MEMORANDUM

TO: County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Scott H. Erbisch, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Strategic Plan Status Update – Major Goal Area Two “Community”

DATE: 3/12/2018

CC: N/A

The following is a summary and update of Major Goal Two: Community:

GOAL AREA TWO
COMMUNITY

Community Well-Being
Key Objectives for Community

1. Public Safety
   - County road patrol levels have increased by one Deputy.
2. Expanded Veteran Support
   - Please find the attached memo from Veteran’s Service Officer Manager, Craig Salo. (Attachment #1)
3. Reduction in Drug Crimes
   - Marquette County continues to support Sobriety and Drug Courts.
   - Community Corrections is focused on cognitive based programming vs. work crews.
4. Improved Employment Area
5. Economic Development
   - County staff led the development of the “Economic Development Task Force” under Project Empire.
   - The County Board of Commissioners supported various state incentives that allowed for the retention of Superior Extrusion, Inc. and National Carbon, two significant businesses at Sawyer.
   - The County remains a member of the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD), Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP), UPWARD Talent, and Ambassadors.

Marquette County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
ENERGY
Key Objectives for Community

1. Regional Energy Plan
   - Marquette County led in the creation of an Upper Peninsula 15-County Energy Committee. Though limited in its efforts, one key component was supporting a broad U.P. wide energy study.

2. Energy Improvement
   - County Facility staff continues to install LED lights throughout the Court House and County Property. New boilers and air conditioning units have been installed to assist with energy efficiencies.

3. Affordable Energy Source
   - The Marquette County Board of Commissioners approved the lease of approximately 1,300 acres of County Forest Lands for the purpose of a private development solar farm.

TRANSPORTATION
Key Objectives for Community

1. Public Transportation Improvements / Airports
2. Road Improvements
   - County staff periodically participates in regional road planning and the U.S. 41 Corridor working group.
   - County staff provided input to Marquette City officials with regard to the Spring Street redevelopment in 2016.
3. Public Transportation
   - The County Commissioners met with Marq Tran officials to discuss public transportation issues and made suggestions for their consideration.
4. Increased Airport Service / Non-legacy Carrier
   - After completing an air service study and numerous meetings with commercial carriers, Sky West has added a Minneapolis daily flight.
5. Improved Rail Service
   - No new progress to report. Ongoing.
6. 41 Corridor Development
   - County staff periodically participates with the U.S. 41 corridor planning and development meetings.

ONE-YEAR TASKS (2015-2016)

- ROADS – SUPPORT ROLE – STATE OF MICHIGAN
- ENERGY - SUPPORT ROLE
  - Local Generation
    - The County Board supports the development of the UMERG Natural Gas Power Plant in Negaunee Township.
    - The County Board approved a lease with Tradewinds for the development of a large solar farm.
    - The County Board supported the development of the dual fuel power generation plant at the Marquette Board of Light and Power (BLP).
  - Lower Michigan / Wisconsin
    - Through the development creation of a U.P. County Commissioner Energy group, Marquette County is open to alternative energy providers, but feels strongly that power generation should take place in the Upper Peninsula.
ROAD PATROL

➢ On-Call Officers
  - The Sheriff's Department leadership has decided to not create a formal on-call program; as there were concerns with additional cost for being on-call. The Sheriff, Undersheriff, Road Patrol Captain, and Lieutenant Detective are considered “on call”.

➢ Vehicles at Home
  - It was determined that there are not enough road patrol vehicles to establish a broad “vehicle at home” program. The Sheriff, Undersheriff, Road Patrol Captain, and Lieutenant Detective are on-call and have vehicles assigned to them.

➢ Initiate Road Study
  - No activity on this category at the time of this update.

➢ West End Township Mileages
  - Sheriff Department leadership continues to have ongoing discussions with various townships regarding contractual law enforcement services.

➢ Collaborate with Other Jurisdictions
  - Sheriff Department leadership participates on a monthly basis with the Marquette County Law Enforcement Administrators (MCLEA) where collaborative ideas and other law enforcement matters are discussed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

➢ Support Eagle Mine
  - Ongoing

➢ Support Business / Jobs
  - Marquette County Commissioners and Staff participate in numerous ongoing economic development efforts. Examples of various economic development related committees include: the Economic Development Task Force, LSCP Board, Ambassadors Board, UPWARD talent, CUPPAD, U.P. Counties Energy Committee.
  - Marquette County Board of Commissioners continues to support development at K.I. Sawyer, contracts with the Lake Superior Community Partnership for economic development services; along with the EDC, Intermediary Relending Loan Program (IRP), and the County Revolving Loan Fund operated through Northern Initiatives, etc.

REDUCTION OF DRUG CRIMES

➢ Marquette County Sheriff's Office has provided an officer on the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team for 29 years.

➢ The MCSO is sending a deputy to be trained as a DRE (Drug Recognition Expert). These officers are highly trained to enhance an officer’s ability to identify, evaluate, and document suspected drug impairment while driving. Currently, there are only 115 DREs throughout the state.

  - Schools - Please find the attached document, “Marquette County Health Department Substance Abuse Prevention Efforts, 2018 and Beyond” (Attachment #2)
  - Health Department/Kids - Please find the attached document, “Marquette County Health Department Substance Abuse Prevention Efforts, 2018 and Beyond” (Attachment #2)
  - Adult Education/NMU - In conjunction with the Michigan State Police, "The Angel Program" has been implemented. This is a pre-arrest diversion program that allows someone with a drug addiction to walk into the MCSO or MSP Department to seek help for their addiction without the fear of arrest.
• VETERAN SUPPORT – Refer to Attachment #1 as prepared by Craig Salo, Manager of Veteran’s Affairs.

➤ Benefit Information to Townships / Service Organizations
➤ Marquette County Veterans Alliance
➤ Service Officers
➤ Grant money from State of Michigan
➤ Increased hours – Part-time to full-time
➤ Veteran County I.D. card
January 31, 2018

Memorandum For: Mr. Scott Erbisch, Marquette County Administrator
Cc: Mr. George LaBlonde III, Chairman, Marquette Co. Veterans Affairs Committee

Subject: Veterans Affairs Community Goals Update

1. Overview: This information provided as of January 31, 2018 serves as an update to discussions held with the Marquette County Administrator, members of the Marquette County Board of Commissions, Department Directors and Managers in the summer of 2015. We identified six-areas of concentration within our county's Department of Veterans Affairs to improve the lives of veterans and respective family members within our community. The six areas include benefit information awareness, the Marquette County Veterans Alliance, service officer coordination and collaboration, State of Michigan grant opportunities, expansion of staff to meet current and projected requirements, and veteran identification card programs.

2. Benefit Information

a. The Marquette County Department of Veterans Affairs has developed and maintained a robust program to increase awareness of veteran benefits within Marquette County. Although the category discussed in 2015 was specific to benefit information at the township and service organization level, the larger focus is increasing awareness of veteran benefits within Marquette County.

b. The Marquette County Department of Veterans Affairs actively participates in the following activities and events to increase the aforementioned benefit awareness:

   a. Township Outreach  
   b. Veteran Service Organization and Veterans Support Group Outreach  
   c. Veteran Community Events Participation and Guest Speaking  
   d. Jaccobetti Home for Veterans  
   e. Michigan Works Job Fairs and Marquette County Fair  
   f. Northern Michigan University Veteran Events  
   g. UP State Fair and UP Veteran of the Year Program  
   h. Marquette County Veterans Alliance  
   i. Marquette County Veteran of the Year Award Program  
   j. US Department of Veterans Affairs Health Summits and Vet Center Events  
   k. Local Radio Advertisement  
   l. Local Television Advertisement  
   m. Local Television and Radio Awareness Programing  
   n. US Department of Veterans Affairs Monthly Stakeholder Meetings (IM, MI)  
   o. Marquette County Web Site  
   p. Upper Peninsula Veterans Community Action Team  
   q. Upper Peninsula Honor Flight
c. The results of participation in these events and activities have facilitated a significant increase in federal money coming into Marquette County through the US Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA’s FY2016 Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX) indicates Marquette County veterans received $33.5 million dollars in compensation and pension awards as part of over $55.4 million in total VA expenditures for Marquette County (there is no association with the VA clinic respective to these expenditures). These FY16 numbers represent an increase of $2.6 million dollars in compensation and pension benefits and $4.2 million dollars in total expenditures from FY2015.

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FY2016 GDX Report

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FY2016 GDX Report

d. The methodology following outreach and connecting with veterans through scheduled events is establishing appointments and working through our core offerings available through our department. The following offerings/requirements are either directly or indirectly associated with increasing the amount of federal money coming into Marquette County for veterans, surviving spouses, and or surviving family members.

1) Prepare, present and prosecute claims on behalf of veterans, surviving spouse and family members.
2) Assist veterans with the application and processing of service connected
disability claims.
3) Assist veterans with the application and processing of individual
unemployability claims.
4) Assist Veterans with Montgomery GI-Bill, Post 911 GI-Bill, Chapter 33,
Chapter 35 - Educational Assistance for eligible dependents, and Vocational
Rehabilitation Educational Benefits.
5) Assist surviving spouses and family members with pension claims, aid and
attendance, and federal burial claims.
6) Support and assist veterans obtaining official military records through the
National Personnel Records Center.
7) Support and assist veterans to correct Military Service Records through the
Department of Defense.
8) Support and assist veterans through the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
Debt Management Center.
9) Support and assist both retired veterans and spouses with the Department of
Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS).
10) Support and assist disabled or house bound veterans through the use of
home visits and local transportation support to veterans with the Department
vehicle.
11) Prepare, present, and prosecute VA Notices of Disagreement and Appeals
through the VA Regional Office and Board of Veterans Appeals in
Washington, DC.

3. Marquette County Veterans Alliance

a. Department personnel have actively supported and participated in the Marquette
County Veterans Alliance. The alliance is made up of veterans that are affiliated with
one or more service organizations across Marquette County. The alliance serves as
centralized hub of veteran information sharing, community service projects, and
financial support to local in need veterans and respective veteran’s causes throughout
the county. This is a non-profit organization with no ties to county or state governmental
organizations or agencies but serves as an excellent conduit to share information to the
leadership of all service organizations across our county. Departmental employees have
supported and or participated in the following events to help serve our veterans:

1) Vietnam Traveling Wall: Marquette
2) South Shore Veterans Fishing Day: Marquette
3) Veteran Wheel Chair Ramps: Marquette County
4) Dogs in Honor (PTSD): Marquette County
5) Feeding America: Ishpeming, Marquette
4. Service Officer Coordination

a. The Marquette County Veterans Affairs Department works closely other VA accredited service officers within Marquette County. The Jacobetti Home for Veterans hosts both the VFW and the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency’s service officers. Marquette County service officer hours follow

1) Marquette County VSO: 40-hours per week
2) MVAA Service Officer: 40-hours per week
3) VFW Service Officer: 32-hours per week

b. The department files claims through the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers and the following congressionally recognized service organizations:

1) Veterans of Foreign Wars
2) American Legion
3) Disabled American Veterans
4) Vietnam Veterans of America
5) Purple Heart

c. There has been a significant increase in the degree of cooperation and collaboration with our department and the respective service officers within the county. This has clearly contributed to our overall veteran outreach program as well as a significant increase in federal monies flowing into Marquette County.

4. Staff Support

a. The Marquette County Department of Veterans Affairs is currently staffed by a full-time County Veteran Service Officer and Veteran Benefit Counselor. The Benefit Counselor position transitioned from part-time (May 2015 – Dec 2015) on January 4, 2016. The current benefit counselor is scheduled to complete training and accreditation testing during the summer of 2018. In addition, the department hired one temporary part-time employee (without benefits) from July 2017-August 2017 and for a one-week period in January 2018.

b. The Marquette County Department of Veterans Affairs is also a recognized US Department of Veterans Affairs approved VA Work Study Site. This program provides part-time employment to students receiving VA education benefits who attend school three-quarter time or more. We received approval to support this program for student veterans in January 2017. This program is fully funded by the federal government and does not impact the department’s or the county’s annual budget. To date our VA Work Study Veteran has worked over 400-hours in support of our departments key requirements.
5. State of Michigan Grants

a. The Marquette County Department of Veterans Affairs was established in 2014. The department’s office located in Ishpeming, Michigan was opened in February 2015. The State of Michigan, through the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA), has offered grant incentives to support departmental operations for the past four-years. Marquette County has secured over $32,000 in grant incentives from MVAA over the past three-years and has been selected to receive over $17,000 for this current fiscal year. Note: Marquette County has applied for and received more grant incentives than any other county within the State of Michigan. Grant totals by fiscal year are as follows:

1) FY2015 Establish Department Full Time Accredited Service Officer $20,000
2) FY2016 Part Time Accredited Service Officer $10,000
3) FY2017 Vehicle Maintenance $2,473
4) FY2018 Full Time Accredited Service Officer Technology $17,800 (MVAA Approved)

6. Veteran County Identification Cards

a. We have made significant progress regarding veteran identification cards in collaboration with the Marquette County Register of Deeds. Honor Rewards allows Marquette County veterans to sign up to receive an Honor Rewards Identification Card. This ID card can be used to receive discounts and benefits at local participating businesses. The Honor Rewards program is a nationally recognized program created by Fidlar Technologies as a means of honoring our military veterans. Although this is not a VA issued identification card it is recognized throughout the county. There have been 340 cards issued to county veterans as of December 31, 2017. Great credit to the Marquette County Register of Deeds and her team working in collaboration with Fidlar Technologies and our department. This has been and will continue to be a very popular program for our veterans across the county.

Marquette Co Veteran Honors Reward Card Example
b. The Marquette County Department of Veterans Affairs has successfully facilitated the enrollment of over 500 veterans over the past 30-months into VA Health Care. This enrollment is can be based on income threshold eligibility, service-connected disability, discharge for a disability, recently discharged Combat Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, VA pension recipients, former Prisoners of War (POW), Purple Heart recipients, service in Vietnam between 1964 to 1975, service in the Gulf War between 1990 and 1998, and veterans with service for at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune between 1953 and 1987.

c. Assisting veterans with enrollment as well as processing these applications with the US Department of Veterans Affairs is one of our core offerings in both our outreach events and within our office in Ishpeming. The VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Marquette is a cornerstone of VA Health in support of our counties 6,400 veterans. The clinic houses three primary care providers, nurses, specialty care providers, and The clinic is located in the Upper Peninsula Medical Center located at 1414 W Fair Ave in Marquette, it is open Monday through Friday outside of US Federal holidays and over 13,000 outpatient visits were conducted during the most recent fiscal year. Note: each enrolled veteran receives a medical identification card in support of medical services to be rendered (Medical ID Example Below)

![Medical ID Example Below]

d. The Marquette County Department of Veterans Affairs is currently promoting the new US Department of Veterans Affairs Identification Card program. According to VA secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin, "the new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most Veterans to show proof of service...for veterans with honorable service to our nation." The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC. This new program is a welcome addition to VA offering for veterans who are not enrolled in VA Healthcare. The Marquette County Veterans Affairs Department regularly fields calls regarding non-health related VA ID cards.
7. Summary

a. Significant progress has been made in the six-key veteran focused community goals identified in 2015. There has also been considerable support for the Marquette County Department of Veterans Affairs from our committee, the county administrator, and members of the board of commissioners; without this collective support we could not properly care for our veterans, surviving spouses, and respective family members.

b. As we look forward, one of our primary goals for FY18 is to work closely with our county prosecutor, court coordinator, sheriff’s department, and respective probation officers in support of a county veteran mentorship program. This program is designed to support willing veterans who are navigating their way through our justice system. Coordination meetings with District Court, observation of both sobriety and drug court, and the establishment of veteran mentors are now complete and we look forward to supporting our community with this program in the years to come. Lastly, it should not be overlooked that Marquette County is a great place to live and we believe that local county government is enhancing the lives of the veterans within our communities.

8. Point of contact is Craig A. Salo at (906) 485-1781 or via email at csalo@mqtco.org.

Craig A. Salo
Veterans Service Officer
US Army, Retired
Marquette County Health Department  
Substance Abuse Prevention Efforts  
2018 and Beyond

The Health Department is currently being funded for programs that are aimed at substance abuse and drug prevention. In addition, the Health Department has just been invited to participate in a pilot program to address substance abuse treatment and counseling for teens and young adults. A brief summary of these programs is as follows.

- **MC²**
  NorthCare Network, with offices located in Marquette, is responsible for the management of, among other things, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Substance Use Disorder Community Grant Program. The Health Department has received funding from NorthCare for many years to bring community awareness to substance abuse with an eye on prevention. A group known as Marquette County Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention Coalition (MC²) spearheaded these efforts.

