

**Carlton County
Coordinator/HR Office**

301 Walnut Avenue, Rm. 214
PO Box 510
Carlton, MN 55718
Phone: (218) 384-9141
Fax: (218) 384-9196
www.co.carlton.mn.us

Carlton County

County-wide newsletter brought to you by the County Coordinator's Office

Issue 02 April / May / June 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Pg. 2 . . . 2020 Census
- Pg. 2 . . . County Board Meetings
Go Live
- Pg. 3 . . . Child Care Community
Solution Action Plan
- Pg. 3 . . . EAP
- Pg. 4 . . . Let's Get Acquainted

Carlton County Public Health & Human Services and Emergency Management Share More About the Structure Behind the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Q: What is the Incident Command System?

A: The Incident Command System (ICS) is defined as a management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operating within a common organizational structure. ICS was developed for many professions to use the same operating structure when responding to an emergency.

Q: Why do we use ICS to respond to emergencies?

A: This system is scalable and flexible based on the size and complexity of the incident. The ICS organizational structure usually includes five major functional areas: command, operations, planning, logistics and finance & administration. Each role in the ICS structure has specific roles and responsibilities that can be adapted for any incident or emergency. ICS is organized in a structure using chain of command which creates efficient communication among all staff responding to the incident or emergency. County staff who would be called upon in an emergency are regularly trained and practice scenarios using the ICS structure. This training and exercising combined with existing emergency preparedness plans makes implementation during the time of an emergency flow smoothly.

Q: What is the Emergency Operations Center?

A: The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is physical location where all coordination of incident response activities takes place. Staff who are assigned to ICS roles responding to the incident or emergency usually work at the EOC to better coordinate the response. The EOC takes requests for resources, coordinates communications and overall supports the incident response.

Q: Why did Carlton County Public Health and Human Services (CCPHHS) activate the EOC for COVID-19 response?

A: Because COVID-19 is a public health emergency, CCPHHS took the lead on the response and activated the Department of Operations Center on March 24, 2020 in coordination with the Carlton County Sheriff's Office and GIS. The Department of Operations Center (smaller version of ICS organizational structure) later transitioned to an EOC at the same physical location to better coordinate the COVID-19 response between multiple county and community agencies. CCPHHS activated Carlton County's Pandemic Response Plan right away in the response and worked together in the EOC to do extensive "behind the scenes" planning to make sure residents are as protected as possible.

Q: Currently, which roles are being filled in the Carlton County Incident Command Organization Structure to respond to COVID-19?

A: All general and command staff roles (unified command, operations, planning, logistics, finance & administration, public information officer, liaison officer(s), subject matter expert and emergency management) are filled to respond to COVID-19. We have also added the following branches under operations and logistics during the response: behavioral health, point of dispensing, case investigation/contact tracing, sheltering, essential services, long term care and personal protective equipment distribution. It is the highest priority of the County that the work completed within these roles is comprehensive enough to keep our residents as safe, healthy, and prepared for the pandemic as possible.

Please visit <https://www.fema.gov/> for more information on the Incident Command System and Emergency Operations Center. View the [COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Carlton County](#).

2020 Carlton County Board of Commissioners



Dick Brenner
Member
218.879.5572

District 1
Dick.Brenner@co.carlton.mn.us



Marv Bodie
Chairperson
218.879.2085

District 2
Marv.Bodie@co.carlton.mn.us



Thomas Proulx
Vice-Chairperson
218.348.4288

District 3
Thomas.Proulx@co.carlton.mn.us



Mark Thell
Member
218.384.3878

District 4
Mark.Thell@co.carlton.mn.us



Gary Peterson
Member
218.380.4949

District 5
Gary.Peterson@co.carlton.mn.us

*Board meetings are held at the Transportation Building on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. and the 4th Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

2020 Census - Who To Count

Before completing the 2020 Census, you need to know where to count yourself and who to count with you in your home.

Where You Are Counted

The goal of the 2020 Census is a complete and accurate count of everyone living in the United States and its five territories. You should count yourself at the place where you are living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020 (Census Day).

