

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Monday, October 26, 2015  
Supervisors Large Conference Room

### **Committee Members Present**

Alexander 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  
Joanne Eddy, Director, Youth Bureau  
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health (via conference call)  
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 10:31 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 September 28, 2015 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Carinci, seconded by Pinard and carried unanimously.

### **Veterans Agency**

Director Donald Smith provided a report of the Veterans' Service Agency's activities and statistics for October 2015. Changes are coming in the Veterans' Choice Act regarding VA funding and there is discussion about shutting down some facilities. In regards to the June 2015 resolution that designated Madison County a Purple Heart County, Smith has identified a sign maker that will provide 50 signs, posts and bases for approximately \$3,000, under the original estimate. Smith will seek assistance from other veteran's programs to cover the cost or put it in his 2016 budget.

The WAVEM Corp Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on Wednesday November 11, 2015 at 11:00 am at the War Veterans Memorial Plaza in Wampsville. Lt. Col. Hans Poole, Flight Commander of the 108th Attack Squadron, Hancock Field Syracuse, will be the guest speaker. Three area elementary students reading their Veteran essays and Victor Ramirez will sing the National Anthem. There will be a reception at the Madison Bistro immediately following the ceremony.

### **Youth Bureau**

Director Joanne Eddy provided an update on the Sexually Exploited Youth/Human Trafficking Education and Prevention Initiative. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Madison County Youth Bureau, in collaboration with Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison Counties, held the first in a series of professional development trainings as part of a 'Look Beneath the Surface' campaign to help raise awareness about human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of youth. Seventy-seven attended the free training including law enforcement officers, health and human service providers, medical professionals, social workers and educators. A second training in the series will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> and will address 'Online Child Exploitation'.

Twelve high school students are attending the October 29<sup>th</sup> Finance Way and Means Committee meeting and the November 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Session as part of the Local Government Intern Program's fall session. They will briefly interview the supervisors following the meeting. This program helps the students gain insight into how county government and departments work through course content, discussion and job shadowing. Starting in 2016, Cornell Cooperative Extension will no longer be partnering with the Youth Bureau on this program. Issues being addressed are the inconsistency of credits given and transportation. At MVCC, the LGI Program may be eligible for dual credits and Eddy is submitting the curriculum materials and meeting with the Dean to discuss. If accepted, students could receive three credits toward a college associates degree with bussing provided.

### **Social Services**

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

**Authorizing the Chairman to renew an agreement with Community Action Program, Inc.**

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

**Authorizing the Chairman to renew an agreement with Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth**

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

**Authorizing the Chairman to renew an agreement with Dr. Scott Petosa of K.A.G. Consulting**

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

**Authorizing the Chairman to renew an agreement with Dr. Jennifer C. Genovese**

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

Fitzgerald provided the expenditures and caseload report for September 2015. With total expenditures at 75%, they are well with their budgeted expense overall with some programs well under budget and a few over. As for caseloads, Safety Net continues to be fairly high compared to other programs that have gone down.

Fitzgerald reported that his department is eliminating seven positions, refilling two positions at current grades, creating a part-time HEAP position, and creating a welfare employment representative position to adhere to new rules. The overall cost savings will be between \$57,000 – \$58,000.

Supervisor Pinard questioned what we are doing to get people off of welfare. Fitzgerald offered to walk the Board of Supervisors through DSS' processes. It is more than a county or state issue; it is a national and cultural issue. He believed the majority of those on welfare and food stamps want to work to get off of welfare; however, there are always those clients that are the exceptions to the rule.

### **Mental Health**

Director Teisha Cook informed the Committee that CCSI (Coordinated Care Services, Inc.) will be starting the process of taking over and revamping Mental Health's financial operations before Karolyn Sayles leaves. CCSI will act as the fiscal officer for the department and prepare reports in 2016.

Cook reported that she is very happy with Mental Health's contracted workers; they have been working very hard.

## **Public Health**

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

### **Budget Modification (Public Health Vehicles)**

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

### **Authorizing attendance at an out-of-state conference**

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

### **Calling for Dominion to utilize best-available technologies a the proposed Sheds Natural Gas Compressor Station**

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

### **Authorizing the Chairman to enter an agreement with Galson Laboratories**

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

## **Preferred Agenda**

A motion was made by Supervisor Carinci to include all resolutions in the Committee's Preferred Agenda for the November 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, with the exception of the Sheds Natural Gas Compressor Station resolution, Pinard seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

## **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Chairman Alex Stepanski to enter into executive session to discuss advice of counsel, Vice Chairman Carinci seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

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

## **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stepanski at 11:58 a.m., seconded by Carinci and carried.

**Next meeting:** Monday, November 23, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in the supervisors' large conference room.

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