

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 19, 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

Tricia Platt, Deputy 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

Kathryn Scheirer, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator

Deanna Matt, Confidential Secretary, Public Health Services

**Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Alex Stepanski called the meeting to order at 10:30 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 May 1, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes with correction was made by Supervisor Loren Corbin seconded by Supervisor Joe Magliocca and carried unanimously.

**Veterans Agency**

Director Ron Raymer provided an update on the Veteran's Service Agency. Continuing to assist veterans remotely, though some staffing has been done in the office to support 9-5 calls. Plans in place to maintain social distancing in the office, and clients are continuing to be served despite COVID-19 restrictions.

Discussion occurred detailing Memorial Day ceremony schedule and plan for compliance with safety and social distancing.

## **Social Services**

Commissioner Fitzgerald provided updates from the Department of Social Services which have been continuing to work through the shutdown with many staff working remotely; some are being called back in this week. Commissioner Fitzgerald outlined the plan to start foster visits back up. The Department has seen an increase in SNAP applications with online access allowed by the state; also an increase in homelessness.

Director Tina Louis reported on the Youth Bureau, stating that staff continue to support Public Health and OEM. Discussion occurred regarding summer programs and children's camps and ways in which programming will continue. Director Louis is awaiting guidance from the state regarding final allocations.

## **Mental Health**

Director Teisha Cook provided an update of Mental Health, and introduced the new Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator Kathryn Scheirer who will be taking over where Kim Centore stepped down. Telehealth services have continued throughout the closure, and the Department is getting approval to continue offering telehealth services as a regular method of treatment. Some staff have network challenges at home so will be in the office to conduct remote visits; most staff are continuing to work from home.

## **Public Health**

Director Eric Faisst state that staff have been fully involved with response to COVID-19, and have been in the office 7 days a week since March. Focus has moved onto testing and increasing those numbers, but we are seeing a challenge in getting people out to get tested. Over the last 10 days there have been 1-2 new cases per day, and there has been no spread since Greenhouse targeted testing – 97% of sick Greenhouse workers have recovered. There are testing activities planned this week with the Upstate mobile testing unit in Wampsville on Thursday, and Morrisville on Friday. Walmart will begin testing on May 22, which will be self-administered. All 3 sites are by appointment only. Nursing homes have mandated testing that will start this week, and have supplies sent from the state. Other programs and activities within the department have still been occurring in Early Intervention, Rabies Investigations, and vaccinations for other illnesses. Staying with criteria for region to sustain phases of opening with a regional goal of 750 tests per day, the region is averaging 1400 per day already, and will easily maintain with nursing home and regional testing. Contact Tracer numbers are reached within the Department, and extra volunteers also trained. Greenhouse has been given 60 days to complete the migrant housing. The Department is working on permitting of hotels for housing needs. Discussion occurred regarding the Amish community and their compliance with social distancing, and practices with gatherings for different kinds of services. The Health Department does have contact within that community, and have been in contact. Discussion of occurred regarding testing sites in Madison County. There are no location in Madison County to get tested without an appointment. Criteria still needs to be met.

## **Preferred Agenda**

No preferred agenda

## **Executive Session**

Motion to move into Executive Session was made by Supervisor Jim Goldstein at 11:29am, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Motion to end Executive Session was made by Supervisor Jim Goldstein, seconded by Supervisor Eve Shwartz and carried unanimously.

## **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Supervisor Jim Goldstein to adjourn the meeting at 11:52am, seconded by Supervisor Eve Shwartz and carried unanimously.

**Next meeting:** June 23, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski*