

Mary Hardies, Chair, District 1
Michelle Hamlin, Vice-Chair, District 5
Bob DeVriendt, District 2
Lloyd Peltier, District 3
Michelle LaRose, District 4



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County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners

Board Meeting Agenda February 26, 2026 9:00 AM Boardroom/Courtroom B

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. BOC Meeting: February 12, 2026
6. Claims & Accounts
 - a. February 13, 2026, through February 26, 2026
7. Limited Public Comment (*3 minutes*)
8. Special Presentations:
 - a. Community Foundation for Northeast MI (CFNEM) – Rx Kids
9. Department Head Reports
 - a. Emergency Management Director
10. Committee Reports
11. Controller's Report
12. Discussion Items: NONE
13. Unfinished Business (Action Items) - *Camera access*
14. New Business (Action Items)
 - a. Acknowledgement of Resignation of Commissioner LaRose & Declaration of Vacancy
 - b. Reassignment of Vacant Committee Positions
 - c. Consider Rescission and Adoption of a Revised 2026 Board Regular Meeting Schedule
15. Adjourn

NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held at TBD on Thursday, March 12, 2026

*THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER OPEN MEETINGS ACT OF MICHIGAN, PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 267 OF 1976 **PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES. PROFANITY AND PERSONAL ATTACKS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.***

**MONTMORENCY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

PRESENT: Bob DeVriendt, Lloyd Peltier, Michelle Hamlin, Mary Hardies

ABSENT/EXCUSED: None

PLEDGE

ADD/DELETIONS:

Add: Camera Access including MCSD

Delete: None

Motion by Hardies, seconded by Hamlin adding Camera Access including MCSD to the agenda. Yeas: 4 Nays: 0
Motion passed.

Motion by Hardies, seconded by Peltier approving the agenda with the addition. Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

MINUTES:

Motion by Peltier, seconded by Hamlin approving the regular meeting minutes of February 12, 2026. Yeas: 4 Nays: 0
Motion passed.

CLAIMS & ACCOUNTS:

Motion by Peltier, seconded by Hardies approving payment of claims dated February 13-February 26, 2026 (Claims: \$49,147.26; EFT'S: \$304,268.64; Desk Checks: \$43,107.57 for a total of \$396,523.47). Yeas: 4 (Roll call: Hardies, Peltier, Hamlin, DeVriendt) Nays: 0 Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rye Youatt on county checks and balances, accountability, vision for the county, Atlanta Senior Center meals and resignation of Commissioner Michelle LaRose.

Bill Huston on MCCOA millage for senior services, congregate meals, MCCOA budget.

Denny Davis on Atlanta Senior Center and concerned voters, no discussion on the issues.

Doug Morrison on resignation of Commissioner Michell LaRose and lease vehicles.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHEAST MI: Patrick Heraghty present and gave presentation on Rx Kids (see attached). Funding is available during pregnancy and for 6 months after birth from public and private partners. A private donation was made which will help support Montmorency County for the next 3 years. Thunder Bay Community Health will connect pregnant moms to the program and Community Foundation for NE Mi. is the fiduciary. The program will launch April 1st and is not income based.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR: Sarah Melching present, report attached. Topics discussed: reimbursement from grant monies received for the E.M. position was lower than anticipated, however, saving from not having an EM for a partial year helped. The Homeland Security grant program monies is on hold which funds the EM operations center, training, hazmat, cyber security training etc. Food assistance money being received, 12 counties, \$200,000.00. Other updates: Food bank monies, mapping grant, mini operations center, star link.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hamlin: NE Consortium MI. Works, District Health #4
Peltier: Community Corrections, FPS
Hardies: FPS, District Health #4, Materials Management
DeVriendt: Landfill

CONTROLLER REPORT:

Aprille Williamson present. Topics: FEMA monies received, Auditors here in April, Soil Erosion and fees scheduled for the next mtg., EGLE zoom mtg on Materials Management reporting (\$25,000.00 requested in reimbursement so far).

