

## NEWS RELEASE

### Public input requested for Oakland County shelter assessment best practices

*Virtual meeting hosted by Commissioner Gershenson, Team Shelter USA to take place March 31*

**March 24, 2021, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI.** – Commissioner Marcia Gershenson and Team Shelter USA will be hosting a virtual best practices presentation from 5 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31. They are seeking questions and comments related to the ongoing shelter assessment of Oakland County's Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center.

"Public input is very important because our animal shelter is here to serve Oakland County residents," Board Vice Chairwoman **Marcia Gershenson** (D-Bloomfield Township) said. "Volunteers and staff work around the clock to keep shelter animals safe and healthy, and we need to be sure the public's needs are also being met."

Dr. Sara Pizano, founder of Team Shelter USA, is currently conducting a shelter assessment of the Oakland County Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center. In her presentation, she will speak about safety net programs to keep pets with their families and how best practices help improve the lives of shelter animals.

Citizens must [RSVP for the event by completing the form](#) located at <https://bit.ly/BPP0331>. Participants will receive an email with a link to join the meeting by Tuesday, March 30. Anyone interested in submitting questions or comments should email them to Amy Aubry at [aubrya@oakgov.com](mailto:aubrya@oakgov.com) by Tuesday, March 30.

"We have a world-class facility and want to make sure the staff and volunteers have the information required to best support our community," Commissioner **Michael Spisz** (R-Oxford) said. "We look forward to this assessment and community input to better assist Oakland County in running a top-notch animal shelter."

In June 2020, the Board passed a resolution authorizing a shelter assessment of the Oakland County Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center to provide an outside, independent review of the facilities and operations, offer recommendations for improvement (if appropriate) and make policy recommendations

to align with animal welfare/sheltering best practices. Shelter assessments often result helping more pets and people in the community and through the shelter.

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