This group has transformed, re-branded and has adopted an evidenced-based program known as Communities That Care (CTC). The new group, now known as Marquette County Cares (MC²), will focus on reducing “risk factors” and improving “protective factors” in youth throughout Marquette County. A survey is currently being administered to nearly all 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in the county and will serve as a baseline to measure improvement in both types of factors as a result of community effort. The program and the process is quite complex; however, successful programs in other communities have shown to reduce teen pregnancy, teen violence, truancy, and substance abuse. The community decides the direction, based on resources and priority. Definition of each factor is as follows:

- Risk factors include the likelihood that young people will develop health and social problems.
- Protective factors help buffer young people with high levels of protections (family values, community, etc) to prevent risk factors from developing.

- **Botvins Life Skills**
  Annually, Health Educators from the Health Department participate in teaching a curriculum to middle school students in the county known as “Botvins Life Skills Training.” A pre-test and post-test is given to the students. The program is given to students in the 6th grade as an extensive 12 – 14 week course.
Then, the students receive refresher courses in both 7th and 8th grades so that they have a “steady diet” of training and are “armed” with information when they enter high school. The lessons teach not only the facts and dangers of drugs such as marijuana, but also how the internet, social media, and media affect their lives. These results are shared with school administration and faculty so that if resources exist, changes can be made to help students make good decisions.

- **Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Project**
  The Health Department received funding for 18 months to address prescription drug overdoses in Marquette County. This is a pilot program funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) - Division of Chronic Disease & Injury Control and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The details of the grant project titled *Reducing Opioid Overdose in Marquette (ROOM)* are somewhat extensive; however, the goals are as follows:

  ✓ Goal 1: Implement opioid overdose surveillance
  ✓ Goal 2: Reduce inappropriate prescribing of opioids by providers
  ✓ Goal 3: Educate the public about the problems of opioid abuse
  ✓ Goal 4: Gain and improve understanding of opioid use across the country

  We have contracted with a retired local family practice physician whose specialty is Preventative Medicine. Because a good deal of the project work involves other providers (physicians, dentists, etc.), we felt that contracting with a physician to be the project coordinator would present the best chance for success.

- **Needle Exchange**
  The Health Department received a small stipend of money from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to implement a “needle exchange” program in Marquette County. This is a pilot program that will help the State identify the challenges of needle exchange programs in rural areas. Needle exchange programs help prevent the spread of blood borne diseases such Hepatitis C and HIV. More importantly, it provides an opportunity to get information regarding resources and treatment in the hands of intravenous drug users. The program is in the planning stages. We have a location selected and have tentatively secured medical professionals to work with drug users. The only thing left to do is to define project coordination. The program is expected to roll out in the next couple of months.

- **Substance Abuse Services at the School Clinics**
  I recently received an email from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The Gwinn and Ishpeming Child and Adolescent Health Centers (Child and
Adolescent Health Centers - CAHCs) have been invited to partner with the Office of Recovery Orientated Systems of Care (OROSC) at MDHHS. OROSC has funding available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Michigan Youth Treatment Infrastructure Enhancement (MYTIE) grant. The purpose of this collaborative pilot project is to co-locate substance abuse/use services into select CAHC locations. The current proposal will be for two years. Year one will run a half year from April 2018 to September 30, 2018. Year two will be a full year running from October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019.

The pilot sites will receive additional funds to contract with the local substance use counselors to offer Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services onsite at the CAHCs for two days a week (16 hours). A Memorandum of Understanding will need to be secured between the CAHC and the local substance use provider. The goal is to have services beginning in spring, 2018.

This arrangement will allow for the local substance use service provider to be available in the CAHC sites to provide prevention and early intervention services to the clients of the CAHC who are ages 12 and older. Additionally, this local service provider can offer outreach and prevention services to the host school, such as classroom or school wide presentations.

I have verbally told the State that we have accepted their invitation and are currently working out the details. Year one for each clinic is $40,000 and year two for each clinic is $80,000.

- **School Clinics in Gwinn and Ishpeming**
  The Health Clinics operated by the Health Department at the Gwinn and Ishpeming high schools primarily provide medical and behavioral health services. In addition to the combined student population of over 1,000 students, the Ishpeming clinic also sees students from nearby school districts. Aside from the upcoming substance abuse pilot program already mentioned, substance abuse services have traditionally not been available. That being said, the Nurse Practitioner and Licensed Master Social Worker screen patients upon intake with a variety of risk assessment tools. If substance abuse behaviors are identified, resources, referrals and limited counseling are provided. The Health Department is looking forward to the implementation of the substance abuse pilot program.