

**COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PERSONNEL, EQUALIZATION AND APPORTIONMENT/TRANSPORTATION/HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

July 14, 2026

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners Personnel/Equalization and Apportionment/Transportation/Health and Social Services Committee was held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Damon Lieurance called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Damon Lieurance, Justin Knepper, and Scott Shackleton

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Karen Senkus and Kelly Church

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioners Knepper, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Personnel – Health Department – Update on discussion with LMAS partnership

County and Health Department Administration updated the Committee regarding the findings of a potential partnership with LMAS, through discussions with the State of Michigan Department of Community Health information was gathered that does not support a partnership because of the impacts the combination of health departments would cause. The hopes to consolidate services can still be as option to utilize Associated Health Department between Chippewa County and LMAS, there is a current MCL 333.2419 the current code allows for a more formal shared arrangement, basically contractual arrangements for personnel or for consolidation of functions. It would make it possible for more efficient health services to be delivered by intergovernmental contract; the contracts would need to refer to the current Public Health Code rather than to laws that predate it. A final determination of a shared arrangement should be made no later than September 1st to ensure that there is enough time for transition or to seek to fill the Health Officer position without an Association with LMAS.

Personnel – Approve Grade 6 pay level changes

The Committee reviewed the County Grade 6 pay levels as adjusted from a starting point of \$15.13 to \$15.50 and a five-year rate of \$17.87 to \$18.90. This will keep up just ahead of minimum wage which will be \$15.00 per hour starting January 1, 2027, and the Committee also reviewed four positions Health Department employees from the Health Department pay scale to the County pay scale. Including three non-union full-time employees of the Health Department to be changed to the County Non-Union Grade 6 effective July 19, 2026, and one non-union full-time employee of the Health Department to be changed to the County Non-Union Grade 7 effective July 19, 2026, from their current Health Department pay scale 4.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve the changes to the County Grade 6 pay level, as follows start rate \$15.50, 90 days \$15.81, 1-year \$16.28, 2-years \$17.42, 3-years \$17.93, 4-years \$18.43 and 5-years \$18.90, and to approve the three Health Department Grade 3 positions be transferred to the County Non-Union Grade 6, and one Grade 4 Administrative biller position be transferred to the County Non-Union Grade 7, all effective July 19, 2026, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Personnel – Travel and Business Expense Policy 410 – Update

The Committee reviewed County Policy 410 which is related to travel expenses and reimbursement to County employees. Administration is asking that clarification to be added under 3. Reimbursable Expenses c. – 3. When an employee has an assigned vehicle, their personal vehicle cannot be used without prior authorization and disclosure on the travel request, when possible.

It was moved by Commissioner Knepper, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize the change to County Policy No. 410 – Travel and Business Expenses, clarifying use of personal vehicle when assigned a county vehicle. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Personnel – Sick Leave and Sickness and Accident Insurance Benefit – Policy No. 230

The Committee reviewed and updated on the County's Policy 230 regarding sick leave and sickness; the Committee was asked to change C. Use of Sick Leave – 3. I. to clarify holiday pay eligibility, which employees to be eligible for holiday pay cannot call in the day before or the day after a holiday. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the change to County Policy 230 - Sick Leave and Sickness and Accident Insurance Benefit, clarifying holiday pay eligibility. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Personnel – Temporary Information Systems Services Agreement between Chippewa County and the City of Sault Ste. Marie

The Committee reviewed the Information Systems Services Agreement between Chippewa County and the City of Sault Ste. Marie, which became effective on June 22, 2026, and will continue through September 8, 2026, this agreement allows for temporary services information systems technology support services to the City, while the City addresses its staffing and operational needs, including recruitment of an IT Director. The City of Sault Ste. Marie will reimburse actual wages and fringe benefits for County personnel assigned to provide services.

It was moved by Commissioner Knepper, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to authorize and approve the Temporary Information Systems Services Agreement between Chippewa County and the City of Sault Ste. Marie to provide information systems technology support services from June 22, 2026, through September 8, 2026, as presented with actual wages and fringe benefits to be billed and reimbursed. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Personnel – FOIA/GIS/LARA/Legal Updates – Information Only

The Committee was briefly updated on the volume of FOIA requests and how legal counsel has been brought in to guide the County, and a LARA complaint letter.

Health and Social Services – Opposing House Bills 6116 through 6119 – Information Only

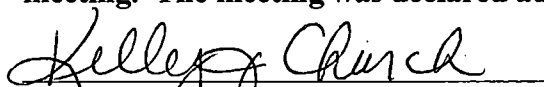
The Committee was updated on the opposition to House Bills 6116 through 6119, as follow up to a prior email sent out to the full Board. On June 30, 2026, we were asked to join the UP Counties and healthcare executives in opposing four house bills that were introduced on June 18, 2026, with a letter that was sent to the UP delegation.

Committee and Chairman's Comments

None offered.

Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was declared adjourned at 3:34 p.m.


Kelly J. Church, Recorder


Damon Lieurance, Chairperson