

County Administrator's Digest

July 17, 2014

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator



FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

One of the Commissioners mentioned at the Finance & Administration Committee meeting this morning that one of the candidates for office cited County financial projections and made the comment to M-Live that the County will be out of money by 2017. Each year we update financial projections as part of the budget process. Last year at this time we were operating under a budget that contained a 0% property tax increase, still reflected the loss of nearly \$1,000,000 in State Revenue Sharing dollars, and the possibility of losing up to the total \$2.7 million in Personal Property Tax Revenue (PPT). Since that time, we ended FY 2013 with an increase in property tax revenue and budgeted a 3% increase for the FY 2014 budget. Governor Snyder recommended and the Legislature approved restoring revenue sharing to what it was when Snyder took office which restores \$969,000 in funding to the General Fund Budget. Major work has been done with the PPT issue as well and if Proposal One passes on August 5, the County will not lose PPT revenue from FY 2015 on.

The upshot of all this is that the financial projections are a living breathing tool for the financial work that we do at Ottawa County. The future projections will look much better when issued as part of the budget process this year. There have been many years when economic and intergovernmental revenue realities have caused us to release what could be characterized as "doom and gloom" financial projections. This has been a factor leading to action in the major reforms that we have done to control healthcare benefit cost and legacy (defined benefit retirement cost).

Ottawa County remains in outstanding financial condition and with careful management and use of many tools of which financial projections is just one, we will remain in outstanding condition in the future.

OTTAWA COUNTY'S PERFORMANCE VERIFICATION SYSTEM RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION (Shannon Virtue)

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) published an article about Ottawa County's Performance Verification System. The ICMA creates

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excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional local government management world-wide.

The article, "Ottawa County Promotes Accountability Through Innovative Performance Verification System," describes the comprehensive system that was developed by the Planning and Performance Improvement Department to maximize financial resources and promote accountability. The Performance Verification System includes strategic planning for new program development in Ottawa County; program evaluations to determine the effectiveness of County programs and services; Department Performance Plans which provide the framework for departments to effectively report their annual performance with respect to workloads, efficiency, customer service, cost, and verifiable outcomes; and the data collection and verification protocols used as part of the Performance-Based Budgeting process. The article can be accessed at http://icma.org/en/Article/103604/Ottawa_County_Promotes_Accountability_Through_Innovative_Performance_Verification_System

MIOTTAWA.ORG 7TH BEST IN NATION

Commissioners Bergman and Fenske and I picked up an award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference for miOttawa.org achieving status as the nations 7th ranked website in the 250,000 to 500,000 population category. Congratulations to the primary team that works with miOttawa, JoAnn Arcand of WebTecs Inc., Dave Hulst, Shannon Felgner and the entire team that works on miOttawa. A more formal presentation will be made to the Board of Commissioners and our own press release will follow. Here is a link to the press release that went out last week regarding the award: <http://www.digitalcommunities.com/survey/counties/?year=2014>

CONTINENTAL DAIRY ACHIEVES MI AG EXPORTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

We were excited to learn that Continental Dairy of Coopersville has been named MI Agricultural Exporter of the Year. The Board of Commissioners will recognize this excellence at its August 26th Board of Commissioner meeting. The press release that announced this award follows:

State honors Continental Dairy Facilities, LLC with 2014 Michigan Agriculture Exporter of the Year Award

For Immediate Release: June 25, 2014

Contact: Heather Throne, 517-284-5725 or throneh@michigan.gov

COOPERSVILLE, Mich. - The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) selected Continental Dairy Facilities, LLC of Coopersville as the "2014 Michigan Agriculture Exporter of the Year." The company was honored today with a presentation of the award by MDARD Director Jamie Clover Adams to Steven Cooper, COO of Continental Dairy Facilities. The company is a top U.S. dairy exporter that found immediate success after opening in 2012.

“Michigan dairy product exports in 2012 totaled over \$231 million and Continental Dairy Facilities is certainly doing their part in the continual growth of dairy exports from the state,” said Clover Adams.

Continental Dairy Facilities processes raw milk from West Michigan farms and produces several products, including nonfat dried milk, which is shipped globally. The company sold their products domestically and in Mexico in 2012; and then increased exports by a staggering 706 percent in 2013 reaching new markets in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. This rapid growth positioned them as a leading milk exporter. In 2013, five percent of all U.S. milk powder products were exported by Continental Dairy.

“We are honored to receive this prestigious award after just our second year of operation. MDARD has been a key partner in not only our business development, but our achievements as well,” said Cooper. “This award truly illustrates the dedication of our team of owners, management and employees working together to produce ‘Gold Star Quality Product’ for the global marketplace.”

Michigan is second in the nation for agricultural diversity and exports one-third of its agricultural commodities every year. Michigan food and agriculture exports totaled \$3.25 billion in 2012 according to USDA figures and employ more than 20,000 residents.

The award review committee consisted of representatives from the Van Andel Global Trade Center, Comerica Bank, Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan State University’s International Business Center. The decision was based upon several factors including, marketing plans, ability to expand into new markets, alliances with other organizations, and exports sales growth over the last three years. To be eligible, the products must be more than 50 percent grown, processed or manufactured in Michigan.

For information on MDARD’s International Marketing Program contact Jamie Zmitko-Somers at (517) 284-5738 or visit Michigan.gov/agexport.

OCEDO-LAKESHORE ADVANTAGE MERGER

A significant event quietly occurred just over 6 months ago as we moved into 2014, the merger of the Ottawa County Economic Development Office (OCEDO) with Lakeshore Advantage. The 1990 election of John Engler as Governor led to the elimination of the Statewide Community Growth Alliance (CGA) economic development. Around this time Leprino Foods located in Allendale and Nichols Plastics came soon afterwards. Public and private sector leaders saw the need for an economic development agency to serve the northern and eastern parts of the County that were not served by the organizations doing economic development in Grand Haven and Holland. Ottawa County was a founding partner in OCEDO with Allendale Township, Coopersville, Consumers Energy and others back in 1991.

The merger agreement provided for a 1st time public sector member of the Lakeshore Advantage Board and I was honored to assume that position in January. At the first meeting I attended, long time Lakeshore Advantage President Randy Thelen announced that he was leaving for a new position. The resulting search

process netted top economic development professional Jennifer Owens as the new President and she began her duties in early May. Ms. Owens has agreed to contribute regularly to the Digest so that readers Countywide and beyond can learn more about economic development happenings and the expanded role of Lakeshore Advantage in Ottawa County. The first installment follows below:



Ottawa County Economic Development Office joins forces with Lakeshore Advantage

The delivery of economic development services has made exciting strides in Ottawa County. Companies can look to the team at Lakeshore Advantage to help identify tools and resources available as their business grows in our community.

In January, Ken Rizzio joined the team at Lakeshore Advantage. Most recently, Lakeshore Advantage welcomed a new president, Jennifer Owens, to lead the team of eight business professionals. Jennifer relocated from Kalamazoo, and brings extensive experience having worked for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation as well as two other top economic development organizations in the state.

The \$96.3 million expansion of Fairlife LLC in Coopersville was the first large project since the merger. The 100 new-job-expansion was realized due to Ken's involvement in helping the City of Coopersville secure funding for needed infrastructure improvements, as part of the MEDC's incentive package offered to the Chicago-based company to further invest in Ottawa County.

Lakeshore Advantage is tenacious when it comes to building an economic landscape that serves the needs of businesses and creates good jobs for the people in Ottawa County. The organization conducts a formal opinion gathering process with more than 200 company leaders each year, and uses this data to develop and drive initiatives needed to strengthen our economy.

Recent data pointed to the need to aid companies in their ability to attract employees (certainly a good challenge to have, but a challenge nonetheless!). As a result, Michigan SmartCoast was developed. The brand is designed to help companies showcase our community as they work to attract new employees. There is also a series of Michigan SmartCoast events for the nearly 500 interns working in our community this summer. Visit MichiganSmartCoast.com to see additional ways in which all can help welcome people become acclimated to our great SmartCoast.

To reach Jennifer, Ken, and the rest of the Lakeshore Advantage team, contact them at 616-772-5226 or visit LakeshoreAdvantage.com.

