

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Monday, July 27, 2015  
Supervisors Large Conference Room

### **Committee Members Present**

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  
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**

Vice Chairman Lewis Carinci 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 July 14, 2015 special meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Pinard, seconded by Walrod and carried unanimously.

### **Veterans Agency**

Director Donald Smith provided a report of the Veterans' Service Agency's activities and statistics for June 2015. The Department of New York American Legion Convention was held July 16 – 18 in Buffalo. A resolution to allow all Honorably Discharged Veterans to buy back up to three years credit for military time in the State Retirement system has passed both houses and awaits the Governor's signature. He vetoed it year because it was unfunded; however, the new version of the law is funded.

Smith served as City Counselor for Boys State from June 26<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Morrisville State College with 30 Boys State delegates from Madison County and provided the Committee with a written report of his experience.

Smith shared that the Madison County Veterans Favor Program has issued 362 ID cards to date, 115 of which are new clients, and 17 businesses are participating.

### **Social Services**

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald provided the expenditures and caseload report for June 2015. Halfway through the year, they are well within budget. The 2016 budget is being put together which will be reviewed by this committee before the budget hearings. There will be no new positions and couple of positions may be eliminated. There is legislation that would increase the costs to foster parents that would make our adoption subsidies go up. Otherwise, no big changes are expected for the budget.

Construction for the Career Center move to DSS is nearing the end of phase 1 and going well overall.

Fitzgerald is working with Environmental Health Director Geoff Snyder regarding DSS inspections of hotels, motels, and shelters that public welfare paid to house the homeless. We need to determine what we are responsible for, the standards and codes requirements, and how to show that we are in compliance.

### **Mental Health**

Director Teisha Cook provided the Mental Health Department's fiscal and accounts receivable reports for June 2015. The year-to-date budget shows a surplus of \$99,576. Cook stated that hiring four contract workers, with another starting in August, has helped a great deal.

Karolyn Sayles reported that they are billing weekly and following up on delinquent accounts. There has been an increased response with notice that non-payments will appear on credit reports. A small amount has been collected to date though the American Recovery Systems (ARS) collection agency.

Cook stated that they continue to work with the Office of Mental Health on the grant program.

Teisha Cook presented the following resolution to the Committee:

#### **Authorizing the Chairman to execute a contract modification (IMA Systems)**

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

### **Public Health**

Director Eric Faisst provided the Committee with an Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus FAQ's sheet. Two EEE positive pools have been identified in the Town of Sullivan earlier than usual. They were identified as bird-biting mosquitoes. Enhanced surveillance activities and public information on personal protection will continue throughout the season. The discussion to spray begins when they switch to human-biting mosquitoes. Onondaga County sprayed already; however, the plane was too high to dispense properly and they will be spraying again. There is no vaccine for EEE yet, but it is being worked on. During a regional conference call with the NYS Department of Health, Faisst proposed that a regional pest abatement district be considered. Property owners within the district would pay a tax to fund staffing and resources for pest abatement. A permit to spray would be for the pest abatement district rather than a specific county. There will be further discussion this fall.

An August 4<sup>th</sup> informational meeting will be held at DeRuyter Central School for the 48 household within the Gas Compressor Station Health Assessment Study to familiarize them with the process and testing that will be done.

Approximately three years ago, Madison County Health Department, in collaboration with the County Planning Department, applied for and received an EPA Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant to develop a Smart Growth Self-Assessment Tool designed specifically for rural communities. The final report and self-assessment tool have been received and will be presented to the Board. The tool was beta tested in the City of Oneida, Town of Brookfield, and the Village of Chittenango. It will be a model for other rural communities to use to evaluate how well their policies, plans, codes and regulations support the type of development they want and identify strategies for improvement.

Eric Faisst presented the following resolution to the Committee:

#### **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with New York State Department of Health for the administration of Early Intervention and modifying the 2015 County budget**

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

**Executive Session**

A motion was made by Supervisor Pinard to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person, Supervisor Goldstein seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Goldstein to exit executive session; Supervisor Pinard seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

**Preferred Agenda**

As there were only two resolutions, and the purpose of the preferred agenda is to save time, this Committee will not have a Preferred Agenda for the August 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pinard at 11:24 p.m., seconded by Walrod and carried.

**Next meeting:** Monday, August 24, 2015 at 10:30 p.m. in the supervisors' large conference room.

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