

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, January 26, 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 (10:42)
Joseph John Pinard, Town of Lenox
Paul Walrod, Town of Georgetown

Others Present

Donald Smith, Director, Veterans Agency
Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health
Karolyn Sayles, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Mental Health
Andi Ali, Chair, Community Services Board
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health
Bonnie Slocum, Executive Director, Rural Health Council of Madison County
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 December 22, 2014 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Pinard, seconded by Walrod and carried unanimously.

Veterans Agency

Donald Smith provided a report of the Veterans Service Agency's activities and statistics for December 2014. The 2014 indigent veteran burial count was 16 for a total expenditure of \$38,834.15 in 2014 compared to a 2013 count of 7 at a cost of \$17,053.20. The Veterans Favor Program has 236 veterans enrolled of which 106 are new clients. Don informed the Committee of an email scam targeting veterans. American Legion Posts are notifying their members and the postal inspectors and FBI have been notified. Don also noted that the Waterville School District adopted the Alternative Veterans Exemption for school tax, being the first school in the county to do so.

Social Services

Commissioner Fitzgerald provided the expenditures and caseload report for December 2014. At year end, expenditures are at 93.74% of the budgeted expense; however, they are still waiting on accruals. Caseloads for public assistance and food stamps are flat, while adoptions have been increasing over the years. While the increased adoptions are good, adoption subsidies are long term costs that we are paying for more children.

As required by statute, local departments of social services must submit a plan on the requirement to raise the foster boarding rates by 2 percent. OCFS is allowing DSS until January 16, 2015 in which to submit a plan on how they are going to accomplish this. Mike is seeking further guidance to see if we need to provide an increase in 2015 since we increased our rates 5% last year.

Mike Fitzgerald presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to renew an agreement with Liberty Resources Inc. (FFFS)

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

Authorizing the Chairman to renew an agreement with Liberty Resources Inc. (Chapter 53)

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

Authorizing the Chairman to renew an agreement with Liberty Resources Inc. (TANF)

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

Commissioner Fitzgerald will be inducted as President of The New York Public Welfare Association at the Association's winter conference in Albany on January 29th. Chairman John Becker and County Administrator Mark Scimone will be in attendance.

Mental Health

Teisha Cook introduced new Community Services Board Chair Andy Ali to the Committee. Karolyn Sayles stated that the year-end report will not be available until the Treasurer's Office verifies and finalizes the cost centers in the new Munis financial software system. Teisha informed the Committee that the Jail Social Worker resigned her position and they are actively searching for a replacement.

Teisha and Karolyn presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to execute a contract modification

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

Re-appointing member of the Community Services Board

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

Authorizing County to accept a cost of living increase

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

Authorizing the Chairman to execute a contract modification and modifying the 2015 adopted County budget (Madison-Cortland ARC)

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

Authorizing the Chairman to execute a contract modification and modifying the 2015 adopted County budget (BRiDGES)

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

Public Health

Eric Faisst introduced Bonnie Slocum who has served as Executive Director of the Rural Health Council of Madison County since it was established in April 2013. Bonnie shared her background with the Committee and provided an update on the Council's activities, developments and grant opportunities. A priority for the Council is establishing public transportation services to get residents to medical and healthcare appointments. The Rural Health Council is collaborating with the County Planning Department to seek funding for Mobility Management through the NYSDOT Consolidated Grant Application & Instructions for the Federal Section 5311 Rural Public Transportation Program Grant that is due March 1, 2015.

Supervisor Goldstein stated that Community Memorial Hospital in Hamilton is providing fewer services since changing from hospital status to a critical care center. This has adversely affected ambulance services by increasing travel time and associated costs of care. With the Affordable Care Act, local hospitals are being consumed by larger hospitals. Medical services are leaving the area while the county population is growing. He suggested that the Rural Health Council take a look at this growing issue.

Bonnie stated that with electronic health records assessment, there is potential to bring services to the county electronically as needs are identified with telemedicine. It will be important to ensure broadband is available and sufficient. Eric stated that the Rural Health Council is working with SOLIX, a contractor with Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Their Rural Health Care Program provides funds to subsidize phone and internet service costs for rural health care providers. Eric is working with Teisha to look at the County's Mental and Public Health's phone and internet services for a potential 65% saving on these expenses.

Eric provided the Committee with a memo from NYSACHO County Health Officials of New York regarding the first review of the 2015-16 Executive Budget proposals, and a Q&A on the Healthy Teeth Amendment from Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy's (SCAA) Keep NY Smiling for their review. One of the budget proposals includes language supporting community fluoridation and the SCAA's "Healthy Teeth Amendment". Dr. Samuel Barr, who service on the County's Board of Health, is talking to the City of Oneida regarding the proposal.

Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Enter Agreement with New York State Department of Health for Administration of Early Intervention and modifying the 2015 County budget

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

Appoint a Member to the Madison County Board of Health

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

Eric previously provided the Board of Supervisors with the 2015 Madison County Compliance Program Assessment Report for their review. The areas of improvement identified in this report are

reviewed, discussed, and approved by the Corporate Compliance Committee, integrated into the Annual Work Plan and prioritized for implementation.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Walrod at 11:40 a.m., seconded by Carinci and carried.

Next meeting: February 23, 2015 at 10:30 p.m. in the Supervisors' large conference room.

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