

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2023  
APPROVED MINUTES  
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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Board was called to order by the Supervisor Ken Schwartz at 7:00 p.m. on March 20, 2023, at the Superior Township Hall, 3040 North Prospect, Superior Township, Michigan.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Supervisor Schwartz led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**3. ROLL CALL**

The members present were Supervisor Ken Schwartz, Clerk Lynette Findley, Treasurer Lisa Lewis, Trustee Nancy Caviston, Trustee Bernice Lindke, and Trustee Rhonda McGill.

Absent: Trustee Bill Secrest

**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Trustee Lindke supported by Treasurer Lewis, to adopt the agenda.  
The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. FEBRUARY 21, 2023, REGULAR MEETING**

It was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Trustee Caviston, to approve the minutes of the special Board meeting of February 21, 2023.

Trustee Lindke asked that the memo from Claire Martin be included.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**B. MARCH 7, 2023, SPECIAL MEETING**

It was moved by Trustee Caviston supported by Trustee McGill, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of March 7, 2023, as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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**6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

**A. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Josie Lee, Warren Rd, made comments opposing the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Marjorie Brawer, Fleming Ridge, made comments opposing the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Mary Glencer, Vorhies Rd, made comments opposing the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Roberta Colaner, made comments opposing the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Douglas Dail, Warren Rd, made comments opposing the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Danny, Ann Arbor, made comments in favor of the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Stephen Henley, Warren Rd, made comments opposing the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Supervisor Schwartz informed the residents that the Board appreciates everyone coming out, but the Board would not be making a decision because they have not received a plan at this time.
- Joey, Ann Arbor, made comments in favor of the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Fred Lucas, Township Attorney, explained the process of rezoning.
- Yume Preston, Fleming Ridge, made comments opposing the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Tamarus, Ypsilanti, made comments in favor of the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Erin Lindsay, Warren Rd, made comments opposing the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Dr. Perry Francis, Ann Arbor, made comments in favor of the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Becky Brent, teacher at Community High School, made comments in favor of the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Wayne Stark, Warren Rd, made comments opposing the rezoning of the property at 3900 N. Dixboro Rd.
- Meredith Schindler, Vreeland Rd, made comments in favor of the rezoning of the property at 3900 Dixboro Rd.
- Judy Gardner, Berkshire Dr, made comments in favor of the rezoning of the property at 3900 N. Dixboro Rd.
- Scott Halpert, Garrett's Space, gave a brief overview of the need in Washtenaw County.

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**7. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BOARD TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER, PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(H) MATERIAL EXEMPT FROM DISCUSSION OR DISCLOSURE BY STATE STATUTE – A WRITTEN LEGAL OPINION FROM THE TOWNSHIP’S LAWYER.**

It was moved by Treasurer Lewis supported by Trustee McGill to proceed into Closed Session at 7:56 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ayes:

Clerk Findley  
Treasurer Lewis  
Trustee Lindke  
Trustee McGill  
Supervisor Schwartz  
Trustee Caviston

Nyes:

None

Absent:

Trustee Secest

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

At 8:21 p.m. the Board of Trustees meeting reopened.

Trustee Caviston excused herself from the meeting.

It was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Trustee Lindke to proceed on the matter discussed in the closed session.

Roll Call:

Ayes:

Treasurer Lewis  
Trustee Lindke  
Trustee McGill  
Supervisor Schwartz

Nays:

Clerk Findley

Absent:

Trustee Caviston  
Trustee Secest

The motion passed by majority vote.

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**8. PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**9. REPORTS**

**A. SUPERVISOR REPORT**

Supervisor Schwartz reported on the following:

- Supervisor Schwartz and Bill Balmes, Building Official, visited the property at 6595 Plymouth-Ann Arbor Rd. and concluded the condition of the home was beyond practical repair costs. The Board agreed.
- Supervisor Schwartz filed a Community Tourism Action Plan (CTAP) Report for the \$5000.00 received last year to assist with the cost of the shed at Dixboro Village Green.
- The appraiser will be doing a walkthrough of the Dixboro Green Village property on Thursday March 23, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.
- Jaleen Wilson and Rob Butler have cleaned up the illegally dumped garbage, they will be paid \$999.
- The insurance checks for the Oakbrook signs have arrived and Supervisor Schwartz will be executing the contract to have them repaired.
- Supervisor Schwartz stated Board of Review met last week, Paula Calopisis, Assessor, would normally have a report but is delayed in that due to a death in the family. She will have the report for the next Board meeting.
- Supervisor Schwartz stated he would like to assist residents, in subdivisions where burning is not allowed, with the cost of cleaning up downed tree branches due to the recent storms, and that it should cost approximately \$5000.00.

It was moved by Trustee McGill supported Treasurer Lewis to hire a chipper truck not to exceed \$5000.00.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**B. LIASON REPORT ON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Trustee Lindke had no report this month.

**C. COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Clerk Findley gave a summary of the minutes from March 2, 2023. She stated the March 20, 2023, meeting with Debbie Dingell, Jeff Erwin and others was postponed to the end of the month.

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**D. ARPA FUNDS COMMITTEE**

Trustee McGill had no report this month.

**E. DEPARTMENT REPORTS: BUILDING DEPARTMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENT,  
ORDINANCE OFFICER REPORT, PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES,  
SHERIFF'S REPORT**

It was moved by Treasurer Lewis supported by Trustee McGill, that the Superior Township Board receive all reports.

Trustee McGill and Trustee Lindke would like to see where stops and citations by the Sheriff's Department are occurring, and the purpose for stops and citations.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**10. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. LETTERS FROM THE COMMUNITY REGARDING REZONING AT 3900 N. DIXBORO RD.**

It was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Trustee Lindke, to receive all letters.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The following are the communications that were received at the table.

- Due to the volume of communications received they are placed at the end of these minutes.

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. PUMP STATION UPDATE - REMOVAL OF EQUIPMENT AND NEW EASEMENT FROM THE COUNTY -SUPERVISOR SCHWARTZ**

Supervisor Schwartz gave brief overview of the actions that will be needed after passing Resolution 2023-16.

**B. MASTER PLAN UPDATE – SUPERVISOR SCHWARTZ**

Supervisor Schwartz stated Ben Carlisle will be meeting with Laura Bennett, Zoning and Planning Administrator, on Thursday. They have not received the information they need but have chosen to move forward in the interest of time.

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**C. OAKBROOK SIGNAGE UPDATE – SUPERVISOR SCHWARTZ**

See remarks made during Supervisor’s Report.

**D. EVALUATE CONTINUING CONTRACTS WITH TAZ AND OHM**

Supervisor Schwartz asked if the Board would like to set a Special Meeting for this item.

**E. ROCK PROPERTY PROGRAMMING – DATE FOR SPECIAL MEETING**

Supervisor Schwartz stated Fred Lucas is drafting a conservation easement.

**F. SIGNED EASEMENT RELEASE FROM TOM LAWSON**

Supervisor Schwartz informed the Board he and Fred Lucas will be meeting with Mr. Lawson on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

Fred Lucas reported Mr. Lawson has concerns about the size of the easement.

**G. DETAILED REPORT OF UNBILLED CHARGES FROM OHM – GEORGE TSAKOFF**

Supervisor Schwartz stated George Tsakoff sent an email to the Board.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTION 2023-12, RESOLUTION TO COMMIT REMAINING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS TO THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY CENTER**

Trustee Lindke provided an updated resolution at the table due to missing items within the original.

The following resolution was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Treasurer Lewis to table the resolution.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
MARCH 20, 2023  
RESOLUTION 2023-12**

**RESOLUTION TO COMMIT REMAINING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)  
FUNDS TO THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY CENTER**

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**WHEREAS**, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was passed to help communities begin to recover from the negative effects of the pandemic, particularly communities where historic systemic health and economic disparities have been exacerbated by the pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, one of the provisions of the ARPA eligible uses was “to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts;” and,

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Superior was allocated \$1,501,402.52 (one million five hundred and one thousand four hundred dollars and two and fifty-two cents) in ARPA funds to support the communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis; and,

**WHEREAS**, the township held various working sessions which included public participation and discussion about the needs of our communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board, through Resolution #2021-80, committed all of its ARPA funds to projects located within the township’s designated Qualified Census Tract (QCT); and,

**WHEREAS**, a QCT is defined as an area in which “50% or more of the households are income eligible and the population of all census tracts that satisfy this criterion does not exceed 20% of the total population of the respective area”; and,

**WHEREAS**, among the neighborhoods in the township QCT are: Sycamore Meadows, Washington Square, Danbury Park Manor, Arbor Woods, Harvest Lane, and West Ridge Mobile Home Park; and,

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted low-income families and communities of color and has exacerbated systemic health and economic inequalities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board, through several resolutions has committed \$484,500.00 (four hundred and eighty-four thousand five hundred dollars) in ARPA funding to the following programs:

The Mighty Oaks Project CLR Academy: \$68,000.00 (sixty-eight thousand dollars)

There and Back (contract for transportation for the Mighty Oaks Project):

~~\$8,500.00 (eighty-five thousand dollars)~~ **\$8500.00 (eight thousand five hundred dollars)**

Youth Area Arts Alliance: \$68,000.00 (sixty-eight thousand dollars)

There and Back (contract for transportation for the Mighty Oaks Project):  
\$12,000.00 (twelve thousand dollars)

Willow Run Acres: \$190,000 (one hundred ninety thousand dollars)

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Superior Township Parks and Recreation engineering work for Fireman's Park drainage: \$24,000.00 (~~twenty-four thousand dollars~~) **\$24,500.00 (twenty-four thousand five hundred dollars)**

Washtenaw Intermediate School District Success by 6 Project: \$50,000.00 (fifty thousand dollars)

Superior Township Parks and Recreation budget for Fireman's Park playground equipment: \$50,000.00 (fifty thousand dollars)

Remaining commitment to Mighty Oaks Project and Youth Area Arts Alliance: \$13,500.00 (thirteen thousand five hundred dollars); and,

**WHEREAS**, \$1,016,902.52.00 (one million sixteen thousand nine hundred two dollars) is currently remaining in ARPA funding; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ARPA Funds Committee has recommended that the remaining ARPA funds be committed to the development of the Community Center; and,

**WHEREAS**, ARPA funds must be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Superior will commit ~~\$1,028,902.52.00~~ **\$1,016,902.52 (one million sixteen thousand nine hundred and two dollars and fifty-two cents)**, the remaining balance of the ARPA funding, to the development of the Community Center in Superior Township.

The resolution was tabled by unanimous vote.

**B. RESOLUTION 2023-13, RESOLUTION TO ALLOW WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER TO EXCEED THE STATUTORY SPENDING AND ASSESSMENT LIMIT OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000.00) PER YEAR FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE KIMMEL DRAIN.**

Supervisor Schwartz stated the resolution gives the Commissioner permission to spend the money they would receive over the next three years in one year in order to complete much needed clean up immediately.

The following resolution was moved by Treasurer Lewis supported by Trustee Lindke.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
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RESOLUTION 2023-13**



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**RESOLUTION TO ALLOW WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER TO EXCEED THE STATUTORY SPENDING AND ASSESSMENT LIMIT OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000.00) PER YEAR FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE KIMMEL DRAIN.**

**WHEREAS**, the Kimmel Drain is a drain located in the municipality of Superior Charter Township, which drain was constructed in accordance with the Drain Code of 1956; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Water Resources Commissioner is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring proper maintenance and repairs are made to said drain; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Water Resources Commissioner, pursuant to statute, has inspected the drain which inspection revealed that repair work is necessary in as much as said inspection identified persistent overgrowth, numerous obstructions, and need for extensive clearing; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Water Resources Commissioner of Washtenaw County has estimated that the repair of the drain will be approximately one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000.00); and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Drain Code of 1956, the Water Resources Commissioner cannot exceed the statutory spending limit of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for the maintenance and repair of the drain unless approved by a resolution of the Township Board; and,

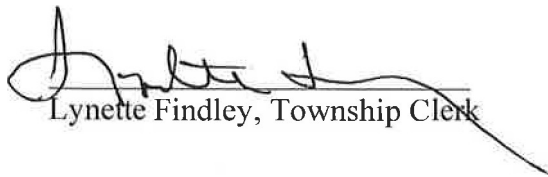
**WHEREAS**, the Water Resources Commissioner has requested the Township Board to pass such resolution authorizing the office of the Water Resources Commissioner to exceed the statutory spending limit allowed on the Kimmel Drain, to wit: twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) per year, so as to allow repair of said drain.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Superior Charter Township Board of Trustees for the municipality of Superior Charter Township hereby approved and authorizes the office of the Water Resources Commissioner to exceed the statutory spending limit of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) per year for the repair of the Kimmel Drain in the exceeded amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00).

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, Lynette Findley, the duly qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of Superior, Washtenaw County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Board held on March 20, 2023, and that public notices of said meeting were given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

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Lynette Findley, Township Clerk

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The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

**C. RESOLUTION 2023-14, A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE AND  
INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY VEHICLE LIGHTING**

Fire Marshall Dan Kimball explained that all fire vehicles need these lights.

The following resolution was moved by Treasurer Lewis supported by Trustee Lindke.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
MARCH 20, 2023  
RESOLUTION 2023-14**

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF  
EMERGENCY VEHICLE LIGHTING**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Superior Fire Department is requesting to purchase and have installed "Emergency Vehicle Lighting" for the Fire Marshal vehicle.

**WHEREAS**, lights and siren as well as a radio system are required for all emergency vehicles under P.A. 300.

**WHEREAS**, Priority One Emergency at 5755 Belleville Road, Canton, MI is the only provider to install the equipment needed.

**WHEREAS**, total cost \$11,672.69 is for all components and labor to install emergency lighting system.

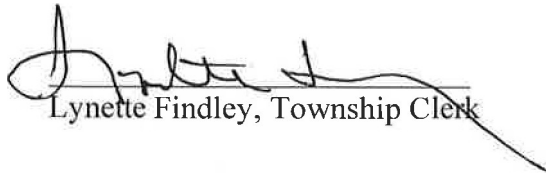
**WHEREAS**, the installation was budgeted for in the 2023 Fire Budget, line item 206-336- 980-000.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Superior Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the payment of \$11,672.69 to Priority One Emergency for the components and labor to install the emergency lighting system. The funds to come from the 2023 Fire Budget, line item 206-336-980-000.

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**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

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Lynette Findley, Township Clerk

3/20/2023  
Date Certified

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

**D. RESOLUTION 2023-15, RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE CPR DEVICES**

Fire Captain French explained how the device works.

The following resolution was moved by Treasurer Lewis supported by Trustee McGill.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
MARCH 20, 2023  
RESOLUTION 2023-15**

**RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE CPR DEVICES**

**WHEREAS**, since the beginning of COVID, the Superior Township Fire Department has responded to several incidents of Cardiac Arrest.

**WHEREAS**, the Department currently has one CPR Compression Device which is six years old. The age of the device makes it costly for repairs and prone to failure.

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Superior Fire Department requests approval to purchase two (2) new CPR Compression Devices (Stryker Lucas 3) at a total cost, including a four-year maintenance service plan, of \$48,016.78 (forty-eight thousand sixteen dollars and seventy-eight cents).

**WHEREAS**, Stryker Company is the sole source for this device.

**WHEREAS**, the device is approved for use through the Washtenaw County Medical Control Authority.

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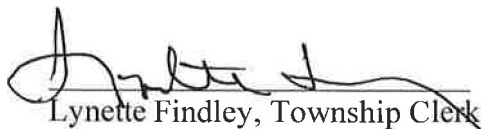
**WHEREAS**, this device is also being purchased (30 each) for the Detroit Fire Department EMS Division.

**WHEREAS**, several fire departments within Washtenaw County have purchased and are now utilizing the device.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Charter Township of Superior approve the purchase of two (2) new CPR Compression Devices (Stryker Lucas 3), including a four-year maintenance service plan, at a cost of \$48,016.78 (forty-eight thousand sixteen dollars and seventy-eight cents). The funds to come from the 2023 Fire Budget, line item 206-336-980-000.

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, Lynette Findley, the duly qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of Superior, Washtenaw County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Board held on March 20, 2023, and that public notices of said meeting were given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

  
Lynette Findley, Township Clerk

3/20/2023  
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The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

**E. RESOLUTION 2023-16, RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE RONALD DENEWETH TO TAKE ACTION NECESSARY TO PROTECT TOWNSHIP IN CONNECTION TO CONTRACT WITH LASALLE INC.**

The following resolution was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Trustee Lindke.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
MARCH 20, 2023  
RESOLUTION 2023-16**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE RONALD DENEWETH TO TAKE ACTION  
NECESSARY TO PROTECT TOWNSHIP IN CONNECTION TO CONTRACT WITH  
LASALLE INC.**

**WHEREAS**, the Township has retained the services of attorney Ronald Deneweth to represent the Township in connection with a contract dispute with LaSalle, Inc.

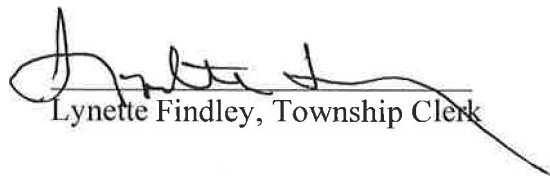
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WHEREAS, Mr. Deneweth requires the authority of the Township Board to take action on behalf of the Township.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township authorizes attorney Ronald Deneweth to draft and forward to LaSalle, Inc. any documents which he determines to be necessary in order to protect the interests of the Township with regards to the contract and any potential litigation. All Township officials shall cooperate with him with regards to executing any such documents.

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

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Lynette Findley, Township Clerk

3/20/2023  
Date Certified

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

**F. RESOLUTION 2023-17, RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE OHM ADVISORS' PROPOSAL FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR ASSISTANCE WITH CONTROLS AND OPERATION OF EXISTING CLARK AND LEFURGE WATER BOOSTER STATION**

George Tsakoff, OHM, and Rickey Harding, Township Utilities Superintendent, explained the proposal.

The following resolution was moved by Treasurer Lewis supported by Trustee McGill.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
MARCH 20, 2023  
RESOLUTION 2023-17**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE OHM ADVISORS' PROPOSAL FOR  
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR ASSISTANCE WITH CONTROLS AND  
OPERATION OF EXISTING CLARK AND LEFURGE WATER BOOSTER STATION**

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**WHEREAS**, OHM Advisors has submitted a proposal for the engineering services for assistance with the controls and operation of the existing Clark and LeFurge Water Booster Station.

**WHEREAS**, the recent Water System Master Plan process, areas of lower than desired pressures were identified in the northwestern portion of Superior Township's water service district. Data analysis and testing during that process indicated that pressure output from the Clark and LeFurge Booster Station was lower than originally designed for optimum system operation. Staff knowledge of the booster station is also limited as detailed documentation and operation information was apparently not passed along following staff succession.

**WHEREAS**, this project aims to perform a detailed review of booster station operations, optimize control setpoints, recommend potential control system modifications and summarize this information in a document that can be utilized by the Township staff operating the water system. The Township utilizes Utilities Instrumentation Service (UIS) as their system controls integrator and any major control changes would need to be coordinated through UIS. It is assumed that any work required by UIS will be performed directly under the Township and not through OHM.

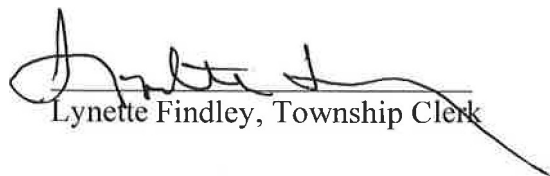
**WHEREAS**, OHM is prepared to begin work on this proposal immediately upon receiving approval. It is estimated that the project will take 6 weeks to complete assuming authorization in March 2023.

**WHEREAS**, OHM Advisors will provide the professional services on a time and materials basis to a maximum fee of \$8,000.00 (eight thousand dollars).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Superior Board of Trustees hereby approves the proposal for engineering services for assistance with the controls and operation of the existing Clark and LeFurge Water Booster Station at a maximum fee of \$8,000.00 (eight thousand dollars).

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

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Lynette Findley, Township Clerk

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Roll Call:

Ayes:

Clerk Findley

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Treasurer Lewis  
Trustee Lindke  
Trustee McGill  
Supervisor Schwartz

Nays:

None

Absent:

Trustee Caviston  
Trustee Secrest

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

**G. RESOLUTION 2023-18, RESOLUTION TO REPLACE AND INSTALL AIR DRYER AND OIL/WATER SEPARATOR**

Rickey Harding explained what the device does and why the Township needs to purchase a new one.

The following resolution was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Treasurer Lewis.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
MARCH 20, 2023  
RESOLUTION 2023-18**

**RESOLUTION TO REPLACE AND INSTALL AIR DRYER AND OIL/WATER SEPARATOR**

**WHEREAS**, the air dryer and oil/water separator at the Utility Maintenance Building located at 9699 MacArthur Blvd is inoperable.

**WHEREAS**, the original unit was installed at the time of the building's construction in 2005.

**WHEREAS**, the Utility Department is requesting the Charter Township of Superior purchase and have installed a new air dryer and oil/water separator for a total cost of \$9,552.14 (nine thousand five hundred fifty-two dollars and fourteen cents) from Ingersoll Rand.

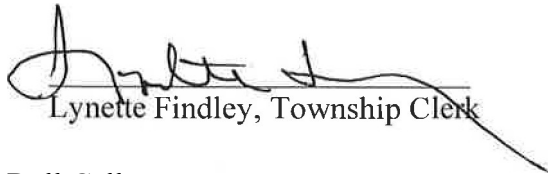
**WHEREAS**, additionally the Utility Department is requesting the Township purchase a planned care agreement with Ingersoll Rand at a cost of: Year #1 \$2,312.15 (two thousand three hundred twelve dollars and fifteen cents), Year #2 \$2,381.51 (two thousand three hundred eighty-one dollars and fifty-one cents), Year #3 \$2,452.96 (two thousand four hundred fifty-two dollars and ninety six cents), Year #4 \$2,526.55 (two thousand five hundred twenty six and fifty-five cents), Year #5 \$2,602.35 (two thousand six hundred two dollars and thirty five cents).

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**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Charter Township of Superior approves the purchase and installation of an Ingersoll Rand Air Dryer and Oil/Water Separator for a total of \$9,552.14 (nine thousand five hundred fifty-two dollars and fourteen cents), and the five (5) year planned care agreement with Ingersoll Rand at a total cost of \$12,275.52 (twelve thousand two hundred seventy-five dollars and fifty-two cents).

