

HAMILTON COUNTY TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

138 EAST COURT STREET, ROOM 603

CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

June 23, 2022

Hamilton County Board of Commissioners

Hon. Stephanie Summerow Dumas, President

Hon. Alicia Reece, Vice-President

Hon. Denise Driehaus

Re: 2022 Indigent Care Levy Recommendations

2022 Mental Health Levy Recommendations

2022 Senior Service Levy Recommendations

Dear Commissioners,

Attached are the 2022 TLRC subcommittee reports and recommendations for the above levies. The TLRC met on June 21, 2022 to discuss their final reports and recommendations and voted to submit the reports to the Commissioners in advance of the 2022 levy cycle.

First, I want to thank the Commissioners for the appointment of our TLRC members who are currently serving on the committee. Each member understood the importance of being good stewards and adhered to the mission “to create a balance between the needs for funding for the various levy agencies on the one hand and the burden on the home and business owners on the other hand”. I also want to thank Lisa Webb, Assistant County Administrator for the County for the outstanding leadership, the wisdom and knowledge she brings to the table, and her ability to work effectively with all our stakeholders during the 2021 and 2022 levy cycles. Another thanks to our consultants for their expertise and experience as the help guide us through this process:

1. Public Consulting Group (PCG)
2. Health Management Associates (HMA) and
3. Howard Wershbaile & CO (HW&Co)

These reports and recommendations could not have been completed had it not been for the endless hours the volunteer committee members put in, the numerous meetings they attended and their ability to stay focused on the 2022 levy review work plan and timeline beginning in November 2021 and working through June 2022. Beginning this year, the TLRC members were required to complete the annual Ohio Ethics Law E-Course which helped them to gain a deeper understanding of their roles as

public servants. The Indigent Care Levy Subcommittee was chaired by Jeanette Hargreaves and included members Bob Furnier and Gwen Mcfarlin, the Mental Health Levy Subcommittee was chaired by Ed Herzig and included Christie Kuhn and Ennis Tait, the Senior Services Levy Subcommittee was chaired by Jenny O'Donnell and included Mark Quarry and John Silverman.

TLRC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2022 LEVY CYCLE

Indigent Care Levy

Vote: 7 - support, 0 - oppose, 2 - absent

1. The levy should be placed on the November 2022 ballot at the current millage rate
2. Implement Memorandums of understanding (MOU's) with county agencies and other organizations that do not have a levy-rated contract for consistency across the levy
3. Implement a cost containment plan for the Sheriff's Inmate Health Care Contract and Inmate Health Care Staffing
4. Additional funding requests from requesting agencies should be approved
5. Hamilton County Public Health's Oral Care Initiative funding should be reduced by \$30,000 per year until unspent levy funds from the 2017-2022 cycle are depleted.
6. MHSRB should release approximately \$1.3 million in unspent encumbered funds received from the Levy in 2018.
7. Authorize Hamilton County Probation to include Alternative Interventions for Men services in its current Alternative Interventions for Women funding allocation.
8. Replace the Net Community Benefit test as a requirement for UCMC and CCHMC under their Levy contract and replace it with a benchmark of a proportion of total expenses as reported on IRS Form 990 Schedule H.

Mental Health Levy

Vote: 5 - support, 2 – oppose, 2 - absent

1. Place the Mental Health Levy on the November 2022 ballot with an increase to \$44.9 million as requested by the MHSRB
2. Finalize a new levy contract between Hamilton County and the MHSRB
3. Seek out county wide partnerships for mental health services
4. Update the 2017 Strategic Plan
5. Move toward multi-year service contracts with MHSRB vendors
6. Direct funding to address workforce shortages withing partner agencies

Senior Services Levy

Vote: 7 – support, 0 - oppose, 2 - absent

1. The levy should be placed on the November 2022 ballot at the current millage rate
2. The mid-levy review should focus on the impact of increased services and inflation on the levy services
3. The patient navigation program, currently provided by CareStar, is duplicative of a the federally funded Front Door program offered through COA. The Front Door program provides services to nearly 5,000 seniors a month, while the new patient navigation program has provided service to 500 annually during the levy period. It is recommended that this funding be reallocated toward other needed services for seniors.
4. The Senior Utility Assistance Program has seen success. It is recommended by the consultants that funding this program (or other new levy programs) be allocated annually utilizing property tax revenues received above the projected levy plan budget amount.

The TLRC is now making our final recommendations to the Commissioners and appreciate the opportunity to continue serving our Hamilton County residents.

Respectfully,

Gwen Mcfarlin

Chair, Tax Levy Review Committee