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CAMERA & ACCESS DOORS: 4 quotes received (EPS, Up North Security, Control Solutions, Common Angle). Controller spoke with Sheriff and they will look more closely; half of the cost will be covered by a grant. Motion by Hardies, seconded by Hamlin to spend up to \$75,000.00 with WRAP grant availability for the camera and access door system, to go with the best quote, to be determined by the sheriff and the controller. Discussion. Yeas: 4 (Roll call: Peltier, Hamlin, DeVriendt, Hardies) Nays: 0 Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER LAROSE & DECLARATION OF VACANCY: Motion Hardies, seconded by Peltier acknowledging the resignation of Commissioner LaRose effective immediately and declare the District 4 Commissioner seat vacant. Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

REASSIGNMENT OF VACANT COMMITTEE POSTIONS: Discussion. Motion Hardies, seconded by Peltier, assigning Hardies to ILA Materials Management board, leave vacant MI. Northern Counties until we have an assigned person, NEMCOG Michelle Hamlin, and Solid Waste & Local Court Management can wait until appt. commissioner, take effect immediately. Committee assignments are temporary and subject to review. Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

Motion by Hardies, seconded by Hamlin for Aprille Williamson, Controller to be the proxy for MMP. Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

Public Statement read accepting letters of interest from residents of District 4 who are registered electors. Letters can be submitted until March 5, 2026, 4:30 p.m. to the Controllers' Office. Review of the submissions and vote to appoint will take place at the March 12th meeting.

CONSIDER RECISION AND ADOPTING A REVISED 2026 BOARD REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE: Motion by Peltier, seconded by Hamlin to rescind the 1/6/2026 motion setting the 2026 regular meeting schedule and adopt a revised schedule providing that the County Board shall meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 9 a.m., effective March 12, 2026.

10:08 A.M. Meeting adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.

Minutes prepared by:



Cheryl A. Neilsen, County Clerk

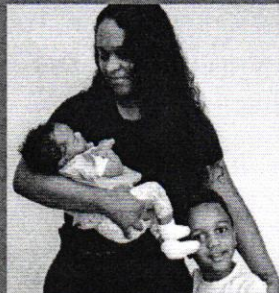
Date approved: 3-12-2026



RxKids

A Prescription for Health, Hope, and Opportunity

CASH FOR MOMS AND BABIES



“Rx Kids is not just a program, it’s a lifeline and a promise of support. It is about coming together and supporting each other.”

A PROGRAM OF:

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

FURLEY
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

&



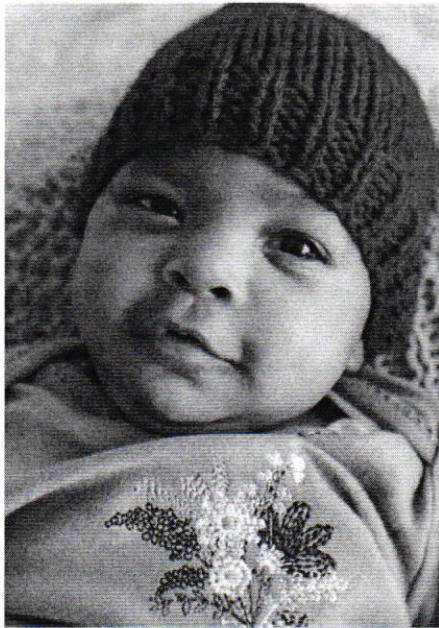
POVERTY SOLUTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ADMINISTERED BY:

GiveDirectly

PEDIATRIC PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE

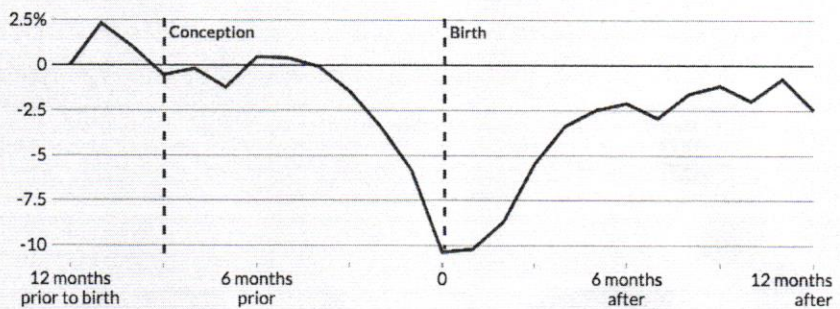
Rx Kids: Prenatal and Infant Support Program



For many families, income plunges and poverty spikes right before a child is born and remains high throughout the first year. The maternal-infant period is also the most critical window of child development and lays the foundation for a lifetime of health and success.

Family income drops sharply near the birth of a child

Percentage change in gross U.S. household income compared to 12 months prior to birth



Source: Stanczyk, Alexandra. (2016). "The dynamics of household economic circumstances around a birth." Washington Center for Equitable Growth working paper series.



Washington Center for Equitable Growth. Equitablegrowth.org

"We never know what life is going to throw at us... Just that extra bit of financial security can go a long way.

The biggest reward is knowing that people care that the world isn't as harsh as we sometimes think. There are people out there who want to see us succeed."

**Kinea,
Rx Kids Mom**

Launched in 2024, Rx Kids provides support of \$1,500 during pregnancy and \$500 per month for babies during the first 6-12 months of life. From Kalamazoo to the eastern Upper Peninsula, the program has already reached over 3,600 families across 11 Michigan communities, delivering more than \$15 million in direct support.

As the nation's first-ever community-wide prenatal and infant cash prescription program, Rx Kids is already providing life-changing financial security to an entire generation of children.



Rx Kids is Across Michigan

From Kalamazoo to the Upper Peninsula, stakeholders across Michigan and beyond are excited about the efficiency and effectiveness of Rx Kids.

With ongoing state support, Rx Kids can bring **health, hope, and opportunity** to even more Michigan communities.

“The City Commission prioritized this partnership with our Rx Kids as a critical component in our efforts to provide abundant opportunities for people to achieve shared prosperity and to help young people thrive.”

MAYOR DAVID ANDERSON
KALAMAZOO



Eastern Upper Peninsula Counties

Alger

Luce

Chippewa

Schoolcraft

Mackinac



AUSTIN LOWES
SAULT TRIBE CHAIRMAN

“When you bring a baby home, that’s a vulnerable period for families... [Rx Kids] will provide so many benefits to individuals—alleviating so much of that financial anxiety that many families have.”



Clare County



Flint: Home of Rx Kids



Pontiac



Royal Oak Township & Hazel Park



Kalamazoo

Research and Impact

Rx Kids is not a new idea. It is built on extensive global and domestic evidence of child cash transfers, including the success of the 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit which cut child poverty to the lowest level.

Families most commonly spend cash prescriptions on **baby supplies, food, rent, & utilities**

Early results from Michigan are compelling:

- ♥ 87% of participants report improved financial security. Zero low-income Rx Kids families reported evictions while enrolled in the program.
- ♥ 86% of pregnant participants attended prenatal appointments; 96% of participants with infants attended pediatric visits.
- ♥ 81% of moms report increased confidence as parents.
- ♥ Rx Kids moms have better maternal mental health and wellbeing and are less likely to suffer from post-partum depression, stress, and anxiety.

Since Rx Kids has started, Flint has seen:

- ♥ More prenatal care visits, earlier prenatal care, and reduced smoking — all preventing severe complications for the mother and baby.
- ♥ Positive impacts on birth weight and a reduction in preterm births, averting costly NICU stays and improving infant health.
- ♥ Less reports of abuse and neglect, improving child welfare and family stability.
- ♥ More money spent locally, creating an economic stimulus for local communities. The Flint & Genesee Group estimates that every Rx Kids \$1 spent in the community translates into \$1.57 dollars circulating in the local economy.

“Rx Kids is not only improving the lives of Flint’s children, it’s also boosting our local economy. It’s more than just a health program; it has real economic benefit.”

- Tim Herman, CEO of the Flint & Genesee Group



THE SCIENCE OF CHILD CASH BENEFITS

Evidence on the adoption of child cash benefits from a broad set of nations finds that they can improve a range of child health outcomes, with the most robust evidence of health benefits occurring when delivered to children younger than five years and during the prenatal period. **LEARN MORE AT THE LANCET.**

Rx Kids Saves Money: Estimated Cost Savings

Rx Kids builds on a significant evidence base showing that outcomes like these can save federal, state, and local governments significant money.



Preliminary estimates of short-term savings

Birth Outcomes: Since Rx Kids started, estimates reveal that Flint had up to 40 less preterm births and almost 70 less low birthweight babies. This resulted in almost 70 less NICU admissions. These health improvements are saving approximately \$6 million/year in health care costs just for Flint births. **If replicated for the whole state, the health care savings would be \$220 million/year in the prevention of premature babies and \$268 million/year in the prevention of low birthweight babies. A portion of these savings also come from the prevention of NICU admissions, estimated to be \$213 million/year.**

Postpartum depression: A study in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* found that Medicaid-enrolled new mothers with perinatal depression had \$5,078 more health care expenditures, suggesting that the big reductions in postpartum depression seen in Flint could lead to significant healthcare costs savings.

Child protective services (CPS): A study from the *National Bureau of Economic Research* found that an added \$1,000 in Rx Kids-like benefits was linked to a 30% decline in CPS referrals for physical abuse, among other improved outcomes. For every \$1 spent on cash transfers early in life, the estimated ROI in child welfare costs was \$4.20.

Evictions: A study from the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* finds that evictions increase homelessness and hospitalizations, reduce earnings and negatively impact credit scores and indebtedness.

Long-term benefits

Earnings in young adulthood: A study in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* found that an added \$1,300 in Rx Kids-like benefits to infants translated into increased earnings of \$2,185 between ages 23 and 28. It also was linked to improved math and reading scores and increased likelihood of high school graduation.

“We know that every growing family and every baby can benefit from extra support during pregnancy and in the first year of life. It’s both a moral imperative and a smart investment as decades of research prove that every dollar invested in the health and development of our babies yields high returns for our communities.”

-Alyssa Stewart, Chief Impact Officer at Kalamazoo Community Foundation

Are you ready to bring Rx Kids to your Michigan community?



The State of Michigan has made a bold, historic investment in families — supporting the expansion of Rx Kids, the nation's first community-wide prenatal and infant cash prescription program. Over the next three years, Rx Kids aims to expand to dozens of high-need communities reaching nearly 100,000 babies and covering about one-third of all births in Michigan. Key design elements of the program include:

- ♥ **Innovative public-private partnership:** Rx Kids is an innovative public-private partnership, combining public funding from state, federal, and municipal sources with private support from philanthropy, businesses, and health care systems. In Michigan, historic investment from the state provides the majority of funding, however additional funding is needed to launch Rx Kids in new communities.
- ♥ **Plug-and-play model:** Rx Kids provides the core support – including operations, enrollment, research, reporting, and communication tools. With an established infrastructure, Rx Kids is ready to be expanded and implemented in months.
- ♥ **Low overhead:** Administered by GiveDirectly, the program is streamlined and cost-efficient, avoiding bureaucracy and ensuring that dollars reach families directly.
- ♥ **Local support:** Rx Kids believes in celebrating moms, babies, and families. Local champions work closely with Rx Kids to celebrate by hosting annual baby parades and other family-oriented events.



Check out the Michigan expansion page on our website (RxKids.org) or contact us at Rx-Kids@msu.edu



“Compared to the ways that governments typically spend taxpayer dollars to try to alleviate poverty, these kinds of direct cash subsidies are among the most efficient ways that governments can achieve those kinds of goals.” - Michael Van Beek, director of research at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy

So Much Love

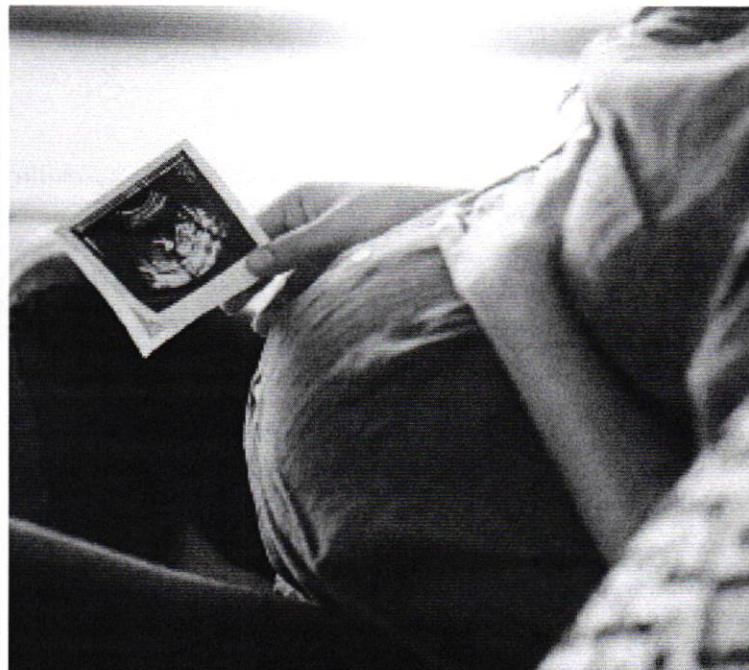
A public-private partnership, over \$100 million has been committed for Rx Kids.



Rx Kids extends a special thank you to all of our individual donors who have been inspired to contribute to Rx Kids.

“Rx Kids provides a real chance
at a future for me and my
children.”

TEAGAN
Rx KIDS MOM



“Rx Kids is a prescription for
health, hope, and opportunity.
Finally, we have an effective and
efficient antidote to treat the
pathogen of poverty. The future
is bright for our babies.”

DR. MONA
Rx KIDS DIRECTOR

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**FURIEY
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**

PEDIATRIC PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE

Mona Hanna, MD, MPH

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RxKids.org
Email: Rx-Kids@msu.edu

Join the Rx Kids community
and share the love
on social media.

 **@RxKidsUS**

 **@RxKidsUS**

 **@RxKids**



MONTMORENCY COUNTY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

February 2026

1/22/2026 – 2/26/2026

- Monthly Region 7 Homeland Security Executive Board Meeting.
- Monthly Region 7 Homeland Security Planning Board Meeting.
- Monthly MSP local webinar on updates for local emergency managers.
- Monthly attendance at Montmorency Commissioners Board Meeting.
- Monthly EM7 and Statewide 7 radio checks.
- Attended District Health Department No. 4 board meeting.
- Weekly planning meetings with SnoDrift Rally committee.
- Support for SnoDrift rally all weekend on site.
- Spent a day with MPSCS on 800 radio education.
- Pick up and distribution of 800 radios for responders for SnoDrift.
- Midterm planning meeting with National Guard and partners at Camp Gryaling on June 8th full scale exercise.
- Planning meeting in Lewiston with National Guard, Crawford Co., Oscoda Co, Lambda Energy and Region 7 Healthcare Coalition on Northern Exposure event.
- Creating HSEEP type evaluation tool for evaluators for exercises to be shared with region.
- Took part in the statewide public alert drill/hot wash
- Weather Spotter training has been scheduled with NWS.
- Took part in a Human Trafficking webinar.
- SARA Title III Tier II reports coming in on Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory.
- MABAS Strike Team/Leadership Training Course/County exercise at the University Center in Gaylord
- Starlink arrived for satellite internet should we need in an emergency (mobile).
- Opportunity for a \$25,000 mapping grant. Meetings with CRG and ACAP.
- County Hazard Mitigation plan is due 2/10/2027...spoke with NEMCOG regarding how this process will look for this.
- Attempted to obtain executed RAVE contract...Aprille now involved.
- IPAWS active in RAVE...awaiting training from RAVE to start monthly test notifications.
- Dam Safety and Inspection reports coming in from Office of Energy Project (FERC).
- Communication boards up in office/EOC.
- Montmorency County Emergency Response Facebook page management.
 - Facebook: 421 page likes-1,144 followers (increase of 44)
 - 17 posts in January/February.
- Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference has opened and the county can send 3 people + the EM. If anyone is interested please let Sarah know. - Amway Grand - pd f/by
- Drafting of County Emergency Action Guidelines continues.