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, Lynette Findley, the duly qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of Superior, Washtenaw County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Board held on March 20, 2023, and that public notices of said meeting were given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

  
Lynette Findley, Township Clerk

3/20/2023  
Date Certified

Roll Call:

Ayes:

Clerk Findley  
Treasurer Lewis  
Trustee Lindke  
Trustee McGill  
Supervisor Schwartz

Nays:

None

Absent:

Trustee Caviston  
Trustee Secrest

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

**H. RESOLUTION 2023-19, RESOLUTION AMENDING PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ANN ARBOR AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

The following resolution was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Trustee Lindke.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
MARCH 20, 2023  
RESOLUTION 2023-19**



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
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**RESOLUTION AMENDING PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ANN  
ARBOR AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Superior is operating under a Purchase of Service Agreement (POSA) with the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) for public transportation services within Superior Township; and,

**WHEREAS**, the AAATA is now offering an amendment to the POSA to include the following services:

October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023  
A Full-Year Operating Route 42

Costs

1. Fixed-Route Service \$63,347
2. A-Ride Service \$22,819
3. Capital Costs \$13,872

Total Costs

10/1/2022 - 9/30/2023 \$100,038

**WHEREAS**, many citizens of the Charter Township of Superior are dependent upon public transportation to commute to school, work, church, and other activities; and,

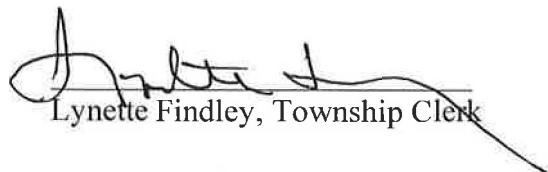
**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest to provide improved bus and demand response transportation services to the residents of the Charter Township of Superior.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Superior Board of Trustees fixed route approves the purchase of service agreement (POSA) amendment with the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) for a term beginning on October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the payment for contractual services with AAATA for fixed-route services shall be appropriated from budget line item G.L. 101-2 550-864.000 and that the payment for contractual services with AAATA for services for the demand response (A-Ride) shall be appropriated from budget line item G.L. 101-550-86025.

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, Lynette Findley, the duly qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of Superior, Washtenaw County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Board held on March 20, 2023, and that public notices of said meeting were given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

  
Lynette Findley, Township Clerk

3/20/2023  
Date Certified

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
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APPROVED MINUTES  
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Roll Call:

Ayes:

Supervisor Schwartz  
Trustee McGill  
Trustee Lindke  
Treasurer Lewis  
Clerk Findley

Nays:

None

Absent:

Trustee Caviston  
Trustee Secrest

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

**I. RESOLUTION 2023-20, RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH  
WASHTENAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE  
SERVICES**

The following resolution was moved by Trustee Lindke supported by Treasurer Lewis.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
MARCH 20, 2023  
RESOLUTION 2023-20**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH WASHTENAW INTERMEDIATE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Superior by Resolution #2021-80 dated December 20, 2021, received unanimous approval to direct all ARPA funds - a total of \$1,495,400 - to support the communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Superior by Resolution #2022-68 dated December 19, 2022, approved negotiations for a contract with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) not to exceed \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars).

**WHEREAS**, the WISD, through their Success by 6 Great Start Collaborative (SB6GSC), will provide the following services:

- Two Parent Cafes per month at Superior Township library or other appropriate venue in Superior Township. Parent Cafes will be hosted by trained Trusted Parent Advisors. After attending three Parent Cafes, parents who are interested can build

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
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their leadership skills by being trained as table hosts. Snacks and childcare will be offered for families attending. WISD will also coordinate with the library to have children's activities at the same time as the parent café when possible.

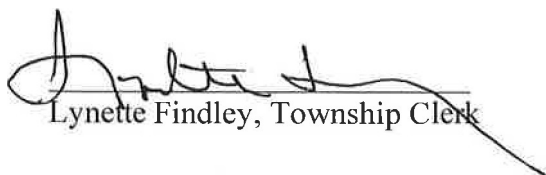
- One family activity for caregivers and children will occur each month. The activity will vary depending on the needs of the community. The activities may include, but are not limited to, learning about early literacy activities that families can do at home, financial literacy for the whole family and healthy cooking and eating on a budget. We will work with parents and organizational partners to create activities that are helpful in improving the well-being of caregivers and children. Snacks for the whole family will be available during the family activity. The activity will be focused on the whole family and childcare will not be necessary.
- Caregivers who attend 3 events, including Parent Cafes and family activities will be entered into a monthly drawing. The drawing prize will be baskets of items for families of relatively nominal value. Examples of prizes include laundry basket with laundry products, a basket full of fun games for the whole family to play and a self-care basket.

**WHEREAS**, WISD will submit to the Charter Township of Superior quarterly invoices dated: April 1, 2023, July 1, 2023, October 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024, totaling not more than \$50,000.00 (fifty thousand dollars).

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Charter Township of Superior Board of Trustees authorizes the Township Supervisor and/or Clerk to execute the Programming Contract with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) for a total amount of \$50,000.00 (fifty thousand dollars).

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, Lynette Findley, the duly qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of Superior, Washtenaw County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Board held on March 20, 2023, and that public notices of said meeting were given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

  
Lynette Findley, Township Clerk

3/20/2023  
Date Certified

Roll Call:

Ayes:

Clerk Findley

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
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Treasurer Lewis  
Trustee Lindke  
Trustee McGill  
Supervisor Schwartz

Nays:

None

Absent:

Trustee Caviston  
Trustee Secrest

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

**J. MOTION TO APPROVE MONTHLY PAY OF PARKS AND RECREATION TRUSTEES**

It was moved by Trustee Lindke supported by Treasurer Lewis to table this motion.

**K. MOTION TO REVISE BUILDING PERMIT FEES.**

Bill Balmes, Building Official, explained the update in the forms and fees.

It was moved by Treasurer Lewis supported by Trustee McGill.

Roll Call:

Ayes:

Clerk Findley  
Treasurer Lewis  
Trustee Lindke  
Trustee McGill  
Supervisor Schwartz

Nays:

None

Absent:

Trustee Caviston  
Trustee Secrest

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**L. MOTION TO COMPLETE HARRIS ROAD WIDENING ENGINEERING.**

It was moved by Treasurer Lewis supported by Trustee McGill.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2023  
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Roll Call:

Ayes:

Clerk Findley  
Treasurer Lewis  
Trustee Lindke  
Trustee McGill  
Supervisor Schwartz

Nays:

None

Absent:

Trustee Caviston  
Trustee Secrest

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**M. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE OHM TO FINALIZE DESIGN FOR THE OPEN CUT TO COMPLETE THE PUMP STATION PROJECT.**

It was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Treasurer Lewis subject to Ron Deneweth's review and approval.

Roll Call:

Ayes:

Treasurer Lewis  
Trustee Lindke  
Trustee McGill  
Supervisor Schwartz  
Clerk Findley

Nays:

None

Absent:

Trustee Caviston  
Trustee Secrest

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**N. MOTION TO APPROVE MAINTENANCE OF PUMP STATION SHAFTS BY DVM.**

It was moved by Trustee Lindke supported by Treasurer Lewis subject to Ron Deneweth's review and approval.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
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Roll Call:

Ayes:

Treasurer Lewis  
Trustee Lindke  
Trustee McGill  
Supervisor Schwartz  
Clerk Findley

Nays:

None

Absent:

Trustee Caviston  
Trustee Secrest

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**O. MOTION TO APPROVE ROCK PROPERTY AGREEMENT WITH MR. PEACH**

Trustee McGill stated she is comfortable with Mr. Peach farming the land this year but would like to set a date to discuss what will be done with the property.

Supervisor Schwartz stated he will email the Board the following day.

Mr. Peach stated he has already purchased the seed, and that he has already planted due to timing.

It was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Treasurer Lewis.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**P. MOTION TO APPROVE PERMIT FOR WELL AT DIXBORO VILLAGE**

Supervisor Schwartz stated the casing around the well is needed to protect the water from residuals left behind from the tanks that were removed.

It was moved by Trustee Lindke supported by Trustee McGill.

Roll Call:

Ayes:

Clerk Findley  
Treasurer Lewis  
Trustee Lindke  
Trustee McGill  
Supervisor Schwartz

Nays:

None

Absent:

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
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Trustee Caviston  
Trustee Secrest

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**13. BILLS for PAYMENT and RECORD of DISBURSEMENTS**

It was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Trustee Lindke, to receive bills for payment and record of disbursements.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**14. PLEAS and PETITIONS**

- Juan Bradford, Parks and Recreation, asked if he should continue pursuing bids for a restroom for the Parks and Recreation staff. The Board directed him to move forward.
- Rickey Harding, Utilities Superintendent, stated the proposal from AAA for the water main replacement he gave the Board was for \$397,000.00 and that he plans to provide the Board with two more proposals. He also let the Board know that a total of \$276,000.00 was spent in repairs for that water main in 2022. That cost did not include water waste.
- Martha Kern-Boprie informed the Board of the Easter Event held by the Parks and Recreation Department would be on April 1, 2023, and that the Easter Bunny would be in attendance.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Treasurer Lewis, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Findley, Clerk

Kenneth Schwartz, Supervisor

**From:** Allyn Young <[bjacobson770@gmail.com](mailto:bjacobson770@gmail.com)>

**Date:** March 17, 2023 at 9:34:03 PM EDT

**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettfindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettfindley@superior-twp.org)>, Ken Schwartz <[kenschwartz@superior-twp.org](mailto:kenschwartz@superior-twp.org)>, [llewis@superiortwp.org](mailto:llewis@superiortwp.org), "Nancy Caviston, Trustee" <[education@superior-twp.org](mailto:education@superior-twp.org)>, Bernice Lindke <[blindke@superior-twp.org](mailto:blindke@superior-twp.org)>, Bill Secrest <[BSecrest@superior-twp.org](mailto:BSecrest@superior-twp.org)>, Rhonda McGill <[rmcgill@superior-twp.org](mailto:rmcgill@superior-twp.org)>, Laura Bennett <[planning@superior-twp.org](mailto:planning@superior-twp.org)>

**Subject:** Rezoning at 3900 Dixboro Road

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [bjacobson770@gmail.com](mailto:bjacobson770@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

We are writing to voice our opinion regarding the proposed rezoning/land use changes at 3900 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

The Superior Charter Township Master Plan was created to direct future land use, and in our opinion, the requested changes are **inconsistent** with the Master Plan.

To quote from the Master Plan, "the Planning Commission shall consider the following when making rezoning recommendations."

1. Evaluation of existing zoning and development pattern.
2. The apparent demand for the types of uses permitted in the district(s).
3. Availability of public services and infrastructure to serve all of the potential land uses.
4. Compatibility with the surrounding area.
5. Consistency with Master Plan Future Land Use recommendations.

Of high importance, we refer to the statement: "*Isolated and abrupt changes in land uses and densities not consistent with Master Plan objectives and policies are considered spot zoning and are not recommended planning and zoning practice.*" Superior Charter Township Master Plan, page 7-13.

We hope the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees will be able to set aside public opinion and personal sentiment to look critically at these five areas of consideration. We are confident that you will find the proposed project is inconsistent with the Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Dr Brian Jacobson  
Dr Allyn Young  
3940 Fleming Ridge Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105



**From:** [owatonna@aol.com](mailto:owatonna@aol.com)

**Date:** March 19, 2023 at 8:57:24 PM EDT

**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettfindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettfindley@superior-twp.org)>

**Subject:** Copy of Letter sent to K. Schwartz regarding property at 3900 N. Dixboro/Garrett's Space

**Reply-To:** [owatonna@aol.com](mailto:owatonna@aol.com)

You don't often get email from [owatonna@aol.com](mailto:owatonna@aol.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**Art and Mary Schuman  
3960 Penberton Dr.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105**

March 19, 2023

Mr. Ken Schwartz  
Superior Township Supervisor  
Superior Township Board of Trustees  
Sent via email: [kenschwartz@superior-twp.org](mailto:kenschwartz@superior-twp.org)

Dear Mr. Schwartz and Trustees,

Although we live in the city of Ann Arbor, we have been long time residents of this area, since 1971 and 1973. In addition, we have both worked in the field of mental health as social workers and specifically Art worked for Washtenaw Community Mental Health setting up group homes for severely disabled children. Mary originally met Julie Halpert and her son, Garrett when he was a toddler and attended a parent/toddler program at Mary's place of employment. We have also seen the setting at 3900 N. Dixboro Road that is being proposed for development for Garrett's Space. Last but not least, we personally know two of the outstanding employees at Garrett's Space through other work we have participated in as both staff and as volunteers in other local non-profit organizations.

We are writing because we have heard there are neighbors who do not want this space to be developed as a holistic center for young adults who are experiencing depression and anxiety. Knowing the high level of professionalism and strong support in the mental health community, we feel certain this will be an excellent program, perhaps one that will become a model for other communities in our country. It goes without saying that there is a mental health crisis for young people in our country. With the negative impact of the Covid pandemic, interruptions to

schooling and social opportunities, social media, bullying – there are so many factors that are contributing to this crisis.

We believe the plan that has been developed is one that will fit very well on the property on Dixboro. When Art set up group homes, they were located right in neighborhoods and on cul de sacs. The neighbors and their property values were not negatively affected even when the property was not as large as the Dixboro property. We hope the neighbors who are concerned will meet with those who are supporting the development of the Serras home and property so they can learn that they do not need to fear those who will be getting helped there. Sadly, many of us have known young people who have taken their lives by suicide and I hope all of us will support creating this residential program to provide the help, support and services so necessary in our community.

Sincerely,  
Art and Mary Schuman

**Brian Athey and Deborah Walker  
29941 East River Rd.  
Grosse Ile, MI. 48138 and  
222 North Lincoln St.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

March 16, 2023

Mr. Ken Schwartz  
Superior Township Supervisor  
Superior Township Board of Trustees

Via E-mail: [kenschwartz@superior-twp.org](mailto:kenschwartz@superior-twp.org)

Dear Ken and Superior Township Trustees,

Brian and I are writing in support of the pending sale of 3900 N. Dixboro Rd., Superior Township, and of the proposed development of the Garrett's Space project. As you know, Brian and I were long-time residents of Superior Township from 2006 to 2022; we owned properties on First St. (6180, 6170, 6166, and 6167). I (Deb) have retired from a career as a Nursing Professor at Wayne State University. Brian is still a Professor (Computational Medicine and of Psychiatry) at UM. We both have devoted our professional careers to contributing to more effective healthcare delivery and education. Presently, we shuttle back-and-forth between Grosse Ile and Ypsilanti, and are still very active in Washtenaw County, as well as, Superior Township.

We are writing this letter because we understand that the neighbors proximal to 3900 N. Dixboro Rd. are expressing concerns about Garrett's Space and how their neighborhood may change. We had similar misgivings when Ozone House (on N. Huron River Drive in Ypsilanti) purchased the property across the river from our former house in Superior Township. However, we later found our concerns were unfounded. The Ozone House quickly became part of our community, and no adverse consequences were experienced. Indeed, it is addressing a huge need to support displaced, at-risk, and vulnerable youth and young mothers in our community (including those in-need from Superior Township). As you know, the Ozone House hasn't affected property values in Superior Township or anyone's safety one iota. We stress that the good that is being done for our kids and families far outweighs any imagined risk to the neighbors and property owners, including those in Superior Township.

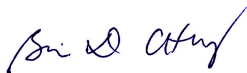
It is widely known that there is a mental health crisis in our youth post COVID-19. Today, in colleges and universities across the US, like UM, EMU, and WCC in our neighborhood, the rates of Depression (40%), Generalized Anxiety Disorder (35%), and Suicidal Ideation (15%) are stunning and have nearly doubled in the last 10 years. Manifesting in children starting at puberty, this is crippling our kids, our families, and our collective futures. This is everywhere, including in the very neighborhood in our beloved Superior Township that is apparently fighting

against Garrett's Space moving into our community. Scott and Julie Halpert, the co-founders of Garrett's space, lost their lovely son Garrett to suicide at 23 years old. They are taking a stand for our children and young adults who are in major trouble struggling with mental illness by creating Garrett's space! This is a very professional, cutting-edge effort with a phenomenal team of dedicated professionals (see: <https://www.garrettsspace.org/our-team>) who have come together to make a difference.

The unique and special property, created by Dennis and Ellie Serras, is one of the crown jewels of Superior Township. Our understanding is that the Garrett's Space residents will be supported by a caring community of expert health workers, allowing its clients, our kids, to experience the healing effects of the beauty and nature of Superior Township that we all know and love so well. They will enhance the already wonderful property, preserving its 76 acre park-like surroundings and its stunning and special Frank Lloyd Wright inspired masterpiece, which is being re-envisioned as the home base of Garrett's Space. Interestingly, this very special place would benefit so much by the unique and special mission of Garrett's Space. Preserving this lovely property for this very special purpose while serving our community is our highest calling; and begs for deeper understanding, compassion, and acceptance. Only that outcome will help our kids who need us now.

Sincerely,

*Deborah S. Walker*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian D. Athey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and "A".

Deborah S. Walker, Ph.D., CNM, FACNM, FAAN  
Brian D. Athey, Ph.D., FACMI, FAAAS

Hello. My name is Becky Brent. I teach Health class, Advanced Health: Public Health Policy class, and lead the Depression Awareness Group at Community High School in Ann Arbor. I'm also a mom of two pretty rad tweens, and partner to a guy I love walking through life with.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my unwavering support for Garrett's Space. I stand with my <sup>Garrett's family,</sup> family, with all of my students and their families, and with all Michiganders who've had their lives impacted by mental health struggles, when I state that we NEED Garrett's space in our community.

The level of crisis, <sup>we are moving through</sup> globally to locally, is deeply impacting young adults in our state. According to the 2022 Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission Annual Report, 5.9 10-19 year olds died by suicide per every 100,000 residents. In the 20-29 age group and 17.8 deaths per every 100,000 residents. **Suicide is one of the leading cause of death among youth and young adults in Michigan.**

Personally, in high school I lost a friend to suicide, and then in college a second friend. I know the deep heartache of sudden, unexplainable loss. **I know the endless questions that come into mind about help...** what if they had help? What if they had better help? Could I have done something? Could we have done more?

Professionally, I work with bright Ann Arbor teens who, on a daily basis, are self-reporting higher amounts of mental health difficulties in themselves or in their peers. Some of my students are getting the help they need, while others are on wait lists and trying desperately to get their hands on any available resources. It's getting harder and harder to tell parents, "This is all we have at this time. I don't have anymore resources"

We have an opportunity to set precedence in our state by centering on mental health and moving forward with Garrett's Space. <sup>Their</sup> ~~The~~ holistic wellness center will be a beacon of light in our community for those who just need space to figure things out and get support. A place where love and light are the focus. Where healing and ~~a~~ new chapter can begin.

We know prevention works. We know treatment is effective. And we know people can and do recover from suicidal thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Safe, supportive, compassionate spaces for mental health healing are in tremendous need. Let's address the waitlists by giving Garrett's Space the green light to move forward with its mission. Let's get the families in our community the help they need!

# Your Mental Health Story

Share the story of your experience with mental health to show why we need Garrett's Space here and now. The rally team from Community High School will be collecting everyone's stories to give to the Superior Township Board after the rally.

1. The Story of Self — What are your experiences with mental health struggles? What challenge(s) did you face, what choice(s) did you make regarding the challenge(s), and what were the outcome(s)?

My name is Ethan Zinke. I have struggled with mental health since I was a young teenager. I have been to inpatient, and outpatient therapy and continue to see my lovely therapist weekly. Finding help in my community, through clinicians, and myself I continue on my healing journey.

2. The Story of Us — In your experience, how does this affect the community? What have you already seen done about your or others' mental health struggles and how has it positively impacted the community?

Very often, mental health affects each and everyone of us. I work for a mental health company working to change the lives of those struggling.

3. The Story of Now — What more do we need to do? Is Garrett's Space something that could've helped you or someone you know/knew? How is it a step in the right direction that we need to take now?

YES! I am proud to work with Garrett's Space to help solve for mental health crisis.

# Your Mental Health Story

Share the story of your experience with mental health to show why we need Garrett's Space here and now. The rally team from Community High School will be collecting everyone's stories to give to the Superior Township Board after the rally.

1. The Story of Self — What are your experiences with mental health struggles? What challenge(s) did you face, what choice(s) did you make regarding the challenge(s), and what were the outcome(s)?

2. The Story of Us — In your experience, how does this affect the community? What have you already seen done about your or others' mental health struggles and how has it positively impacted the community?

3. The Story of Now — What more do we need to do? Is Garrett's Space something that could've helped you or someone you know/knew? How is it a step in the right direction that we need to take now?

WHEN MY SON WAS IN 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE SUICIDE IN WASHTENAW COUNTY HAD INCREASED 80% - THAT WAS THE YEAR WE LOST MILES ROBERTS (WHO MY SON WAS FRIENDS WITH) 4 YEARS LATER I LOST MY SON TO SUICIDE @ 16. THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS WAS COMPLETELY INSUFFICIENT & THE STIGMA ATTACHED TO MENTAL HEALTH WAS SIMPLY TOO MUCH. GARRETT'S SPACE IS CRITICAL TO HELPING YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Taken from Marshall Ganz's work: [Public Narrative: Self, Us, Now, 2009](#)

# Your Mental Health Story

Share the story of your experience with mental health to show why we need Garrett's Space here and now. The rally team from Community High School will be collecting everyone's stories to give to the Superior Township Board after the rally.

1. The Story of Self — What are your experiences with mental health struggles? What challenge(s) did you face, what choice(s) did you make regarding the challenge(s), and what were the outcome(s)?

I have struggled with depression, anxiety, and OCD all my life. I have also struggled with Substance Use Disorder in the past.

2. The Story of Us — In your experience, how does this affect the community? What have you already seen done about your or others' mental health struggles and how has it positively impacted the community?

3. The Story of Now — What more do we need to do? Is Garrett's Space something that could've helped you or someone you know/knew? How is it a step in the right direction that we need to take now?

~~Garrett~~ I'm 17. In one year, I'll be 18. Where am I going to go when I need help? There is a lack of resources for our age group, and Garrett's Space would make a huge difference. Please take us into consideration when making your policies.



# Your Mental Health Story

Share the story of your experience with mental health to show why we need Garrett's Space here and now. The rally team from Community High School will be collecting everyone's stories to give to the Superior Township Board after the rally.

1. The Story of Self — What are your experiences with mental health struggles? What challenge(s) did you face, what choice(s) did you make regarding the challenge(s), and what were the outcome(s)?

My challenges with mental health first started with OCD. It got worse and worse in early 2021 and then got really bad in April, I failed every online class that second semester of 8th grade except for science I think. Over the summer I spent 13 weeks at my moms (I usually switch houses every week) because I was terrified to go to my dad's house. I was basically spending my days at the bottom of Maslow's pyramid, struggling to complete basic daily activities like eating, sleeping, using the bathroom, etc. Over the fall my OCD got better and depression got worse. I tried to stab myself one morning and ended up in the mental hospital in January 2022. I missed half of finals week of Semester 1.

2. The Story of Us — In your experience, how does this affect the community? What have you already seen done about your or others' mental health struggles and how has it positively impacted the community?

My affect on the community was that my family was more stressed, especially my mom. After coming out of the mental hospital I was in a totally different mindset. Therapy also helped me tremendously. I am now able to function and my family is not put under that stress of me having a mental illness anymore. The community has benefited because now more people are able to contribute to society better if they have no mental illness, (most likely).

3. The Story of Now — What more do we need to do? Is Garrett's Space something that could've helped you or someone you know/knew? How is it a step in the right direction that we need to take now?

Garrett's Space could definitely help people if set up properly which I trust they would do. Because of the age range for people Garrett's space is helping I don't think I know someone specifically that could benefit. I think Garrett's space is important because mental illness seems quite common currently and more places to help people means we are saving people and making people's lives better.

# Your Mental Health Story

Share the story of your experience with mental health to show why we need Garrett's Space here and now. The rally team from Community High School will be collecting everyone's stories to give to the Superior Township Board after the rally.

1. The Story of Self — What are your experiences with mental health struggles? What challenge(s) did you face, what choice(s) did you make regarding the challenge(s), and what were the outcome(s)?

I was thrown into the concept of mental health struggles at the ripe age of seven. Since then I HAVE been depressed.

2. The Story of Us — In your experience, how does this affect the community? What have you already seen done about your or others' mental health struggles and how has it positively impacted the community?

Idk how it help others, sometimes try relate to gravity of my depression, tells general to help others know they or not depressed.

3. The Story of Now — What more do we need to do? Is Garrett's Space something that could've helped you or someone you know/knew? How is it a step in the right direction that we need to take now?

Antidepressants and therapy work miracles  
we need free mental health care for all!

# Your Mental Health Story



Share the story of your experience with mental health to show why we need Garrett's Space here and now. The rally team from Community High School will be collecting everyone's stories to give to the Superior Township Board after the rally.

1. The Story of Self — What are your experiences with mental health struggles? What challenge(s) did you face, what choice(s) did you make regarding the challenge(s), and what were the outcome(s)?


I've suffered from depression and anxiety but was lucky enough to have supportive friends and family. I am also grateful I utilized mental health services through my insurance with my therapist and took medication.

2. The Story of Us — In your experience, how does this affect the community? What have you already seen done about your or others' mental health struggles and how has it positively impacted the community?

I think mental health is on the rise and it is so important now to continue to talk and destigmatize the negative connotations with mental health.

3. The Story of Now — What more do we need to do? Is Garrett's Space something that could've helped you or someone you know/knew? How is it a step in the right direction that we need to take now?

Continue to talk and encourage people to be vulnerable about their experiences.



**2022 Michigan  
Suicide  
Prevention  
Commission  
Annual Report**



## HELP IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE

### **Are you having suicidal thoughts?**

Suicidal thoughts by themselves are not dangerous, but how you respond to them can make all the difference. Support is available.

You can call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at **800-273-8255**. Press 1 for the Veterans Helpline. If you are under 21, you can ask to talk to a peer at Teen Link.

### **Do not feel like talking on the phone? Try Lifeline Crisis Chat**

Text the Crisis Text Line at 741741 or (<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/talk-to-someone-now/>).

If you might be at risk of suicide again, download the My3 App from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The app can be used to list your crisis contacts, make a safety plan and use emergency resources. For more information please visit: <https://my3app.org/>

### **Are you concerned someone else might be at risk of suicide?**

This person is fortunate you are paying attention. Here are five easy steps you can take to help:

- 1. Look for warning signs.** Some common warning signs of suicide include talking or writing about death, dying or suicide, seeking ways to kill themselves or directly or indirectly threatening suicide.
- 2. Show you care.** This may look different depending on who you are and your relationship, but let the person know you have noticed something changed and it matters to you. If appropriate, let them tell you how they are feeling and why.
- 3. Ask the question.** Make sure you both understand whether this problem is about suicide. “Are you thinking about suicide?”
- 4. Restrict access to lethal means.** Help the person remove dangerous objects and substances from the places they live and spend time.
- 5. Get help.** This person may know who they want to talk to (a therapist, their guardian, their partner). You can also call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at **800-273-8255**.



State of Michigan  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Lansing

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
Governor

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
Director

March 24, 2022

Dear Michigan Residents,

We are excited to share with you all this update to the Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission Initial report.

Suicide remains a significant issue across our country, and in our state, it is one of the leading causes of death for Michiganders. Nationally, about 14 people per 100,000 die by suicide annually and, in Michigan; we average 14.5 deaths per 100,000. This number is too high for our state and the effect on families and communities can be devastating.

We are hopeful because we know prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover from suicidal thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. I am appreciative to the Commission for its efforts in raising awareness of evidence-based and informed strategies and amplifying the voices of those most impacted by suicide. Collectively, we can reverse the trends we have observed and combat the tragic problem of suicide.

We must take a stand for the lives of our fellow Michiganders. Our hope is that this document accurately captures the challenges our state has faced in suicide prevention efforts during a global pandemic, while also inspiring and guiding your work. We all have a role to play in bringing hope, healing, and saving lives in the state of Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexis D. Travis".

Alexis D. Travis, PhD  
Senior Deputy Director/State Health Officer  
Public Health Administration  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

## LETTER FROM THE MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION CHAIRS

March 24, 2022

Dear Fellow Michiganders,

For the first time in two decades, we witnessed a slight decline in our annual suicide rates despite one of the most difficult pandemics ever to hit the nation. Nonetheless, our suicide rates remain 25% higher than in 2000, and we remain concerned that the long-term impact of COVID-19 may continue to take a toll on our fellow citizens, particularly for marginalized populations who remain heavily impacted by job loss, social isolation, and other acute and chronic stressors that increase mental health risk. In this year's detailed Suicide Prevention Commission Report, we provide the most up-to-date statistics available to help guide the State in prioritized suicide prevention moving forward.

While we are concerned about high suicide rates, we are more optimistic than ever before. Michigan has always had passionate people who cared about preventing suicide, but we've struggled to provide answers with limited data and evidence to support the best approaches to mitigate suicide in our communities. We are at a unique point in Michigan history where our continued passion and desire to get-to-work meets the availability of real-world evidence-based approaches for suicide prevention in many different community settings.

We have worked collaboratively with our diverse group of commissioners to help provide guidance and information to state leaders on many opportunities and the best path forward for suicide prevention. We have learned from the stories of people who have lost their loved ones to suicide and the people who have struggled with personal suicide risk. We have listened carefully to community stakeholders and people with lived experience who guide our work. These lessons have strengthened the Commission's dedication to lead the State in finding and creating effective programs, and practices.

We thank the community for their valuable insights, information and unwavering support of our State of Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission. On behalf of the residents of Michigan, we will continue to roll up our sleeves, get to work again, and continue to move forward together in our upcoming third year!

Sincerely,

Brian K. Ahmedani, PhD

Nancy Buyle, MA, LPC, ACTP



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## DATA LANDSCAPE

**1,389**

Suicide deaths in Michigan in 2020.

**1,099**

Men died by suicide in 2020 in Michigan.

**53%**

Of the suicide deaths in Michigan in 2020 were fire-arm related.

**13.5**

The rate of suicide deaths in Michigan in 2020.

**19.1**

The rate suicide deaths for Michigan male residents aged 50-59.

**15.1**

The rate of American Indian suicide deaths in Michigan in 2020.

## 2021 MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**Co-Chair: Brian Ahmedani, PhD**, Director, Center for Health Policy & Health Services Research and Director of Research, Behavioral Health Services at Henry Ford Health System

**Co-Chair: Nancy Buyle**, School Safety/Student Assistance Consultant, Macomb Intermediate School District

- **Shaun Abbey**, Battalion Chief, Kentwood Fire Department
- **Zaneta Adams**, Director, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
- **William Beecroft**, Behavioral Health Medical Director, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network
- **Debra Brinson**, Interim Executive Director, School-Community Health Alliance
- **Adelle McClain Cadieux, PsyD**, Helen Devos Children's Hospital; Assistant Professor, Michigan State University
- **Richard Copen, PhD**, Chief Psychologist and Director, Michigan State Police Office of Behavioral Science
- **Jessica DeJohn**, Regional Coordinator, Salvation Army Pathway of Hope
- **Sarah Derwin**, Health Educator, Marquette County Health Department
- **Amber Desgranges**, Chief Program Officer, Michigan Primary Care Association
- **Corey Doan**, Analyst, Michigan Veterans' Facility Ombudsman
- **Kevin Frank Fischer**, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- **Cathrine Frank**, Chair of Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Services, Henry Ford Health System
- **John Greden**, Founder and Director, University of Michigan Depression Center and Rachel Upjohn Professor of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences, University of Michigan
- **Danny Hagen**, Chief, City of Hamtramck Fire Department
- **Cary Johnson**, Correction Officer, Michigan Department of Corrections
- **John E. Joseph**, Chief of Police, Lansing Charter Township
- **Laurin Jozlin**, Clinical Analyst, Oakland Community Health Network
- **Jennifer Morgan**, Medical Administrative Director, Bear River Health at Walloon Lake
- **Thomas Reich**, Sheriff, Eaton County
- **Ryan Schroelucke**, Detective, City of Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Safety
- **Barbara Smith**, Executive Director, Suicide Resource & Response Network
- **Corbin J. Standley**, Director, Strategic Planning, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- **Kiran Taylor, MD**, Chief Medical Officer, Hope Network
- **Kenneth Wolf**, CEO, Incident Management Team

## SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

To understand how far-reaching suicide is in Michigan, it is necessary to review the existing data on the issue. Data concerning suicide is collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and published online through the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System. Other data specific to Michigan is gathered and made available by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Violent Death Reporting System.

This section provides insight into suicide mortality, those who die by suicide, and morbidity, which refers to those who attempt suicide but who do not die, and those who seriously consider suicide.

### COVID-19 Impact

COVID-19 has tremendously impacted the state of Michigan as well as the nation. In addition to its ramification on people's health, the pandemic has brought significant social isolation and economic strain, both of which are associated with mental health conditions like depression, anxiety, and stress (Salari, et al., 2020). As the state continues to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, people with mental health problems may be at elevated risk for suicide. The pandemic has introduced additional barriers to accessing mental health treatment, community, and religious support across the United States (Reger, Stanley, & Joiner, 2020).

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) launched a statewide warmline for Michiganders living with persistent mental health conditions. The warmline will connect individuals with certified peer support specialists who have lived experiences of behavioral health issues, trauma, or personal crises, and are trained to support and empower the callers. Michigan also launched the Stay Well crisis counseling program uses federal disaster grant funding to provide mental health support services to Michigan residents who are struggling to cope with emotional distress from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Michigan's youth (those under 18 years of age) especially have encountered unprecedented challenges. Since the onset of the pandemic, rates of psychological distress such as anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders have increased among young people (The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory, 2021). Emergency department visits in the United States for suspected suicide attempts were 51% higher for adolescent girls and 4% higher for adolescent boys (Yard, et al., 2021).

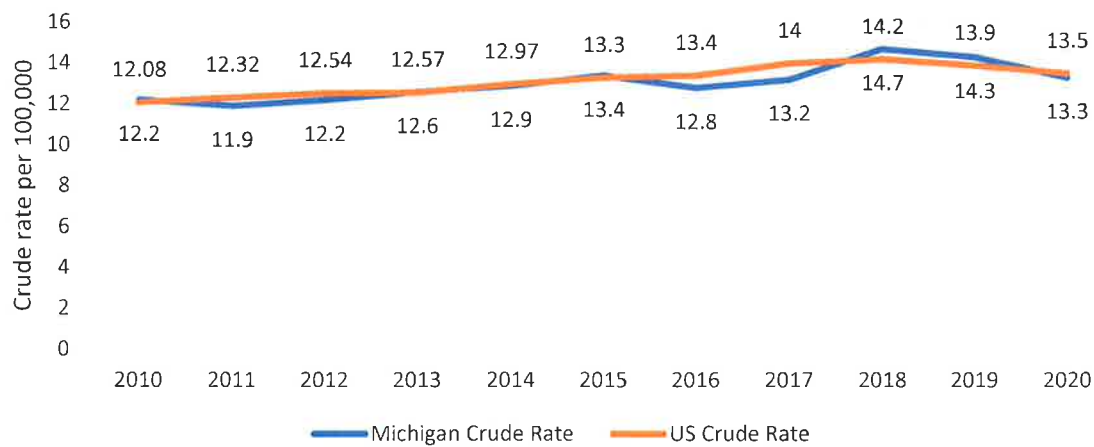
## SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

Nationally, suicides dropped from 47,511 in 2019 to 44,834 in 2020, a decline of 5.6% (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 2021). Michigan also experienced a decrease of suicide deaths from 2019 to 2020. In 2019, there were 1,471 suicide deaths in Michigan, and the age-adjusted suicide rate was 14.3 per 100,000. In 2020, there were 1,389 suicide deaths and the age-adjusted rate was 13.3 per 100,000. This represents a decrease of 7% in the age-adjusted suicide rate from 2019 to 2020, slightly greater than the decline seen at the national level.

Despite the initial decrease in the number of suicide deaths during the early part of the pandemic in 2020, there remains uncertainty regarding how the pandemic will affect suicide rates long-term. Nevertheless, there is much we all can do to mitigate its potential impact.

### Michigan Compared to the US

**Figure 1:** Suicide crude rates\* per 100,000 in the United States and Michigan, 2010-2020



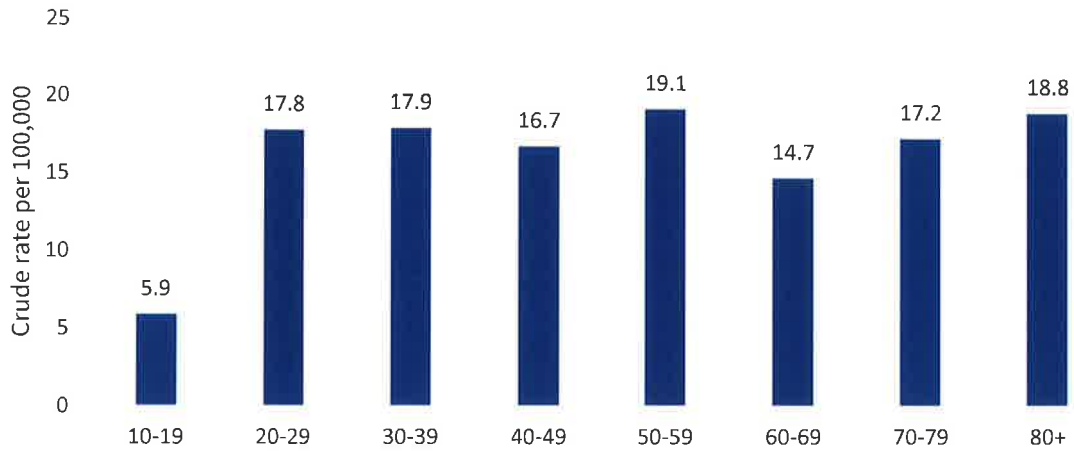
In 2020, 1,389 Michigan residents died by suicide; the age-adjusted suicide rate was 13.3 per 100,000. This represented an increase of 9% over the past 11 years, up from 12.2 per 100,000 in 2010.

\* The crude suicide rate is the number of suicide deaths divided by the total population of interest and multiplied by 100,000.

# SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

## Suicide Deaths by Age Category

**Figure 2:** Suicide Death Crude Rate per 100,000 in Michigan by Age Category, 2020

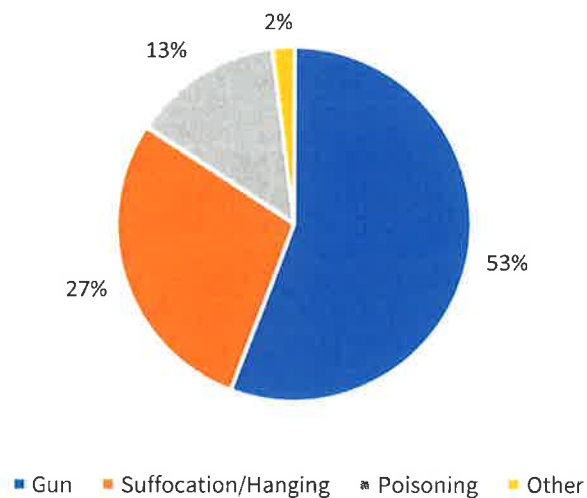


The age group with the highest suicide rate in 2020 was those aged 50-59, followed by those aged 80 and older.

### Access to Lethal Means

Guns were the most common lethal means of suicide in Michigan, used in over half of suicide deaths in 2020. The second most common lethal means was hanging/suffocation.

**Figure 3:** Lethal Means Used in Suicide Deaths, 2020

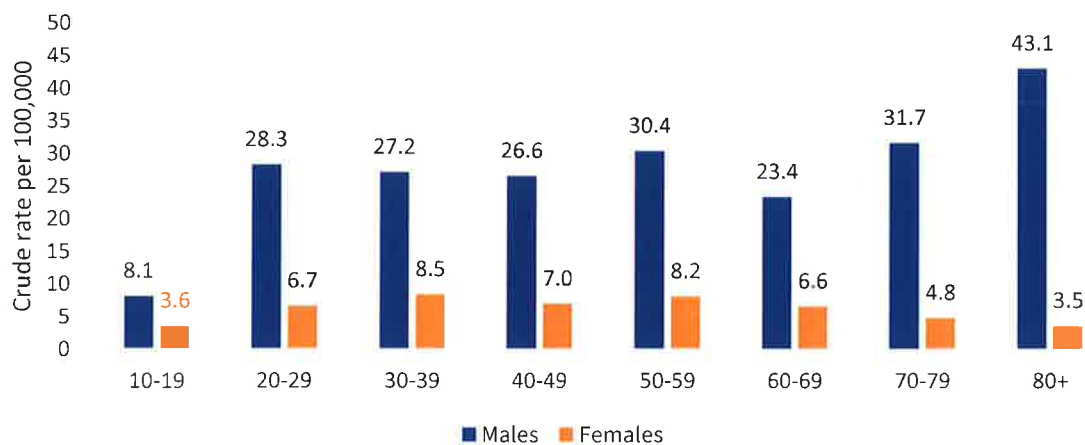


# SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

## Suicide Deaths by Age and Sex

In Michigan, suicide rates are much higher for males than females: during 2020, 1,099 males died by suicide as compared to 290 females. The suicide rate for males increased 13% over 11 years, from 19.7 per 100,000 in 2010 to 22.3 per 100,000 in 2020. In comparison, the suicide rate for females increased 5% during the same time, from 5.4 per 100,000 in 2010 to 5.7 per 100,000 in 2020. For both males and females, suicide rates reached a peak in 2018 before decreasing slightly over the next two years.

**Figure 4:** Suicide Death Crude Rate per 100,000 in Michigan by Age Category and Sex, 2020



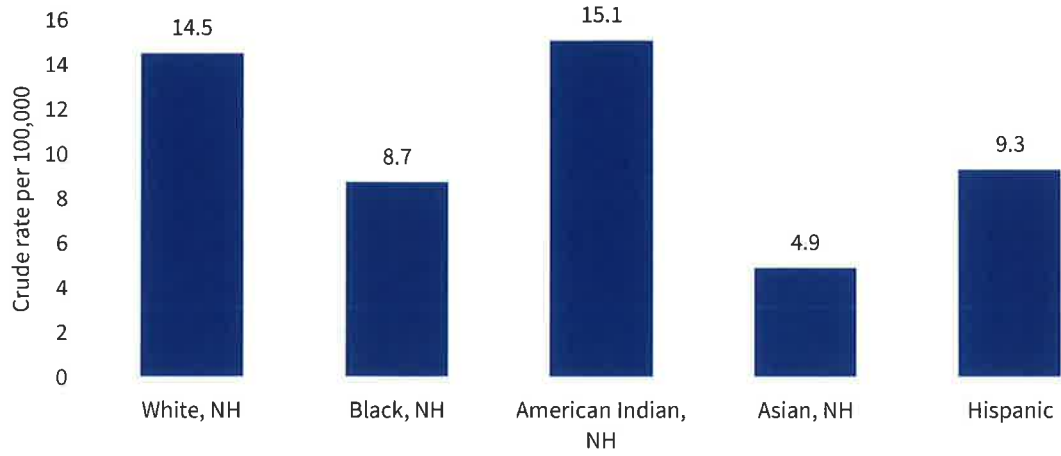
Suicide rates varied by age group for both sexes. For males in 2020, those aged 80 and older had the highest suicide rate, followed by those aged 70-79 and those aged 50-59. For females in 2020, the suicide rate was highest for those aged 30-39, followed by those aged 50-59. For every age group, suicide rates were substantially lower for females than males. Increase to spacing between text and chart to match the one above

# SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

## Suicide Deaths by Race and Ethnicity

In Michigan in 2020, suicide rates were highest for American Indians, followed closely by whites.

**Figure 5:** Suicide Death Rate per 100,000 in Michigan by Race/Ethnicity, 2020





## SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

Black people face increased rates of risk factors, including experiences of racism, higher rates of unemployment and financial and food insecurity, disparities in other aspects of health, and limited access to care, all of which result in an increased burden of mental illness in Black communities. Black people and individuals in other racial and ethnic minority groups have historically had relatively low rates of suicide. But this has been changing recently. The suicide rate for Blacks has increased drastically since 2017.

**Figure 6:** Annual Suicide Crude Death Rate per 100,000 for Blacks in Michigan, 2011-2020



# SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

## Suicide Deaths by per Geographic Distribution

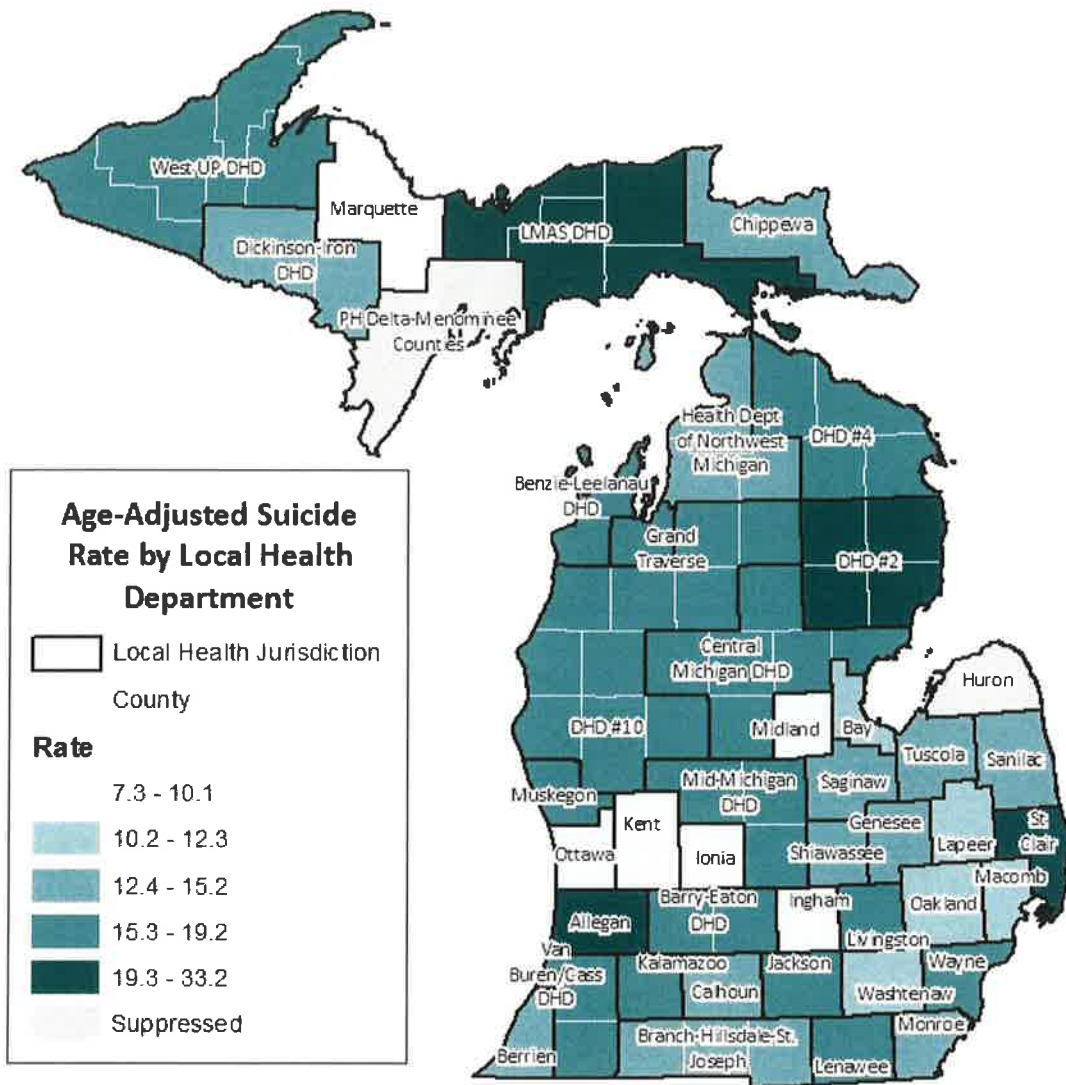
Suicide rates varied by geographic location across Michigan. The table below lists the five local health departments (LHDs) in Michigan with the highest age-adjusted suicide rates in 2020 .

**Table 1: Age-Adjusted Suicide Death Rate per 100,000 for LHDs in Michigan with Highest Suicide Rates, 2020**

Local Health Department	Number of suicide deaths, 2020	Age-adjusted suicide rate per 100,000 residents, 2020
Luce-Mackinac-Alger-Schoolcraft District Health Department	12	33.2
District Health Department #2	20	28.5
Allegan County Health Department	31	25.9
St. Clair County Health Department	37	23.2
Lenawee County Health Department	19	19.2

# SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

The map below shows the age-adjusted suicide rates for all LHDs in Michigan for 2020.



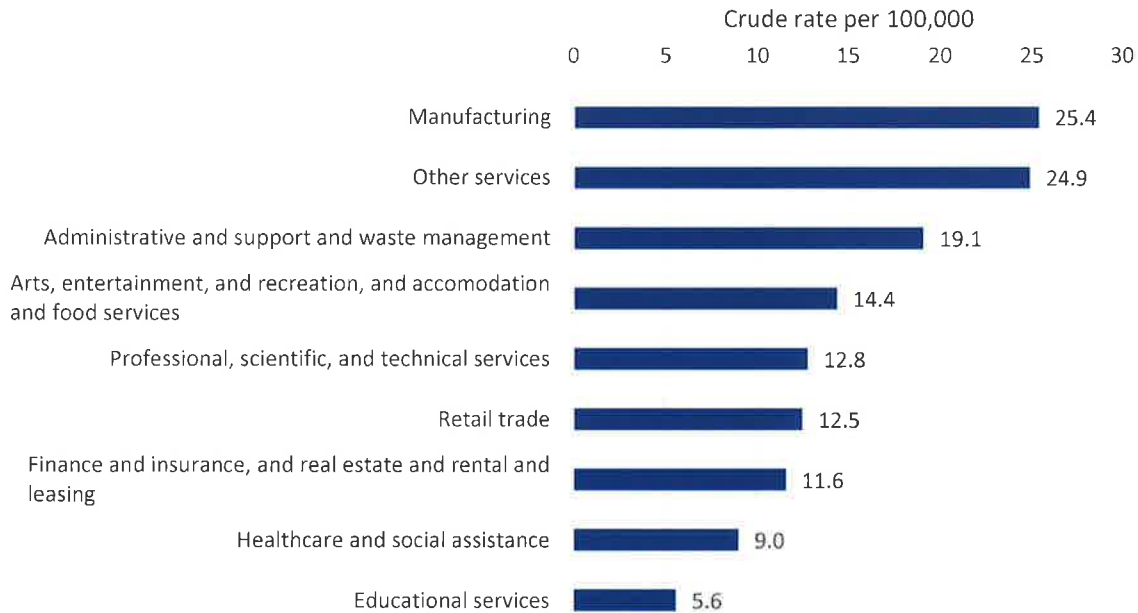
# SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

## Suicide Deaths by Industry

Information about suicide rates by industry and occupation can be obtained from death certificates, which contain fields for “usual industry” and “usual occupation.” These reflect the decedent’s most common industry and occupation during their lifetime, which may not necessarily be the same as their industry and occupation at the time of their death.

The industries with the highest suicide rates in Michigan for 2020 were manufacturing; other services such as repair and maintenance and personal services; and administrative, support, and waste management services.

**Figure 7:** Industries with Highest Crude Rates of Suicide Death in Michigan, 2020



## SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

The industries with the highest suicide rates varied by sex, although there are some commonalities: suicide rates were high among both males and females working in service.

**Table 2: Industries with Highest Crude Rates of Suicide Death by Sex for Civilian Employed Workers Aged 16+ Residing in Michigan, 2020**

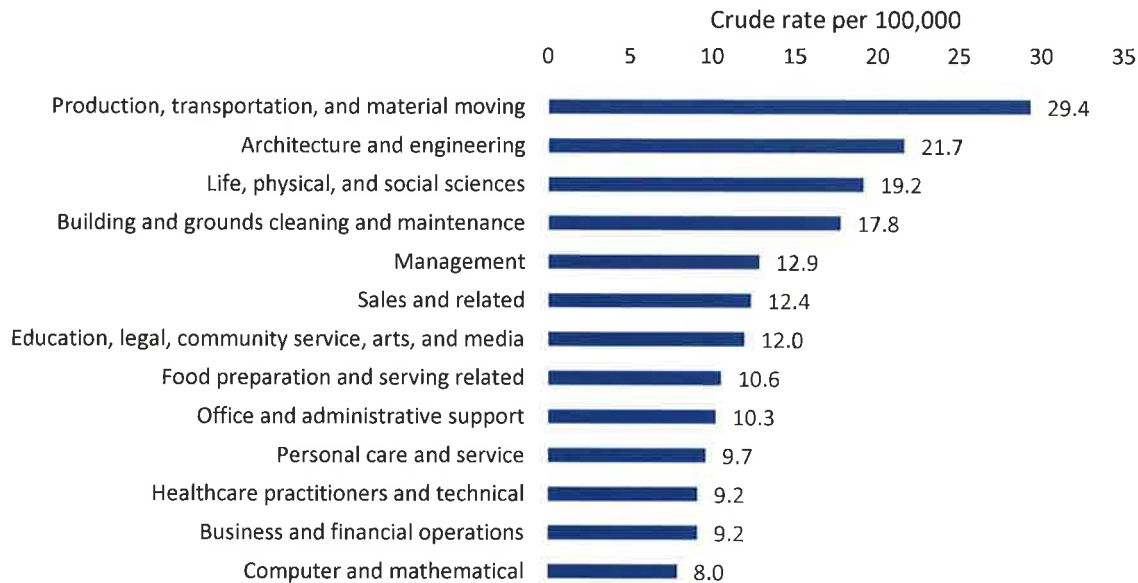
Males		Females	
Industry	Rate per 100,000 workers 16+ in industry, 2020	Industry	Rate per 100,000 workers 16+ in industry, 2020
Construction	51.9	Administrative and support and waste management	9.7
Other services (such as repair and maintenance, personal services)	44.6	Retail trade	8.1
Public administration	40.6	Professional, scientific, and technical services	7.5
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	37.0	Health care and social assistance	7.3
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	34.6	Other services (such as repair and maintenance, personal services)	6.8

# SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

## Suicide Deaths by Occupation

The occupations with the highest suicide rates in Michigan for 2020 were: Production, transportation, and material moving; architecture and engineering; and life, physical, and social sciences.

**Figure 8:** Occupations with Highest Crude Rates of Suicide Death in Michigan, 2020



## SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

Occupations with the highest suicide rates also varied by sex. It is worth noting that construction ranked first in both industry and occupation for the highest suicide rates among Michigan males. Also, both health care industries and occupations had high suicide rates for Michigan females.

**Table 3: Occupations with Highest Crude Rates of Suicide Death by Sex for Civilian Employed Workers Aged 16+ Residing in Michigan, 2020**

Males		Females	
Occupation	Rate per 100,000 workers 16+ in occupation, 2020	Occupation	Rate per 100,000 workers 16+ in occupation, 2020
Construction and extraction	59.4	Health care support	12.1
Installation, maintenance, and repair	49.7	Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	11.5
Material moving	40.2	Computer, engineering, and science	8.2
Production	37.9	Office and administrative support	8.1
Protective service	35.6	Health care practitioners and technical	7.6

## SPECIAL POPULATIONS DATA UPDATE

As described in the Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission Initial Report, risk and protective factors interact in many contexts and over time to influence an individual's level of risk for suicide. Risk factors can also vary by age group, culture, sex, and other characteristics (Suicide Prevention Resource Center, 2020). The Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission identified several groups that face disproportionate risk for suicide and the most recent data updates are highlighted in this section.

### Active Military/Service Members\*

Nationally, in calendar year (CY) 2020, a total of 580 service members died by suicide (384 Active Component, 77 Reserve, and 119 National Guard). The CY 2020 suicide rate in the Active Component was 28.7 suicide deaths per 100,000 service members. When comparing the CY 2020 suicide rate to each of the recent past two years, the Active Component 2020 suicide rate (28.7 per 100,000) appears higher than in CY 2018 (24.9 per 100,000) and CY 2019 (26.3 per 100,000), but is statistically comparable across years (i.e., no statistically significant change).

**Table 4: Annual Suicide Counts and Rates by Department of Defense**

DOD Component/Service	CY 2020		CY 2019		CY 2018	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
<b>Active Component</b>	384	28.7	349	26.3	326	24.9
Army	175	36.4	146	30.7	141	29.9
Navy	66	19.3	74	22.1	68	20.7
Marine Corps	62	33.9	47	25.3	57	30.8
Air Force	81	24.3	82	24.8	60	18.5
<b>Reserve</b>	77	21.7	65	18.2	81	22.9
Army Reserve	42	22.2	36	18.9	48	25.3
Navy	13	--	7	--	11	--
Marine Corps	10	--	9	--	19	--
Air Force Reserve	12	--	13	--	3	--
<b>National Guard</b>	119	27.0	90	20.5	136	30.8
Army National Guard	103	30.9	76	22.9	119	35.9
Air National Guard	16	--	14	--	17	--
<b>All Components Total</b>	<b>580</b>		<b>504</b>		<b>543</b>	

Source: Department of Defense Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, 2020

\*Michigan does not have any active military bases



## SPECIAL POPULATIONS DATA UPDATE

### Adolescents and Emerging Adults

Nationally, suicide remains the second leading cause of death for children 10-14 and those 15-24 years of age. In Michigan, death by suicide is tied with unintentional injury for the top leading cause of death for 10-14 year olds (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control).

The [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System](#) (YRBSS) monitors health-related behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability among high school age youth.

**Table 5: Michigan 2019 and United States 2019 High School YRBS Results**

Question	Michigan 2019	United States 2019
Seriously considered attempting suicide (%) (During the 12 months before the survey) (#)	18.7 4,472	18.8 13,347
Planned how they would attempt suicide (%) (During the 12 months before the survey) (#)	14.6 4,500	15.7 13,422
Attempted suicide (%) (One or more time during the 12 months before the survey) (#)	7.8 3,902	8.9 10,520
Suicide attempt resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse (%) (During the 12 months before the survey) (#)	2.5 3,870	2.5 8,749

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## SPECIAL POPULATIONS DATA UPDATE

### LGBTQ Youth

The Trevor Project represents the experiences of nearly 35,000 LGBTQ youth ages 13-24 across the United States (Trevor Project, 2021). Their most recent national survey found:

- Forty two percent of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth.
- Twelve percent of white LGBTQ youth attempted suicide compared to 31% of Native/Indigenous youth, 21% of Black youth, 21% of multiracial youth, 18% of Latinx youth, and 12% of Asian/Pacific Islander youth.
- LGBTQ youth who had access to spaces that affirmed their sexual orientation and gender identity reported lower rates of attempting suicide.
- Similar trends are also seen in Michigan. According to YRBSS data, lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) high school youth in Michigan are more likely to report having felt sad or hopeless, seriously considered suicide, having made a plan to attempt suicide, and having attempted suicide than their heterosexual peers (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control).
- Sixty eight percent of LGB students report feeling sadness or hopelessness that interfered with usual activities, compared to 31.6% of heterosexual students.
- Nearly 43% of LGB students report having seriously considered suicide compared to 14.9% of heterosexual students.
- About a third (31.8%) of LGB students report having made a plan to attempt suicide compared to 11.7% of heterosexual students.
- Just over one in five (21.5%) of LGB students report having made a suicide attempt in the past year compared to 5.4% of heterosexual youth.

# SPECIAL POPULATIONS DATA UPDATE

## Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is leading efforts to understand suicide risk factors, develop evidence-based prevention programs, and prevent veteran suicide through a public health lens. As part of this effort, the VA analyzes data at the national and state levels to guide the design and execution of the most effective strategies to prevent veteran suicide.

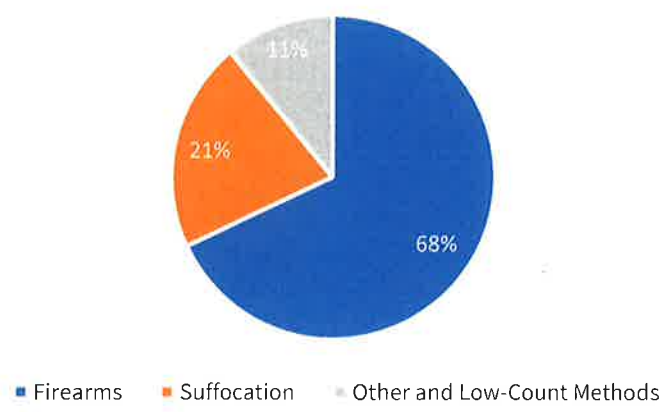
**Table 6: Michigan and National Veteran Suicide Death Rates by Age Group, 2019**

Age Group	Michigan Veteran Suicides	National Veteran Suicides	Michigan Veteran Suicide Rate	National Veteran Suicide Rate
Total	173	6,261	29.6	31.6
18-34	22	8,28	51.2	44.4
35-54	54	1,663	40.9	32.8
55-74	65	2,407	24.5	28.8
75+	30	1,336	20.7	29.6

Source: Michigan Veterans Suicide Data Sheet, 2019

The Veteran suicide rate in Michigan was not significantly different from the national Veteran suicide rate but was significantly higher than the national general population suicide rate.

**Figure 9: Michigan Veteran Suicide Deaths by Method, 2019**



Source: Michigan Veterans Suicide Data Sheet, 2019

## MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION UPDATES

The Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission has adopted zero suicide as an aspirational goal. To achieve this goal, the Commission drafted several key recommendations under five priority areas.

Those priority areas include:

1. Minimizing risk for suicidal behavior by promoting safe environments, resiliency, and connectedness.
2. Increasing and expanding access to care to support those at risk for suicide.
3. Improving suicide prevention training and education.
4. Implementing best practices in suicide prevention for health care systems.
5. Enhancing suicide specific data collection and systems.

The full list of recommendations can be found in [the Commission's Initial Report March 2021](#).

This section highlights the various activities the Commission, the state of Michigan, and local communities have been engaged in to address suicide and move the state closer to the goal of zero suicide.

### 988 and MiCAL Implementation

Michigan is in the process of building a three-component crisis services system for all Michiganders which is based on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis: one statewide crisis line, mobile crisis, and crisis stabilization units. Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL) links to crisis services which are tailored to local regions and populations. It provides a clear access point to the varied and sometimes confusing array of behavioral health services in Michigan. 988 is a new federal three digit dialing code for the National Prevention Suicide Lifeline (NSPL) expected to go live in July 2022.

Over the last year, Michigan has participated in an extensive planning process grant with a broad cross sector group of stakeholders. This planning process was funded through Vibrant Emotional Health, which administers the NSPL. At the end of January 2022, MDHHS submitted Michigan's 988 Implementation Plan to both Vibrant and SAMHSA. This plan outlines 988 coverage for Michigan and implementation-related goals for the next two years

## MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION UPDATES

It is Michigan's goal to integrate into the state's crisis services system. MiCAL, staffed by Common Ground, will provide 988 chat and text coverage statewide and 988 call coverage in all areas of the state except in Kent and Macomb counties, where MiCAL will provide backup coverage. Network 180 in Kent County and Macomb County Community Mental Health (Macomb CMH), current NSPL providers and publicly funded community mental health services programs (CMHSPs) will provide primary call coverage for their respective counties. MiCAL will roll out regionally over the next several months to provide statewide coverage by the end of October 2022. Statewide 988 call coverage will occur by July 1, 2022. The rollout also establishes coordinated care partnerships for referrals and activation of face-to-face crisis services with each Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP), CMHSPs, and state demonstration Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC), in addition to other crisis services providers.

During this next year, the following goals will be the focus of 988 implementation in Michigan:

- Answer more than 90% of the calls, chats, and texts originating from the Michigan area. (*Overflow calls will be answered by National Backup Centers.*)
- Develop coordination processes with each of Michigan's 911 Public Safety Answering Points.
- Ensure alignment with the Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission and Plan.
- Tailor 988 support to specific high-risk and typically underserved populations through care coordination protocols based on information gathered through listening sessions.
- Develop comprehensive follow up services for high-risk callers.
- Develop a 988 marketing campaign in partnership with the 988 Stakeholder Advisory Group and Vibrant, utilizing existing stakeholder relationships to promote and build credibility for 988.

# MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION UPDATES

## Frontline

The Wayne State University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health along with its clinical arm, Wayne Health Department of Psychiatry are experts in providing behavioral health treatment and interventions. This partnership has introduced educational interventions using brief animated videos that clearly depict common scenarios and improved ways to handle those scenarios. The separate scenarios can be tailored to different Frontline staff and posted on a dedicated website for broader dissemination. The website also includes video interviews with Frontline staff and their family as experts in what is occurring and outside experts who have complementary knowledge.

Wayne State University has also been providing Critical Communication training to the first responder peers and providing them with ongoing support when they are engaged with a colleague. The University plans to establish and maintain a list of qualified, licensed and vetted mental health professionals to provide services to the first responders and their immediate family as requested.

## Governor's Challenge Initiative

Michigan has partnered with SAMHSA and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to bring the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) to our communities across Michigan.

The Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency (MVAA) is leading this initiative in collaboration with many other key partners. Key focus and efforts include:

- Reducing suicide among service members, veterans, and their families.
- Increasing access to services and support.
- Expanding statewide capacity to engage SMVF in public and private services.
- Enhancing provider and SMVF peer practices.
- Implementing innovative best practices (e.g., Screening and Asking the Question - have you or a member of your household ever served in the military?).
- Increase Lethal Means Safety and Safety Planning.
- Promote connectedness and improve care transitions.

## **MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION UPDATES**

Key accomplishments within 2021 include completion of the SAMHSA Implementation Academy along with launching the Michigan Veteran Connector initiative through which health care facilities and other organizations ask their customers if they or anyone in their family has ever served in the military and, if so, referring them to the MVAA for a benefits consultation.

That said, the Governor's Challenge is a collaborative effort that involves about 50 members and plans to continue this vitally important work to reduce veteran suicide in 2022 and beyond.

### **Law Enforcement Death Scene Investigation Form**

Death investigation is a complicated process, and proper investigation is critical. Medical examiners and coroners utilize death scene investigation forms to assist in identifying, among other findings, an individual's cause and manner of death. Having a standardized investigation form for law enforcement would bridge any potential gaps in documentation and make it easier for officers to address salient and necessary information. Noting that there is currently a lack of such a comprehensive resource, the Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission formed a workgroup that is helping in the creation and promotion of such a document that better caters to law enforcement and their needs. This form will make it easier and more efficient for law enforcement to document more detailed information, some of which is traditionally not collected, and can then be forwarded to assist medical examiners or coroners in their final assessment of a suicide related death. Resulting in a more comprehensive view of precipitating factors that may have impacted an individual's suicide and a more detailed data set that can inform future prevention initiatives.

Noting that work still needs to be done to ensure a comprehensive form, the Commission has decided to continue the Death Scene Investigation Form Workgroup to finalize the recommended form as well as discuss postvention work.

# MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION UPDATES

## Lethal Means Social Media Campaign

MDHHS and Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission collaborated to launch a social media campaign related to addressing lethal means. Lethal means are the mechanisms people might use in a suicide attempt that are likely to result in serious injury or death. The term “lethal” is important because some methods are more harmful or destructive than others (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education, n.d.). Reducing access to lethal means falls within the societal protective factors that have been found to reduce the likelihood that an individual at risk of suicidal behavior will be negatively affected and or impacted by that risk. In fact, research shows that approximately 90% of people who attempt suicide and live will not go on to end their life by suicide and 70% of people who attempt suicide will never make another attempt on their life. (Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, n.d.).

Recognizing that September is National Suicide Prevention Month, the social media campaign was launched September 5, 2021, and ran on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Reddit, and Twitter until September 30, 2021. Although the geographical area and the intended target audience was all Michiganders aged 18 and up, the focus of the campaign was on males 20-50 years old. Materials from the Social Media Campaign can be found in Appendix 4

**Table 7: Suicide Prevention Commission Social Media Campaign Analytics**

Social Media Platform	Impressions Delivered	Clicks	Engagement
Facebook/Instagram	2,563,480	16,955	21,541
Twitter	666,982	237	6,081
Total	3,230,462	17,192	27,622



## **MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION UPDATES**

### **MI-MIND**

With support from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Henry Ford Health System is launching the Michigan Mental Health Clinical Quality Improvement Network for Implementation and Dissemination (MI-MIND) Collaborative Quality Initiative (CQI) in 2022. MI-MIND seeks to establish a statewide partnership of health care systems, including primary care and behavioral health practices, to implement evidence-based suicide prevention approaches to improve outcomes (suicide attempt and death) and access to and engagement in services for patients across the State of Michigan. Henry Ford Health System developed the zero suicide clinical care pathway in 2001. The pathway includes identification and assessment of suicide risk, engagement in care, evidence-based treatment, and support in transitions between clinical settings. Health systems across the country have now started to use this model, and MI-MIND represents the first statewide effort in the nation to implement these evidence-based processes coordinated across care systems, including incentives for provider organizations to implement these practices with fidelity. In 2022, the first cohort of provider organizations will begin implementation, with dozens of other systems invited to join in future years.

### **PRiSSM**

Preventing Suicide in Michigan Men (PRiSMM) recently entered its second year and is funded by the United States Center for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) Comprehensive Suicide Prevention grant program. PRiSMM's goal is to reduce suicide in Michigan by 10% over the course of the five-year grant, specifically targeting adult males (ages 25 and up). One of PRiSMM's comprehensive suicide prevention strategies includes creating a multi-sectoral partnership that brings together stakeholders within the field of suicidology and people within male dominated industries who are less familiar with suicide prevention. Bringing together people in different industries enables PRiSMM to not only reach a larger audience, but also to reach men where they are.

In its first year, PRiSMM implemented a statewide community scan with the goal of identifying what suicide prevention strategies are currently in practice within our communities, as well as possible gaps in knowledge and services that exist within the state. Along with the community scan, PRiSMM has developed comprehensive communication and evaluation plans with the goal of disseminating data and information to better inform suicide prevention strategies to improve programming.

## **MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION UPDATES**

In this current year of funding, PRiSMM will continue engaging partners to identify and address strengths and barriers to success for suicide prevention programming within the state. PRiSMM will also be working on improving the accessibility of trainings to providers. PRiSMM will also launch an ad campaign sharing messages of hope and resilience from the male perspective.

### **Safe Messaging Guidance**

The way in which suicide is portrayed in legacy media, on social media and in other public forums is critically important. It is important that media outlets and community organizations use safety-focused guidelines when reporting on suicide events and presenting data. Additionally, communications about suicide should be designed to reduce stigma, encourage help-seeking, focus on positive prevention efforts, promote resiliency and hope, target inequities, and include established and vetted helping resources. A letter was drafted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services with endorsement from the Suicide Commission to address the problem of misinformation and emphasized the importance of safe messaging. The letter can be found in Appendix 5.

### **Screening Tool Checklist**

Across health and behavioral health care settings, there are many opportunities to identify and provide care to those at risk for suicide. Primary and acute health care settings play a role in preventing suicide in their patients by using an evidence-based screening tool to identify those with suicidal thoughts and behaviors, making sure those who screen positive receive a full assessment, and connecting patients with treatment if needed.

With a plethora of screening tools already available and proven to be effective, a noted barrier is the process of deciding and then selecting which screening tool is ideal for an individual or an organization. Noting this, the Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission created a universal screening tool workgroup to address this issue. The workgroup created two deliverables: a checklist that guides community based organizations and health care professionals in things that they should be considering when choosing their ideal evidence-based universal screening tool, and then an actual list of available evidence-based screening tools with detailed information that can be referenced when deciding which of the various screening tools are the best fit for the individuals that are being screened or can best fit within their organizations screening criteria.

The Screening Tool Checklist can be found in Appendix 2.

# MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION UPDATES

## TYSP-Mi3

Transforming Youth Suicide Prevention in Michigan-3 (TYSP-Mi3) is a five-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that runs from 2019-2024. This initiative capitalizes on a strong and well-established track record of public health and academic expertise as well as unique statewide partnerships. TYSP-Mi3 will impact rates of youth/young adult suicide by establishing suicide prevention as a core priority in Michigan's Child Welfare (CW) system and by growing a network of Emergency Departments (EDs) committed to increasing the number of gatekeepers and clinical service providers trained in evidence-based prevention strategies and supporting communities in strengthening local efforts.

TYSP-Mi3 program goals are:

- Goal 1: Build a statewide network of EDs that consider suicide prevention a core priority and consequently, implement evidence-based assessment, intervention, continuity of care, and follow-up strategies for youth at risk for suicide and their families.
- Goal 2: Partner with Michigan's CW agency to advance and sustain suicide prevention training, screening, and referral practices, with a focus on the state's foster care system.
- Goal 3: Strategically embed a cadre of trained gatekeepers and clinical service providers within Michigan's youth serving workforce who consistently use evidence-based practices.
- Goal 4: Support local communities to implement suicide prevention best practices to community needs via technical assistance, training, and educational and funding opportunities.
- Goal 5: Enhance the availability of resources and training for postvention services in the state.

# MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION UPDATES

## TYSP-Mi3

TYSP-Mi3 accomplishments include:

- Publication: Ewell Foster, C., Magness, C., Czyz, E. *et al.* Predictors of Parent Behavioral Engagement in Youth Suicide Discharge Recommendations: Implications for Family-Centered Crisis Interventions. *Child Psychiatry Hum Dev* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-021-01176-9>.
- Four partner Emergency Departments enrolled into statewide network.
- Suicide Prevention competencies drafted and approved for utilization in Child Welfare certificate programs at Michigan Universities and Colleges.
- Three community grantee projects focused on identification and early intervention of 18-24 year olds successfully launched October 1, 2021.
- The Postvention Work Group conducted a needs assessment of Michigan suicide prevention coalitions and submitted formal recommendations to the TYSP leadership team, as well as the State Government Interdepartmental and Youth at Risk Work Groups to improve postvention in the state.

## CALL FOR ACTION AND NEXT STEPS

We have recognized the need to make suicide prevention a statewide priority. Research has identified many strategies that can be effective in preventing suicide, and many of these approaches have not yet been brought to scale. Additionally, we realize many of the solutions we would like to implement to reverse these trends cannot be done through health care treatment alone. This work requires systemic changes, including public policy reforms and addressing the risk factors that contribute to negative outcomes and protective factors that increase resilience. The Commission has identified several pieces of legislation that could influence the landscape of suicide prevention activities. This list can be found in Appendix 6.

As MDHHS continues its work on the statewide suicide prevention strategy, we are excited to see alignment and collaborative opportunities outlined in the document. This strategy will surely increase engagement and activity around suicide prevention.

Conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic could further exacerbate existing structural inequities that impact the health and well-being of groups identified as being at increased risk for suicidal behaviors. As a Commission, we will continue to monitor COVID-19 and its effects on how this public health pandemic continues to impact suicide prevention efforts

This report highlights many of the evidence-based and evidence-informed suicide prevention activities statewide. There are still a multitude of local, community-driven initiatives that also play a significant role in addressing this preventable problem. Over the next three years, state and local governments, mental health organizations, health departments, local businesses and Michigan residents have the opportunity and responsibility to continue to discuss and identify ways to assist families, coworkers, and neighbors to reduce suicide in Michigan communities. Much work remains to be done. The Suicide Prevention Commission will continue to promote and support the recommendations from its Initial Report and explore new and innovative recommendations in the coming year.

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## **APPENDIX 1: MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION MEETING DATES**

January 15, 2021

February 19, 2021

March 19, 2021

April 16, 2021

May 21, 2021

July 16, 2021

September 17, 2021

November 19, 2021



## APPENDIX 2: MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION SCREENING TOOL CHECKLIST

Routine screening is a key component for identifying and providing appropriate care for individuals at risk of suicide. It is important to select an appropriate screening tool of accurate identification and provision of suicide intervention and treatment services. Screening tools should be selected based on the evidence showing it will be effective with the population that needs to be screened or assessed and the resources available to devote to the screening and assessment process.

The Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission has drafted a checklist for how to choose which suicide screening and assessment tool is most appropriate for your organization. When considering the various screening and assessment tools, organizations should consider the following:

### Population:

- What is the population that you are serving?
  - o Is the tool intended for children and youth, adults, or older adults?
- Is this tool accessible in different languages if needed?
- Who can administer the tool?
  - o Can individuals do a self-screening?
- What method is available for screening?
  - o Verbal? Electronic, paper, etc.
  - o Do individuals have access to screening method?

### Setting:

- Do you already have access to said tool?
  - o Is the tool available for free?
- What setting are you intending on using this screening tool in?
- Can this tool be built within your electronic health record?
  - o Can you access it virtually?
- Are you a clinician or mental health professional?
  - o Would you need this tool to be accessible for not only clinicians or mental health professionals? Specific credentials to administer?
  - o Does individual providing screening need to be trained?
- How much time is available for screening?
  - o There must be consideration for the time that may be necessary if an individual needs an assessment if they screen positive.

## APPENDIX 2: MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION SCREENING TOOL CHECKLIST

Examples of common specialized tools for screening and assessing suicide risk include:

- Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS)
- Geriatric Suicide Ideation Scale (GSIS)
- Reasons for Living (RFL)
- Modified Scale for Suicide Ideation (SSI-M)
- Suicidal Behaviors Questionnaire (SBO)
- Suicide Intent Scale (SIS)
- Concise Health Risk-Tracking Self-Report (CHRT-SR)
- Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)
- Inventory of Motivations for Suicide Attempts (IMSA)
- Beck Scale for Suicide Ideation (BSS)
- Beck Hopelessness Scale (BHS)
- Inter-RAI Mental Health Severity of Self-Harm Scale
- Modified SAD PERSONS Scale
- Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ)
- Behavioral Health Screen (BHS)
- ED-SAFE Patient Safety Screener
- CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF)

The Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission recommends universal screening for suicide risk in emergency rooms, hospital admission, primary care providers and if there are signs of depression, anxiety, psychosis, or substance use in all behavioral health care settings.

# APPENDIX 2: MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION SCREENING TOOL CHECKLIST

Tool	Administration		# Of Items	Available Virtual Care for Free Availability	Population Setting			Population Specific			Time to Administer (minutes)	Suicide-Specific Outcome Measured
	Self-Report	Interview/Observation			Psychiatric	In	Out	ER	Non-Psychiatric	Children & Youth		
<i>Tools that do not need to be administered by a clinician or mental health professional (e.g., counsellor, nurse, physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker):</i>												
Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS)	✓	✓	Varies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<10	Suicidal desire, intent, and capability; Buffers/Connectedness
Geriatric Suicide Ideation Scale (GSIS)	✓	✓	31	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5-10	Suicidal desire, intent, and capability; Buffers/Connectedness
Reasons for Living (RFL)	✓	✓	48	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	Suicidal desire, intent, and capability; Buffers/Connectedness
Modified Scale for Suicide Ideation (SSI-M)	✓	✓	18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<10	Suicidal desire, intent, and capability; Buffers/Connectedness
Suicidal Behaviors Questionnaire (SBO)	✓	✓	34 (4-Item short form)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	Suicidal desire, intent, and capability
Suicide Intent Scale (SIS)	✓	✓	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5-10	Suicidal desire and intent
Concise Health Risk-Tracking Self-Report (CHRT-SR)	✓	✓	16	Unknown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<5	Suicidal desire
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)	✓	✓	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<5	Suicidal desire, intent, and capability
<i>Tools that should be administered by a clinician or mental health professional:</i>												
Inventory of Motivations for Suicide Attempts (IMSA)	✓	✓	50 (4 Additional Items)	✓	Unknown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<10	Suicidal desire, intent, and capability
Beck Scale for Suicide Ideation (BSS)	✓	✓	21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5-10	Suicidal desire and intent
Beck Hopelessness Scale (BHS)	✓	✓	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5-10	Suicidal desire
Inter-RAI Mental Health Severity of Self-Harm Scale	✓	✓	Varies	Unknown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Varies	Predictive algorithm for risk of harm to self
Modified SAD PERSONS Scale	✓	✓	10	✓	Unknown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5-10	Suicidal desire, intent, and capability
Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ)	✓	✓	4	✓	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<5	Suicidal desire and intent
Behavioral Health Screen (BHS)	✓	✓	61 Core Items	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5-10	Suicidal desire and capability
ED-SAFE Patient Safety Screener (PSS-3)	✓	✓	3	✓	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<5	Suicidal desire and capability
CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF)	✓	✓	Varies	Unknown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20-30	Suicidal desire, intent, and capability; Buffers/Connectedness

# APPENDIX 2: MICHIGAN SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION SCREENING TOOL CHECKLIST

Key	
Suicide Screening	Suicide screening to refer to a procedure in which a standardized instrument or protocol is used to identify individuals who may be at risk for suicide. Suicide screening can be done independently or as part of a more comprehensive health or behavioral health screening. Screening may be done orally (with the screener asking questions), with pencil and paper, or using a computer.
Suicide Assessment	Suicide assessment usually refers to a more comprehensive evaluation done by a clinician to confirm suspected suicide risk, estimate the immediate danger to the patient, and decide on a course of treatment. Although assessments can involve structured questionnaires; they also can include a more open-ended conversation with a patient and/or friends and family to gain insight into the patient's thoughts and behavior, risk factors (e.g., access to lethal means or a history of suicide attempts), protective factors (e.g., immediate family support), and medical and mental health history. Assessments must be done if an individual screens positive for suicide.
Population Setting:	The setting in which the tool can be administered
In:	Inpatient
Out:	Outpatient
ER:	Emergency Room/Department
Population Specific =	The population that the tool can be administered to
Children & Youth =	8-18 Years Old
Adults =	18-64 Years Old
Older Adults =	65 Years and Older

# APPENDIX 3: LETHAL MEANS SOCIAL CAMPAIGN POSTS

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**

During National Suicide Prevention Month, be there to learn, listen and lend a hand. If someone is struggling, there is help.

**Be There**  
Learn how to help during Suicide Prevention Month

Call 1-800-273-TALK(8255)  
Or Text "HELP" TO 741-741

[SUICIDEPREVENTIONLIFELINE.ORG](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)  
**National Suicide Prevention Month**  
Free, confidential help, 24/7

[Learn More](#)

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**

This Suicide Prevention Month, learn the number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. It could save a life.

**CALL THE LIFELINE**

**1-800-273-TALK(8255)**  
**Or Text "HELP" TO 741-741**

[SUICIDEPREVENTIONLIFELINE.ORG](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)  
**In a Crisis? Call the Lifeline.**  
Free, confidential help, 24/7

[Learn More](#)

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**

Anyone could be struggling with suicide. Everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention. Learn how to help today.

<p><b>NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE</b></p> <p>Call 1-800-273-TALK(8255)</p> <p><b>National Suicide Prevention Month</b> Free, confidential help, 24/7</p> <p><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>	<p><b>NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE</b></p> <p>Text "Help" to 741-741</p> <p><b>National Suicide Prevention Month</b> Free, confidential help, 24/7</p> <p><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>	<p><b>NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE</b></p> <p>Free and confidential help, 24/7</p> <p><b>National Suicide Prevention Month</b> Free, confidential help, 24/7</p> <p><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>	<p><b>NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE</b></p> <p>Resources for individuals and loved ones</p> <p><b>National Suicide Prevention Month</b> Free, confidential help, 24/7</p> <p><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>	<p><b>NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE</b></p> <p>Best practices for professionals</p> <p><b>National Suicide Prevention Month</b> Free, confidential help, 24/7</p> <p><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>
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# APPENDIX 3: LETHAL MEANS SOCIAL CAMPAIGN POSTS

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**  
Sponsored

Men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women. Removing access to lethal means can help keep them safe.



**#BETHERE**

Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
**1-800-273-TALK(8255)**  
Or Text 'HELP' to 741-741

**MDHHS**

THE ACTION ALLIANCE, ORTI

**National Suicide Prevention Month**  
Free, confidential help, 24/7.

[Learn More](#)

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**  
Sponsored

If someone is having thoughts of suicide, removing access to lethal means can help keep them safe. Learn how you can help.

**Reduce the risk of suicide by lethal means:**

- > Lock firearms away
- > Dispose of unneeded medication
- > Safely store medication
- > Reduce access to ligatures (e.g., ropes, belts)

If you or someone you know is in a crisis, call **1-800-273-TALK(8255)**

**MDHHS**

THE ACTION ALLIANCE, ORTI

**Lethal Means Prevention**  
Free, confidential help, 24/7.

[Learn More](#)

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**  
Sponsored

If someone is having thoughts of suicide, removing access to lethal means can help keep them safe. Learn how to help today.

<p><b>REDUCE ACCESS TO LETHAL MEANS</b></p> <p>Lock firearms in a remote location</p>  <p>Free resources &amp; support: 1-800-273-TALK(8255)</p> <p><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>	<p><b>REDUCE ACCESS TO LETHAL MEANS</b></p> <p>Keep medications stored in a safe place</p>  <p>Free resources &amp; support: 1-800-273-TALK(8255)</p> <p><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>	<p><b>REDUCE ACCESS TO LETHAL MEANS</b></p> <p>Properly dispose of medications no longer needed</p>  <p>Free resources &amp; support: 1-800-273-TALK(8255)</p> <p><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>	<p><b>REDUCE ACCESS TO LETHAL MEANS</b></p> <p>Reduce access to ligatures (e.g., ropes, belts)</p>  <p>Free resources &amp; support: 1-800-273-TALK(8255)</p> <p><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>	<p><b>REDUCE ACCESS TO LETHAL MEANS</b></p> <p>Create a safe and healthy environment</p>  <p>Free resources &amp; support: 1-800-273-TALK(8255)</p> <p><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>
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## APPENDIX 4: SAFE MESSAGING GUIDANCE

Dear Public Health and Media partners,

Suicide is a hard topic to discuss and report on, and a complex public health issue. Recently, a major news outlet published a news story that contained potentially harmful messaging for individuals at-risk of suicide. Due to the circulation of that story within our state, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reaching out to our media and public health partners to share current Suicide Prevention Media Resources with you.

We respect and encourage the autonomy of the media. We also believe in sharing best practices within a public health context as it relates to the coverage of suicide. When crafting your messages about suicide prevention and reporting on a death by suicide, we urge you to make sure they align with safe and effective messaging recommendations.

Worldwide studies have found that certain types of news coverage can increase the likelihood of suicide in vulnerable individuals. Word choice matters and responsible reporting that encourages help-seeking can reduce the risk of additional suicides.

### **Media Resources for Suicide Prevention Reporting Toolbox**

The American Association of Suicidology toolkit, [Media as Partners in Suicide Prevention](#), was generated by extensive consultation with journalists and those with lived experience of suicide attempts and thoughts. It contains critical information for all media professionals looking to effectively report on suicide as a topic.

[Recommendations for Reporting on Suicide](#) is a two-page document that was developed with worldwide suicide prevention agencies. It offers specific reporting strategies that could help prevent another suicide or encourage someone to seek help.

[The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention](#) offers several resources on its media messaging page, including “Real Stories,” which helps media tell positively framed news stories. The National Action Alliance also has several other categories of information, including a framework for successful messaging which aims to inform organizations how to craft media content about suicide.

There are also Michigan-based coalitions, crisis lines, fact sheets, trainings, and events listed on the MDHHS website at [Michigan.gov/SuicidePrevention](https://Michigan.gov/SuicidePrevention).

## APPENDIX 4: SAFE MESSAGING GUIDANCE

The [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) number, 800-273-8255, should be included with any news media materials that talk about suicide.

As many of you know, I am deeply passionate about this issue having lost my former legislative roommate and many fellow Marines to suicide. I hope you might receive this message in the spirit with which it is intended: to share best practices and to increase positive outcomes for all Michiganders. Thank you for your work on this important public health issue. Together we can make a difference in Michigan.

Sincerely,  
David Knezek  
Senior Chief Deputy Director for Administration  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services



## APPENDIX 5: RELEVANT LEGISLATION RELATED TO SUICIDE PREVENTION IN MICHIGAN

Bill and Sponsor	Summary
SB 321 (Santana)	Develop professional development standards for teachers on recognizing and addressing mental health and suicide prevention needs.
SB 192 (Hertel)	Amend school code to mandate evidence-based suicide prevention training for K-12 educators and age-appropriate material for students.
HB 4651 (Brabec)	Ban conversion therapy for minors (“A mental health professional shall not engage in conversion therapy with a minor. A mental health professional who violates this section is subject to disciplinary action and licensing sanctions for unprofessional conduct...”)
SB 367 (McMorrow)	Ban conversion therapy for minors (“A mental health professional shall not engage in conversion therapy with a minor. A mental health professional who violates this section is subject to disciplinary action and licensing sanctions for unprofessional conduct...”)
HB 5120 (Thanedar)	Require mental health training for law enforcement officers. Minimum standards for this training would be established by the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.
HB 5073 (Peterson)	Require mental health training for law enforcement officers. Minimum standards for this training would be established by the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards. Also includes implicit bias training, de-escalation and use of force standards
HB 5353 (Whiteford)	Revise mental health code to (1) designate MiCAL as the state’s crisis hotline center, (2) mandate MiCAL practice and reporting standards aligned with Lifeline standards, (3) require integration with emergency response systems and health crisis services, (4) add language on mobile crisis teams and crisis stabilization, (5) mandates crisis care coordination, (6) designate the Department as responsible for 988 messaging, (7) mandate meeting Lifeline standards for reaching high-risk and specialized populations, (8) require follow-up services, and (9) require the Department to prove and fund mobile crisis teams.
HB 5354 (Whiteford)	Establish a 988 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline fund within the state treasury with MDHHS as administrator. State 988 charge of 55 cents per month. Prepaid wireless charge of 2% per retail transaction.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will not exclude from participation in, deny benefits of, or discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, gender identification or expression, sexual orientation, partisan considerations, or a disability or genetic information that is unrelated to the person's eligibility.

