

**Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board
Levy Review
HSLRC Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER-CHAIR

The Human Services Levy Review Committee (HSLRC) meeting was called to order by Jean Carter Ryan on May 21, 2020 at 11:05am.

ROLL CALL

HSLRC members present: Jesse Hemphill, Jean Carter Ryan, Michael Curtin, Jerry Friedman, Jim Bowman, Zak Talarek, and Rose Handon, Ph.D.

A committee quorum was present.

Office of Management & Budget (OMB): Rachel Buske and Madeline Gresham.

County Administration: Ken Wilson.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Buske referred the Committee to the materials in the meeting packet:

1. The meeting agenda
2. The 2020 Draft HSLRC levy report
3. The March 5, 2020 and April 30, 2020 draft meeting minutes
4. Additional material provided by ADAMH

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Buske announced that the next item on the agenda was the approval of March 5, 2020 meeting minutes and the April 30, 2020 meeting minutes. She asked if the Committee had any edits or comments.

Ms. Carter Ryan made a motion to approve each of the minutes and Mr. Friedman seconded both motions. Dr. Handon abstained from voting because she was not present at either meeting. All other members voted “Aye” and both motions carried.

DISCUSSION ON THE MODEL PROJECTIONS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

Ms. Buske informed the Committee that the projections developed by OMB in the levy report are the same projections presented to the Committee in previous meetings. Before drafting the report, Ms. Buske did run ADAMH year to date actuals for both revenue and expenditures and did not feel she had enough information to justify modifying the projections, because it is still too early to determine the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this point there are too many moving parts to consider.

While both OMB and ADAMH anticipate that there will be state revenue cuts and an increase in levy delinquencies, for example, they also anticipate that there will be federal grant opportunities that might offset these cuts. On the expenditure side, ADAMH has recognized that it needs to make reductions based on available revenue. Moving forward, ADAMH has capped 2020 allocations at the lesser of 2019 base allocation levels or the 2019 actual utilization levels. ADAMH is also suspending its Performance Utilization Pool pilot program moving forward. Overall, ADAMH remains focused on trying to ensure that it will end the current cycle with the recommended cash balance of 90 days of expenses.

Ms. Buske informed the Committee that OMB will review its projections once May is over, to determine if there are any modifications that should be made at that time. She did state that she believes it might still be too soon to fully understand how the pandemic will affect revenue and expenditures, and offered that the Committee might simply adopt additional language for the report that would more clearly explain this and reaffirm that the focus will be on ending the current cycle with the recommended cash balance.

Mr. Talarek agreed with Ms. Buske's assessment that it was too soon to consider revising the projections and noted that this is also an issue OMB is facing with its General Fund agencies, due to the delay in the receipt of sales tax revenues.

DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT 2020 HSLRC LEVY REPORT

The Committee generally agreed that the draft levy report was very thorough and well-written, and that staff had done a good job capturing all of the Committee's recommendations and concerns as it attempted to balance the need for additional revenue with the burden on taxpayers, particularly in a time of economic uncertainty.

Mr. Friedman recommended strengthening the language used to explain why the Committee would not support an increase based on the demand growth factor that it could not fully analyze. He recommended the phrase "did not feel comfortable" be revised to read "could not justify." He also recommended other revisions to improve the clarity of the document. Finally, he suggested the section that discussed suicide be bolstered by statistics related to prevalence based on age that have been reported by the Ohio Department of Health.

Mr. Buske thanked the Committee for its feedback and asked members to reread the report and submit any additional comments by Wednesday, May 27th so that she could complete the final draft, and have it reviewed internally before it is sent to the Committee on June 5th.

CERTIFICATION OF ESTIMATED RESOURCES RESOLUTION

Ms. Buske walked the Committee through the remaining items on the HSLRC Levy Review Timeline.

Mr. Talarek explained to the Committee that there had been some internal discussions about having the HSLRC Timeline revised to move up the Board of Commissioners (BOC) resolution to request that the Franklin County Auditor certify the amount of revenue that the new levy will generate. The proposal was to move the resolution date from June 30th to June 2nd of this year. The thought was that doing so would give ADAMH additional time to assess public support for the levy and to review its projections in light of the lower recommended millage and the shorter duration. This would allow them to determine whether they want to go on the November ballot or delay the request until 2021.

The Committee discussed this proposed change to the timeline. Mr. Friedman introduced a motion to revise the timeline accordingly, which was seconded by Dr. Handon. All members voted "Aye" and the motion carried.

Ms. Buske said she will notify the BOC and ADAMH in writing that the Committee will place a resolution on the June 2, 2020 General Session agenda to request that the Auditor certify the estimated resources. She will draft the letters and send them out on the Chairman's behalf once he approves the content.

Dr. Handon asked if ADAMH would submit additional information to the Committee related to its activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Wilson informed the Committee that ADAMH has indicated that they will be conducting a Community Needs Assessment and an Operational Review that staff will share with the Committee as part of its response after they receive an update on the recommendation. He agreed that there should be additional information related to the COVID-19 pandemic included in ADAMH's responses as well as the report.

HSLRC REVIEW PROCESS IF ADAMH DEFERS IN 2020

The Committee asked how the process will work if ADAMH defers its request to go on the ballot in 2020.

Mr. Wilson explained that if ADAMH defers its request, the Committee will not need to go through the entire levy review process that it conducted this year. The process will be abbreviated and while the Committee will have to review updated information before it finalizes its recommendations, the report will most likely only need to be modified to include an addendum.

ACTION ITEMS

The Committee and OMB staff discussed additional analysis that staff should develop:

- The Committee will submit any remaining feedback on the first draft of the report by Wednesday, May 27, 2020.
- Staff will send the final draft levy report to the Committee on June 5th.
- OMB will notify the BOC and ADAMH that the Certification of Estimated Resources resolution will be placed on the June 2nd General Session agenda rather than the June 30th agenda.
- Mr. Talarek will present the resolution at Briefing and General Session on behalf of the Committee; OMB will notify the Committee as to the dates and times if members would like to attend the calls.

CLOSING REMARKS

The next HSLRC meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, 2020 for further discussion related to the levy request.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the HSLRC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46am.