's Special Health Care Services) My family needed their help i... [See more](#)



MIOTTAWA.ORG

Children's Special Health Care Services - Ottawa County, Michigan

6w Edited

👍👏 10

➦ Heather Cors replied · 17 Replies

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Ottawa Impact

August 24 at 12:03 PM · 🌐



Two years ago today, the people of Ottawa County courageously spoke on behalf of freedom for their children over the medical tyranny of the Ottawa County Department of Public Health.

Ottawa Impact is honored to serve the people with fellow Brave Hearts who do the hard things typical politicians refuse to do!



OTTAWAIMPACT.COM

2-Year Anniversary of 1000 Parent Meeting - Freedom is not for sale

Two years ago today, the people of Ottawa County courageously spoke on behalf of freedom f...

52

105 comments 17 shares



Sylvia Rhodea for Ottawa County Commissioner

August 24 · 🌐

Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 2:46 PM 🇺🇸 We that loves freedom and children. 🇺🇸 We do better than "muddle through". Two years after the 1000 parent meeting, Ottawa County is Where Freedom Rings!

To all who stood and continue to stand for freedom, thank you. 🇺🇸

LIVE

Public Health Department

zoom

NEWS

Opponents of mask mandates speak out at Ottawa County Board of Commission Meeting

0:16 / 0:27



Justin Barclay ✓

August 24, 2021 · 🌐

Large crowd chants "USA" at Ottawa County Commission meeting in overflow room.

👍👎🤔 16

16 🗨️ 8 ➦

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Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 5:08 PM

added to Administrator Gibbs' request to produce a revised budget. Upon analysis, these revisions amount to an 88% reduction in general funds for services, which will almost certainly close the health department within weeks of its implementation.

Operational Funds Original Budget vs Commissioner Request

	Original Budget as Submitted	Revised Budget
	\$6,678,063	
Minus CMH Millage Transfer (Pathways)	(\$250,000)	
Minus County Administrative Expenses (Legal, Corporate Counsel, IT, Fiscal, HR, etc.)	(\$1,664,989)	
Health Operating Expenses	\$4,763,074	

Report

It is the responsibility of the Board of Health to ensure that the health department is fiscally responsible. The Board of Health is responsible for the health department's budget and for ensuring that the health department is able to provide the services that are required by the community.

The original budget for the health department for 2023 was \$6,678,063. The revised budget for 2023 is \$4,763,074. This represents a reduction of 28.8% in the general fund budget for the health department.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET FOR 2023

Category	Original Budget	Revised Budget
General Fund	\$6,678,063	\$4,763,074
CMH Millage Transfer	(\$250,000)	(\$250,000)
County Administrative Expenses	(\$1,664,989)	(\$1,664,989)
Health Operating Expenses	\$4,763,074	\$4,763,074

Report

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Board of Health regarding the health department's budget for 2023. The report includes a summary of the budget, a comparison of the original budget to the revised budget, and a list of the changes to the budget.

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🤔😞😱 221

184 478

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Author

OC Department of Public Health

Ottawa County is committed to providing excellent services to children, individuals, and families through the work of the Department of Public Health (DPH). In line with fiscal responsibility and making the most of taxpayer dollars, the County is requ... See more



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County sets fiscally responsible budget for public health

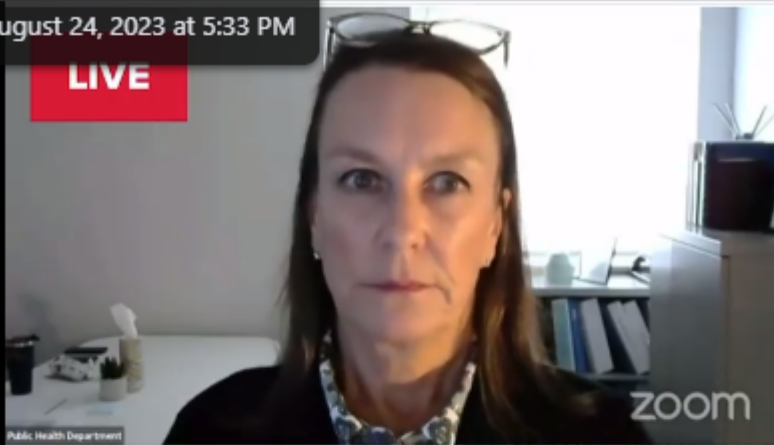


Joe Moss for Ottawa County Commissioner

August 24 · 🌐

Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 5:33 PM

LIVE



NEWS

Opponents of mask mandates speak out at Ottawa County Board of Commission Meeting



Justin Barclay ✓

August 24, 2021 · 🌐

Large crowd chants "USA" at Ottawa County Commission meeting in overflow room.

👍❤️😂 6

4 🗨️

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Ken Willison

More grievance politics from Joe and his Ottawa Impact cronies.

5w

👍 4

View more comments



Allison Miedema for Ottawa County Commissioner

August 26 at 2:16 PM · 🌐



I have been saddened and honestly angry this week at the unnecessary fear mongering that has been caused by leaders of Ottawa County's Health Department.

We live in a time where information is quickly accessible- through turning on the news, going online via social media, texts, phone calls, emails. While this can bring an array of good things, it also provides more opportunity to settle for quick answers and judgments.

As I receive emails and phone calls related to what has been shared in the news related to the health department budget for FY24, please know I care deeply about our community.

Will the health department be gutted or closed?

Absolutely not.

When I ran for the county commissioner seat in district 11, I made a promise to the people to respect that the greatest power should always remain with We The People-not a government bureaucracy.

When government expands, history has demonstrated that rarely does it contract.

Over the past three years, the health department greatly expanded during the pandemic. The pandemic is over and fiscal responsibility argues that it should return to previous historical levels.

Caring for a community can also be done well.

There may still be questions you have related to the budget.

Our next scheduled finance meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

You are welcome to attend or watch the recorded meeting later. As always, feel free to subscribe to Ottawa County news at miottawa.org.

***Also, please read the attached news release for more important information shared from County Board Chair Joe Moss and Vice Chair Sylvia Rhodea.

<https://sylviarhodea.com/press-release-public-health...>

SYLVIA
RHODEA

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Press Release: Public Health Panic - The prioritization of public health powers over the needs of the people

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85 comments 20 shares





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Press Release: Public Health Panic – The prioritization of public health powers over the needs of the people

August 26th, 2023



For Immediate Release

Joe Moss, Board Chairperson, District 5

Sylvia Rhodia, Board Vice-Chairperson,
District 8

Public Health Panic – The prioritization of public health powers over the needs of the people

In 2020, federal, state and local health bureaucrats exerted sweeping powers over the lives of Americans in the name of Covid-19 virus protection. For many of us, this was our first venture into the tyranny of public health, while others had previously experienced it on issues such as vaccine waivers for school.

As seen with the predictable push for Covid-19, flu, and childhood vaccines, public health entities have been trained to achieve public action by invoking fear and panic. Public health has traditionally used social media and media partnerships, flexing government authority, and threats of legal action to obtain compliance with their wishes. These methods were locked in place prior to the Covid-19 era, at which time they were put on steroids.

With the onset of Covid-19, local and national public health organizations ramped up efforts to explore the legal power and authority of public health entities. At the same time, progressive narratives such as climate change, gender affirming care, abortion, racial equity, and social justice are increasingly identified as public health concerns— all while nations consider conceding their sovereignty during public health crises to the WHO.

Public Health Powers and NGO Allies

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health has been held up as an example with several awards in recent years from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), a non-governmental organization (NGO) which has explored and promoted the legal authority of local health entities. NACCHO's affiliate business partners and sponsors include Pfizer, Moderna, and other medical industry companies. During the Covid-19 response, Ottawa County was a contributor to NACCHO's webinar, COVID-19: Drive-thru Vaccination Clinics and Local Health Departments.



NACCHO, its state chapter the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH), and the Network for Public Health Law (NPHL) were included in an original amicus brief filed in the appeal regarding the Interim Health Director's personal lawsuit against the County. MALPH and NACCHO have also participated in media coverage related to Ms. Hambley.

In recent weeks, Ottawa County's Deputy Health Officer, Marcia Mansaray, travelled to Tacoma, Washington, to present a break-out session for the National Association of Local Boards of Health with Denise Chrysler from NPHL. Mansaray presented, *I Used the Law and the Law Won: Using Law to Advocate and Defend Public Health Power*. Marcia provided training to her public health peers on how she has pushed back on the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners connected with Ottawa Impact who she is so vehemently opposed to. Representing herself as an employee of Ottawa County and an individual, she falsely accused the Board of violating OMA, and gave a vivid description of the legal and political tactics she employed to actively oppose the Board.

Marcia Mansaray, Deputy Health Administrator

I Used the Law and the Law Won: Using Law to Advocate and Defend Public Health Power

Tacoma, Washington (August 2023)

"The presentation will focus on Ottawa County, Michigan, and public health officials' courageous actions to use law to fight back, protecting public health against members of a newly elected governing body that sought to weaken public health power and to replace a professional public health official with a politician who aligns with their agenda. We will cover public health's successful defense against lawsuits to limit public health authority, a lawsuit filed by the Health Officer to enjoin actions to undermine her authority and implementation of public health laws, a Local Public Health Administrator's exercise of her personal right to express herself as a private citizen to expose a political agenda to dismantle health department powers and clinical services, and the role of the state health department in overseeing the local public health system. We will also cover the local media and grassroots advocacy, which have been key in exposing violations of the open meetings act and other laws to advance an anti-public health agenda."

The leadership of the Ottawa County Department of Public Health has worked overtime to erode the public's confidence in the Board and to incite fear and panic in an effort to undo an election by the people in the community they serve. Predictably, public health leaders are using their tried and true methods of social media, media allies, and law fare.

The People Choose Freedom over Public Health Power

Why is Ottawa County Department of Public Health leadership actively opposed to the people's choice of elected representatives who serve on the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners? Public health overreach during Covid-19 ignited a passion for freedom and parental rights nationwide— an undesirable response from the perspective of public health bureaucracies and NGOs which puts newly exercised public health powers at risk.

In Ottawa County, this passion inspired parents to create Ottawa Impact, and resulted in a local election which placed a majority of conservative commissioners on the county board who were committed to reining in the unconstitutional powers which had been exercised by the health department.

Currently, while acting in coordination with public health activist NGO's, the Ottawa County Department of Public Health accepts little input or oversight from the Board of Commissioners. This was evidenced by the denial of obvious activity and involvement at the over-the-top Grand Valley Sex Education week, as well as the minimizing of health department presence at the drag queen event at Grand Haven Pride where children were present. Additionally, the health department does not review or accept input on media communications from the county communications director before release.

The People's Budget

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners is now working through the county budget. The Board Chair and other commissioners have a reasonable desire to return health department spending to pre-Covid levels, while ensuring the county meets the needs of the community. In response to this request, health department leaders have taken to social media and the media circuit with ridiculous accusations to announce their displeasure, rather than working towards budget solutions. The Board will not be slashing services to children or closing the health department doors.

We recognize change is hard, and reducing the size of government rarely happens, but it is time for health department leaders to return to the table and focus on the health department's work on behalf of the people.

The conservative Board majority includes 2 nurses, a former social worker, a teacher, and those with business and government backgrounds. Board members bring decades of professional and life experience to their work, both in meeting the needs of people and in working through budgets. Despite public accusations, this is hardly a Board which is unsympathetic to ensuring the public health needs of children, families, and businesses are met. Board members are parents who specifically ran on parental rights and protecting children— and make children a priority in everything they do.

"Protecting children and parental rights is a top priority, it's what we love to do."

*Sylvia Rhodea
Board Vice-Chairperson, District 8*



The new Board's focus on unmet needs— increasing support for veterans by creating an enhanced Department of Veterans Affairs, prioritizing ADA compliance across the county in the CIP plan for the county's buildings, and recommending notification of vaccine waivers and informed consent are provided to parents— is indicative of the priorities and the backgrounds of the new board of commissioners. The board is initiating action on items ignored in the past, with potential for significant positive impact for members of our community.

Addressing COVID-19 Budget and Staffing Levels

On 8/24/21, the prior Board approved \$2,179,153.00 for 17 full-time, benefited positions, and 25 part-time non-benefited positions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, there was disagreement among the Board about approving these positions, with a recognition the positions were being used for the controversial handling of the pandemic while the people were requesting relief from county government overreach into their lives, as evidenced by the 1000 parents present at the meeting.

The health department budget grew significantly due to Covid-19 from 2020 to 2023, and the budget first proposed by the department for 2024 continued at this higher level. The

Covid-19 pandemic has ended. In addition, the health department has an excess of \$3 million currently in their fund balance.

The Interim Health Director was recently asked to provide budget scenarios in line with the Board's request to return health department spending to pre-Covid levels as the Board works towards finalizing the budget. Rather than answering the reasonable and responsible questions from the Board—

rather than building a workable budget and advocating for the specific components of public health which do important work, the health department has focused their time and energy on social media and the media circuit to publicize fear and panic while threatening lawfare.



1000 Parent Meeting

"It's time to return the Public Health budget back to pre-Covid levels and save taxpayers millions of dollars."

*Joe Moss
Board Chairperson, District 5*



At a time when professional leadership is needed, the Interim Health Director refuses to participate in a normal operating budget process, refusing to answer questions or produce requested budget drafts. It's not possible to effectively advocate for employees or the community you serve when you have removed yourself from conversation and the negotiation table.

Instead, health department leadership is writing dramatic Facebook posts and doing media interviews without sharing full information to either the public or the board. In so doing, they are creating unnecessary fear and panic for individuals and families in the community— some of whom have special needs children— while discrediting the Board and county government. Leadership in the health department is not operating in good faith.

Maintaining Personal and Departmental Power

Perhaps their priority is not public health services. Perhaps health department leadership is more concerned with maintaining personal and departmental power— a priority of the NGOs they coordinate with, than they are in the continuation of public health services to the community.

Perhaps they are discontent with the Board majority's stand against some of the progressive priorities of the department. And perhaps they believe creating panic and upset with the current board could prove helpful to their personal participation in the recall efforts against Commissioner Ebel.

Going Forward

Whatever the underlying motivation, it is time for health department leadership to focus on serving the people of Ottawa County— which is what they are employed to do.

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners will continue to work to meet the needs of the people, fulfilling the requirements of county government with excellence, while protecting

the individual freedoms and parental rights of our people.

August 26th, 2023

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Sylvia Rhodea for Ottawa County Commissioner

August 27 at 4:57 PM · 🌐



When things seem unbelievable, it just might be that they are. Public health leaders have created quite a panic this week.

There will be no health department shut down, no closure of services for children. There never was going to be.

The budget process continues, despite health department leaders being preoccupied with a media tour.

Over the past three years, the health department greatly expanded during the pandemic. The pandemic is over and fiscal responsibility argues that it should return to previous historical levels. Caring for a community can also be done well.

The conservative Board majority includes 2 nurses, a former social worker, a teacher, and those with business and government backgrounds. Despite public accusations, this is hardly a Board which is unsympathetic to ensuring the public health needs of children, families, and businesses are met.

Ironically, we have been scrutinized for caring too much with our proposal to create an enhanced Department of Veterans Affairs to better meet the needs of our veterans and their families. We are honored to take a little heat for those who have given so much to defend and protect us. 🇺🇸

🇺🇸 So what really is going on? Please read the attached news release for more information on what is happening with health department leadership and the Board. 🇺🇸

There may still be questions you have related to the budget. Our next scheduled finance meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2023. You are welcome to attend or watch the recorded meeting later. As always, feel free to subscribe to Ottawa County news at miottawa.org.

SYLVIA
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Press Release: Public Health Panic - The prioritization of public health powers over the needs of the people

35

12 comments 35 shares



Ottawa Impact

August 28 at 10:02 AM · 🌐



The radical left and their bureaucrats use fake news media and lawfare to intimidate conservative leaders to inaction. We see this on the federal AND local levels.

If you are a conservative with a SPINE standing between the radicals and The People, you WILL BE ATTACKED.

Listen to Joe Moss discuss the latest Ottawa County news on Justin Barclay:

<https://fb.watch/mlonfVoh7a/>



Justin Barclay was live.

August 28 at 9:01 AM · 🌐

Biden White House colluded with Jack Smith?

Get the links each show here:

<http://JustinBarclay.com>

👍 🤔 😡 6

32 comments 3 shares



OC Department of Public Health

August 28 · 🌐

Monday, August 28, 2023 at 2:23 PM

to providing excellent services to children, individuals, and families through the work of the Department of Public Health (DPH). In line with fiscal responsibility and making the most of taxpayer dollars, the County is requiring that the general fund contribution to DPH's budget return to average pre-COVID levels. This is a process all American families and businesses are going through, and it will not result in the discontinuation of any mandated ... [See more](#)

County

Freedom Rings

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County sets fiscally responsible budget for public health

County sets fiscally responsible budget for public health Ottawa County, Michigan sent this bulletin at 08/28/2023 02:21 PM EDT August 28, 2023 F...

👍👎👏 121

138 🗨️ 41 ➦

👍 Like

🗨️ Comment

➦ Share



Kylie Buist

Public Health Departments are the backbone of services essential to maintaining a healthy community. Do you want to know why Ottawa County is one of the healthiest counties in Michigan ? It is because the very people that you are threatening work tirel... [See more](#)

5w Edited

👍👎👏 94

➦ Joshua Postema replied · 7 Replies

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Ottawa County

Where Freedom Rings

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County sets fiscally responsible budget for public health

Ottawa County, Michigan sent this bulletin at 08/28/2023 02:21 PM EDT



Ottawa County

Where Freedom Rings

Press Release

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August 28, 2023

For Immediate Release

County sets fiscally responsible budget for public health

Ottawa County is committed to providing excellent services to children, individuals, and families through the work of the Department of Public Health (DPH). In line with fiscal responsibility and making the most of taxpayer dollars, the County is requiring that the general fund contribution to DPH's budget return to average pre-COVID levels. This is a process all American families and businesses are going through, and it will not result in the discontinuation of any mandated services, and especially not the closure of the Public Health Department.

Such claims are disingenuous and being made in bad faith for political purposes. For the Director of Public Health to attempt to influence the budget process through media theatrics, instead of good faith conversations with the County Administrator and the Board of Commissioners, is totally inappropriate and unprofessional.

Facts:

- Claims being made by the Department of Public Health, such as that the department will be forced to close its doors, or to cut essential mandated services, are patently false, bad faith, and disingenuous fear-mongering tactics. This approach represents a continued pattern of insubordinate and unprofessional behavior out of the Department of Public Health.
- The Department of Public Health has not provided a budget based on the parameters requested by the Administrator and the Board, despite being asked multiple times. Yet the

department has nonetheless found the time to spin a highly politicized, fictitious, fear-based narrative to the media and the unsuspecting public.

- The Department of Public Health, like all American families and businesses, is being required to set its budget to pre-COVID levels. Such a requirement has nothing to do with politics, but basic common sense and fiscal responsibility.
- The COVID pandemic is over. It is incumbent upon leaders to ensure that funding, staffing, and programs which were designated for that purpose, are wound down.
- The County will not stand for any attempts by the Department of Public Health to cut essential programs unnecessarily, for political spectacle or media theatrics. The families who are served by the Department of Public Health deserve better, and will not be political pawns.

By the Numbers:

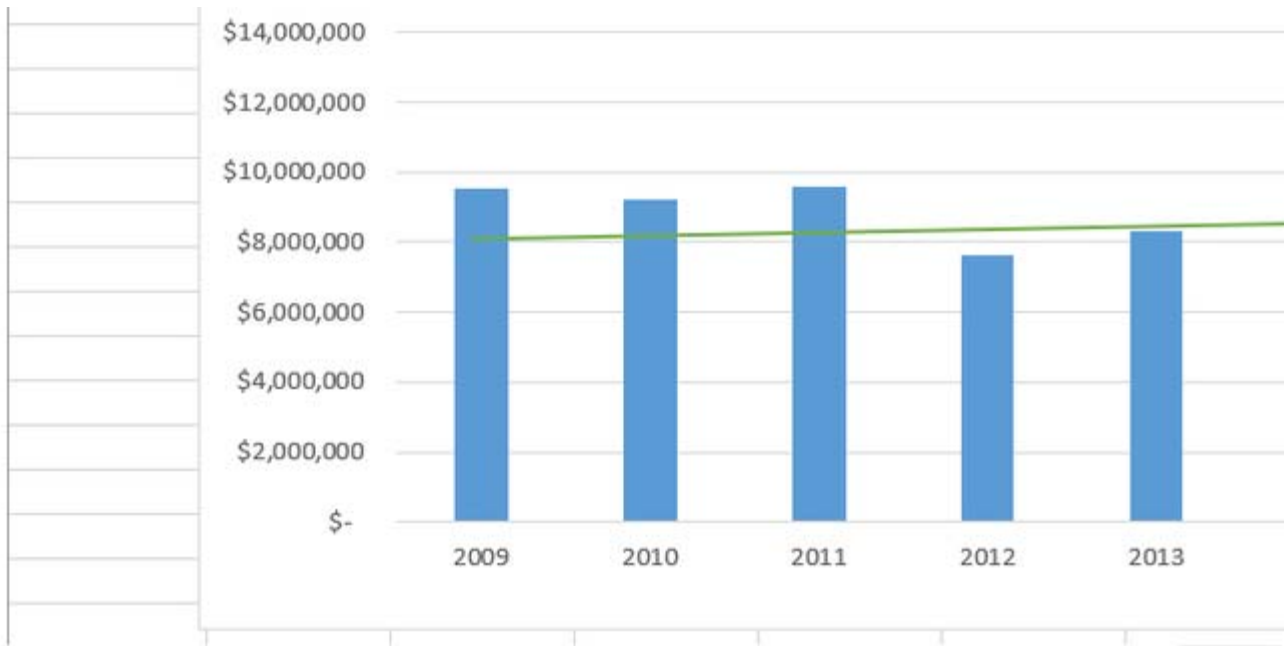
- The average general fund contribution for the Department of Public Health in the years preceding COVID was \$3.8 million per year.
- The FY24 DPH budget will include a \$2.5 million general fund contribution, plus a contribution from DPH’s fund balance, to come as close to the historic \$3.8 million general fund contribution figure as possible.
- The general fund contribution amount requested by DPH for FY24 was \$6.7 million, a stunning 72% increase from the last pre-COVID year, which was \$3.9 million. This large increase far outstrips County population growth and inflation over that period. The County is simply asking for this number to return to normal levels. (see graph below)
- DPH’s total personnel is more than one third larger than the last pre-COVID year, jumping from around 90, to more than 120 currently, only a few short years later. This 33% increase in personnel is far higher than the rate of inflation or population growth of Ottawa County.

As we work to finalize the budget, adjustments may be made based on additional information. The County will continue to work through the details of the budget process, with or without assistance from Public Health Department leaders. The final budget decisions will be voted on by the Board of Commissioners following a public hearing that provides an opportunity for public comment.

We remain committed to ensuring the Public Health Department meets the needs of the community, serving our children, families, and individuals with excellence while ensuring fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers of Ottawa County.

20-YEAR REVIEW AND FORECAST

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	\$9,545,586	\$9,243,028	\$9,597,501	\$7,620,769	\$8,339,119	\$8,834,228
	\$20,000,000					
	\$18,000,000					
	\$16,000,000					



Media Contacts:

[Link to Image](#)

John Gibbs, County Administrator

Joe Moss, Ottawa County Board of Commissioners Chairman

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Joe Moss for Ottawa County Commissioner

August 29 at 11:04 AM · 🌐



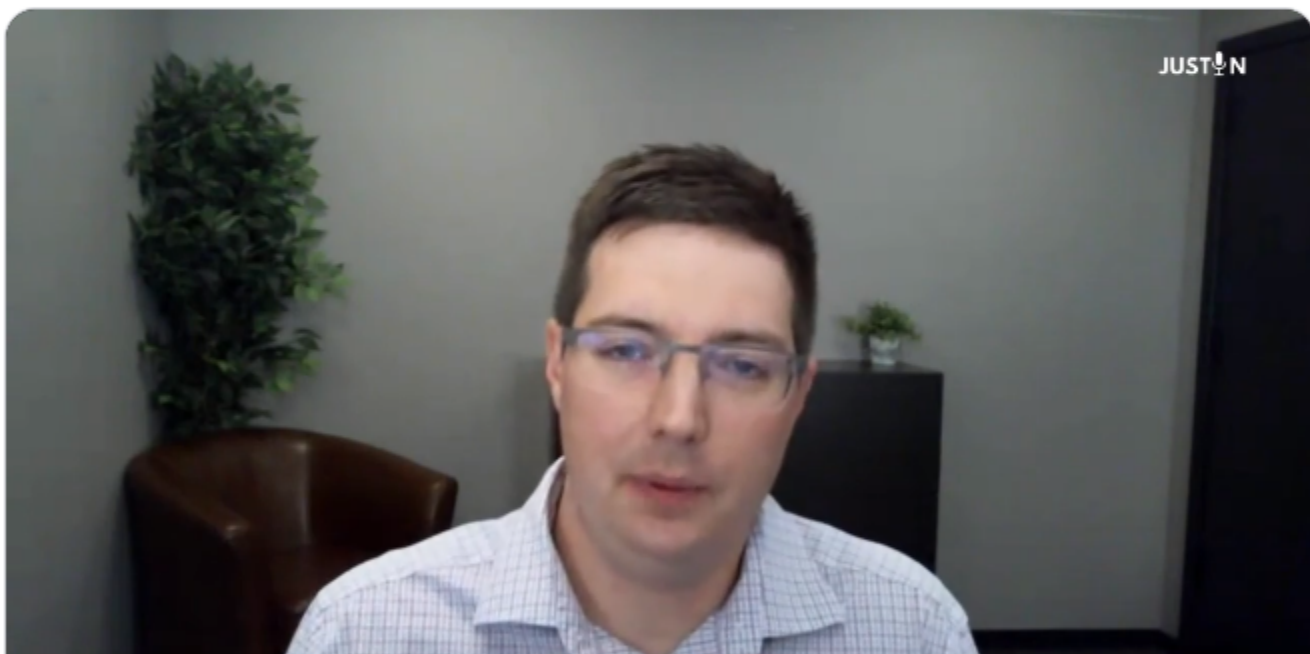
"The Health Department has claimed that the proposed budget cut will endanger public health and safety. This is an irresponsible mischaracterization of the fiscal decision facing the County. When government expands, it does not limit itself willingly. It takes accountability and transparency to determine where the budget and bureaucracy can be trimmed, and it takes a governing board that is willing to assess funding needs."

- Luke Meerman, 89th District, Michigan House of Representatives

Conservative leaders stand on principle, ask tough questions, and place LIMITS on government, even when the bureaucracy cries wolf. 🇺🇸

Resist public health panic propaganda. Ottawa County is Where Freedom Rings!

<https://fb.watch/mJM2pHVgyd/>



Justin Barclay ✓

August 28 at 6:14 PM · 🌐

Public's Health Panic.. What's Going on In Ottawa County?

County Commission Chair, Joe Moss, Sets the Record Straight

👍❤️😂 13

7 comments



Sylvia Rhodea for Ottawa County Commissioner

August 29 at 12:09 PM · 🌐



"The Health Department has claimed that the proposed budget cut will endanger public health and safety. This is an irresponsible mischaracterization of the fiscal decision facing the County. When government expands, it does not limit itself willingly. It takes accountability and transparency to determine where the budget and bureaucracy can be trimmed, and it takes a governing board that is willing to assess funding needs."

- Luke Meerman, 89th District, Michigan House of Representatives

Conservative leaders stand on principle, ask tough questions, and place LIMITS on government, even when the bureaucracy cries wolf. 🇺🇸

<https://fb.watch/mJM2pHVgyd/>




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Justin Barclay ✓

August 28 at 6:14 PM · 🌐

Public's Health Panic.. What's Going on In Ottawa County?

County Commission Chair, Joe Moss, Sets the Record Straight

👍❤️ 6

3 comments



Allison Miedema for Ottawa County Commissioner

August 29 at 6:15 PM · 🌐



"The Health Department has claimed that the proposed budget cut will endanger public health and safety. This is an irresponsible mischaracterization of the fiscal decision facing the County. When government expands, it does not limit itself willingly. It takes accountability and transparency to determine where the budget and bureaucracy can be trimmed, and it takes a governing board that is willing to assess funding needs."

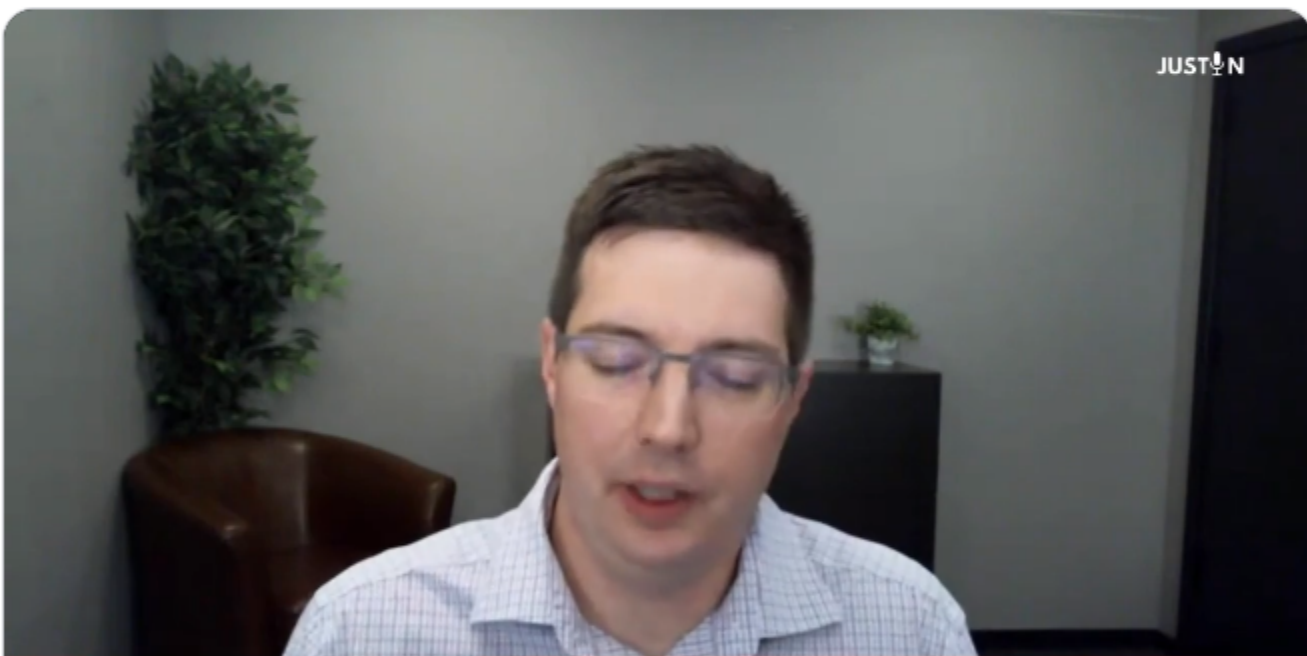
- Luke Meerman, 89th District, Michigan House of Representatives

Conservative leaders stand on principle, ask tough questions, and place LIMITS on government, even when the bureaucracy cries wolf.

*In the comment section below is county information regarding the health department budget.

*Also, if you haven't read this Simply American article regarding media, I'll also share that in the comment section.

<https://fb.watch/mJM2pHVgyd/>




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August 28 at 6:14 PM · 🌐


Public's Health Panic.. What's Going on In Ottawa County?

County Commission Chair, Joe Moss, Sets the Record Straight

👍👎 15

7 comments 2 shares



Auron MacIntyre  @AuronMacintyre · Aug 28 ...

Conservatives don't want to rule, they don't even want to win, they just want the approval of their enemies



158



753




4,860



201.4K



Joe Moss  @RealJoeMoss · Aug 28 ...

What do you call conservatives who want to win and govern, regardless of what their enemies think?




169



Joe Moss reposted



Ottawa Impact  @OttawaImpact · Aug 28 ...

The radical left and their bureaucrats use fake news media and lawfare to intimidate conservative leaders to inaction. We see this on the federal AND local levels.

If you are a conservative with a SPINE standing between the radicals and The People, you WILL BE ATTACKED.



14



5




14



1,084





Joe Moss  @ReaJoeMoss · Aug 29



Public health and left-leaning activist media collude with government to manipulate and gaslight. It's common. It happens at the local, state, AND federal levels—because they coordinate from top to bottom via NGOs, etc.

The attacks are most vicious when you expose their lies.




1



 55



Joe Moss  @ReaJoeMoss · Aug 29



Government works best when it asks the tough questions and limits itself.



Freedom is our default.

Resist public health panic propaganda. twitter.com/mrjustinbarcla...

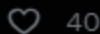
This Tweet was deleted by the Tweet author. [Learn more](#)




15




16



40

 4,314



Joe Moss  @ReaJoeMoss · Aug 28



Government bureaucracy will always use fear as a catalyst to control you.



Justin Amash  @justinamash · Aug 28

The government will always use fear as a catalyst to pass laws to control you.



8



1




9

 1,004





Joe Moss  @RealJoeMoss · Aug 30

Time to go back to normal



No matter what the leftist narrative writers say



Matthew J. Peterson  @docMJP · Aug 29

People need to unify around simply finding ways to practically live better in the situation we find ourselves. Forget the crazed imposed narratives. We just want better lives for ourselves and our kids. Functional governments. It ain't radical stuff, no matter how they label it.



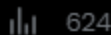
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624



Joe Moss reposted



Sylvia Leigh Rhodea @SylviaRhodea · Aug 29



When you empower Democrats and their allies, you empower the radical Democratic Party agenda.

There is no middle ground in 2023 America.



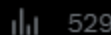
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529





Sylvia Leigh Rhodea @SylviaRhodea · Aug 29



When you empower Democrats and their allies, you empower the radical Democratic Party agenda.

There is no middle ground in 2023 America.



4



4



8



530



Sylvia Leigh Rhodea @SylviaRhodea · Aug 29



Public health bureaucrats are allergic to freedom and oversight, and want zero interference to their Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) led agenda,— zero accountability to the elected representatives of the people.



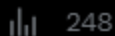
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248



Sylvia Leigh Rhodea @SylviaRhodea · Aug 29



It's time for public health to focus on meeting the needs of the people, rather than creating public panic.



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Public's Health Panic.. What's Going on In Ottawa ...

Public's Health Panic.. What's Going on In Ottawa County? County Commission Chair, Joe Moss, Set...



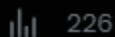
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226



ANALYSIS

Conservative county commissioners defend parental rights on vaccines, infuriating woke Michigan media

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners in Michigan voted overwhelmingly, 9-2, in favor of a resolution that requires parents to be better informed about their options for school and daycare vaccination mandates.



Ottawa County Board of Commissioners meeting

YouTube / Screenshot

Stephen Kokx

Wed Aug 30, 2023 - 4:54 pm EDT

Listen to this article



0:00 / 4:54 1X

WEST OLIVE, Michigan ([LifeSiteNews](#)) — One of the most conservative counties in the state of Michigan has doubled down on its unwavering support for parental rights, throwing local media outlets into a frenzy.

On Tuesday last week, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, which represents roughly 300,000 Michigianians, voted overwhelmingly, 9-2, in favor of a resolution that requires parents to be better informed about their options for school and daycare vaccination mandates.

Led by Chairman Joe Moss, commissioners passed the “Resolution on Childhood Vaccine Waivers for School and Childcare.” The measure doesn’t create new policies but simply strengthens already existing laws by requiring authorities to more clearly promote medical, ethical, or religious exemptions for children.

The resolution was needed, Moss told LifeSite yesterday, because the Ottawa County Department of Public Health has repeatedly failed to properly educate parents about their right to shield their sons and daughters from vaccines.

“There have been a ton of social media ads by our health department promoting vaccines as we head into the new school year. But none includes language about how parents have the right to exemptions,” Moss said via phone. “This measure was needed to ensure parents are better informed.”

Ottawa County Administrative Health Officer Adeline Hambley has been a thorn in the side of Moss and his pro-medical freedom colleagues since they rode into office on a tidal wave of support in 2022, as [reported](#) by LifeSite at the time.

Earlier this year, Hambley filed a lawsuit against the county after commissioners sought to replace her. A judge in nearby Muskegon sided with her, and she remained in her role, but a state appeals court panel vacated that ruling this summer.

Perhaps sensing her dismissal is imminent, Hambley attacked Moss as well as Ottawa County Administrator John Gibbs earlier this week by [telling liberal local media outlets](#) that they were slashing the county’s medical budget to a level that will endanger people’s lives.

Gibbs as well as Moss [debunked her baseless claims in public statements](#), noting that they are simply wanting to return to pre-pandemic spending amounts.

It's time for public health to focus on meeting the needs of the people, rather than creating public panic.<https://t.co/xgICdWdYKB>

— Sylvia Leigh Rhodea (@SylviaRhodea) [August 29, 2023](#)

Despite that, NBC affiliate WOOD TV8 as well as MLive.com recklessly reported on Hambley's deceptive argument in a way that made it seem the health department was going to close in a matter of weeks. MLive previously characterized Moss and his colleagues as a “far right faction.”

Moss and seven other candidates backed by Ottawa Impact PAC, including co-founder Sylvia Leigh Rhodea, were first elected last fall. Thanks to a strong pro-family and pro-faith platform, they ousted multiple incumbent moderate Republicans, several of whom supported COVID lockdowns.

The landslide Moss and his fellow freedom warriors received clearly gave them a mandate to pass conservative policies that their constituents have long desired. At their first meeting, commissioners eliminated the county's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office. Since then, they've enacted a laundry list of other anti-woke measures.

West Michigan media has relentlessly attacked them ever since. According to watchdog SimplyAmerican.com, local news outlets have run more than 75 hit pieces on the commissioners, with *Holland Sentinel* reportedly publishing the most.

That paper's activist executive editor, Sarah Leach – who allegedly belongs to a left-wing Facebook group specifically formed to oppose Moss' PAC – has described Ottawa Impact as a “far-right fundamentalist” organization in her biased reporting.

On X, formerly Twitter, Leach has also repeatedly ridiculed medical freedom voices, and has pushed Big Pharma talking points about the abortion-tainted COVID shot, which has been linked to sudden death, myocarditis, pregnancy complications, and blood clots.

Calling it “local news” is like calling Coca-Cola a “local drink” just because it's sold here. Learn who controls your media: [@Gannett](https://t.co/c6nFmJOavD) [@HollandSentinel](#) [@ghtribune](#) [@WOODTV](#) [@FOX17](#) [@wzzm13](#) [@TEGNA](#)

— Joe Moss (@RealJoeMoss) [August 28, 2023](#)

Moss told LifeSite that he and his fellow elected officials are undeterred in the face of media attacks and that they will continue to defend parental rights, uphold Christian values, and pass conservative policies.

TOPICS



Simply American

August 31 · 🌐

Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 10:00 AM Proposed budget cuts cause social media meltdown for Ottawa County Interim Health Director



SIMPLYAMERICAN.COM

Proposed budget cuts cause social media meltdown for Ottawa County Interim Health Director - Simply American

👍❤️😱 7

23 💬 2 ➦

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CURRENT + OPINION

Proposed budget cuts cause social media meltdown for Ottawa County Interim Health Director

Published August 31, 2023

Written by Henry

Photography by Simply American

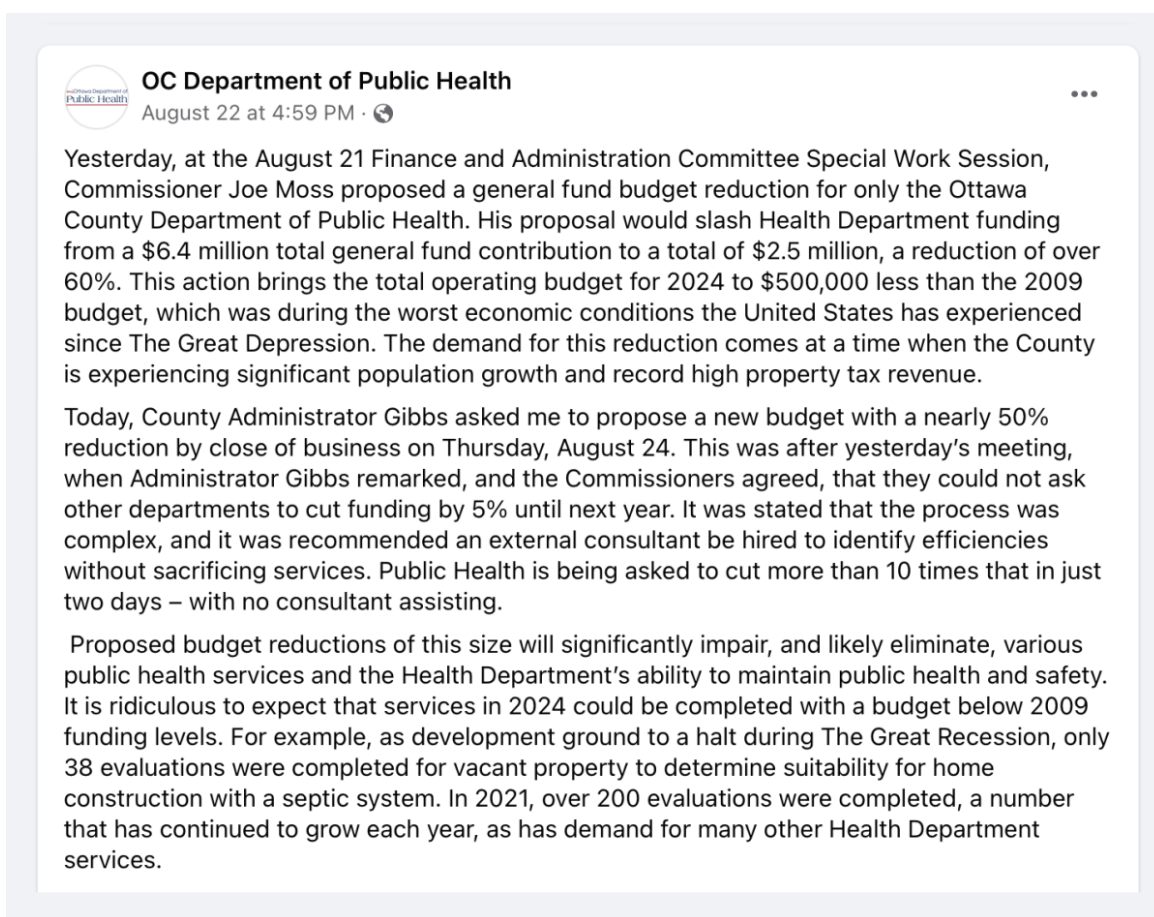
“The County will not stand for any attempts by the Department of Public Health to cut essential programs unnecessarily, for political spectacle or media theatrics. The families who are served by the Department of Public Health deserve better, and will not be political pawns.” —Ottawa County Press Release, August 28, 2023

GONE ROGUE

Rather than coming to the budget discussion to work out details with the County Administrator, Interim Health Director Adeline Hambley jumped on the media circuit.

In an attempt to fearmonger the citizens of Ottawa County, Hambley claimed that the department will be forced to close its doors or cut essential mandated services.

In a social media post on August 22, 2023, at 4:59pm, the Ottawa County Department of Public Health amped up its temper tantrum by stating, “Proposed budget reductions of this size will significantly impair, and likely eliminate, various public health services and the Health Department’s ability to maintain public health and safety.”



OC Department of Public Health Facebook post, August 22, 2023.

Just two days later (Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 5:08pm), Hambley again continued the false narrative.

Posted on the Ottawa County Department of Public Health social media pages is a letter signed by Hambley stating, “[T]hese actions will have lasting and long-term effects on individuals, businesses,

organizations, and the entire community as they risk the health of each person who lives or works in Ottawa County.”

An attempt was made to reach Hambley on Friday, August 25, 2023, to ask questions. But, during her “manufactured crisis,” she was out of the office.

Out of office response from Adeline Hambley, August 25, 2023.

FACTS OVER FEAR

On Monday, August 28, 2023, Hambley had a virtual press conference to spin her narrative of fear again.

“We will be looking to create new channels to be able to communicate credible health information,” Hambley said, “and updates that are of interest to the county residents as soon as possible.”

She continues, “It’s important to the Ottawa County Health Officer for me to be able to have the powers and duties to inform and speak with the public as soon as possible if there is a threat to health.”

Powers?

During the COVID-19 pandemic many Ottawa County citizens realized that our Health Department was given too many powers. And the previous Board of elected officials failed to oversee the Health Department—which puts Ottawa County in a place where “powers” now seem to be the most important thing to Hambley.

But where are her facts?

As her lawyer sits next to her during her virtual press conference, Hambley again speaks of not meeting the minimum requirement for state mandated services—all while failing to give the public exactly what the state minimums are.

The citizens can see the facts for themselves.

TRANSPARENCY IS KEY

From 2009 to 2018 the Ottawa County Health Department hovered close to a 10-million-dollar budget, increasing to 16 to 18 million during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Where did the extra funds go during that period?

Board Chair Joe Moss was able to explain where some of the funds went when interviewed on the [Justin Barclay show on August 28, 2023](#).

“Two years ago the county added 42 COVID staff positions. And, those people have been working the last two years, presumably on COVID response,” Moss explains. “And, now that we’re past the government response to the pandemic, those positions should end as it was discussed in the very beginning.”

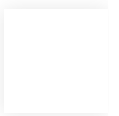
According to an August 26, 2023 [press release](#) by Board Vice-Chair Sylvia Rhodea, “Public Health Panic—The prioritization of public

health powers over the needs of the people,” the previous Board approved these 42 positions for \$2,179,153.

The Biden administration ended the public health emergency on May 11, 2023, signaling to the country that it was time to return to pre-pandemic life.

In a [press release](#) by Moss, he breaks down a plan for the budget that could save taxpayers in Ottawa County \$4,178,063—all while still meeting the statutory requirements.

Moss reminds citizens that the Health Department has a current fund balance of three million dollars, as shown in the following budget breakdown provided to residents during the budget process.



Ottawa County Public Health budget breakdown. Image obtained from Board Chair Joe Moss' press release.

CAN'T MAKE A PLAN

"I can't even make a plan around it," Hambley told the *Holland Sentinel*.