Dear Dr. Findley,

We write to you in support of the initiative to bring Garrett's Space Residential Center to our community in Superior Township.

My spouse, Tyler, and I have lived in Superior Township since 2019, and we loved it here. Our family finds this to be a welcoming community that we are proud to call home. We recently learned that there is a plan to open a youth residential center in the township. As mental health advocates, parents, and community members, we cannot think of a more important initiative to support.

There are not enough resources to support youth experiencing mental health crises. Garrett's Space will not only increase the resources available in southeast Michigan, but the plans are also exceptional. Coupling traditional clinical spaces with outdoor recreation and nature can serve so many who can benefit from clinical treatment located in a tranquil space. Superior Township is a perfect fit for this healing.

For both personal and professional reasons, Tyler and I believe in the necessity of supporting youth mental health. I am a clinical social worker and have worked with both youth and adults experiencing suicidal ideations for several years. In our home, we hold this work dear to our hearts. As such, we are disappointed to learn of the vocal group of individuals who oppose building Garrett's Space Residential Center. We have heard they fear bringing youth to our community whom they consider "delinquent." In calling children who need mental health support "delinquents" these individuals perpetuate a legacy of harmful, discriminatory rhetoric that criminalizes both mental health and suicide. I know that we as a community are better than this and want better for children and families. All children, including those in crisis, deserve our love and our support, not our shame and abandonment. We have the opportunity to show up for these children and their families in a way that will literally save lives. What a beautiful opportunity!

Please know that our family passionately supports and welcomes Garrett's Space, the youth and their families to Superior Township. We hope that you and our neighbors will join us in this, as we welcome healing and wellness for children.

With wishes for wellness,  
Cierra and Tyler Bengel  
8349 Lakeview Ct  
Superior Township, MI  
48198

**From:** Superior Township Website <[noreply@superiortownship.org](mailto:noreply@superiortownship.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 5:16 PM  
**To:** Laura Bennett <[planning@superior-twp.org](mailto:planning@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject:** Superior Township Contact Page

## Get In Touch With Us

**APPLICANT:** Bill Phillips

**Email:** [billips57@comcast.net](mailto:billips57@comcast.net)

**Recipient:** [planning@superior-twp.org](mailto:planning@superior-twp.org)

**Subject:** Garrett's Space

**Message Body:** Dear Mr. Schwartz and Township Supervisors, Marianne and I are long time residents of Superior Township. We are writing to encourage your support for the use of the property at 3900 Dixboro Road for Garrett's Space. Please add our voices to those who support the zoning change, sale and any other action by the township needed to help establish this resource in our community. We know how hard it is for families to find resources like this anywhere in the state and fully support the use of 3900 Dixborro Road for this purpose. The Board, staff and advisory board of this organization are comprised of local people with regionally and nationally recognition. They have the expertise and experience to successfully manage this process. We feel that they are an exemplary group who can and will provide an important resource. We have read Ellie Serras' letter and appreciate her commitment to providing this opportunity to our community. We also agree that an important secondary consideration is the preservation of the parcel of land around the house. One of the many virtues of Superior Township, is the commitment of our community to natural area preservation and greenspaces. The location, in more than 70 acres of land, provides a healing location with therapeutic value for the future residents. It also provides an appropriate isolation from immediate neighbors and a private natural environment for those served by Garrett's Space. Thank you for considering this important addition to our community. Regards, Bill Phillips and Marianne Udow-Phillips 2280 Gale Road Superior Township 48105 -- This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Superior Township (<https://superiortownship.org>)

Superior Township Board of Trustees  
Superior Township Planning Committee  
3040 N Prospect Road  
Superior Township, Michigan 48198

19 March 2023

Dear Superior Township Board of Trustees and Planning Committee Members,

We want to voice our strong opposition to the rezoning of our neighborhood from an Agricultural A2 district to a Medical Services MS district. We moved into this area because we were attracted to the natural beauty and peacefulness of the area. This neighborhood is removed from the hustle and bustle of Ann Arbor and provides its residents with a respite from the busier environments many of us work in. In particular we selected our house exactly because it is nestled in the forest away from the urban environment of Ann Arbor. If we had wanted proximity to the city we would have chosen a place in Ann Arbor. This rezoning proposal threatens to change the neighborhood we chose into one we were trying to avoid.

At best this rezoning request can be viewed as a proposal that benefits one seller and one buyer at the expense of the entire neighborhood. This property has been on the market for several years with an asking price that has attracted no buyers. Garrett's Space offers a deep pocket buyer for the seller at a price that the residential buyer pool is not able to meet. Letting the highest bidders shape the direction of Superior township is not good plan of action for the people who live here or for that matter any other township or city.

Let us be clear, Garrett's Space is a noble cause, and we support their vision and mission. However, we are still opposed to any rezoning effort in our neighborhood because it opens the door for unknown change in our neighborhood. There are several large plots of land that, if this rezoning proposal goes through, could be accommodated and then repurposed in a similar manner leading to an irreversible change in the complexion of our rural, peaceful community one parcel at a time.

This is not about Garret's Space. If the property at 3800 Dixboro was to be sold to build a small shopping mall we would be against any rezoning to accommodate it. If the property was to be sold to a company wishing to put a manufacturing facility requiring rezoning we would rally against it. If a gas station was proposed to be placed on the corner of Dixboro and Warren we would be opposed to it. We are steadfast in our desire for our district to remain Agricultural A2 in order to preserve the neighborhood we know and love and we strongly encourage the Trustees and Planning Commission to reject this proposed rezoning.

If you have any questions and would like to contact us, feel free to call us at (206) 437-1374

Sincerely,  
Brian and Sabrina Carlson  
5500 Warren Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

**From:** Christine Fitzsimons <[christinefitzsimons@howardhanna.com](mailto:christinefitzsimons@howardhanna.com)>

**Date:** March 20, 2023 at 5:58:01 PM EDT

**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettfindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettfindley@superior-twp.org)>

**Subject:** Garrett's Space

You don't often get email from [christinefitzsimons@howardhanna.com](mailto:christinefitzsimons@howardhanna.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms Findley:

I am writing to express my dismay and absolute sadness that there is such a backlash by certain Superior Township residents with regards to the creation of Garrett's Space. I know Scott and Julie Halpert personally and my own daughter has participated in their on-line programming which proved to be very helpful as she struggled with her own depression, particularly through Covid. As much as I could, I helped support Scott and Julie during the horrible time when dear Garrett took his life. They are a remarkable couple who have made a deeply courageous commitment to offer a safe place for young adults to find solace and support. They experienced themselves the absolute lack of places to go for young people dealing with depression, other than an ER department, when dark times hit.

I am very familiar with the type of programming that would be offered to young people through Garrett's Space – meditation, yoga, outdoor activities, group counseling, a place to be at one with nature etc. It's all about allowing these young individuals to come together with others struggling, to know that they are not alone and to gain support and coping methods to help them face what can be such a bleak and sad world in which we all find ourselves.

Everyone is aware of the high rate of suicide in young adults. It's everywhere and I would even go as far as to say that there will not be a single person at your meeting tonight and Wednesday who does not have a first-hand or very close connection to someone battling depression and anxiety. Just today I learned that the daughter of a recent client lost her life yesterday evening. She was in her late 20's. This is happening to a family that just lost the mother's brother to suicide less than two years ago. Everyone battling dark days of depression and anxiety needs help but our young people need it desperately given the fact that suicide is now the second leading cause of death in our country. Everyone knows it, it's in everyone's family and yet the stigma of mental health is just so ingrained that it can feel as if no one cares. And yet if it were their son or daughter, niece or nephew, friend's or work colleague's son or daughter, they would all say the same thing: what are we doing to help our young people? The answer, if the hysteria and mis-information that is only so apparent wins, is NOTHING.

The purpose of Garrett's Space is not to take in individuals with severe mental problems. Those poor people will still be served by more conventional means such as psych wards and institutions. I personally feel that's people's perception, coming from a place of absolute ignorance, is that Garrett's Space will function like something out of a scene from One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest. Saying that its presence in Superior Township will affect property values as well as make it unsafe for young children in the vicinity to play outside is absolutely ridiculous and dangerously untrue. Those opinions are narrow-minded and lack any true awareness of the what and how Garrett's Space would be. Superior Township would be admired across the country for helping found such a worthy and worthwhile cause that is Garrett's Space. I can only hope that common sense and compassion can prevail. We need this safe haven for our young and struggling population.

Thank you for your time reading this and I wish you and your Township board members all the very best.

Best regards,  
Christine

**From:** Cindy Abgarian <[cgills@comcast.net](mailto:cgills@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 6:13 PM  
**To:** Laura Bennett <[planning@superior-twp.org](mailto:planning@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject:** Garrets Space

You don't often get email from [cgills@comcast.net](mailto:cgills@comcast.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

To those at Superior Township,

My husband and myself would also like to be added to the list as those opposed to the proposed rezoning and potential sale of the property at 3900 Warren Rd to the promoters of Garret's Space. Although we recognize it as a worthy cause for these troubled youth, there are better venues and locations all ready zoned for these type of facilities. We purchased in the township some 25 years ago due to the rural setting it offered, and have watched over the years as Canton has crept west and Ann Arbor east. Our Township board up until now we have held in high esteem in keeping their promise to keep the township RURAL! Please don't open the doors to changing our landscape now

Currently we are out of the country, otherwise we would be attending the upcoming meeting to voice our concerns and opposition to this venture,

Alan & Cynthia Abgarian  
5420 Meadowcrest Dr  
Ann Arbor, Mi 48105



**From:** Cynthia Colton <[ccolton@umich.edu](mailto:ccolton@umich.edu)>  
**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettefindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettefindley@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject:** Serras property

You don't often get email from [ccolton@umich.edu](mailto:ccolton@umich.edu). [Learn why this is important](#)

We are writing to support the sale of the Serras property on Dixboro Road to the Garrett's Space project. They have demonstrated outstanding efforts to aid young people with emotional problems. The addition of a residential program will aid the young people in our community. We can't imagine its presence would be a disruptive force in the neighborhood, we live off of Dixboro road as well.

We all need to be part of the solution of this national problem.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey and Cynthia Colton  
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor

March 17, 2023

Dear Mr. Schwartz and Superior Township Trustees,

I urge you to embrace Garrett's Space's services and population.

I devoted nearly 40 years as a physician caring for the medical and emotional needs of teenagers and young adults at the Corner Health Center in Ypsilanti. From that service, I can tell you the young adults served by Garrett's Space aren't from "elsewhere". They are "our" young adults. They are from every town and township, including from Superior Township, in Washtenaw County.

The young adults served by Garretts Space suffer from depression and anxiety, as do a substantial percentage of young adults. These problems are rampant. With shocking frequency, they contribute to suicide risk. When suicide occurs, it takes an incalculable toll on family and other loved ones. For those who are considering suicide, but who receive inadequate or no treatment, their suffering dramatically decreases their ability to productively engage in relationships, school, and work. The overall impact on the community is devastating.

Garrett's Space can provide desperately needed support to young adults seeking to develop the skills and resilience to successfully manage their depression and anxiety.

These young adults do not pose a risk to the safety of others. The only risks they pose are to their own safety.

Another concern I've heard regards property values possibly declining. As someone who recently moved from Ann Arbor to a neighboring township, I looked for a property near an organization like Garrett's Space which promises to value, nurture, and conserve a beautiful, minimally developed neighboring property. Such a neighboring property would increase the value of a property to me, not lower it. So, I think the property value concern isn't well founded.

Should Superior Township grow in ways which foster diverse approaches to enhancing wellness and preserving greenspace, including the addition of Garrett's Space, it will continue to be a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,

David Share MD, MPH  
dshare@umich.edu

Superior Township Board of Trustees  
March 20, 2023

My name is David Wiss. I am a resident of Fleming Ridge Dr, a street that was carved out of the Serras property about 25 years ago.

I am not particularly happy to be here tonight. I put faith in our zoning maps and future land use maps and since so many aspects of this rezoning violate both the zoning ordinance and the Master Plan, I don't know why the Trustees are even giving this project any oxygen.

The minutes from the December Trustee meeting state "Supervisor Schwartz met with the land planner from Garrett's Space. They plan to purchase the land owned by Ellie Serras to start a center for mental health help for young adults..." There is no mention that a rezoning is required. I hope we get a fair hearing and this is not a done deal as is implied in the minutes.

Garrett's Space's founders boldly state that this facility will be the first like it in anywhere in this country. It is experimental. There are no standards for this kind of facility. They will be learning as they go. There is a lot of room for errors and in this business, errors can be fatal. By placing it in a residential area, those of us nearby are guinea pigs in this experiment. It is a massive liability for the community and the township.

You may call us Nimby's but as I see it, this is a project that is not suitable for ANY backyard. It needs to be somewhere with the appropriate zoning and appropriate infrastructure.

Dr. David Wiss  
Fleming Ridge Dr.  
Ann Arbor (Superior Township) MI

**From:** Diana Dyer <[dianadyera2@gmail.com](mailto:dianadyera2@gmail.com)>

**Date:** March 20, 2023 at 4:11:10 PM EDT

**To:** Ken Schwartz <[kenschwartz@superior-twp.org](mailto:kenschwartz@superior-twp.org)>, Laura Bennett <[planning@superior-twp.org](mailto:planning@superior-twp.org)>, Lynette Findley <[lynettefindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettefindley@superior-twp.org)>, Lisa Lewis <[llewis@superior-twp.org](mailto:llewis@superior-twp.org)>, "Nancy Caviston, Trustee" <[education@superior-twp.org](mailto:education@superior-twp.org)>, Bernice Lindke <[blindke@superior-twp.org](mailto:blindke@superior-twp.org)>, Bill Secrest <[BSecrest@superior-twp.org](mailto:BSecrest@superior-twp.org)>, Rhonda McGill <[rmcgill@superior-twp.org](mailto:rmcgill@superior-twp.org)>

**Subject:** Garrett's Place Rezoning Concerns and Comments

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [dianadyera2@gmail.com](mailto:dianadyera2@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Laura Bennett and all members of the Superior Township Board of Trustees,

As residents of Superior Township (your constituents), we have strong concerns about the proposal to rezone the 69 acre parcel of land at 3900 N. Dixboxo to allow a medical facility for Garrett's Space, a residential treatment facility for young adults with depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts.

We specifically purchased our home in rural Superior Township because of the combined residential neighborhoods and agriculture with the assurance that the township's strong Master Plan and guidelines on zoning would maintain and protect this unique environment.

While we support the mission of a facility such as Garrett's Space, we encourage the founders and supporters of this new medical residential treatment center to look for options that do not require our Board Trustees to vote against our collective Superior Charter Township Master Plan.

Thank you.

*Diana & Richard Dyer*

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Diana & Richard Dyer  
5846 Becky Ln, Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
Superior Township

**From:** Eileen Mollen <[mollenet@umich.edu](mailto:mollenet@umich.edu)>  
**Date:** March 20, 2023 at 5:22:56 PM EDT  
**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettefindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettefindley@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject:** Support for Garrett's Space

You don't often get email from [mollenet@umich.edu](mailto:mollenet@umich.edu). [Learn why this is important](#)

Ms. Findley,

I am writing this letter to support Garrett's Space in Superior Township. I am a psychologist (retired) who has worked with young adults and their families with anxiety and depression for my entire career. I have witnessed their frustration with the lack of developmentally appropriate services available to these young folks that could have made them feel seen, heard, less isolated, supported and informed regarding their options to address their distress. These wellness services could very well be the lifeline to help these young people thrive and critically for some, avoid suicide as a solution to their pain.

The Halperts have conceptualized and created Garrett's Space based on their own experience of what was lacking in the community for their son who tragically lost his life to suicide. They have unselfishly worked toward a wellness program that could prevent other young adults and their families from experiencing the same tragedy. The Halperts have been very thoughtful in their planning, engaging the top mental health specialists and practitioners in the area to ensure quality, effective and nurturing wellness programming. This is not a mental hospital and they are explicit that they are not treating those with serious mental illness.

Nationally and statewide, as well as locally, we all acknowledge that more must be done to address mental health in our young people, especially in the wake of Covid. This is one ideal strategy. We now have the opportunity to implement a program that could do just that. I urge you to support this endeavor on behalf of the young adults who could greatly benefit.

I am also a neighbor of the proposed site. I live in Fox Hollow Commons and I have no concerns with safety as Garrett's Space has been conceptualized.

Thank you for your support of this important program.

Eileen Mollen, PhD  
Psychologist (retired)

**From:** Ellie Serras <ellieserras@gmail.com>

**Date:** March 16, 2023 at 8:50:17 PM EDT

**To:** Ken Schwartz <kenschwartz@superior-twp.org>, Lynette Findley <lynettefindley@superior-twp.org>

**Subject:** 3900 N. Dixboro Rd and Garrett's Space

Dear Ken and Lynette

I own the home and 76 acres at 3900 N. Dixboro Road in Superior Township. We built the house in 1994 and have lived there ever since.

My late husband, Dennis, and my daughter suffered from depression and addiction. I know firsthand the devastating effects of a mental illness.

I, and my daughters know there is a critical need for the treatment of young adults suffering from depression and we strongly believe in the ability of Garrett's Space to fill that need.

We believe they are the right buyer so much that we have contributed significant financial concessions for the purchase. We all believe this is the perfect environment for a healing sanctuary and it saddens me that what should be a no-brainer - taking care of our troubled youth - can apparently fall victim to some of our more base interests and fears.

If I wanted to make money from the sale of the property - I'd build a dozen McMansions while cutting down trees, destroying natural habitats, bringing in heavy equipment to construct roads, and driveways before construction of the houses even begins...

Garrett's Space intends to preserve the natural integrity of the property as it is and create a haven for healing.

The combination of helping people through the use of a beautiful natural open space is the best use we could've ever imagined. For ourselves and our neighbors.

Garrett's Space recognizes the value of open space as a healing environment and will preserve the integrity of the land honoring its inherent tranquility as a sanctuary for young people.

The **REAL FEAR** for all of us to address – as I see it - is not how this will affect one neighborhood –

But the **VERY REAL FEAR** of **WHERE WILL OUR CHILDREN GO WHEN THEY NEED HELP?**

**This is our opportunity to do what's good for the community as a whole and  
Take into account how that will affect everyone's health and wellbeing.**

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

Ellie Serras

734-646-7087 cell

"Run to the rescue with love and peace will follow" River Phoenix

Download the Brain Plasticity Ukulele Collective (BPUC) cd now!!! at  
<https://brainplasticityukulelecollective.bandcamp.com/releases>

**To: Board of trustees, Superior township**

From: Erin J. Lindsay, Dino L. Garzaniti

5457 Warren Road, Superior twp

Between Dixboro rd and Vorhies rd.

My name is Erin Lindsay, **my husband and I object to the spot rezoning of 3900 Dixboro rd.** We both agree that medical facilities are extremely important in addressing and treating troubled, suicidal, possibly violent patients. The current proposal for 3900 Dixboro is to be owned and run, not by qualified doctors and qualified nurses but by the Halperts who have absolutely no training to supervise or treat these volatile, potentially dangerous men wandering the property.

The property at 3900 Dixboro rd, is currently zoned A2, agricultural with all the properties surrounding it zoned agricultural as well. These properties are single family homes with yards that all run together. **There are no property fences, barriers of any kind.** Many of these homes have yards that directly border 3900. Many of these homes have **numerous young defenseless children who play in the yards that actually touch 3900.** There is nothing preventing the volatile, possibly schizophrenic, potentially violent patients from crossing onto any of our personal property and approach our children or ourselves.

Would ANY of you, trustees, vote to allow any troubled, suicidal, possibly violent men, 18 to 28 years old to be housed in a completely unsupervised, unfenced yard directly **next to your back yard where your children are paying?** Certainly Not.

**Our number one requirement as parents is to protect our children at all cost.** Also, there are many elderly residents here who would never be able to defend themselves if approached and attacked by these strong, adult men.

This proposed spot rezoning directly **violates Michigan law** and if allowed sets very dangerous precedent for other spot rezoning for individual properties that the owners cannot sell for their desired prices.

There are **many available local properties available** for a Garrets Space type facility that does not require rezoning of a currently peaceful, safe, residential neighborhood.

Please join with us to reject rezoning and allow us to **keep this pristine, safe for children environment.**

Thank you for your time to read this,

Sincerely, Erin Jessica Lindsay & Dino L. Garzaniti

3-20-23  
Erin Lindsay  
Dino L. Garzaniti



Stephan Taylor, M.D.  
3629 Tanglewood Dr

Gregory Dalack, MD.  
3717 Creekside Court  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

March 19, 2023

Subject: Garrett's Space Site Plan Application to Superior Township Zoning Board

Lynette Findley  
Superior Township Clerk

Dear Ms. Findley;

We are writing to express our strongest support for an application submitted by Garrett's Space, an Ann Arbor based suicide prevention nonprofit, regarding their efforts to rezone a 76-acre property located at 3900 N. Dixboro Road to allow its use for as a holistically focused residential center for young adults struggling with depression and anxiety. The goal of this critical project is to save lives, the lives of the children of this community. Many of us struggle with depression or anxiety, and all of us know someone who does. Whether we are rich or poor, doctors, lawyers, nurses, small business owners, corporate CEOs, construction workers, road crew workers, in retail, teachers, etc., we are not immune to depression or anxiety. We are not immune to suicide, and neither are our children. Young adults are particularly vulnerable, are poorly served by current mental health infrastructure, and are particularly tragic to lose to suicide before they have a chance to get their feet underneath themselves and move into full adulthood. Garrett's Space is designed to offer a lifesaving kind of support to these young adults.

We have lived in Superior Township for many years. We share a deep love of this area with our neighbors. We are deeply committed to the beauty of the area, the safety and well-being of everyone who lives here, and the natural tranquility of our neighborhoods. We understand that for many local residents this type of proposal triggers anxiety or even fear, but we have extensive first-hand experience with the type of young people whose lives might be saved by this retreat, and we know that they pose no danger to our community. As described by the Garrett's Space founders: "The young people we'll be supporting are coming to GS voluntarily seeking a lifeline to find connections, support and hope. We will not be serving young people who are actively suicidal or those with psychosis or mania or who represent a danger to others. We will conduct rigorous screening of our applicants and continue to assess them while they're with us." Moreover, we will be providing assurances in our agreement with the Township that our use and target population won't change during or after our tenure." As psychiatrists, we know that the young adults we serve in our Michigan Medicine Department of Psychiatry are our kids and your kids. They are not outsiders. They are us. They are not dangerous. They are

our community's future. We cannot afford to lose more of them, at a naturally tumultuous time of life, while we all try to survive in an unnaturally tumultuous time in history.

We have been impressed by the passion and professionalism shown by Scott and Julie Halpert in developing their novel concept of a haven for young adults who are struggling during critical transitional years. We are impressed by their passion for this property and by their commitment to its preservation as a place of peace, tranquility and beauty. They have a beautiful vision for this property and a vision that is much more in concert with the kind of world we all want to live in than that of the most likely alternative purchasers. They will cherish and protect this property, and use it to make a better more caring world, not develop or parcel it for profit.

Garrett's Space is already filling a local void for those who can benefit from short-term support at a critical transition point in their lives. It is already working hard to save lives that are all too often tragically lost to emotional struggle during a very challenging time of life. The full enactment of the Garrett's Space vision can pave the way for long term healing for the many vulnerable young adults amongst our kids, yours and mine, now and in the future.

In advance of your public hearing we would appreciate you sharing this with other members of the board as an additional voice in strong support to bring Garrett's Space into our Superior Township.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephan Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephan Taylor, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry  
University of Michigan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory W. Dalack". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gregory W. Dalack, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry  
University of Michigan

March 17, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

We write this letter to communicate our considerable apprehension regarding the rezoning and subsequent approval of the property directly behind our home for Garrett's Place. We have six children, ranging in age from 14 years old down to one year old. We moved to Ann Arbor in 2016 and lived here for a year before choosing and purchasing the property we live on, directly bordering the property in question. We specifically chose to build on the property we have for its location and for the ability of our children to have safe space to live and grow up.

We deeply believe in the mission of Garrett's Place and the issue of suicide, especially in this age bracket, is quite close to our hearts. However, we are against the rezoning of this property for Garrett's Place because while we acknowledge that the location may be beneficial for the operation, it is not beneficial for those who already live in the surrounding areas. It is not appropriate to move a mental health facility into a residential area for many reasons. There is a lack of ability to enforce physical boundaries: it has been made clear to residents that there will be walking trails built into the woods adjacent to the property. Those woods directly border our own property. We feel that this is a direct threat to our children's way of life and their freedom to move around on our property without worry.

Further, it is ethically imperative to guarantee the highest quality mental health treatment to those entering the facility. It should not be a concern of theirs whether there are neighbors that their presence will disturb, yet this is absolutely the case here. Also, it is unclear how the stability of the patients of Garrett's Place can be ensured to the surrounding residents. How can one know for certain that people who have struggled with previous suicidality and/or depression or other mental health issues will at no time become actively suicidal? The implications of this are incredibly concerning.

We additionally believe that rezoning this property will set a precedence for other properties in the area, threatening to destroy the atmosphere many have worked to create of a place that is not a downtown hub. On one hand, we recognize the need for Garrett's Place but we also feel that choosing this location will change residents' capacity to sell their homes, if the need arises. Another point that has us concerned is that fact that 75% of our property is designated as Wetlands. We are the property at the lowest point with the surrounding properties at a higher elevation. Several years ago, we experienced the flooding of Fleming Creek that came too close for comfort. What would a new facility housing ~30 people~ do to our water table, waste/sewage, the wetlands, etc?

We would like to reiterate that we support those working to aid in mental health struggles, such as Garrett's Place. Theirs is a noble and worthy mission. We hope that they are able to find a more suitable location elsewhere. The property they are currently attempting to rezone is inappropriate and jeopardizes the quality of life the surrounding residents have already cultivated. We stand firmly against the decision to rezone this property.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Stephen and Krista Henley

March 17, 2023

Dear Dr. Findley,

I am reaching out to you as a concerned citizen to express my support for Garrett's Space. I understand there has been some controversy around their acquisition of land, and I just wanted to add my voice to the chorus of voices calling for approval of this vital space for our young people.

The mission of Garrett's Space is close to my heart. I am a social worker, a mental health researcher, and a parent of a small child. In 2019, **I lost my little brother Daniel to suicide**. He was 21. Like Garrett and so many other young people struggling with depression and anxiety, Dan was a sensitive soul. **Gentle, kind, generous, reflective and artistic, he was keenly attuned to both the beauty and suffering around him**. Eventually, despite our efforts to connect him with therapy, medication, in-patient care, and personal and professional support, Dan lost his battle with depression. On May 13, 2019, he took his own life.

That heartache is a loss I would wish on no one. Yet far too many people share in this pain. I know of at least two men who were at Dan's funeral who have since died by suicide. I can't think of a person under 25 I know who hasn't struggled with mental health challenges. Nationally, 70% of teens are estimated to be struggling with depression and anxiety. Suicide is the leading cause of death among youth and young adults in Michigan. *What are we to do about this?*

Julie and Scott Halpert, Garrett's parents, have worked tirelessly to build the kind of programming and holistic space that young people like Garrett and Dan could have benefitted from: **a serene, healing place where they are seen, heard and welcomed**; where their sensitivity can be explored, not as a burden, but as a gift. It breaks my heart to hear that, out of concern for property values, a few angry neighbors would seek to keep a mission like this from moving forward. What does that tell our young people about their place among us? What does that say about their future?

Our world seems to be in crisis right now— politically, socially, economically, interpersonally, spiritually. Not a realm is untouched. It's no wonder so many young adults feel hopeless and overwhelmed. We don't need people to tear down. We need people to build up. We need healing, community, restoration, peace, activism, support. When these neighbors rally against "delinquents" infiltrating their neighborhood and hurting their quality of life, I wish they could hold in mind Dan, sitting under a tree sketching quietly in his sketchbook or strumming his guitar singing the Beatles beside a creek. This is who they are fighting. It may well be that their own children and grandchildren, their loved ones, could one day be served by this space.



Thank you for your public service, and for listening to our voices. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything else I can do.

All my best,

Charity M. Hoffman, PhD, MA, MSW  
Qualitative Research Specialist  
Department of Psychiatry  
University Michigan  
charityh@umich.edu

**From:** Inge Miller <[inge.miller@gmail.com](mailto:inge.miller@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** March 20, 2023 at 7:52:43 AM EDT  
**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettfindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettfindley@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject:** Support for Garrett's Space

You don't often get email from [inge.miller@gmail.com](mailto:inge.miller@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Dr. Findley,

I am writing in support of Scott and Julie Halpert and Garrett's Space. My family, and in particular, my oldest daughter, knows the Halpert family and knew Garrett when he was in high school and college. What a wonderful young person he was and how kind he was to play tennis periodically with a much younger player from the neighborhood. He was a fabulous influence on our daughter who now plays tennis for the University of Michigan.

Our family was devastated to learn of Garrett's passing in 2017. I have been lucky to be a supporter and peripheral part of Garrett's Space since early on and I was so excited to learn of the property Scott and Julie found in Northeast Ann Arbor. It is such a perfect setting to accomplish the wonderful goals that the organization has set forth. It saddens me to think that neighbors and community members can't understand the need for this organization in our community and the amazing contribution and tireless efforts that Scott and Julie have poured into this endeavour to help young people from the community by providing them with connection, activities, hope, and community. The evidence can be found in Scott's letter as to the need for this space.

Having raised and still raising three children, ages 21, 18, and 12 in the Ann Arbor community, there is no shortage of evidence that mental health is a constant concern for many parents. If you don't have children in this age group or don't keep up with the effects of social media, the lingering effects of the pandemic, or even just read or watch the news regularly, it might be easy to dismiss this issue or think that your own child would never need these services. It would also be easy to judge these young people and think that they are not worthy of a space like this. Frankly, I feel sorry for the neighbors that are lashing out against this proposal. I believe that Garrett's Space would actually add value to the neighborhood and community. I also believe that this arrogance and ignorance will catch up with these families one day in the future when they realize the intrinsic value that such a well-run, community-oriented, and forward-thinking organization will bring to the Ann Arbor community.

Please allow Garrett's Space to move forward with their plans - for the sake of our youth and our future. I am extremely confident that Julie and Scott will ensure that Garrett's Space is a thriving, welcoming, safe, and upstanding organization resulting in a positive impact to the community and neighborhood in which it resides. This has been their mission since 2017. There are no better people or more qualified organizations in existence than Julie, Scott, and Garrett's Space.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. I can be reached at this email or 734-358-0977.

Sincerely,

Inge Miller and children Kari, Reese, and Grant Miller

**From:** Irv Leon <[irvgleon@gmail.com](mailto:irvgleon@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** March 18, 2023 at 7:10:53 PM EDT  
**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettfindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettfindley@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject: Re: Support of residential treatment setting for Garretts Space in Superior Township**

You don't often get email from [irvgleon@gmail.com](mailto:irvgleon@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

On Sat, Mar 18, 2023 at 4:06 PM Irv Leon <[irvgleon@gmail.com](mailto:irvgleon@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Dear Dr. Findley,

I wish to heartily support the establishment of a residential center for depressed and troubled adolescents and young adults in Superior Township. While I can understand the self-protective concerns of local citizens there over the possibility of disruptive young people, several points need to be made. As a clinical psychologist who specializes in bereavement and loss issues, I am aware of no study that suggests having such a center would jeopardize the local community in any fashion. Instead having a place to address the concerns and needs of such children and young adults is more likely to help them rather than hurt local residents. Ironically the local opposition to such a center—as well intended as it might be—illustrates the vital need for such a treatment setting. That is, it is the stigma and myths about the dangers of those struggling with depression and mental health issues that need to be challenged in order to reduce the isolation and estrangement of those young people from the general community which Garretts Space seeks to do.

Garretts Space is an innovative and effective treatment model that based on its uniqueness and well thought out goals may become a blueprint for like centers in other places. Their efforts to address the problems of young people in our area should be admired and emulated rather than thwarted.

Sincerely,  
Irving Leon, Ph.D.  
Clinical Psychologist  
Adjunct Associate Psychologist of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Michigan Medicine

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**Irving G. Leon, Ph.D.**  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Adjunct Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Michigan Medicine  
Email: [irvgleon@gmail.com](mailto:irvgleon@gmail.com)

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**Irving G. Leon, Ph.D.**  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Adjunct Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Michigan Medicine  
Email: [irvgleon@gmail.com](mailto:irvgleon@gmail.com)

March 19, 2023

Subject: Garrett's Space Site Plan Application to Superior Township Zoning Board

Lynette Findley, Superior Township Clerk

Dear Dr. Findley;

As a proud resident of Superior Township, I am writing in support of the application submitted to Superior Township's Zoning Board, by Garrett's Space, the Ann Arbor-based suicide prevention, nonprofit organization. They request the Township to rezone the 76-acre property located at 3900 N. Dixboro Road, so that the site can be used to house a short-term residential center for young adults who are struggling with depression and anxiety, and are at risk of suicide.

Scott and Julie Halpert, along with too many others, lost their son to suicide, and were motivated to create the kind of supportive environment Garrett needed, but that was not available. They, along with the Board and highly skilled staff of their center, have worked toward creating a holistically focused, short term residential program in a quiet environment, for young people who need more support than they can receive from outpatient therapists.

We have all heard about the increase in mental health concerns among young people over the past several years. Garrett's Space currently serves 25 young adults in the greater Ann Arbor area through virtual support groups. The goal of the proposed residential center on N. Dixboro Road is to provide care for those 18-28 years old who are not in need of hospitalization. They are in need of support, however, and of effective strategies to help them cope. The plan is for 15 to 20 residents to stay overnight at the center for three to four weeks, with another 10 young adults to visit for day programming. Garrett's Space plans to use the existing home for group activities and administrative offices, and to build an 11,000 sq. foot residential center, and 2,000 sq foot creative space for yoga, dance and art activities. Both of these facilities will be built in an area that is out of the line of sight from the nearest neighbors. They also plan to maintain a buffer zone of 200 feet around the perimeter of the property.

I have heard that neighbors are concerned about the presence of this type of program on that land, as they feel it will put them and their families at risk. I understand that people who wish to stay at the residential center are carefully screened for admission; those who cannot safely handle being in such a program will not be admitted. Other facilities in the Ann Arbor area address the needs of those suffering from substance abuse disorder, those who are recently incarcerated, and those with serious mental illnesses. The Garrett's Space is not designed to assist them.

The residential program will be generously staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, with qualified professionals trained in providing supportive care to young people. I am impressed with the strong financial support members of our community have extended to Garrett's Space in recognition of the great need. We are extremely fortunate to have this type of program available to our youth who will benefit from it and urge the Zoning Board to approve the rezoning request.

Sincerely,

Janet R. Gilsdorf, MD

5796 Tanglewood Drive, Ann Arbor, 48105





Washtenaw County Health Department

March 17, 2023

Lynette Findley, Township Clerk  
Superior Township  
3040 North Prospect  
Superior Township, MI 48198  
[lynettefindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettefindley@superior-twp.org)

RE: Garrett's Space

Dear Trustee Findley and fellow Trustees,

Washtenaw County Health Department is writing to urge you to support Garrett's Space proposed residential center in Superior Township. Mental health remains a top concern across our county, and especially in the eastern side of the county where health issues are often more [prevalent](#), and access is frequently more challenging. At the same time, data shows youth mental health has worsened over time and continues to decline.

Over the last decade, the percentage of students across every racial and ethnic group who felt persistently sad or hopeless has [increased](#) (p 59-60). In Washtenaw County, nearly 40% of all 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders surveyed reported feeling sad or hopeless every day for the past two weeks in 2022. This is up from 28% in [2012](#).

While Washtenaw County is fortunate to have a higher number of health and mental health professionals than other areas, it is not enough and not accessible enough. We hear consistently that community members across our community struggle to get needed mental health care or crisis care. Again, this is with the relatively greater number of resources available locally and the local millage investments. There are not enough crisis resources, treatment options or prevention services available to shift current trends.

If any of you have tried to support a loved one seeking mental health support, you have seen that the system is fragmented and difficult to navigate. We can and should do better as a community. The center proposed by Garrett's Space will offer an incredible opportunity for healing and growth to young people. Services like this provide hope and tangible options for shifting the worsening mental health trends among young people.

Importantly, such resources provide incredible value where they are located and broadly to our entire community. The Superior Township location is extremely accessible to the community, while providing an ideal healing environment in nature. We hope you will consider the many benefits of establishing this center and provide full your support.

Thank you,



Jimena Loveluck, MSW, Health Officer

Washtenaw County Health Department  
555 Towner Street • Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
Phone: 734-544-6700 • Fax: 734-544-6705  
[washtenaw.org/health](http://washtenaw.org/health)



Environmental Health Division  
705 N Zeeb Road • Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
Phone: 734-222-3800 • Fax: 734-222-3930  
[washtenaw.org/envhealth](http://washtenaw.org/envhealth)

**Kathy Power**

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**To:** Board of Trustees, Superior Rowshop  
**Cc:** Planning Commission, Superior Township

We live at 5075 Warren Road, Superior Township, and have done so for nearly 30 years.

We believe that the spot zoning proposal for 3900 Dixboro Road, now under your consideration , is inconsistent with long-established housing and zoning practice in his neighborhood.

Philip and Kathy Power

**From:** Linda Lampman <[llampman1417@gmail.com](mailto:llampman1417@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** March 18, 2023 at 8:58:38 PM EDT  
**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettfindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettfindley@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject:** Support for Garrett's Space

You don't often get email from [llampman1417@gmail.com](mailto:llampman1417@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Lynette,

I understand that there is opposition to the proposed purchase of land in Superior Township that would be Garrett's Space, a place for young adults to share challenges, support one another, gain critical connections when they feel lonely, and realize that they are not alone in their struggles. As a Stephen Minister at First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor, I am acutely aware of what an impact this space would be for an important population in our city. Individuals who struggle with mental health issues need compassion, understanding and contact with others as they work to regain their equilibrium. Being a hub for so many college students, Ann Arbor has the unique privilege and challenge to support each one of them however we can. To imagine that there are people who would be more interested in protecting their property values than in helping to improve the lives of these individuals is immensely distressing. It is not hard to do the right thing and I'm hoping that the public hearing on Monday evening will result in Superior Township doing the right thing with their support of Garrett's Space.

Most sincerely,  
Linda Lampman  
1417 Granger  
Ann Arbor 48104

Superior Township Trustees  
March 20, 2023

My name is Margi Brawer. I am a Superior Township resident and President of the Fleming Ridge Homeowners Association.

I have talked to many a neighbor regarding the rezoning and, I would like to say, across the board, people broadly support Garrett's Space's mission and the need for alternative mental health treatments. Our issue is with the rezoning, not the organization. Two separate things.

My neighbors and I have been called Nimby's and worse, but I tend to believe most of you would react the same way under the same circumstances. It is ironic that a few of the 5 township residents who wrote letters of support in live in a gated community.

I don't know if the folks at Garrett's Space were living in an echo chamber or had amassed so much political power that they believed the rezoning was a foregone conclusion, but there is a shocking sense of entitlement. Many people in my neighborhood feel intimidated and fear recrimination if they speak out publicly. This organization, which is focusing on psychological support and is asking us to trust their ability to screen participants, did not foresee or seem to care about the distress and harm they would cause the community by their proposal.

So I ask, try a little empathy. Stand in my shoes. Let me tell you how I read Garrett's Space website and media blitz. I see this development as an adjacent, underfunded, untested residential treatment facility for unstable young adults who are escaping volatile living environments on a site that lacks water, sewer, and secured borders, and so yeah, I think, "what can go wrong?" These aren't irrational impossibilities. These are facts as presented to us. There are too many "what-if's" to feel comfortable in what Garret Space calls an "increasingly complicated and complex world".

Zoning and the Master Plan are residents' insurance that development will be rational and predictable. It is why I checked these planning documents before purchasing my home. I agree-our corner of the township is a slice of heaven. We owe that to our zoning and our Master Plan laws. Zoning runs with the land; this rezoning is a permanent change to our neighborhood.

I do take issue with the notion that this specific property is critical to Garrett's Space success. While I don't know the deal Garrett's Space struck with the property owner/benefactor, nor do I know the details of their federal funds, and personally, I don't understand the need for a multimillion dollar architecturally significant structure, but I do know there are other properties that are equally bucolic, appropriately zoned and available. I also know that rezoning this property runs counter to the Master Plan and our laws and is bad precedent for every resident living in Superior Township.

Margi Brawer  
Fleming Ridge Dr  
Ann Arbor (Superior Township) MI

TO: LYNETTE FINDLEY - Superior TWP CLERK

RE: 3900 DIXBELL RD PROPOSED REZONING.

FROM: MARK BENJAMIN - 3971 FLEMING RIDGE DR. 48105

I WOULD LIKE TO STATE MY OPPOSITION TO  
THE PROPOSED REZONING FOR "GARRETS SPACE".

THIS IS A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD, NO  
PLACE FOR A LARGE MEDICAL FACILITY.

Sincerely

MARK BENJAMIN - HOME OWNER.

Mark Benjamin

March 20, 2023

To: Superior Township Board of Trustees  
Cc: Laura Bennett, Planning and Zoning Administrator  
Superior Township Planning Commission

From: Mary Glencer  
3955 Vorhies Road

Re: Proposed Rezoning for Garrett's Space

I am here today to voice my strong opposition to the proposed rezoning of 3900 N. Dixboro Road, currently the site of a single family home, from A2 to medical services facility to create a residential treatment center for young adults with depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

Placing a medical services facility in the middle of a rural residential neighborhood is incompatible with surrounding land uses and would permanently alter the character of the neighborhood. The proposed rezoning is also not compatible with our township's master plan. As such, it would be considered spot zoning, which I believe is illegal, and would set an unwanted precedent for rezoning other large residential or agricultural properties for medical or commercial use.

I have been a township resident for over 35 years and have observed many changes in our neighborhood, but they have always been in keeping with the zoning laws and master plan of our township.

I have concerns that the co-founders of Garrett's Space, the Ann Arbor-based suicide prevention non-profit seeking the rezoning, could very easily change the target group for their holistically focused treatment facility if the rezoning is approved. In a June 12, 2019 Ann Arbor Observer article, co-founder Scott Halpert is reported as saying Garrett's Space will start with a mental health wellness program for young adults recently discharged from a psychiatric hospital. "The statistics show that's when they're at the greatest risk for suicide," he says

I also have concerns that the infrastructure at 3900 N. Dixboro Road is insufficient to support a medical services facility, the facility will require a huge parking lot to accommodate the staff, visitors and suppliers coming in and out on a daily basis, and the extra traffic and transient population of the proposed facility could have an adverse impact on the safety of neighbors in the area.

I hope that the township board and our planning commission will exhibit the backbone it will take to uphold our master plan and say "no" to this rezoning request, even though there is considerable pressure from outside our community to do otherwise.

**From:** Meredith Schindler <meredithschindler@gmail.com>

**Date:** March 16, 2023 at 8:54:08 PM EDT

**To:** Lynette Findley <lynettfindley@superior-twp.org>

**Subject:** Support for Garrett's Space

You don't often get email from meredithschindler@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Superior Township Board of Trustees,

I write today in strong support of the Garrett's Space project slated for Dixboro Road north of M-14. I am a resident of Superior Township, and I also am the Executive Director of Ann Arbor Academy, an independent school for students with autism, ADHD, and other learning disabilities and differences.

I see firsthand every day the terrible impact that poor mental health has on our students, and on our alumni. Young people with these disabilities are at greater risk for self harm and suicide, and we have lost at least 3 alumni to suicide in recent years. I want to make sure I am a part of helping to prevent any more lives being lost.

Often, suicidal young adults can move through their feelings of despair and their suicidal ideation with time, support, proper medication, and a safe haven where they can find their footing again. Too often, they don't get those supports, and, too often, they are lost. These are beautiful people, with so much to give the world, and we have proven ways to help prevent these tragedies. I just think it's imperative that we do all we can to make this project a reality.

I would have no problem living next to a healing center such as Garrett's Space. I know that people with depression are sometimes a danger to themselves, but they are not a danger to others. I also know that many people would love to be near a facility that demonstrates such care and compassion for some of our most vulnerable young people. We need more places like Garrett's Space, and the more local support we have, the more we show our nature as a community. That's a community I am proud to be a part of.

Thank you so much for your time,

Meredith Schindler

5880 Vreeland Road

734-476-6277

**From:** Nancy Leon <[nanleon@comcast.net](mailto:nanleon@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** March 18, 2023 at 7:10:44 PM EDT  
**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettfindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettfindley@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject:** Garrett's Space

[You don't often get email from [nanleon@comcast.net](mailto:nanleon@comcast.net). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Dr. Findley,

As a tutor for dyslexic youth and the parent of a 28 year old son, I am keenly aware of the challenges young people face as they grow up.

I knew Garrett Halpert since he was a toddler. Garrett and my son went to school and played together on sports teams. We were stunned and saddened when we heard about Garrett's suicide. We remembered his beautiful smile and fun loving nature, and couldn't believe he was gone.

His parents, Julie and Scott, have since worked tirelessly to educate and help others with challenging emotional problems. From the beginning, they hoped to found a center where young adults could find companionship, understanding, and support.

We have been donors, and were thrilled when we heard about the large natural property they found. It seems perfect for the kind of healing and accepting work they hope to provide. They have had expert consultation all along and have sound plans for a safe, controlled environment.

Having known Garrett and other young adults struggling with depression, I do not think there is anything for the neighbors of this large property to fear. Well screened clients

will be there voluntarily and work with highly qualified professionals. If anything, I think the young adults will feel safer within the privacy of this large property, away from neighbors.

I sincerely hope that the township can see the way to protect this very important project.

Thank you for reading this and please feel free to contact me if I can be of further help,

Nancy Leon

3117 Overridge Dr.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-355-5154



**From:** Ramona Parker-Muhammad <[ramonapm@comcast.net](mailto:ramonapm@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 1:19 PM

**To:** Bernice Lindke <[blindke@superior-twp.org](mailto:blindke@superior-twp.org)>; Rhonda McGill <[rmcgill@superior-twp.org](mailto:rmcgill@superior-twp.org)>; Nancy Caviston, Trustee <[education@superior-twp.org](mailto:education@superior-twp.org)>; Lynette Findley <[lynettfindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettfindley@superior-twp.org)>; Lisa Lewis <[llewis@superior-twp.org](mailto:llewis@superior-twp.org)>; Ken Schwartz <[kenschwartz@superior-twp.org](mailto:kenschwartz@superior-twp.org)>

**Subject:** Support of Garrett's Space rezoning

You don't often get email from [ramonapm@comcast.net](mailto:ramonapm@comcast.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon,

As a long time resident (35 years) of Superior Township, I am writing to ask your support of the rezoning and acquisition of property for Garrett's Space.

I am certain there are many in our community that have been impacted either directly or indirectly by suicide. This beacon of light in our community will save and change many lives. With it's holistically-focused approach for young adults ages 18 to 28, I believe it will be an asset to our community.

Their space will be immersed in nature and teach young adults healthy coping strategies like yoga, meditation, music and healthy cooking. They will provide peer support to help young adults realize they are not alone in their struggles.

While I am unable to attend the public hearing this evening, I do hope you will consider my support in moving forward with this mental health support option.

Sincerely,

Ramona Parker-Muhammad

# Memo

TO: Lynette Findlay  
Hand delivered to Superior Township

FROM: Roberta Colaner  
5209 Warren Rd.  
Superior Township Resident  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
Landline: 734-747-8356  
iPhone: 734-255-9570  
Email: [rjcolaner@comcast.net](mailto:rjcolaner@comcast.net)

DATE: March 21, 2023

Good Morning Lynette Findlay,

Enclosed is a copy of my notes I prepared prior to last night's meeting with the Superior Township Board.

My Neighbor just told me that I was supposed to have left a copy of my notes with you.

Please distribute to appropriate people.

Thanks so much,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roberta Colaner".

To: Superior Township Board of Directors      From: Roberta Colaner  
Superior Township Resident for 37 yrs  
5209 Warren Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
Landline-734-747-8356  
iPhone- 734-355-9579  
Email- [rjcolaner@comcast.net](mailto:rjcolaner@comcast.net)

March 20, 2023

As a resident of Superior Township, I was blindsided by the proposed Re Zoning our Neighborhood from "Agricultural" to "Medical Services District".

The Consensus of my Neighbors is that a Facility such as Garrett's Space is a worthy endeavor. The proposed location of this facility seems to be driven by the needs and wishes of Garrett's Grieving Parents and a former Neighbor and owner that has been trying to sell this property for over 10 years. There seems to be no consideration for the impact on our community verses the wishes of Grieving Parents and Property Owner.

There are so many rumors about this pending Zoning change and no sources available for what is true and what isn't. The fact that 4 Million Dollars has already been raised seems to support this Zoning change without the input from all the Residences that would be affected. We just keep being advised to write letters and send emails. Who knows where these letters and emails are going. To my knowledge no one has received any replies.

The proposed plans for a 12,000 foot Facility, Basketball Court, Swimming Pool and miles of Walking Trails are lovely. What is missing is any information on Security and deterrence that would keep Residents from walking into our yards in our Warren Rd. Neighborhood.

I have very personal experience with the Security Issue. I grew up in a working class neighborhood in Lansing, Michigan. We had lots of families with lots of kids. Behind the houses across the street from our Home was a National Gard Armory. This Armory had a very large field with make shift Baseball Diamonds, a Track and Football Field. As Children we spent hours playing in this field, coming Home for Meals and when the Street Lights came on. That was until The Boy's Vocational School opened up about a mile from our Street. This Facility had very high fencing and supposedly 'High Security'. Unfortunately it wasn't very effective. These troubled Boys with Mental Problems and Criminal Records would escape, run through the Armory Field and end up hiding in our Garages and breaking into our Homes. Two of my Childhood Friends were Sexually Assaulted are still suffering from their tragedy today. As a result of these incidents, as Children we weren't allowed to play outside without an Adult present. I'm so afraid that this will happen in our Warren Rd Neighborhood that has so many Families with young children that play in their yards, ride bikes, horses and take walks on Warren Rd. will need Adult supervision 24/7.

Please, please, please find another location for this much needed Facility. Young Men that are recently released from Psychiatric Hospitals will be recovering for the rest of their lives and in my opinion need for than 3 weeks in a parklike setting.

I was recently driving between Jackson and Ann Arbor on I-94. I noticed miles of wooded property flanking this Highway without any Residential areas. There would be plenty of room for the Facility that is being proposed in our Neighborhood. This location would also be close to Medical Facilities in Ann Arbor and Jackson.

Some Questions for Decision Makers:

- What Medical Staff would be at Garrett's Space?
- If our Zoning is changed, what would be the impact on our Property Taxes?
- What will be the Property Taxes for this Facility?
- Who will be the People that will be approving or not approving this Re Zoning Proposal?
- When will there be a Public Hearing for this possible Zoning change? It appears that this Facility is moving ahead very quickly without any consideration for the Residence of Superior Township
- Is the beautiful Home on the proposed property being gifted to Mr. & Mrs. Halpert as their new Home?

I look forward to hearing clarification on this possible major change in our Neighborhood and answers to my above questions.

I have every confidence that an appropriate location for this much needed Facility can be found that won't be so devastating to so many Families in Superior Township and the Neighborhood we Love!

Sincerely,  
  
Roberta Colaner

**From:** Jean Rosella <[jmr4000@hotmail.com](mailto:jmr4000@hotmail.com)>

**Date:** March 20, 2023 at 3:04:44 PM EDT

**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettfindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettfindley@superior-twp.org)>, Ken Schwartz <[kenschwartz@superior-twp.org](mailto:kenschwartz@superior-twp.org)>, Rhonda McGill <[rmcgill@superior-twp.org](mailto:rmcgill@superior-twp.org)>, Bill Secrest <[BSecrest@superior-twp.org](mailto:BSecrest@superior-twp.org)>, Bernice Lindke <[blindke@superior-twp.org](mailto:blindke@superior-twp.org)>, "Nancy Caviston, Trustee" <[education@superior-twp.org](mailto:education@superior-twp.org)>, Lisa Lewis <[llewis@superior-twp.org](mailto:llewis@superior-twp.org)>

**Subject:** IMPORTANT--Response to Martha Merritts' letter to Superior Township

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [jmr4000@hotmail.com](mailto:jmr4000@hotmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

To All Concerned:

Because we are anticipating a large gathering at tonight's meeting, we ask that, in assisting with time, this letter be filed appropriately, or read by a Board Member at the meeting, in Response to Martha Merritts' letter. Thank you.

Dear Board of Trustees:

This letter is in response to the Martha Merritts' letter to you expressing her "fervent support for the approval of the Garrett's Space (sic) plan for 3900 N. Dixboro Road (the Serras' estate)." Merritts acknowledges that, last year, she was approached by Julie and Scott Halpert, who were in search of "vacant land in a natural setting." Apparently, Julie and Scott were looking for this land in Superior Township. (Please note that we did not become aware of the Garrett-Space plan until February of this year.)

Why are Julie and Scott Halpert looking for such land in Superior Township? Well, as Merritts so eloquently states in her letter, "Superior Township residents LOVE our nature, animals, quiet and privacy." Merritts could not be more correct. And, let it be known again, that those are precisely some of the stated reasons we oppose the request for the rezoning of the Serras' estate. In fact, Warren Road, from Dixboro Road to Vorhies, is declared a "Natural Beauty Road," and is therefore not paved, so we who live in close proximity can enjoy "quiet and privacy."

Merritts also acknowledges that "vacant land in Superior Township is fiercely protected from high-density development." Again, Merritts is correct. And, again, we agree. In fact, it should be noted that, in 2019, Merritts and her husband were fervently opposed to such high-density development, specifically the Champions Sports center. At the public hearing, on April 24, 2019, Merritts stated her reasons for opposing the center. She "expressed concerns with potential crime (could this be the fear as a motivator which she referred to in her letter about us) that the development could lead to. She also explained how the rural nature of the Township lead her to build her home here." Her husband expressed "concerns the development could have on the water table." Sound familiar. Yes, you have received calls and letters from many of us expressing those stated reasons as the reasons that we oppose the

rezoning of the Serras' estate. However, it appears that Martha Merritts has changed her mind, which she is allowed to do. The question, however, is why? We pose that question to the Board.

As you know, the Serras' estate has been on the market since August 2014, at which time the listing price was \$3,250,000. From that time forward, the price has changed four times—from the initial listing price to \$2,600,000 to \$2,250,000 to \$3,670,000 to the present price of \$4,820,000. (We question why the price is so high now when an apparent federal grant is involved.) Also, during the last nine years, the listing was removed four times. Apparently, the Serras' property was a difficult piece of property to sell. So, now, when our properties cannot be sold, we turn to the Township and ask them to rezone our properties so they can be sold? We ask the federal government for a grant? Is this a precedent that should be introduced? Is this going to be the future of Superior Township property development? There are many pieces of property in our area with acreage that could be rezoned into various high-density developments. A property of such nature that comes to mind is the property at the corner of Warren and Vorhies Roads. The property is huge and if it were on the market and could not be sold, could it be the next property to be rezoned for high-density development or a medical facility? This is just something to think about.

To address those in support of the rezoning of the Serras' estate, let it be said that the majority are not Superior Township residents. Some that do live in Superior Township live about four miles away in gated communities. Why did they choose to live in a gated community? Fear as a motivator? Safety as a motivator? Population as a motivator? Also, the Serras' chose to live with much privacy—it is necessary to know the code to enter the property because it is gated. Question—what was the motivating factor?

Merritts' letter refers to those of us opposed to the rezoning of the Serras' property as "NIMBYS." If this acronym is being used to define us as objecting to a development that will affect our homes and properties, then we are "NIMBYS." But if it is being used as mocking us as being opposed to the undertaking of a project that could potentially benefit adults, ages 18 to 28, who are depressed and possibly suicidal, then she is blatantly wrong. This ad hominem attack is being used to confuse what is the actual objection here, and simply stated, we are opposed to the rezoning of the property on which the Serras' home is located. We take offense to the indirect reference that we are inhumane and that we are not friendly to what could be a valuable resource in the community. Not one of us has taken that position. Rather it has been stated many times that we all empathize with Julie and Scott. What they experienced is totally unimaginable. Unless one has walked in their shoes, one cannot imagine the grief. Let us not confuse the two issues.

We also note that Julie and Scott have done much work in regard to the development of Garrett's Space. In fact, their who's who's list is quite impressive and intimidating. They have networked in many ways—to physicians, social workers, etc., at the University of Michigan and other surrounding universities, and to many political representatives in our area and state, as well as to many in the arts industry. They no doubt have done their homework. We believe that

the networks that they have formed would allow them to develop Garrett's Space in an area already zoned for such developments.

Thank you, for your attention to this matter.

Best Regards,  
John and Jean Rosella



## WASHTENAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

2140 E. Ellsworth  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
Phone: 734-222-6869, Fax: 734-222-3225



*EXCELLENCE GROWTH WELL-BEING INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY*

March 18, 2023

Subject: Garrett's Space Site Plan Application to Superior Township Zoning Board

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH) Youth and Family Services I am writing this letter of support in favor Garrett's Site Plan Application. WCCMH provides mental health services for youth, young adults, and their families in our community. We have experienced a recent rise in young people struggling with their mental health and in need of additional support.

When a young person is in extreme emotional distress, the potential of suicide escalates. Parents express concern for their child's mental health and are often unsure how best to keep them safe. The state has a shortage of psychiatric beds for youth and adolescents, and hospitalization is not always the best treatment option. Families can find themselves unable to identify the right treatment for their child that is going through a mental health crisis. This can result in unnecessary and preventable suffering, loss, and grief.

Our agency has experienced an increased need for support services for adolescents and young adults afflicted with mental health challenges and having thoughts of suicide. There is an overwhelming need for care alternatives in our community and throughout the state. A treatment option in a healing environment that focuses on the holistic needs of youth and young adults can provide the necessary support to significantly reduce the risk of self-harm. Having an organization taking a proactive approach to increase access to supportive treatment would be a tremendous asset to our local community

In advance of your public hearing, we would appreciate you sharing this letter with the other board members as an additional voice in strong support of Garrett's Place. They are uniquely situated to provide a safe space for adolescents and young adults to go when they need mental health services when they need it most.

Building capacity to address critical and essential mental health needs of youth will ultimately improve health outcomes and could prevent a tragedy. As a mental health professional who specializes in working with youth and their families, I offer my full support for Garrett's Space Site Plan Application.

If you need any additional information, please contact me at 734-368-8794.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Spring-Nichols RN, MS*

Elizabeth Spring-Nichols RN, LBSW, MS  
Washtenaw County Community Mental Health  
Program Administrator, Youth & Family Services  
2140 Ellsworth, Ann Arbor MI 734-368-8794  
[springe@washtenaw.org](mailto:springe@washtenaw.org)



**From:** sharon stetz <[sharonpstetz@gmail.com](mailto:sharonpstetz@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 9:03 AM

**To:** Ken Schwartz <[kenschwartz@superior-twp.org](mailto:kenschwartz@superior-twp.org)>

**Subject:** Garrett's Space

You don't often get email from [sharonpstetz@gmail.com](mailto:sharonpstetz@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mr. Schwartz and Superior Township Board Members:

I am writing to show support for the Serras property to be used for Garrett's Space which is an effective, life sustaining program. The mental health needs of our youth are omnipresent and can't be ignored. Personal stigma is the reason why most individuals don't seek treatment and institutional stigma is the reason why we are having this discussion today. The best way to reduce stigma is by talking openly, educating and encouraging equality and empowerment. And I do believe that Washtenaw County is filled with educated and empathic individuals who want to leave the next generations with hope through genuine solutions.

Respectfully,

Sharon P. Stetz, PMHNP-BC

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health  
University of Michigan Addiction Treatment Services  
Dawn Farm

**From:** Preston Family <[nakamurapreston@gmail.com](mailto:nakamurapreston@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** March 17, 2023 at 2:58:34 PM EDT  
**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettefindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettefindley@superior-twp.org)>  
**Cc:** Board <[board@superior-twp.org](mailto:board@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject:** 3900 Dixboro Rezoning

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from [nakamurapreston@gmail.com](mailto:nakamurapreston@gmail.com).  
Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hi Lynette,

Will you please add my name to the list of individuals opposed to rezoning this property? I spoke at last months board meeting and my wife Yume Preston also wrote a letter.

Thank you and have a great weekend!

Steve Preston  
3979 Fleming Ridge Drive  
Ann Arbor 48105

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Tony S <[suareztr@gmail.com](mailto:suareztr@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 4:39 PM

**To:** [yettefindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:yettefindley@superior-twp.org); Lisa Lewis <[llewis@superior-twp.org](mailto:llewis@superior-twp.org)>; Nancy Caviston, Trustee <[education@superior-twp.org](mailto:education@superior-twp.org)>; Bernice Lindke <[blindke@superior-twp.org](mailto:blindke@superior-twp.org)>; Rhonda McGill <[rmcgill@superior-twp.org](mailto:rmcgill@superior-twp.org)>; Bill Secrest <[BSecrest@superior-twp.org](mailto:BSecrest@superior-twp.org)>; Ken Schwartz <[kenschwartz@superior-twp.org](mailto:kenschwartz@superior-twp.org)>; Laura Bennett <[planning@superior-twp.org](mailto:planning@superior-twp.org)>

**Subject:** RE-ZONING of 3900 Dixboro...Mar 20 Mtg Packet

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [suareztr@gmail.com](mailto:suareztr@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Board Members and Officials,

Regarding the packet for the Board Meeting for March 20:

You have included many letters from non-residents that support the "concept" of Garrett's Space. The support of the "concept" and the support of a "location" are two different discussions.

**The township should be focusing on ONLY letters from township residents who are for and against RE-ZONING.**

All other letters indicating non-resident's approval for the "concept" should not be included for RE-ZONING discussions.

When shopping for property I chose a location zoned correctly for my usage. Others should do the same. Or what is the value of a Master Plan?

**Please put this "concept" in an area already ZONED for this type of usage.**

Regards,

Anton and Beth Suarez

5092 Warren Rd

**From:** Susan Todoroff <[todoroffs@namiwc.org](mailto:todoroffs@namiwc.org)>  
**Date:** March 17, 2023 at 9:35:14 PM EDT  
**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettfindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettfindley@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject:** Garrett's Space

[You don't often get email from [todoroffs@namiwc.org](mailto:todoroffs@namiwc.org). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Ms. Findley,

As the parent of a young adult with a history of mental health challenges, I fully support the building of a physical space to support the work Garrett's Space is trying to do. Had there been a place like this when my daughter was suffering at her worst, we may have avoided many hours in hospital psychiatric emergency rooms, not to mention many days and weeks at-a-time of severe family struggles. Garrett's Space is needed to help young adults and the families who love them to heal and learn how to move forward. This facility would provide services that are normally not available, yet vastly needed. As a volunteer for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of Washtenaw County, I know the tremendous need for the kinds of services Garrett's Space would provide. Good, loving families are hurting because the lack of effective, compassionate resources are not available.

I feel fortunate that Julie and Scott Halpert are passionate about bringing Garrett's Space to our community. It would be a wonderful benefit, and a model for other communities to follow. I hope you do what you can to see that this projects moves forward and eventually becomes a reality.

Sincerely,  
Susan Todoroff



## WASHTENAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

555 Towner Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
Phone: 734-544-3050, Fax: 734-544-2906



*EXCELLENCE GROWTH WELL-BEING INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY EQUITY*

March 20, 2023

Subject: Garrett's Space Site Plan Application to Superior Township Zoning Board

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH), I am writing this letter of support in favor of Garrett's Space Site Plan Application. WCCMH is a primary provider of mental health services for youth, young adults, and their families in our community.

Washtenaw County has experienced a recent rise in young people struggling with their mental health and in need of additional support. Our Mobile Crisis Team is responding most frequently in our community to 20–30 year-olds and we have seen a sharp increase in the amount of young people we are serving. Prior to the pandemic, our Youth and Family team was treating roughly 800 young people and now we are serving over 1,000 and completing roughly 100 new client intakes per month. Since last year we are seeing a rise in serving 21% more young people than in 2021. Simultaneously, the state has a shortage of psychiatric beds for youth and adolescents, and hospitalization is not always the best treatment option.

Families can find themselves unable to identify the right treatment for their child that is going through a mental health crisis. This can result in unnecessary and preventable suffering, loss, and grief.

There is an overwhelming need for care alternatives in our community. Having an organization take a proactive approach to increase access to supportive treatment would be a tremendous asset to our local community.

In advance of your public hearing, we would appreciate you sharing this letter with the other board members as an additional voice in strong support of Garrett's Space. They are uniquely situated to provide a safe space for adolescents and young adults to go when they need mental health services when they need it most. Building capacity to address critical and essential mental health needs of youth will ultimately improve health outcomes and could prevent a tragedy. As a specialty mental health provider that specializes in working with youth and their families, I offer my full support for Garrett's Space Site Plan Application.

Sincerely,

Trish Cortes, WCCMH Director

**From:** Wayne Stark <[stark@umich.edu](mailto:stark@umich.edu)>  
**Date:** March 18, 2023 at 10:32:10 AM EDT  
**To:** Lynette Findley <[lynettefindley@superior-twp.org](mailto:lynettefindley@superior-twp.org)>  
**Subject:** Rezoning 3900 Dixboro

You don't often get email from [stark@umich.edu](mailto:stark@umich.edu). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Ms Findley,

We wish to add our names to the list of people opposed to the rezoning of the 3900 Dixboro property. Many others have articulated well the reasons why this is not in the best interests of the residents and taxpayers of the local neighborhood. While we support the concept of Garrett's Space, that is not the issue here. The issue is the rezoning of this property to a medical services district. We oppose this rezoning.

Sincerely,

Wayne and Karen Stark  
5277 Warren Road

## **Kathy Power**

---

**To:** Board of Trustees, Superior Rowshop  
**Cc:** Planning Commission, Superior Township

We live at 5075 Warren Road, Superior Township, and have done so for nearly 30 years.

We believe that the spot zoning proposal for 3900 Dixboro Road, now under your consideration , is inconsistent with long-established housing and zoning practice in his neighborhood.

Philip and Kathy Power