

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Friday, May 1, 2020
Meeting via Zoom

Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman, Town of Stockbridge
Loren Corbin, Town of Brookfield
Joe Magliocca, City of Oneida
Eve Ann Shwartz, Town of Hamilton
James Goldstein, Vice-Chairman, Town of Lebanon

Others Present

Mark Scimone, County Administrator
Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services
Tina Louis, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health Services
Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency
Tina Wayland Smith, County Attorney
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services
Samantha Field, Public Information Officer
Deanna Matt, Confidential Secretary, Public Health Services

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Alex Stepanski called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m., indicating that there was a quorum for the Health and Human Services Committee.

Approve Minutes

The Health and Human Services Committee reviewed the meeting minutes for February 25, 2020. Correction to be made under Department of Social Services – Expenditure and Case Summary. A motion to approve the minutes with correction was made by Supervisor Joe Magliocca seconded by Supervisor Loren Corbin and carried unanimously.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer provided an update on the Veteran's Service Agency. Assisting veterans remotely, and staff are working 4-5 days each week. 276 contacts made in February, and though closed part of March 279 contacts were able to be made.

Flags for Veterans process follows the funeral home submitting an application that Veteran's Services brings to the post office which produce a flag for the Veteran at no cost.

Social Services

Commissioner Fitzgerald provided updates from the Department of Social Services which have been open throughout the "Pause".

- Staffing

- Most staff are working remotely, which has been working well.
- Though financial programs cannot work remotely, therefore staff in those divisions have been in the office but no more than 25 at a time.
- Cases have been extended out through July and August.
- New SNAP applications have seen a 70% increase, likely due to increase in job loss.
- The homeless rate has increased by 40% and is also contributed to hardships resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.
- Decrease in Medicaid
- Commissioner Fitzgerald is heading up the Human Services and Not for Profit Sector of the Madison County Recovery Task Force
- Discussion occurred regarding barriers in high speed internet access, transportation, childcare services
- Overall revenue stream is stable as the State is continuing to provide reimbursement – though cuts can occur with little to no notice

Youth Bureau – Tina Louis

- New Visions program moving into 2nd year – resolution going through BOS

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook provided an update of Mental Health.

- All clinic operations have been moved to remote either via phone or video, and have seen the same amount of appointments as if conducting face to face.
 - Although the lengths of the appointments vary due likely to children not being able to sustain long phone calls – this may impact revenue.
- Still receiving new clients on intake
- Expanded crisis call line during the day full time
 - 170 crisis calls have come in since March → 5 to 10 calls per day plus new requests
- Have hired 2 Nurse Practitioners which have been working out well
- MH continuing to offer support to other Departments – this has had a positive outcome so far
- Director Cook is representing Mental Health on the Madison County Recovery Task Force

Public Health

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

- Since County offices closed, PH staff have been working 7 days per week
- Some program staff have been able to work from home since the beginning through telehealth and phone.
- Many programs have been postponed
- Restaurant complaints that have come in are mainly related to COVID-19 complaints

- Hotspots
 - o The Grand in Chittenango has several positives, but has protocols in place and continuing best practices
 - 16 Madison County residents positive – most of the staff live in Onondaga Counties and are counted in their numbers
 - o Greenhouses in Wampsville
 - 6 workers positive
 - Setting up testing site for Saturday 5/2 through New York State
 - Many workers reside in local hotels
 - Greenhouse itself has good procedures in place – the issue seems to be outside of it. MCDOH has been providing guidance there since February, and the Greenhouse leaders have been working with us all along
 - o Possibility of more supplies coming to test all staff and residents at all adult homes and facilities
- Positive cases outside of 2 hotspots have been on a slow decline
- MCDOH does not have the capacity to test – all testing in the County being done at the 2 hospitals.
 - o Governor Cuomo has allowed pharmacies to conduct diagnostic testing
 - Unaware of what County pharmacies will be testing – Dougherty’s Morrisville has inquired though unsure if decided to test at either locations
 - Logistics to be determined
- If NYS requires testing to be done for Recovery, MCDOH will need staff to provide contact tracing
 - NYS has stated that contact tracers will be trained and available for County PH Departments to use. MCDOH prefers tracing to be done by those who have medical background.
 - Mental Health Staff would be good options
 - MCDOH has utilized the Medical Corp Reserve and has had a number of retired nurses and doctors come back to assist

Preferred Agenda

No preferred agenda

County Reopen

Working internally to devise a plan for reopening – will likely start with a “soft” opening of County offices and services before general public and all businesses.

- Approval to come for plans once proper protocol are in place.
- The option to work-from-home will be utilized as much as possible.
- Highway Department will start work up again on Monday with guidelines provided by MCDOH.
- May BOS meeting will be held via Zoom

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to adjourn the meeting at 12:09pm, seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously

Request made to get back onto routine meeting schedule.

Next meeting: May 26, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski