

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, April 27, 2015
Supervisors Large Conference Room

Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman, Town of Stockbridge
Lewis Carinci, Vice Chairman, City of Oneida
James Goldstein, Town of Lebanon
Joseph John Pinard, Town of Lenox
Paul Walrod, Town of Georgetown

Others Present

Mark Scimone, County Administrator
Joanne Eddy, Director, Youth Bureau
Donald Smith, Director, Veterans Agency
Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health
Karolyn Sayles, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Mental Health
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health
Christine Coe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator

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 March 23, 2015 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Pinard, seconded by Carinci and carried unanimously.

Youth Bureau

Joanne Eddy presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an Agreement with the Canastota Public Library and to modify the 2015 Adopted County Budget

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

Joanne stated that Madison County is one of 10 counties to receive Safe Harbour Funding that will be used to provide training that will protect and secure services for sexually exploited youth and enhance our Runaway and Homeless Youth program. Training is anticipated for the fall of 2015 as funding needs to be spent by year end. The training will be hosted in Madison County and run through Catholic Charities. Social Services, Mental Health and law enforcement will be involved and training may be opened up to Oneida County as well.

Veterans Agency

Donald Smith provided a report of the Veterans' Service Agency's activities and statistics for March 2014. Don was approached by Luke Willis, a Housing Specialist Case Manager for Central New York's Soldier On program, requesting permission to set up an outreach and information table in the lobby of the County Office Building every other Tuesday from 9 – 11am beginning May 5th for three months. This outreach campaign assists veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk

of becoming homeless by providing them with the services and support they need to carry on healthy, productive lives in homes of their own.

While the committee agrees that this is a valuable program, they believe the outreach would be more effective at the municipal level. Don will provide Mr. Willis with the Committee's recommendation and town contact information.

Social Services

Commissioner Fitzgerald provided the expenditures and caseload report for March 2015. Mike stated that expenditures well within budget overall JD/PINS. A resolution has been submitted to transfer funds from the Foster Care line, which is below budget, to JD/PINS to cover the shortfall.

Mike stated that he has been invited by NYSAC to attend Raise the Age Campaign meeting on behalf of the New York State Public Welfare Association. This legislation would phase out the practice of treating 16 and 17 year olds as adults in the criminal justice system and prohibit confinement of any minor convicted of a non-violent crime in an adult jail or prison. The message that he will put forward is that this needs to be State funded, not another mandate for counties. Mike will report out at the next committee meeting.

Mike Fitzgerald presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the modification of the 2015 adopted budget

A motion was made by Walrod to approve the resolution, seconded by Goldstein and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Karolyn Sayles provided the preliminary fiscal reports for December 2014. Although a surplus was projected for the department and clinic, the year ended with a deficit of \$216,884 for the department and the clinic broke even. This is due in part to five revenue producing positions that were not filled and LGU costs.

Teisha Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

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

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

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement for Mental Health consultation services

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

Authorizing the Chairman to proclaim May as Mental Health month

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

Teisha and Karolyn announced Madison County one of five counties to receive NYS Office of Mental Health's award for VAP (Vital Access Provider) funding. They met with a strategic planner to complete the Federal application with their proposal to revamp their psychiatry program to increase revenue and make the Mental Health Clinic more viable. The grant will be used to hire a consultant to get the program up and running.

Karolyn reported that there is going to be another office staff vacancy. Since the last vacancy was not filled, there is concern with covering the additional workload. County Administrator Mark Scimone will meet with Teisha Cook to discuss further. Teisha stated that if social worker positions are filled, they will be contractual.

Public Health

Eric Faisst provided the Department of Health 2014 Annual Report to the Committee.

Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreement with Solix

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

Other Business

Supervisor Goldstein provided the Committee with a Memorandum of Support for a bill to amend the insurance law to require blanket health insurance policies to provide coverage for outpatient treatment by licensed mental health practitioners. This bill would broaden the mental health disciplines that are covered by health insurance policies for outpatient care, which would help increase the available providers and services while decreasing costs with competition. Supervisor Goldstein would like the committee to consider putting forth a resolution in support of this bill at next month's Committee meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carinci at 11:20 a.m., seconded by Walrod and carried.

Next meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015 at 10:30 p.m. in the Atrium conference room.

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