

Commissioners:

I ask you to please continue the Early Childhood millage as voted in by the people of this county for the full amount for at least the coming year. Because of the Covid pandemic the program was not able to begin in person until last June. The Parenting Communities program needs at least a complete year before the full program is evaluated. During that time the entire millage is needed to increase staffing and create long-range plans for coordinating early childhood services.

There seems to be some confusion among some of the commissioners about the purpose of the early childhood millage. It is for coordinating services not for education or child care. The Quebec study that Mr Bunek referenced has nothing to do with parenting community services. That study was about childcare outcomes but this county's millage funded program does not provide any childcare services. Therefore, it is not correct to compare the two programs since each is vastly different from the other.

Another confusion is believing that the early childhood millage covers education. However, the millage related services are not connected with the educational system. Rather, these services are considered developmental for children and supportive for parents. Parenting Communities is about coordinating early childhood services and not about education or childcare.

It is important that information given out be factual and relevant. The county voted for this millage and we the people want the early childhood millage fully funded in order to support our young families and their children. We want to be known as a county that supports all of its people.

Sara Boys
Elmwood Township