CONCEALED PISTOL LICENSE - GUN BOARD UPDATE (Sheriff Rosema)

As you know the Ottawa County Gun Board has always been concerned about doing an adequate job in making sure that the CPL process is creditable and that an appropriate background on an applicant is completed.

Several months ago we were involved in streamlining the CPL process for both new applicants as well as those that are renewing their current license. With this said since the last Gun Board Meeting on July 3, 2014 we have processed 1,118 applications (January 1, 2014 through July 3, 2014). These included 540 new applications and 578 renewals.

A good example of the numbers that we now process: For the July 3 Gun Board 217 applicants were submitted for review and we estimate that for the August 8, 2014 Gun Board Meeting we will be submitting 300 applicants for review by the Board. With this new process in place and the backlog projected to be completed in August we are anticipating that all new and renewal applications from that point on will be completed within the 45 day period.

CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS (Dr. Paul Heidel)

Oh those pesky mosquitoes! In addition to the irritating bites that they pester us with this time of year, mosquitoes can also be carriers of serious diseases including West Nile virus, malaria and yellow fever. Now there is another mosquito-borne disease to add to the list. Chikungunya (pronounced “*chik-en-gun’-ye*”) is a viral infection that was previously limited to Africa, Southern Europe and Southeast Asia. More recently, however, it has spread throughout the Caribbean and has infected several individuals from the United States who have traveled to these mosquito-friendly regions. As of July 8, 2014, there have been 138 cases of chikungunya reported in the United States, all travel-associated. Four of those cases have occurred in Michigan residents. Fortunately there have been no locally transmitted cases of chikungunya in the continental United States.

Symptoms usually begin 3-7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito and commonly include fever, headache, severe muscle and joint pain and occasionally a rash. There is no known treatment nor is a vaccine currently available. The disease is seldom fatal and symptoms usually resolve spontaneously within a week or 10 days. However, people with underlying medical conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease or diabetes may be at higher risk for complications, as are older adults and newborn infants. The “good news” about chikungunya (if there is any) is that a single infection usually results in lifetime immunity.

Whether at home or abroad, prevention remains the best way to deal with chikungunya and other mosquito-borne diseases. A high level of protection can be achieved by simply wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, using DEET-containing insect repellents on exposed skin surfaces and treating clothing with the insecticide permethrin. Additional prevention methods, as well as further information on chikungunya, can be found on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

PLANNING & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT DEPARTMENT RECEIVED NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (Shannon Virtue)

The Planning and Performance Improvement Department received a 2014 Achievement Award from the Na-

tional Association of Counties (NACo) for their Health Data Book. The Achievement Award Program, which was started in 1970, recognizes innovative initiatives that modernize county government and increase services to residents. The award for the Data Book was given in the category of Civic Engagement and Public Information.

The Health Data Book is comprised of nine chapters that contain 30 years of statistics involving an array of health and wellness indicators for Ottawa County residents. Health data from adjacent counties (i.e. Allegan, Kent, and Muskegon) as well as the State are also provided to compare health trends among residents both regionally and statewide. Additionally, longitudinal trends in data are provided to clearly illustrate how a particular illness or health-related condition has affected the County's population throughout the years.

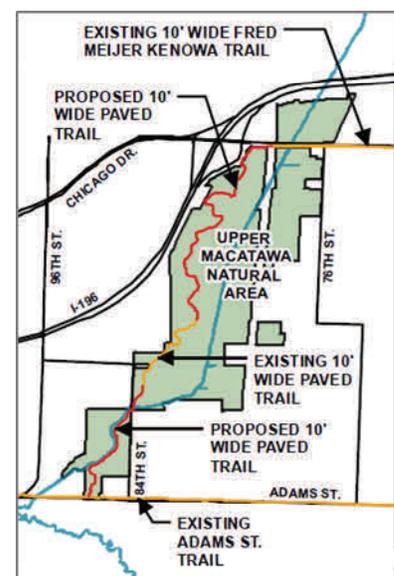


The Health Data Book, part of a larger series of Data Books which the County maintains, was developed in a web-based format to make the information readily available and easily accessible to the public. The data is used by county departments, community agencies, local officials, business owners, and citizens for completing grant applicants in order to secure funding, to retain and/or attract new business, to improve bond ratings, and to incorporate into reports, studies, and presentations. The entire document can be viewed and downloaded at www.miottawa.org/Departments/Planning/data_books.htm. All 2014 NACo Achievement Award winners can be viewed at <http://www.naco.org/programs/recognition/Pages/Achievement-Awards.aspx>.

