



Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners
From: Greg Kellogg, Transportation Director
Date: 08/29/2022
Re: Resolution to Accept Funding from Trinity Health, Ascension Providence, and Michigan Medicine to Support the Healthcare Transportation Collaborative Service - LETS

The Livingston County Health Department's 2015-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) identified healthcare integration and transportation as high-priority strategic issues for improving the health and well-being of Livingston County residents.

The CHIP process established a Healthcare Integration workgroup that includes representatives from the three major health systems, LETS, and the Health Department to develop options for collaboration between healthcare providers to improve access to healthcare services. Lack of transportation is one of the primary barriers to access and therefore a key objective of the workgroup is to develop a collaborative healthcare transportation service to improve access to healthcare and other wellness-related services.

A service was developed using LETS to provide door-to-door transportation available to the public for doctor appointments, pharmacy visits, on-demand emergency department discharges, and other activities that fulfill the mission of improving health and wellness.

To fund the service the healthcare systems of Ascension Providence, Michigan Medicine, and Trinity Health committed to annual funding contributions of \$106,000 combined for a period of 3 years to match Federal and State grant funds available to LETS. The healthcare contributions leverage approximately \$600,000 in Federal and State operating grants each year, which enabled LETS to add four full-time drivers, establish two new medical routes, and increase capacity for on-demand emergency department discharges.

Measurable indicators of success during the first 3 years include a 33% increase in passenger trips reported as "medical" and a significant increase in stops at each of the healthcare systems' facilities, despite a steep decline in general transit ridership induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, LETS has been able to relieve some of the burden of non-emergency medical transportation on the County's EMS service by transporting patients discharged from the hospital

who are transferred to local nursing facilities. These non-emergency transfers often do not require an ambulance and trained paramedics, unnecessarily diverting EMS resources (and they are often non-reimbursable ambulance trips).

The healthcare systems have committed to funding the service for an additional three (3) years, with annual contributions from St. Joseph Mercy in the amount of \$61,216; Ascension Providence in the amount of \$33,000; and Michigan Medicine in the amount of \$33,000, for a total annual contribution of \$127,216.

The contributions will be paid annually for a period of three (3) years beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025.

If you have any questions please contact me directly at 517-540-7843.