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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 Cotler (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.