MACATAWA GREENWAY TRAIL MILESTONE CELEBRATED (Shannon Felgner)

On Wednesday, July 23 at 10 am, Ottawa County Parks will celebrate the initiation of 2.4 miles of paved, non-motorized path that will serve as a critical link in the Macatawa Greenway Trail. A ground breaking ceremony will be held at Ottawa's County's Upper Macatawa Natural Area (1300 84th Avenue, Zeeland). The long awaited non-motorized trail will run through the Ottawa County Park and connect the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail, a 10-mile bike path running along Byron Road east through Jamestown Township, with existing bike path on Adams Street developed by Zeeland and Holland Townships. The new 2.4 mile trail will combine with a half mile of paved trail already within the park to meander through the forests, grassland, and wetlands of Upper Macatawa Natural Area and include three large ravine bridges plus a bridge over the Macatawa River.

Construction is expected to be finished in November by Milbocker and Sons, Inc. of Allegan. The approximate \$1.8 million project will be funded with assistance from a \$941,268 grant from the Michigan Depart-



ment of Transportation through the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program.

In addition to this project, MDOT grant funds were instrumental in funding construction of the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail and the pedestrian bridge on Adams Street over Interstate 196.

Directions to Upper Macatawa Natural Area: From US-31, travel east on 16th (Adams) to 84th. Travel north on 84th a half mile to the west entrance. From I-196, to exit 52 travel east on Adams to 84th. Travel north on 84th a half mile to the west entrance.

For additional announcements, “like” the parks at facebook.com/OttawaCountyParks. Visit miOttawa.org/parks to learn more about the 6400 acres of parks and open spaces available for your enjoyment. Operations, improvements and programs are funded by grants and a parks millage. If you own a \$150,000 home, you pay \$24 annually investing in opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature education today and for future generations.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT BEGINS IN OTTAWA COUNTY (Lori Catalino & Jane Longstreet)

It has been well established that a disproportionate percentage of incarcerated individuals have a mental illness and/or a substance use disorder. Jail and prison have been proven to be ineffective dispositions – both legally and clinically – for people living with such an illness. On July 1, 2014, Ottawa County's 58th District Court joined the ranks of other enlightened court systems throughout the country by establishing a Mental Health Treatment Court. The goal of this court is to balance criminal justice goals, due process rights of the offender and mental health treatment and services. This balance is achieved through the use of court and community resources to connect participants with the most appropriate and individualized treatment options while maintaining accountability for the crime committed and improving the overall community and public safety.

A mental health court is known as a “problem-solving” or “specialty” court, which focuses on a specialized docket tailored to certain illnesses (mental illness, substance use disorder); situations (veteran's status); or legal charges (domestic violence; DWI). The 58th District Mental Health Treatment Court joins other existing specialty courts in the county, including the 20th Circuit Adult Drug Treatment Court; the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court, and the 58th District Sobriety Court. All specialty courts operate under common principles, including:

- Small dockets that target a specific population
- Multidisciplinary staffing team that meets regularly with the judge
- Treatment supports and services
- Frequent court appearances
- Use of incentives and sanctions

- Phased approach with promotions and graduation
- A judge who both encourages and holds participants accountable
- Legal incentives for positive participation
- Informed choice (it's voluntary)

One of the primary reason for creating a mental health treatment court in Ottawa County is to offer mentally ill offenders more effective alternatives than they currently face in the criminal justice system such as having to remain in jail, potentially unable to post even minimal bail while their mental health issues are not being addressed.

There is a growing body of research around specialty courts, with the most robust findings related to Drug Courts. The literature shows a significant decrease in legal recidivism for participants in those courts that adhere to the guiding principles. There has been less research on the effects of mental health treatment courts due to their recent advent, but preliminary findings are promising and are similar to drug courts. In 2009, eight courts received funding to pilot mental health courts programs through the Michigan State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO). These established programs as well as newer programs like the 58th District Court's are monitored for the following performance measures to gauge the program's success:

- Successful Completions
- Improved Quality of Life
- Improved Employment Status
- Improved Mental Health
- Improved Education Level
- Complaint with Medication

Judge Bradley Knoll, presiding judge for the 58th District Mental Health Court, provided the catalyst for establishing Ottawa County's newest specialty court. He was noticing an increasing number of individuals in his court whose crimes clearly were associated with their mental illness, and was certain that there was a better way to approach these cases. The program will accept up to 25 participants and while court hearings will be conducted in Holland, the program is open to all Ottawa County residents who meet clinical and legal eligibility requirements.

"A significant number of people are coming into the court system for lower level criminal behaviors attributable to mental health disorders. They frequently require a higher level of attention from law enforcement, jail administration and probation departments than other offenders. I see the primary role of a mental health court as providing a better connection between the criminal justice system and mental health treatment providers. A mental health court participant will have access to mental health therapy and other life skills resources while

maintaining his or her accountability to the court's compliance requirements. The benefits of a successful mental health court include not only a healthier law abiding individual but also a reduced strain on probation, jail and law enforcement resources," Judge Knoll said.

As a result, District Court Administrator Lori Catalino submitted a grant to the SCAO requesting funding to initiate a mental health treatment court in Ottawa County. A planning/implementation grant was awarded in the spring of 2014, and a planning team quickly convened with key stakeholders to begin the process of creating this new specialty court program.

Community Mental Health of Ottawa County (CMHOC) is a major partner with the District Court. While the Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office will determine the participant's legal eligibility for the program, CMHOC will conduct assessments to determine participant's clinical eligibility for the program. Most participants who are accepted into mental health treatment court will be treated by CMHOC, have a serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance or a developmental disability which significantly impacts their ability to function independently and be over age 17. Prior to acceptance, the mental health treatment court team will identify participants with co-occurring diagnoses and closely coordinate with the other problem solving courts in Ottawa County to ensure the best placement and services to the participants where target populations overlap.

CMHOC Clinician Kelly Boeve, assigned to the CMH Crisis Team, will act as the Mental Health Court Coordinator on an on-going basis. CMHOC Peer Specialist Brian Pudney also will remain involved, providing recovery supports to participants. Once admitted into the program, participants will be connected to comprehensive and individualized treatment support and services that are evidenced based. Participant progress will also be closely monitored through active and engaged case management in order to maximize the benefits of being involved in the program.

Other key stakeholder in the planning process included Lynne Doyle, Jane Longstreet, and Chris Madden from CMH; Cindy Driver, Jodi Salacina, Kevin Rahn and Mike Mepnyans from District Court/Probation; Jennifer Kuipers from the Prosecutor's office; Captains Steve Baar and Bob Tease from the Sheriff's Department; Paul Sachs and Mark Knudsen from Planning and Performance and Jane Patterson representing the defense bar.

The first Mental Health Court hearing is scheduled for July 30, 2014. The goal is to involve up to 25 participants, providing treatment and court oversight for a minimum of 12 months and up to 2 years.

"I'm very pleased that the mental health court has received the enthusiastic support of our county and municipal prosecutors and law enforcement agencies. While the implementation of any new program involves both anticipated and unanticipated challenges, I am confident that the highly skilled team that has been assembled will meet those challenges and move us toward our goal of a healthier and safer community," Judge Knoll said.

A recent article authored by Adam Geller was published on the struggling role of jails in handling mentally ill offenders by the Associated Press on July 14, 2014 and can be found at <http://news.yahoo.com/us-jails-struggle-role-makeshift-asylums-042942263.html>.

PROPOSAL ONE (Shannon Felgner)

At its July 22nd, 1:30pm meeting at 12220 Fillmore in West Olive, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners is expected to adopt a resolution, officially voicing its support for Proposal One. On the Michigan ballot for August 5, Proposal One would eliminate personal property tax levied on manufacturing businesses and provide a stable funding replacement for local government services including police, fire and other essential needs.

While the bill has widespread support from organizations and businesses alike, complicated ballot language (below) has leaders uneasy as it is placed before the voters on August 5.

- A "yes" vote on Proposal One would eliminate the personal property tax, a tax levied only on business equipment that is argued to limit growth and job expansion.
- A "yes" vote on Proposal One would provide stable replacement funding for Ottawa County and other local units of government, separate from the annual appropriation process of Lansing. In Ottawa County, this represents \$2.6 million of the general fund.
- A "yes" vote on Proposal One does not raise taxes on anyone, but is paid for by eliminating corporate tax loopholes and establishing a new statewide essential services assessment that is only paid by manufacturers that receive the Personal Property Tax reduction.

Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County Administrator, and a member of the West Michigan team that worked with Lt. Governor Calley on the reform commented, "This is perhaps the best example of a 'win-win' solution that I have seen in 30 years of local government management. Manufacturing businesses will see a tax decrease, no one has their taxes increased, and essential public services provided by city, township, village and county government stay at full funding."

If the resolution is adopted, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners will join many groups who also support this proposal including: the Michigan Municipal League, The Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Association of Police Chiefs, Michigan Community College Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, the Small Business Association of Michigan, Michigan Sheriffs Association, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, The National Association of Independent Businesses, Michigan Manufacturing Association and many others.

More information about Proposal One can be found at www.strongandsafecommunities.com.

Ballot Language:

PROPOSAL 14-1

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF AMENDATORY ACT TO REDUCE STATE USE TAX AND REPLACE WITH A LOCAL COMMUNITY STABILIZATION SHARE TO MODERNIZE THE TAX SYSTEM TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES GROW AND CREATE JOBS

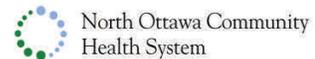
The amendatory act adopted by the Legislature would:

1. Reduce the state use tax and replace with a local community stabilization share of the tax for the purpose of modernizing the tax system to help small businesses grow and create jobs in Michigan.
2. Require Local Community Stabilization Authority to provide revenue to local governments dedicated for local purposes, including police safety, fire protection, and ambulance emergency services.
3. Increase portion of state use tax dedicated for aid to local school districts.
4. Prohibit Authority from increasing taxes.
5. Prohibit total use tax rate from exceeding existing constitutional 6% limitation.

MACATAWA WATER FESTIVAL

The Macatawa Water Festival will be held the Holland Farmer's Market on Saturday, July 26. Click the link for more information. [Macatawa Water Festival Even Flyer](#)

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS HELP OTTAWA COUNTY TO BE HEALTHIER (Kristina Wieghmink)



Confidential survey gives residents opportunity to help address health challenges.

Ottawa County residents, 18 years of age and older, have an opportunity to give input about local health related needs and concerns. Barnes Research, Inc. is randomly selecting residents to participate in a confidential 15 minute survey, *Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS)*. Questions include topics such as nutrition, exercise, tobacco use, doctor visits and health insurance. Participant's responses will help local health care and non-profit organizations determine how and where to direct resources that will address the greatest health challenges within our community.

The goal of the BRFS is to collect feedback from 2,000 Ottawa County residents. So far, 641 surveys have been completed. To accommodate different lifestyles and work schedules, calls are made at various times of the day and days of the week. Calls will continue in July and through August. The results are expected to be available before the end of the year.

“Information from this survey will help hospitals and other organizations focus their efforts on the greatest needs within our community. We're asking residents, who receive a call, to please contribute 15-20 minutes of their time. This way, we all help make Ottawa County a healthy place to live, work and play.”

- Marcia Knol, OCDPH Epidemiologist

The Ottawa County BRFS is an initiative of the Ottawa County Community Health Needs Assessment Committee. Committee members are from the Ottawa County Department of Public Health, Holland Hospital, North Ottawa Community Health System, Spectrum Health-Zeeland Community Hospital, Community Mental Health of Ottawa County and the Greater Ottawa County United Way. For more information about Ottawa County surveys, assessments and reports, visit www.miOttawa.org/healthdata.

2011 BRFS Research Results http://www.miottawa.org/Health/OCHD/pdf/data/2011_BRFS.pdf

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