For some, this is straightforward. But others including college students, service members, and people in health care facilities may have questions about where they should count themselves or how they should respond. Other circumstances can cause confusion as well such as moving, having multiple residences, having no permanent address, living in a shelter or living at a hotel or RV park. For more details about where people are counted, view the [Official Residence Criteria](#) for the 2020 Census.

Count Everyone Living With You

If you are filling out the census for your home, you should count everyone who is living there as of April 1, 2020. This includes anyone related or unrelated to you who lives and sleeps at your home most of the time.

Please be sure to count roommates, young children, newborns and anyone who is renting a space in your home. If someone is staying in your home on April 1 and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them in your response to the 2020 Census. If someone such as a college student is just living with you temporarily due to the COVID-19 situation, they should be counted where they ordinarily would be living on April 1, 2020.

Please count everyone living in your home. Where there are more people, there are more needs. An accurate count helps inform funding for hospitals, fire departments, schools and roads for the next 10 years. *(Article credit: <https://2020census.gov/>)*



Carlton County Board Meetings Go Live

The Carlton County Board recently made the decision to livestream the regular county board meetings. The meetings occur twice each month and are normally scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month and 4:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. The Board's monthly Committee of the Whole meeting is not currently livestreamed as it is a working meeting and no official action can be taken at that meeting.

The Board has livestreamed the past three County Board meetings. The Board welcomes and encourages the public to listen to these meetings live or at a later time using the playback feature on the county website. Each meeting will be uploaded to the county Civic Plus Website within a day or two of the actual meeting.

The public can access the livestream meetings by visiting the [County Board of Commissioners webpage](#) and clicking on Carlton County CivicMedia. To view past meetings, the public can visit the [CivicMedia webpage](#).

To date, the livestream feature has been viewed by an average of 200 people. The June 22nd meeting had 225 views, which is far more people than could be accommodated in the current boardroom. If all goes well, the plan is to continue to livestream the meetings even after the COVID-19 pandemic abates. The next Carlton County Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14th.

Carlton County is Pleased to Announce the Availability of a Child Care Community Solution Action Plan

Carlton County has been participating in the Rural Child Care Innovation Program conducted by First Children's Finance since fall 2019. The Rural Child Care Innovation Program is a community engagement process designed to address the challenges of child care in rural America and to develop right-sized solutions to address the needs of child care and early education in the communities selected to participate. Close to a dozen applications statewide were submitted and Carlton County was among the initial communities selected.

Over the past six months, First Children's Finance and Carlton County completed an analysis to determine the child care need in the community and identify challenges faced by the existing child care programs. On January 14, 2020 there was a community wide Town Hall meeting that allowed participants to learn about the results of the analysis and to identify potential child care solutions that would support the existing workforce along with adding additional child care slots.

The analysis showed a shortage of over 600 child care slots in Carlton County. While the population grows, the number of family child care providers in the county has decreased. Waiting lists for child care are long. Lack of child care can create challenges for those raising families in the area as well as making it more difficult for employers to attract and retain employees. This impacts the rural economy. Potential solutions from the community conversations focused on things like growing business and community supports for child care providers such as employer sponsored slots, increased resource sharing and local training, identifying shared spaces for providers to support financial viability and working for change on legislative and county government levels. There has been broad community interest and engagement on the issue with a number of local groups and businesses moving forward with plans to add child care in their organizations.

Child care challenges affect all community members as the current pandemic has underscored. Whether one has children in need of child care or relies on essential workers with children to have care available so they may provide essential services, child care is vital to the community.

Carlton County and First Children's Finance are pleased to announce that the Child Care Community Action Plan is available for anyone that would like to learn more and is located at www.ruralchildcare.org.

Founded in 1991, First Children's Finance is a national nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis, Minnesota with regional offices in Iowa and Michigan. First Children's Finance works to stabilize, improve and expand high-quality child care businesses serving low and moderate-income families. First Children's Finance provides financing, child care business training and consulting and builds partnerships that connect child care businesses with the resources and expertise of the public and private sectors.

For more information about First Children's Finance visit www.firstchildrensfinance.org or contact Patricia Welsh at PatriciaW@FirstChildrensFinance.org.

For more information about the specific work happening in Carlton County or to get involved please contact Tess Christensen at (218) 451-6514 or tess.christensen@co.carlton.mn.us.

TACKLE TOUGH TIMES

BUILD RESILIENCE TO OVERCOME ADVERSITY.

The Employee Assistance Program offers no-cost, confidential support to help you meet life's challenges.

Contact the EAP Today
PHONE 1.800.550.6248 ONLINE SandCreekEAP.com

YOUR EAP IS SIMPLE TO USE. IT IS CONFIDENTIAL. IT HELPS.

Employees, their spouse and dependents have access to no-cost counseling services statewide through their employment with an MCTI public entity member.

mcti

Carlton County Committee's

Building Committee -
2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m.
(Transportation Building -TB)

Committee of the Whole -
1st Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. (TB)

Diversity Committee -
3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
(PH&HS)

Finance Committee -
1st Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. (TB)

Policy Committee -
3rd Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m.
(Law Enforcement Center - LEC)

Management Team -
1st Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. (TB)

Supervisors Committee -
3rd Thursday quarterly at 2:00 p.m.
(Varies)

Wellness Committee -
2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m.
(PH&HS)

For a more detailed Carlton County
Committee list [click here](#).



Are you interested in submitting
an article in the next Carlton
County Newsletter? Email or mail
your articles and pictures by the
September 18, 2020 deadline to:

Shanny Hurst
Carlton County Coordinator's Office
P.O. Box 510
Carlton, MN 55718
shanny.hurst@co.carlton.mn.us

*Please note that all submissions are
subject to editing, as needed.

Let's Get Acquainted with Carlton County Public Health Specialist

Let's get acquainted
with Carlton County
Public Health Specialist
Jenny Barta.

What role do you play at Carlton County?

I have worked at
Carlton county as
a Public Health
Nurse in the Family
& Community unit
since 2007 and
recently accepted a
position as a Public
Health Specialist in
Population Health
Specialities in 2018. In
this role I coordinate
many programs,
including WIC,

NE Region Peer Breastfeeding Support, Disease Prevention & Control (DP&C) and Immunization Services. As a coordinator, I work with our WIC team to provide nutrition and breastfeeding education to WIC-eligible women, helped to implement the transition from voucher food benefits to an eWIC card system in 2019 and also co-lead the WIC Peer Breastfeeding Support program for the 7 counties in the Northeast. In Disease Prevention & Control, I coordinate and provide education and vaccination services within Carlton County, including county employee, school-located and community outreach for influenza, Hepatitis A and other vaccines. My current role in DP&C is as the Carlton County Incident Command Team COVID-19 Subject Matter Expert. This has been a challenging and humbling role as I continue to learn more each day about this new strain of Coronavirus and help to develop and implement county-wide guidance documents and answer COVID-19 related questions.

What work experiences and education led you to a career at Carlton County?

I was born and raised in Duluth and attended the College of St Scholastica, graduating in 2002 with a BAN in Nursing. While in school, I took a course in Public Health Nursing and had my clinical experience at Carlton County. It was then that I was introduced to, and developed a passion for, public health. After graduating, I began my career as a Registered Nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, working in Neuro/Head & Neck, and Pediatrics for 4 1/2 years. It was a rewarding experience, but when a part-time position as a home-visiting Public Health Nurse opened up at Carlton County, I jumped at the opportunity! I enjoyed working as a home-visiting nurse for two years before transitioning to WIC and DP&C.

Tell us a little something about your family.

My parents always encouraged me and my siblings to try new things, even if it was something they had never done before. So when I wanted to play an instrument, start cross country skiing and go into the medical field, they supported me. They helped instill a life-long love in me to explore and learn. My husband Dan and I call Carlton County home and are trying to provide these same opportunities for our four children. We love to camp, ski, bike and explore national & state parks together as well as play various instruments and a variety of sports closer to home. One of our favorite things to do in the summer is to explore Northern MN, its many state parks and small towns. We are so fortunate to be able to live and work in such a beautiful area of our country!



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."