

**Resolution to Implement Health in All Policies in Blair County**

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of the residents of Blair County are critical for a prosperous and sustainable Blair County;

WHEREAS, the Blair County Planning Commission has been engaged with WalkWorks, a program created to increase opportunities for physical activity and, ultimately, to improve the health status of the residents of Blair County;

WHEREAS, there is consistent epidemiological evidence that demonstrates that physical activity is a major modifiable risk factor in the reduction of morbidity and mortality from many chronic diseases;

WHEREAS, there is growing awareness that health is influenced by the interaction of many factors and not simply by genetics, individual behavior, or access to medical care and it is now widely accepted that conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, and age – known as the social determinants of health – have the greatest influence on health outcomes across populations;

WHEREAS, the social determinants of health affect chronic disease rates, mental illness, injuries caused by accidents and violence, they also influence the adoption of healthy lifestyles by making it more or less difficult for individuals to choose behaviors that either promote or diminish health;

WHEREAS, policies implemented by Blair County – beyond the traditional health sector – significantly affect the social determinants of health, including policies related to planning, land use, transportation, public safety, education, economic development, sustainability, climate change, parks, air and water quality, criminal justice, food access, and housing;

WHEREAS, interagency collaboration can lead to improved decision-making and outcomes and greater efficiencies in service delivery; and

WHEREAS, by adopting a “Health in All Policies” approach, the Blair County Planning Commission recognizes that diverse governmental entities and stakeholders have a role to play in attaining the highest level of health for all people and simultaneously advance other goals such as promoting economic stability, transportation access and mobility, a strong agricultural system, environmental sustainability and educational attainment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that it shall be the policy of the Blair County Planning Commission to apply a Health in All Policies approach to the County’s decision-making by considering the inclusion of “health” in all future policy development and implementation, budgeting, and delivery of services.



Chairman





Secretary

October 27, 2016