

From: Susan Cocciarelli
To: Rick Robbins; Debra Rushton; Ty Wessell; Patricia Soutas-Little; Gwenne Allgaier; Melinda Lautner; Will Bunek, Chet Janik
CC: Michelle Crocker
Subject: Leelanau County Board of Commissioners—Public Comments
Date: October 12, 2021

Please deliver this letter as intended public comments for the 10/12/21 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

According September 17, 2021 CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality weekly Report of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention*, between April 4–July 17, a total of 569,142 (92%) COVID-19 cases, 34,972 (92%) hospitalizations, and 6,132 (91%) COVID-19–associated deaths were reported among persons not fully vaccinated. The incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection, hospitalization, and death is higher in unvaccinated than vaccinated persons, and the incidence rate ratios are related to vaccine effectiveness.

Public Health is about OUR health and the health of OUR community. The Leelanau County Health Department is to be commended for focusing on the health of our community based upon it's role as a public health entity: to secure the health of our County, and to be prepared to intervene and stop the spread of contagions. In partnership with the CDC, our county public health department's job is to prevent, detect, and respond to diseases to save lives. The historical viability of our public health system has been that, with vaccination coverage, the United States has the ability to reduce the impact of pandemics or to prevent diseases like measles, and get to zero countries with crippling polio.

My question to the four Board Commissioners who are driven to undermine the sound practice of our county health department is this: would you be as adamant to defund the Leelanau County Health Department if they took an active role in eliminating an outbreak of salmonella in Leelanau County schools, or immediate intervention in a vector-borne disease such as Lyme Disease if the outbreak became prevalent in Leelanau County? Or is it just about COVID-19? Are the four commissioners picking and choosing which county-wide public health threat can be addressed with proven effective treatment based on their political leanings? This practice is more than frightening. Your blatant efforts to dismantle funding for our county health department because they are promoting sound medical practice to prevent the spread of a known contagion is truly a breach of your responsibility.

I will respect your right to your personal beliefs, but not the right to jeopardize the health of the people who live in Leelanau County because of those personal beliefs.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cocciarelli
Maple City