

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 25, 2020
Meeting via Zoom & In-Person

Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman (In Person)
Loren Corbin, Town of Brookfield (Via Zoom)
Eve Ann Shwartz, Town of Hamilton (Via Zoom)
James Goldstein, Vice-Chairman, Town of Lebanon (Via Zoom)

Others Present

Mark Scimone, County Administrator
Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services
Steven Chaires, Deputy Commissioner, Social Services
Tina Louis, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health Services
Shawn Prievo, Director, Public Health Services
Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency
Tina Wayland Smith, County Attorney (Via Zoom)
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services (Via Zoom)
Jim Monfort, CCSI Financial Consultant (Via Zoom)
Kathryn Scheirer, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator (Via Zoom)
Samantha Field, Public Information Officer
Cindy Edick, Treasurer
Antara Mitra, Community Action Program (Via Zoom)
Michele Browell, Confidential Secretary, Social Services

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Alex Stepanski called the meeting to order at 10:35 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 July 28, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer provided an update on the Veteran's Service Agency. The Agency is continuing to assist veterans through email, Facebook, phone and through the mail. They are making limited visits if needed. Training is being completed on-line and at a reduced cost or at no cost. Client contact for the end of July was 368 and so far for August is 267.

Director Raymer presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2020 Adopted County Budget

A motion by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Social Services

Commissioner Fitzgerald provided the 2019 Annual Report to the Committee. The Commissioner's Report was reviewed, the caseload expenditures through July are at 58%. Everything is within budget except for Foster Care which a budget transfer is being done. There have been no placements done under Raise the Age and the budgeted amount will be reduced for 2021. Day care is currently down due to parents out of work or working from home. This will likely change once school starts. There is not a waiting list at this time for day care. It is not clear if the 20% state aid will be cut for this program.

Commissioner Fitzgerald and Deputy Commissioner Steve Chaires presented the 2021 budget summary. There will be a reduction in overall appropriations. There is a slight reduction in local cost. It is not clear which programs will have the 20% of state aid cut or if it will be across the board. The complete budget will be presented to the Budget Committee on September 14th and more details will follow as it becomes available.

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Renew an Agreement with BRiDGES

A motion by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Renew an Agreement with Community Action Program, Inc.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Renew an Agreement with Community Action Program, Inc.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Renew an Agreement with Madison County Office for the Aging.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Renew an Agreement with Stoneleigh Housing, Inc.

A motion by Supervisor Shwartz to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairman Goldstein and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Renew an Agreement with VenTek, Inc

A motion by Supervisor Shwartz to approve the resolution seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Modification of the 2020 Adopted County Budget

A motion by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Modification of the 2020 Adopted County Budget

A motion by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook and Jim Monfort from CCSI Financial Consultant presented the 2021 budget summary for Mental Health. They are budgeting conservatively for revenue as they did in 2020. Some cost savings are the Upstate Psychological Services are ending, changes in staffing and ending the reminder call service. They were just recently notified of an Upper Payment Limit in which they will receive a payment of \$366,000. The County will have to pay half of that amount. The budget will be submitted to the Budget Committee on September 14th.

Director Cook gave an update on services. They continue to be very busy with intake appointments, they had 12 appointment yesterday. The therapist that is located at DSS has started back up with appointments. Three interns will start this week and will be able to train on site.

Director Cook presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Attest the Receipt of NYS OMH COLA Award

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Public Health

Director Faisst gave an update on COVID-19. Madison County has one of the lowest positive rates in the state. Students are heading back to College; testing is being done and the Public Health Department is receiving the results. They are trying to get the mobile sample collection unit here, but it is booked for the next few weeks. They are also working to get another testing site at Walmart. WellNow in Oneida is doing walk in testing. The department has received some reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenses.

Director Faisst and Director Shawn Prieto presented the 2021 budget summary. The budget is slightly under last years. This is due to not refilling an Assistant Director's position in Environmental Health and the elimination of a onetime cost from last year's budget (a trailer for the Weights & Measure). The transportation cost is of concern at this time due to schools doing classes virtual and we will need to renegotiate transportation costs next June. There will be an increase in salaries due to a loss of a grant. Public Health has not been notified of any state aid cut of 20% as of yet.

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Modifying the 2020 Adopted County Budget for NYS Health Foundation Grant for rural COVID-19 Response

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement and Modify the 2020 Adopted County Budget for COVID-19 Enhanced Detection Grant.

It was noted that this resolution will be updated but there will be no changes to the amount.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Creating three temporary positions in the Public Health Department

A motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairman Goldstein carried unanimously.

Preferred Agenda

The Committee unanimously agreed to include all resolutions in their Preferred Agenda, upon motion by Vice-Chairman Goldstein and seconded by Supervisor Corbin.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m., seconded by Chairman Stepanski and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: September 22, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski