

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, April 25, 2016
Supervisors Large Conference Room

Committee Members Present

James Goldstein, Vice Chairman, Town of Lebanon
Lewis Carinci, City of Oneida
Joseph John Pinard, Town of Lenox
Eve Ann Shwartz, Town of Hamilton

Others Present

Donald Smith, Director, Veterans Agency
Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health Services
Cindy Edick, County Treasurer
Christine Coe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator
Marcia Rafte

Absent:

Alex Stepanski, Chairman, Town of Stockbridge

Call Meeting to Order

Vice Chairman James Goldstein 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 of March 28, 2016. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Pinard, seconded by Carinci and carried unanimously.

Veterans' Agency

Director Donald Smith provided the April 2016 report of the Veterans Service Agency's activities and statistics. There will be 25 delegates and one alternate for Boys State this year with Smith functioning as City Counselor from June 26th through July 2nd at Morrisville State College. The Department of Veterans' Affairs continues to experience administrative problems that are delaying benefit payments, causing financial hardship for some recipients. WAVEM is meeting on May 4th to finalize plans for the Memorial Day Ceremony being held on Monday, May 30th at 2 p.m. in Wampsville. Supervisor Salka will be the guest speaker, following three elementary student essays.

Social Services

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald provided the expenditures and caseload summary for March 2016 with nothing outstanding to report. The April report will show health insurance exchange rates. United Healthcare may be pulling out of individual exchanges, leaving Fidelis as the only option. This is a nationwide problem with the Affordable Care Act.

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to amend an agreement with Community Action Program, Inc. and the modification of the 2016 adopted budget

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

FEMA Status

Of the 150 families that have applied for the home buyout program in the Oneida flats, only four have public assistance liens on their homes totaling \$3,800. Legal counsel has advised that no action be taken at this time. Fitzgerald will provide the Committee with details of each property when it is time to decide whether to release the liens or keep them in place.

Phillips v Orange – Orange County Court Case

There will be a meeting of school superintendents during the first week of May to discuss the Orange County Court case of CPS investigators interviewing a child at school without parental consent.

DSS Annual Report

Fitzgerald provided the Committee with copies of the Department of Social Services' 2015 Annual Report to review.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to enter into executive session at 10:50 a.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation with the County Treasurer. Supervisor Pinard seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Pinard to exit executive session at 11:04 a.m. Supervisor Shwartz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Community Services Board to sponsor an annual meeting and awards ceremony

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

Authorizing the Chairman to execute a contract modification and modifying the 2016 adopted County budget (Liberty Resources, Inc.)

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

Peer Recovery Center RFP

Cook stated that an RFP for a Peer Recovery Center will be going out this week. Vice Chairman Goldstein is on the committee and stated that this is a new trend pushed by the State. The program is managed by peers, which is often more successful than programs that are managed by medical professionals. There is state aid for the program and it would eventually be a billable service.

Public Health

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to enter an agreement with Oneida Healthcare Center

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

Authorizing the Chairman to enter an agreement for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Grant and modifying the 2016 budget

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

Public Health Department charges - approved charges and fee schedule

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

Budget modification (STD Lab Cost)

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

BRiDGES' Reality Check Follow-up

During last month's presentation by BRiDGES Reality Check, it was discussed that Madison County's Local Law on Tobacco Use that was adopted a few years back which included tobacco-free County parks. While free signage was made available by BRiDGES and posted on the County campus, there was no follow through with the County parks. Shwartz recommended that the law and park signage be discussed further at the next Committee meeting.

At the previous meeting, the Committee recommended having the Public Health and Tobacco Policy Center begin with Public Health Director Eric Faisst, and any proposals be brought to this Committee for consideration. Faisst has since received a draft retail licensing model and will follow up with BRiDGES. He will request that they bring options for the Committee's consideration; such as, 1) banning new stores from selling tobacco, 2) sales with conditions (i.e. distance from schools), and/or 3) location of displays (keep out of children's view).

Preferred Agenda

The Committee unanimously agreed to include all resolutions in their May 10th Preferred Agenda on a motion of Pinard and second of Carinci.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Shwartz at 10:30 a.m., seconded by Carinci and carried.

Next meeting: Monday, May 23, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine J. Coe for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski.