

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 22, 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)

Joe Magliocca, City of Oneida (Via Zoom)

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

Kathryn Scheirer, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator (Via Zoom)

Cindy Edick, Treasurer (Via Zoom)

Antara Mitra, Community Action Program (Via Zoom)

Deanna Matt, Confidential Secretary to the Director of Public Health

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Alex Stepanski called the meeting to order at 10:32 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 August 25, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Supervisor Shwartz seconded by Vice-Chairman Goldstein and carried unanimously.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer provided an update on the Veteran's Service Agency. The Agency claims are going well, and the numbers continue to rise. Discussion occurred regarding the proposed 2021 budget and the reductions in staff training this year. It was noted that these reductions cannot continue after 2021. Outreach has been reduced, and digital outreach has been increased at little to no cost for 2021. Burial costs are down a bit. Overall the proposed budget for 2021 has been reduced by 2.7% of the adopted 2020 budget.

Social Services

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the Commissioner's Report, a discussion occurred regarding the budget of the Raise the Age service. A note was made that an increase in SNAP benefits applications, likely due to the loss of pandemic unemployment benefits.

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Renew an Agreement with Liberty Resources, 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 Liberty Resources, 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 Liberty Resources, INC.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Renew an Agreement with Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth

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 Elmcrest Children's Center

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

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

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

Authorizing the Modification of the 2020 Adopted Budget for Chafee Funding Received from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services

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 Dr. Jennifer C. Genovese

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 Dr. Scott Petosa of K.A.G. Consulting

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

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook provided an update on the Madison-Cortland ARC program with BOCES. Services have been suspended since June 2020, and the ARC has not had communication with BOCES. Statistics for Jan-June 2020 reported 20 kids served by this program, to mostly consist of connection to other services, instruction and self-advocacy, and job development. 30 contacts have been made in the first six months of the year, all of which were special education students – BOCES has not requested the services since they were suspended in June due to COVID-19. The Committee suggests to leave funding of this program off the 2021 budget. Suggestion made to monitor the students who this program would have served for the next year to ensure they do not “fall through the cracks”.

Director Cook presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2020 Adopted County Budget

A motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Public Health

Director Faisst gave an update on COVID-19. Madison County currently has 5 active cases, and continues to monitor those in quarantine – most are travel related. Colleges have been in session for about a month, and k-12 schools are going on 2 weeks in session, numbers are good so far. Continuing with weekly meetings with colleges, hospitals, k-12 schools, and added monthly calls with the nursing homes. The Department is working to have the SUNY Upstate mobile testing unit conduct swab-sites in Madison County at least once a week in various locations. There is a high demand for this service in the entire region, and the goal is to keep the number of individuals tested high in Madison County to ensure it will return. State funding has been provided for 3 positions for contact tracing, allowing MCDOH nurses and staff to focus on more testing options in-house. Recruiting continues for those positions, and will reclassify to Community Health Workers if the 2 RN postings do not get filled. Flu clinics are coming up, and Public Health staff will go to other County Departments for flu vaccinations. The Liquor Authority has been in the County inspecting local establishments and have shut one down. Wastewater testing is going well – all three colleges have testing done weekly, along with Cazenovia village.

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing 2020 Budget Modification for the Federal & State Grant Immunization Plan

A motion was made by Chairman Stepanski to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter an Agreement with GENETWORx

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter an Agreement and Modify the 2020 Adopted County Budget for CSHCN Grant

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter an Agreement with Nascentia Health

A motion was made 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 was made by Supervisor Corbin to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and 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 Magliocca.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: October 27, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski