

From: Danieli, Sharon (DHHS)
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 9:07 AM
To: Lyon, Nick (DHHS)
Cc: Grijalva, Nancy (DHHS)
Subject: News Articles - Morning of 12/4/15

GONGWER:

Flint Blood Lead Survey Results Released By State

Since October 1, data indicates that 30 adults and children of 1,361 tested in Flint had elevated blood lead levels, the state said Thursday in releasing its first report as part of the state's efforts to assist in resolving the Flint water crisis.

The state called on helping the city deal with health issues as part of its efforts to restore safer drinking water to the city.

In October, after more than a year of the city getting its drinking water from the Flint River - it ended a contract with the Detroit Water and Sewerage System largely over cost issues and is working on a new water system that will draw from Lake Huron - and after more than a year of complaints on taste, smell and safety of the water, the city switched back to Detroit water when it was discovered lead levels in some children were elevated because of the water system.

In the report, the Department of Health and Human Services said 969 children were tested and 21 showed elevated lead levels. Another 392 adults were tested and nine had elevated levels.

The report also showed the number of Flint children with higher lead levels declined during the summer months this year - lead levels tend to be higher in the summer, the report said - to 6.4 percent from 7.5 percent a year ago.

However, in 2013, before the city switched from Detroit water to the Flint River, the percentage stood at 4.1 percent. That was down from percentages as high as 8.3 percent in 2010.

House Republicans Sign Letter Urging Disapproval Of Planned Parenthood Grant

About 30 House Republicans on Thursday signed a letter asking the State Administrative Board not to approve a \$1.2 million grant increase to Planned Parenthood because it goes against the "spirit" of a budget amendment adopted this year.

On December 8, the Finance and Claims Committee of the State Administrative Board will take up a grant increase for Planned Parenthood of Mid and South Michigan. The increase will come from the restricted dollars in the Maternal Children's Health Fund (8 percent); federal funding (35 percent); fees generating through the clinic (49 percent) and local dollars (8 percent).

Rep. Gary Glenn (R-Midland), joined by Rep. Thomas Hooker (R-Byron Center), who sponsored the budget amendment saying the state will not allocate funding to Planned Parenthood, Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Pottersville), Rep. Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) and Rep. Laura Cox (R-Livonia), among others, are urging the grant to not be increased.

"We believe this is a clear violation of the spirit of the budget amendment that was voted on and passed by the Legislature during the last appropriations process," the letter reads.

Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville), chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said the grant increase does not go against the budget.

When the amendment was adopted, House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) said no clinics would lose money because of the amendment. He said during the last two budgets Planned Parenthood had not received any state dollars (See Gongwer Michigan Report, April 28, 2015).

The committee is scheduled to meet at 11 a.m. on December 8.

Appointments By The Governor

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: Tana Bridges of Canton succeeds Gary Anderson to represent health and mental health professionals; John Hohman Jr. of Saline succeeds Kenneth Tacoma to represent judges and attorneys; and Veda Thompkins of Detroit succeeds Larry Watkins, who resigned, to represent the law enforcement community.

Robinjit Eagleson of East Lansing, Fred Gruber of Riverview and Nick Lyon of Lansing are reappointed. Ms. Thompkins will serve the remainder of a term expiring December 31, 2016. The remaining terms, which are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, expire December 31, 2018.

MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION COUNCIL: Milton Mack of Wayne succeeds John Hohman Jr., who resigned, to represent the State Court Administrative Office for the remainder of a term expiring January 30, 2016. The appointment is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Flint water still unsafe without lead filters, professor says (Flint Journal, 12/4/2015)

MIRS:

Group Of House R's Object To Planned Parenthood Grant Increase

Conservatives opposed to government funding for Planned Parenthood could see a test in Michigan this month as the state considers a proposed grant increase for the organization.

Already, 29 House Republicans have signed a letter asking a state administrative committee to reject a \$1.2 million increase.

The proposed increase is on the agenda for the Dec. 8 meeting of Finance and Claims Committee, which makes recommendations on large grants to the State Administrative Board.

According to the agenda, the committee will consider a \$1.2 million increase to a one-year grant agreement with Planned Parenthood of Mid and South Michigan to provide family planning services.

The grant is under the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The new total for the grant would be \$10.0 million.

According to Jennifer **EISNER**, spokesperson for DHHS, the contract amendment involves family planning services funded by federal dollars.

Because of that, she said the agreement doesn't go against language put in the current year budget that bans the department from contracting with abortion providers for services funded by state dollars.

However, a group of House Republicans doesn't see it the same way.

"We believe this is a clear violation of the spirit of the budget amendment that was voted on and passed by the Legislature during the last appropriation process," reads a letter signed by Rep. Gary GLENN (R-Midland).

Of the increase in question, 8 percent of the dollars is restricted funds from the Maternal Children's Health Fund, Glenn said. That money comes from restricted federal funds.

But Glenn noted that the state still has the discretion in this instance on whether to spend them.

Frequently a topic of political debate, Planned Parenthood has been under increased scrutiny this year, after a series of covert videos taken of Planned Parenthood employees allegedly discussing the sale of aborted baby parts. A top Planned Parenthood official has said the videos in question have been edited to "shock and deceive" the public.

According to the agenda, the Finance and Claims Committee will meet at 11 a.m. Dec. 8 inside the Michigan Library and Historical Center.

2% Of Flint Adults, Children Have Elevated Blood Lead Levels

Preliminary data indicates that 30 of 1,361 adults and children tested in Flint since Oct. 1 had elevated blood lead levels, according to a report issued today by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

This marks the first summary report on lead testing called for in the state's action plan related to health concerns about Flint's water infrastructure.

"Our goal is to help families reduce their exposure to lead sources," said Dr. Eden **WELLS**, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We have made progress in testing and identifying those with elevated blood lead levels, and the department will continue to work closely with the Genesee County Health Department to reach these families. We will remain diligent in our ongoing outreach and education efforts."

Tests showed that 21 of 969 children age 17 or younger and nine of 392 adults over the age 18 were identified with elevated blood lead levels.

Rep. Sheldon **NEELEY** (D-Flint) said he believes the numbers would be higher, but it's likely the lead-laced water had already been soaked into the brains and bones of some of those tested.

Gubernatorial Appointments

Gov. Rick **SNYDER** today announced the following appointments and reappointments:

Governor's Task Force On Child Abuse And Neglect

- Tana BRIDGE, of Canton, was appointed to a three-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. She is a professor of social work, as well as director of the master's program at Eastern Michigan University, represents health and mental health professionals and replaces Gary ANDERSON.
- John HOHMAN Jr., of Saline, was appointed to a three-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. He is the owner of Hohman ADR, an alternative dispute resolution service, represents judges and attorneys and replaces Kenneth TACOMA. Hohman will serve as chair.
- Veda THOMPSON, of Detroit, was appointed to the remainder of a three-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2016. She is the president of Families On The Move, Inc., represents the law enforcement community and fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Larry WATKINS.
- Robinjit EAGLESON, of East Lansing, was reappointed to a three-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. She is a management analyst for the state court administrative office and continues to represent judges and attorneys.
- Fred GRUBER, of Riverview, was reappointed to a three-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. He is the co-founder and executive director of Michigan Children's Law Center and continues to represent child advocates.
- Nick LYON, of Lansing, was reappointed to a three-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. He is the director of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mental Health Diversion Council

- Milton MACK, of Wayne, was appointed to the remainder of a four-year term expiring Jan. 30, 2016. He is the state court administrator of the Michigan Supreme Court, represents the State Court Administrative Office and fills the

vacancy created by the resignation of John HOHMAN Jr.

New tests show toxic lead in plumbing at Flint elementary schools

"FLINT, MI – Recent water tests at a Flint elementary found toxic lead levels at faucets and drinking fountains, a problem state officials largely attribute to the type of fixtures in the school building."

Source: *Flint Journal* **Date:** 12-04-2015 **Link:**

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/12/18/faucets_at_flints_eisenhowe.html#incart_2box_news_flint

State: 30 Flint residents have elevated lead levels

"Thirty Flint children and adults have tested positive for elevated levels of lead in their blood, according to preliminary data released Thursday by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** 12-04-2015 **Link:** <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/12/03/state-flint-residents-elevated-lead-levels/76739392/>

GOP lawmakers oppose state aid for Planned Parenthood

"Lansing — More than two dozen House Republicans want a state panel to reject a proposed \$1.2 million increase in funding for Planned Parenthood to provide family planning services for low-income Detroit women that do not include abortions."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** 12-04-2015 **Link:** <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/12/03/gop-lawmakers-oppose-state-aid-planned-parenthood/76753536/>

State says blood-lead levels in Flint kids have dropped

"Fewer of Flint's children have tested positive for elevated blood-lead levels since Oct. 1, with the rate falling to 3% of children under 6, according to new state data."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** 12-04-2015 **Link:** <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/12/03/flint-kids-lead-levels/76746474/>

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, state and private sector officials to unveil resource for aging dri

"News conference to announce the unveiling of the Safe Drivers Smart Options website, which provides information and resources for aging drivers, their family and friends, and the professionals who care for them."

Source: *Secretary of State Ruth Johnson* **Date:** 12-04-2015 **Link:** http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1449172691_sos.pdf

MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management res

"LANSING, Mich. – Preliminary data indicates that 30 of 1,361 adults and children tested in Flint since October 1 had elevated blood lead levels, according to a report issued today by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services."

Source: *Department of Health and Human Services* **Date:** 12-04-2015 **Link:**

http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1449171241_dhhs.pdf

Michigan announces the MI Health Link Ombudsman Program

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today announced that MI Health Link beneficiaries now have an additional resource for information and support through the MI Health Link Ombudsman Program which was officially operational December 1. As a requirement of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), MDHHS must provide an ombudsman program for the project. "

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Date: 12-04-2015 Link:

http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1449159375_dhhs.pdf

Thanks,

Sharon