



Newaygo County Board of Commissioners

Health, Education & Human Services Committee

MINUTES

February 25, 2026

10:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER	James Maike called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike
AGENDA - MOTION NO.	26-078
Motion by Brenda Bird, second by Lori Tubbergen Clark, to approve the agenda of February 25, 2026. Ayes – Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None
MINUTES – MOTION NO.	26-079
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Brenda Bird, to approve the Health, Education & Human Services Committee regular meeting minutes for January 28, 2026. Ayes – Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Steven Cain, Veteran Affairs
The following departmental updates were reported: • Newaygo VFW Post 4249 Medical Clinic – The Northern Rural Expansion has extended its operating hours in Newaygo County. March is the last confirmed month medical services will be offered at the Newaygo VFW. • County Veterans Service Fund Grant – Full time Veterans service officer, Rebecca Ball, working 40 hours per week as a partially grant funded employee. Medical Transportation is provided with two volunteers to assist Veterans. • Veterans Affairs Committee – In FY 2026, the Veterans Affairs Committee has processed 10 Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund applications, 7 Peace Time Relief Fund applications, and 3 Michigan Veterans Trust Fund applications.	
DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Brad Hinken, COA Director
The following departmental updates were reported by Tara Flaquel: • Administration – The City of Grant has been paid \$174,216.34 for commercial kitchen renovations. The final payment will be approved once the kitchen is ready to open. • Services – The Grant Community Center renovation project will be completed in soon. COA plans to start serving meals at the site as soon as March but could be delayed if the building is not ADA compliant. • Staffing – The COA has applied to host NC RESA summer interns.	
ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT	Administrator Christopher Wren
• Recently an employee experienced identity theft through our health care program. Chelsea Jensen and BCBS are investigating the situation.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None
MISCELLANEOUS	Commissioner Brenda Bird

- Would like the Commissioners to send a sympathy card to the family of Marlene Toogood, former Register of Deeds, who recently passed away.
- The Bridge Cards will be adding a chip shortly. This should assist with fraud.

MISCELLANEOUS	Commissioner Lori Tubbergen Clark
• Appreciates COA Director Brad Hinken and his staff as they have been very helpful. Proud to work with COA and their team.	

ADJOURNMENT – MOTION NO.	26-080
Motion by Brenda Bird, second by Lori Tubbergen Clark, to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Ayes – Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike. Nays – none. Motion carried.	

COUNTY CLERK CERTIFICATION	Jason Vanderstelt, County Clerk
CHAIRPERSON CERTIFICATION	James Maike, Committee Chair
DATE	March 25, 2026