

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Workshop Meeting  
January 24, 2024

A Chippewa County Board of Commissioners Workshop was held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the 91st District Courtroom.

Commissioners Present: Damon Lieurance, Robert Savoie (via zoom), Scott Shackleton, James Traynor, and Chairman Jim Martin

Others Present: Administrator Kelly Church, Administrative Assistant Cady Bauers, Clerk Steven Woodgate, Chuck Leonhardt, MyMichigan President Kevin Kalchik, Assistant Vice President of Postacute for MyMichigan Health Rachel Aultman, Chippewa County Health Department Health Officer Karen Senkus and 32 members of the public. 26 members of the public logged in via zoom.

Chairman Jim Martin called the workshop meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Abby Christiansen, President of the Hospice Board, spoke of the benefits of accepting the proposal from the hospital.

WORKSHOP SESSION

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the proposal to transfer the Home Health and Hospice programs from Chippewa County to MyMichigan

Commissioner Shackleton said Chippewa County Home Health and Hospice program has been losing money. The Commission voted last year to end the funding after 2024 and to look for an alternative source to keep the services going.

Commissioner Savoie previously read the MyMichigan's proposal and was not comfortable with the limited 25-mile radius of Home Health and Hospice coverage due to the fact that Rudyard and Pickford would not be included. Commissioner Shackleton brought the concern to MyMichigan who agreed to extend the radius of care to 30 miles therefore including both Rudyard and Pickford. There was some discussion regarding the townships that would still not be covered as well as expressed concern for paying MyMichigan \$200,000 in 2025, 2026, & 2027.

Commissioner Traynor commented on how he was concerned that most of his district would not be covered under the Home Health and Hospice because it is outside of the 30-mile radius.

MyMichigan President Kevin Kalchik said he drafted the proposal and intended to talk and negotiate with Chippewa County.

Assistant Vice President of Postacute for MyMichigan Health Rachel Aultman replied to the concerns by stating that the 30-mile radius would cover 89% of the residents of Chippewa County. The future goal would be to extend coverage to 100% Chippewa County by partnering with other agencies. Chippewa County paying \$200,000 for 3 years will assist MyMichigan through the financial challenges on start up. MyMichigan wants a smooth transition.

Chuck Leonhardt did an analysis based on the December 2023 numbers for Chippewa County. He discussed the financial implications and potential losses and/or savings with this potential transfer.

Chippewa County Health Department Health Officer Karen Senkus said they have not been able to take any new home health referrals and are working with Northwoods to transition some long-term patients from the western part of Chippewa County that will need the care.

#### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

The commissioners discussed having an open public meeting where they could discuss and vote on a contract.


#### CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Martin discussed the Home Health and Hospice Program is worth saving the best they can with the resources they have.

Having completed the agenda items, Chairman Martin declared the meeting is adjourned; accordingly, the Board adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Steven J. Woodgate, Clerk

  
James Martin, Chairman