



## Jackson County Department of Public Health

Melissa McKnight  
Deputy Health Director  
828-587-8288

2020-19  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 13, 2020

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT PARTNERS WITH 4-H YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL TO COMPLETE YOUTH-FRIENDLINESS ASSESSMENT

For the past 40+ years, the Jackson County Department of Public Health (JCDPH) has provided a comprehensive Family Planning Program to our community. Through this program, men and women are able to access medical appointments, education and counseling, as well as all types of birth control for low- or no-cost. Staff at JCDPH empower men and women to consider all options for birth control that best fit their lifestyle so that they can better care for themselves and their families.

In late January, JCDPH teamed up with the Jackson County 4-H Youth Leadership Council to assess our agency using guidance from the University of Michigan's Adolescent Health Initiative for Youth Friendly Services. Members of the Council came onsite to meet with and interview staff, walk through the agency, as well as complete an assessment. Members also provided feedback on ways JCDPH could improve its service delivery, reach more young people, and more. JCDPH has already begun to find ways to incorporate their advice into service delivery and has additional future plans in place.

This type of youth-led decision making falls in line with the rebranding of **May as Sex Ed for All Month** from Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. JCDPH is proud to be partnering with the 4-H Youth Leadership Council and working to give young people the information they need to make family planning decisions for themselves.



*Jackson County 4-H Youth Leadership Council Members provide feedback on Health Department services, décor, marketing, and more. From left around the table: Delaney Rodriguez, Norah Rubel, Anna Morgan, & Lindsey Stack*

###