So rather than sitting down and engaging in discussion, Hambley is attempting to influence the budget process by media theatrics.

For over 10 years the previous health director was able to make a 10-million-dollar budget work and still provide the services required by state mandates.

If the former health officer could operate and come to the table for the process, why can't Hambley?

The County has promised to continue to work through the details, with or without assistance from Public Health leaders.

"We remain committed to ensuring the Public Health Department meets the needs of the community, serving our children, families, and individuals with excellence while ensuring fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers of Ottawa County." —August 28th Ottawa County Press Release

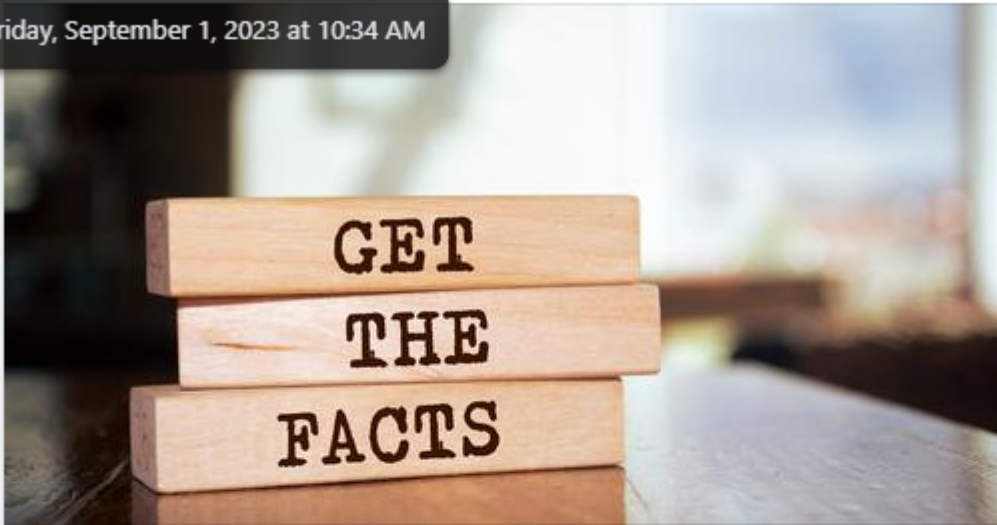
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Joe Moss for Ottawa County Commissioner

September 1 · 🌐

Friday, September 1, 2023 at 10:34 AM



GOPHOUSE.ORG

The truth behind the Ottawa County Health Dept. budget reduction - Mi House Repubs

👍 😬 14

12 🗨️

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🗨️ Comment

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Chris Demerest

I come here to keep tabs on Joe's alternative truths, which are not truths at all, but pure nonsense.

4w Edited

👍 7

[View more comments](#)



Sylvia Rhodea for Ottawa County Commissioner

September 1 · 🌐

Friday, September 1, 2023 at 11:04 AM



GOPHOUSE.ORG

The truth behind the Ottawa County Health Dept. budget reduction - Mi House Repubs

👍👎 13

5 💬 8 ➦

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✍️ Author

Sylvia Rhodea for Ottawa County Commissioner

<https://sylviarhodea.com/press-release-ottawa-county...>



SYLVIARHODEA.COM

Press Release: Ottawa County Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

4w

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Allison Miedema for Ottawa County Commissioner

September 1 · 🌐

Friday, September 1, 2023 at 6:24 PM [truth-behind-the-ottawa...](#)



GOPHOUSE.ORG

The truth behind the Ottawa County Health Dept. budget reduction - Mi House Repubs

👍 7

1 ➦

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The truth behind the Ottawa County Health Dept. budget reduction

RELEASE | *August 29, 2023*

Contact: [Luke Meerman](#)

Rep. Meerman issued the following statement today addressing misconceptions about the Ottawa County Health Department's annual budget:



89TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
PO. BOX 30054
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
LUKE MEERMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: (517) 373-0838
FAX: (517) 373-9830
LukeMeerman@house.mi.gov
www.RepMeerman.com

August 28th, 2023

It is the responsibility of all governing bodies, whether that be a township board or Congress, to make budget decisions that reduce costs and promote government efficiency. On August 21st, the Ottawa County Finance and Administration Committee proposed a budget reduction for the Department of Public Health that returns its funding to pre-COVID outbreak levels. Following this request, the Department launched a campaign on social media to misrepresent this proposed budget reduction and alleged that reduced funding will jeopardize the county's public health.

The misinformation surrounding this proposed budget cut does not illustrate the decisions facing the County. The COVID outbreak led to an outpouring of federal funds for public health departments and with this funding, the Department expanded its services and adopted a new norm for its operational funding. We are now three years past the initial COVID outbreak, and the County must address whether it can and should maintain this unprecedented funding for the Department.

The Department has claimed that the proposed budget cut will endanger public health and safety. This is an irresponsible mischaracterization of the fiscal decision facing the County. When government expands, it does not limit itself willingly. It takes accountability and transparency to determine where the budget and bureaucracy can be trimmed, and it takes a governing board that is willing to assess funding needs.

The funding levels established during the COVID outbreak are not sustainable. When the County draws on federal funding to subsidize its expanded operations, it sets itself up for turmoil when federal funding is no longer available. At a time when our state is faced by rampant inflation and economic uncertainty, making prudent decisions to reduce costs will best prepare Ottawa County for the future. Limited government requires limiting government and proposed spending cuts promote government efficiency.

Sincerely,

Luke Meerman
89th District



RELATED POSTS



Joe Moss for Ottawa County Commissioner

September 2 · 🌐

Saturday, September 2, 2023 at 12:37 PM

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners is providing active oversight & asking the tough questions to make sure next year's budget is excellent!

I am thankful for all the hard work that county staff has put into this process.

Read the latest about the 2024 Ottawa County budget here:



JOEMOSS.COM

Press Release: Ottawa County Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

👍❤️ 27

15

👍 Like

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Terry Harrison

Woe is he, who twist the word of God into their own beliefs! The Lord God almighty does not look kindly on you!

You have no true experience in world affairs! I do!

You know absolutely nothing about what happens in the real world! You truly don NOT ca... See more

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Press Release: Ottawa County Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

September 2nd, 2023



For Immediate Release

Joe Moss
Board Chairperson, District 5

Sylvia Rhodea
Board Vice-Chairperson, District 8

Ottawa County Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners is working through the budget process for fiscal year 2024, during which the Board is considering the budget proposals of county departments. In prior years, boards have adopted the budget with little to no adjustment from department requests.

The current Board is invested in providing active oversight to Ottawa County on behalf of the people they serve, including the review and adjustment of department budget proposals where needed. The Board Chair and other commissioners have a reasonable desire to return the Department of Public Health budget to normal pre-Covid levels, while ensuring the county meets the needs of the community. We recognize change is hard, and reducing the size of government rarely happens.

Information about the current budget proposal and process follows.

Q: Who determines department budgets in Ottawa County?

A: The Board of Commissioners, as elected representatives of the people, are entrusted with setting the budget for county government departments.

Q: What is the budget process for Ottawa County?

A: The first budget draft for fiscal year 2024 was provided to the Finance and Administration Committee on August 1, 2023, built on the budget requests of county departments. This year, the Finance Committee added two public work sessions to the budget process.

The budget process includes the following:

- August 10, 2023, Finance Committee, Special Work Session
- August 21, 2023, Finance Committee, Special Work Session
- September 12, 2023, Public Hearing on the Budget
- September 19, 2023, Finance Committee to vote to forward a proposed 2024 Budget to the full Board of Commissioners
- September 26, 2023, Board of Commissioners to vote to finalize a FY24 budget for Ottawa County

As the Finance Committee considers the budget, adjustments are made based on details requested and provided by the Administrator, Fiscal Services, elected officials, appointed officials, and department heads.

A public hearing on the budget will be held on September 12, 2023. The Finance Committee will vote on September 19, 2023, to forward a proposed 2024 Budget to the full Board of Commissioners for consideration. A final budget will be voted on by the full Board of Commissioners on September 26, 2023.

Q: Will the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (DPH) budget go back to normal levels in 2024?

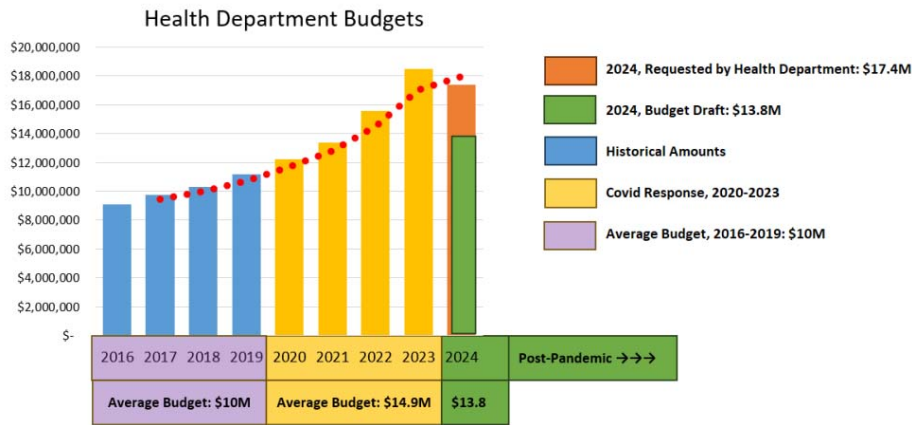
A: Yes, the Board of Commissioners is working towards setting the DPH budget back to pre-Covid levels, adjusted for inflation and population growth. The COVID-19 pandemic has ended. It is incumbent upon leaders to ensure that funding, staffing, and programs which were designated for that purpose, are wound down.

Q. Has the DPH budget skyrocketed since 2020?

A: Yes, the 5 year average of the DPH budget expenditures from 2016 to 2020 was \$10.5 million, with FY19 expenditures reaching \$11.2M, and FY20 expenditures reaching \$12.2M. DPH's budget continued to dramatically increase during the COVID-19 response.

- In FY21, DPH expenditures were \$13.4M.
- In FY22, DPH expenditures were \$15.6M.
- In FY23, DPH budgeted \$15.2M in expenditures, which rose to \$18.5M by the end of the fiscal year.
- DPH requested a budget of \$17.4M in expenditures for FY24, which would include continued staffing and budget at Covid-19 era levels.

The Board will be considering a DPH expenditure budget for FY24 of \$13.8M. DPH expenditures in FY2019— the last pre-Covid year, adjusted for population growth and inflation, equals \$13.6M.



Average Health Department Budget, 2016-2020: \$10.5M

2021 Public Health Expenditures (Mid-Pandemic): \$13.4M

2024 Budget Requested by Public Health: \$17.4M

2024 Proposed Public Health Budget: \$13.8M

Q: What are the historical General Fund contributions from Ottawa County to DPH?

A: Funding for DPH is provided through state and federal funding, grants, as well as General Fund (GF) contributions from Ottawa County. The 5-year average county GF contribution was \$3.8M from 2016 to 2020, with a \$3.9M GF contribution in 2020.

Q: What will the DPH General Fund contribution be in FY24?

A: DPH requested a GF contribution of \$6.7M for FY24, a 72% increase from the last pre-COVID year budget. DPH proposed using an additional \$700K of the \$3M Public Health fund balance for FY2024, for a total of \$7.4M in county funding. This large increase outpaced population growth and inflation for Ottawa County in recent years.

In order to bring the DPH budget back in line with normal historical levels, the following amounts are being considered for FY2024:

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would provide \$5.8M in county funds in FY2024, \$400k above FY20 funding levels adjusted for population and inflation.

Q: Were positions added for the COVID-19 response?

A: On 8/24/21, the prior Board approved \$2.1M for 17 full-time, benefited positions, and 25 part-time non-benefited positions to respond to COVID-19. When these positions were approved in 2021, they were approved with the recognition that the positions were being used for the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

DPH's total personnel is one-third higher than the last pre-COVID year, jumping from around 90, to a current level of 120, only a few years later. This 33% increase far outpaces County population growth and inflation over that period. This number should return to normal levels.

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Q: Will the following programs be closed? Pathways to Better Health, the Dental Sealant Program and Miles of Smiles Mobile Dental Office, Family Planning and Women's Health Services, Ottawa Food, and the Suicide Prevention Coalition?

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Q. Are the needs of the people a priority to the new Board?

A: Yes. The conservative Board majority includes 2 nurses, a former social worker, a teacher, and those with business and government backgrounds. Board members bring decades of professional and life experience to their work, both in meeting the needs of people and in working through budgets. Board members are parents who specifically ran on parental rights and protecting children— and make children a priority in everything they do. Board members are committed to ensuring the needs of children, families, and businesses are met.

The Board's focus on unmet needs— increasing support for veterans by creating an enhanced Department of Veterans Affairs, and prioritizing ADA compliance across county buildings in the CIP plan, including the DPH and CMH buildings, shows some of the priorities of the new board of commissioners. The board is initiating budgetary action on items with potential for significant positive impact for members of our community.

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The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners will continue to work to meet the needs of the people, fulfilling the requirements of county government with excellence, while protecting individual freedoms and parental rights.

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Sylvia Rhodea for Ottawa County Commissioner

September 2 · 🌐

Saturday, September 2, 2023 at 12:56 PM

Commissioners is providing active oversight to make sure next year's budget is excellent, including increased support for Children's Special Health Care, increased support for veterans by creating an enhanced Department of Veterans Affairs, and prioritizing ADA compliance across county buildings in the CIP plan, including the Public Health and Community Mental Health buildings.

The Board Chair and other commissioners have a reasonable desire to return the Public Health budget to normal pre-Covid levels, while ensuring the county meets the needs of the community.

I am thankful for all the hard work that county staff has put into this process. 🇺🇸

Read the latest about the proposed 2024 Ottawa County budget and process here:

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Press Release: Ottawa County Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024



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Press Release: Ottawa County Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

September 2nd, 2023



For Immediate Release

Joe Moss
Board Chairperson, District 5

Sylvia Rhodea
Board Vice-Chairperson, District 8

Ottawa County Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners is working through the budget process for fiscal year 2024, during which the Board is considering the budget proposals of county departments. In prior years, boards have adopted the budget with little to no adjustment from department requests.

The current Board is invested in providing active oversight to Ottawa County on behalf of the people they serve, including the review and adjustment of department budget proposals where needed. The Board Chair and other commissioners have a reasonable desire to return the Department of Public Health budget to normal pre-Covid levels, while ensuring the county meets the needs of the community. We recognize change is hard, and reducing the size of government rarely happens.

Information about the current budget proposal and process follows.

Q: Who determines department budgets in Ottawa County?

A: The Board of Commissioners, as elected representatives of the people, are entrusted with setting the budget for county government departments.

Q: What is the budget process for Ottawa County?

A: The first budget draft for fiscal year 2024 was provided to the Finance and Administration Committee on August 1, 2023, built on the budget requests of county departments. This year, the Finance Committee added two public work sessions to the budget process.

The budget process includes the following:

- August 10, 2023, Finance Committee, Special Work Session
- August 21, 2023, Finance Committee, Special Work Session
- September 12, 2023, Public Hearing on the Budget
- September 19, 2023, Finance Committee to vote to forward a proposed 2024 Budget to the full Board of Commissioners
- September 26, 2023, Board of Commissioners to vote to finalize a FY24 budget for Ottawa County

As the Finance Committee considers the budget, adjustments are made based on details requested and provided by the Administrator, Fiscal Services, elected officials, appointed officials, and department heads.

A public hearing on the budget will be held on September 12, 2023. The Finance Committee will vote on September 19, 2023, to forward a proposed 2024 Budget to the full Board of Commissioners for consideration. A final budget will be voted on by the full Board of Commissioners on September 26, 2023.

Q: Will the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (DPH) budget go back to normal levels in 2024?

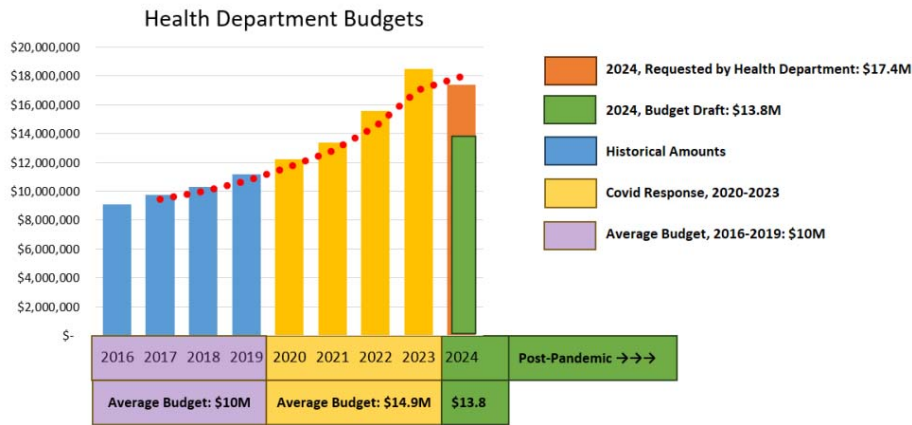
A: Yes, the Board of Commissioners is working towards setting the DPH budget back to pre-Covid levels, adjusted for inflation and population growth. The COVID-19 pandemic has ended. It is incumbent upon leaders to ensure that funding, staffing, and programs which were designated for that purpose, are wound down.

Q. Has the DPH budget skyrocketed since 2020?

A: Yes, the 5 year average of the DPH budget expenditures from 2016 to 2020 was \$10.5 million, with FY19 expenditures reaching \$11.2M, and FY20 expenditures reaching \$12.2M. DPH's budget continued to dramatically increase during the COVID-19 response.

- In FY21, DPH expenditures were \$13.4M.
- In FY22, DPH expenditures were \$15.6M.
- In FY23, DPH budgeted \$15.2M in expenditures, which rose to \$18.5M by the end of the fiscal year.
- DPH requested a budget of \$17.4M in expenditures for FY24, which would include continued staffing and budget at Covid-19 era levels.

The Board will be considering a DPH expenditure budget for FY24 of \$13.8M. DPH expenditures in FY2019— the last pre-Covid year, adjusted for population growth and inflation, equals \$13.6M.



Average Health Department Budget, 2016-2020: \$10.5M

2021 Public Health Expenditures (Mid-Pandemic): \$13.4M

2024 Budget Requested by Public Health: \$17.4M

2024 Proposed Public Health Budget: \$13.8M

Q: What are the historical General Fund contributions from Ottawa County to DPH?

A: Funding for DPH is provided through state and federal funding, grants, as well as General Fund (GF) contributions from Ottawa County. The 5-year average county GF contribution was \$3.8M from 2016 to 2020, with a \$3.9M GF contribution in 2020.

Q: What will the DPH General Fund contribution be in FY24?

A: DPH requested a GF contribution of \$6.7M for FY24, a 72% increase from the last pre-COVID year budget. DPH proposed using an additional \$700K of the \$3M Public Health fund balance for FY2024, for a total of \$7.4M in county funding. This large increase outpaced population growth and inflation for Ottawa County in recent years.

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Allison Miedema for Ottawa County Commissioner

September 2 · 🌐

Saturday, September 2, 2023 at 1:23 PM

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners is providing active oversight to make sure next year's budget is excellent and fiscally responsible, including increased support for Children's Special Health Care, increased support for veterans by creating an enhanced Department of Veterans Affairs, and prioritizing ADA compliance across county buildings in the CIP plan, including the Public Health and Community Mental Health buildings.

The Board Chair and other commissioners ha... [See more](#)



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Press Release: Ottawa County Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024



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Joe Moss for Ottawa County Commissioner

September 8 at 9:54 PM · 🌐

Friday, September 8, 2023 at 9:54 PM starts October 1.

Kids and families are a top priority for the Board of Commissioners, and the reason many new board members ran for office in 2022.

In the draft budget prepared by the county, Hearing and Vision, the Maternal Infant Health Program, dental care through Miles of Smiles, Ottawa Food, Children's Special Health Care, and Pathways to Better Health are anticipated to continue at requested funding levels.

A public hearing on the budget will be held on September 12, 2023.

Read the latest updates and see details about returning the public health budget to pre-pandemic levels. We will continue to inform the public of any final updates as the weeks progress.



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Press Release: Ottawa County Public Health Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

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Faith Geisel

So you're budgeting for a new veteran's department under "supplies"? You must have different definitions for fiscal responsibility and transparency than the rest of us.

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Press Release: Ottawa County Public Health Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

September 8th, 2023



For Immediate Release

Joe Moss
Board Chairperson, District 5

Sylvia Rhodea
Board Vice-Chairperson, District 8

Ottawa County Public Health Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

We appreciate the community's commitment to health as we continue to work through the FY24 budget.

Current board members bring personal and professional life experiences of parenting, nursing, social work, education, government, and business. Like so many in our community, our lives have been touched by the needs of our children, families, and the people we love and have worked with. The Board is committed to ensuring the health needs of children, families, individuals, and businesses are met.

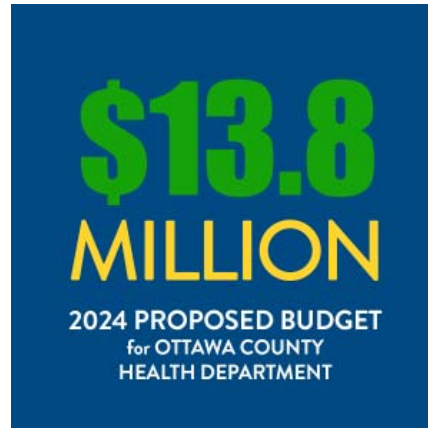
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The Board Chair and other commissioners desire to return Health Department spending to pre-pandemic levels— which is a reasonable goal, while ensuring the county meets the needs of the community.

\$13.8 Million Public Health Budget for Fiscal Year 2024

The current county proposal for FY24 Health Department expenditures is \$13.8 Million, which is consistent with pre-pandemic expenditures adjusted for population growth and inflation. This amount is higher than the elevated pandemic expenditures of \$13.4M in 2021 by the Health Department during the Covid response.



Funding for the Health Department is historically provided through a combination of state and federal funding, grants, charges for services, licenses and permits, Ottawa County’s Public Health Fund Balance, and a General Fund contribution.

A county contribution of \$5.8 Million is proposed for FY24 to assist in funding the \$13.8M in total projected expenditures. The \$5.8 M would be made up of \$4.35M from the General Fund + \$1.47M from the Public Health Fund Balance. This amount is higher than pre-pandemic county contributions adjusted for inflation and population growth.

Children’s Special Health Care Services Funding Increase

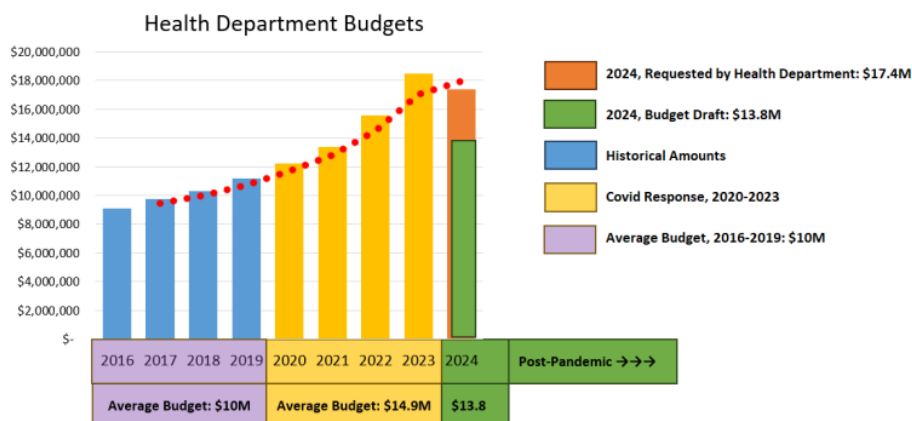
The allocation for Children’s Special Health Care Services in the current budget proposal is \$400,000, an increase over what was requested by the Health Department for 2024. Statements regarding the closure or reduction of Children’s Special Health Care Services are false.

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Reducing the size of government rarely happens, but we remain committed to working towards responsible budget solutions, returning the Health Department to a pre-pandemic budget, adjusted for population growth and inflation, while providing for the health needs of the community.

We look forward to full and accurate reporting on the total budget of the Ottawa County Department of Public Health.



September 8th, 2023

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Allison Miedema for Ottawa County Commissioner

September 8 at 10:25 PM · 🌐

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A public hearing on the budget... See more

\$13.8 MILLION

2024 PROPOSED BUDGET for OTTAWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Press Release: Ottawa County Public Health Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

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✍️ Author

Allison Miedema for Ottawa County Commissioner



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Sylvia Rhodea for Ottawa County Commissioner

September 8 at 10:56 PM · 🌐

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2024 PROPOSED BUDGET for OTTAWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Press Release: Ottawa County Public Health Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

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Sylvia Rhodea for Ottawa County Commissioner



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Press Release: Ottawa County Public Health Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

September 8th, 2023



For Immediate Release

Joe Moss
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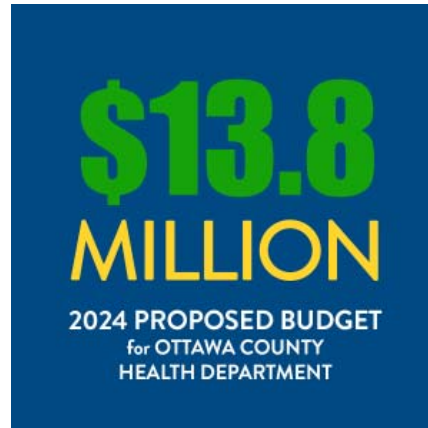
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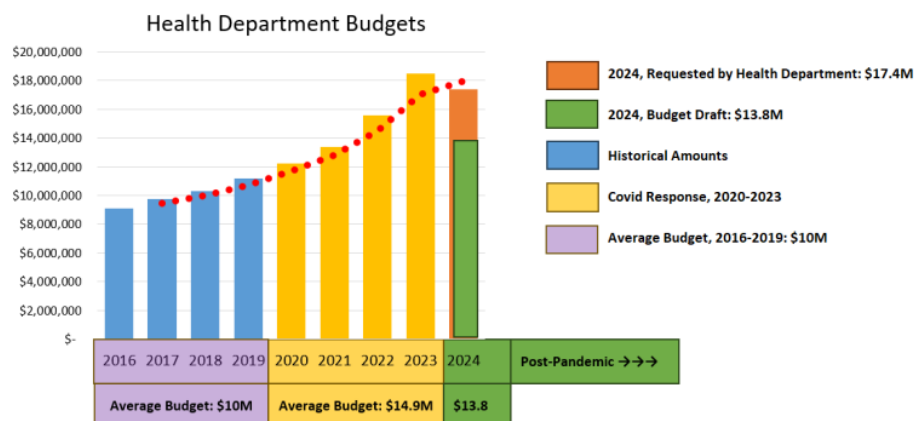
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September 8th, 2023

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Joe Moss for Ottawa County Commissioner

September 12 at 9:16 PM · 🌐

Thanks to everyone who asked questions and gave comment today at the public hearing!

I am reposting this link since a few people had questions on these details today: <https://joemoss.com/ottawa-county-public-health-budget...>

Funding for Children’s Special Health Care Services, Vision and Hearing, Maternal Infant Health Program, Miles of Smiles dental care, Ottawa Food, and Pathways to Better Health will continue at or above the funding levels requested by the health department. Children & families are a priority.

Thanks again to everyone who participated! 🇺🇸

**\$13.8
MILLION**

2024 PROPOSED BUDGET
for OTTAWA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JOEMOSS.COM

Press Release: Ottawa County Public Health Budget Updates for Fiscal Year 2024

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Gladys Towne

Mr. Moss why are you using your Political Facebook page for County notices? Also - this press release is not truthful. The budget that was in the packet for the meeting yesterday showed significant cuts in these areas. Is there a NEW NEW budget th... See more

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