

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Monday, May 18, 2015  
Atrium 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  
Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services  
Donald Smith, Director, Veterans Agency  
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental 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 May 12, 2015 special meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Carinci, seconded by Walrod and carried unanimously.

### **Social Services**

Commissioner Fitzgerald provided the expenditures and caseload report for April 2015. Overall, they are on budget. Caseloads remain steady with the exception of Family Health Plus, which doesn't exist anymore due to the State Health Exchange. Supervisor Goldstein asked about the available health plans on the State Health Exchange for Madison County. Fitzgerald stated that four medical plans are marketed to Madison County Medicaid-eligible individuals with varying specialties and costs.

Fitzgerald reported that Employment and Training and the Youth Bureau will be moving to the Department of Social Services building by November with construction beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will eliminate the current lease expense for Employment and Training and provide improved information technology, phone and maintenance services.

### **Veterans Agency**

Donald Smith provided a report of the Veterans' Service Agency's activities and statistics for April 2015. Smith reported that there are 29 Boys State delegates and 1 alternate from across the country this year, and he will be serving as City Counselor for Boys State from June 26<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Morrisville State College.

The resolution designating Madison County as a Purple Heart County will be presented at the June 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting with a short presentation by the Military Order of the Purple Heart organization leadership.

The Madison County War Veterans Memorial (WAVEM) will hold their Memorial Day ceremony on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in Wampsville. They are looking for a Supervisor and/or Veteran to speak at the ceremony.

## **Mental Health**

Teisha Cook provided the Mental Health Department's final fiscal report for 2014 with a deficit of \$220,014. Mental Health is in the process of hiring contractors to increase revenue going forward. The department was also the recipient of a grant that will be used to hire a consultant to assist with restructuring psychiatry services to produce more revenue and decrease no show rates. State aid for SPOA (Single Point of Access) may provide additional department funding. Administrative savings are also being considered to improve next year's budget.

Teisha Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

### **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement for Mental Health Consultation Services**

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

### **Authorizing the Chairman to execute contract modification and modifying the 2015 adopted County budget**

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

## **Public Health**

The following resolution was presented to the Committee:

### **Authorizing 2015 budget modification for the Federal & State Grant Immunization Action Plan**

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

## **Other Business**

Supervisor Goldstein reported that Assemblyman William Magee is in support of the bill to amend the insurance law to require blanket health insurance policies to provide coverage for outpatient treatment by licensed mental health practitioners. Senator David Valesky's position is unknown. 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 and decrease costs with competition.

## **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Walrod at 10:54 a.m., seconded by Carinci and carried.

**Next meeting:** Monday, June 22, 2015 at 10:30 p.m. in the supervisors' large conference room.

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