HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, February 23, 2015
Supervisors Large Conference Room

Committee Members Present
Alex Stepanski, Chairman, Town of Stockbridge
Lewis Carinci, Vice Chairman, City of Oneida
Joseph John Pinard, Town of Lenox

Committee Members Absent
James Goldstein, Town of Lebanon (due to recent surgery and doctor medical recommendations)
Paul Walrod, Town of Georgetown (due to electrical issues)

Others Present
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
Georgetown/DeRuyter Community Group: Carol Babcock, Warren Babcock, Laura Brown, Michelle Kennedy, Andrea Sutherland, T. Michael Salter, Levi C Tousant, Jr.

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 January 26, 2015 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Pinard, seconded by Carinci and carried unanimously.

Mental Health
Teisha and Karolyn 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 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 Pinard to approve the resolution, seconded by Carinci and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to execute contract modification and modifying the 2015 adopted County budget
A motion was made by Stepanski to approve the resolution, seconded by Pinard and carried unanimously.

Reappoint members of the Community Services Board

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

VAPP Application

Teisha announced that Mental Health applied for additional VAPP (Vital Access Provider Pool) funding for the Mental Health Clinic at the end of 2014 and will be receiving an award. They will be meeting with a strategic planner to complete the application with their proposal to revamp their psychiatry program to increase revenue and make the Mental Health Clinic more viable. The 2-year grant would be used to get the program up and running and to hire a consultant.

OAI Vacancy

A request to fill an OAI vacancy was denied due to budget constraints. Mental Health will need to be more creative to ensure coverage and keep the check-in wait times reasonable. The Committee asked Teisha and Karolyn to keep them informed if the reduced staffing is not working.

Youth Bureau

Joanne Eddy presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison Counties

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

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison Counties and modifying the 2015 adopted County budget

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

Veterans Agency

Donald Smith provided a report of the Veterans' Service Agency's activities and statistics for January 2014. Despite the new VA Administration making several changes, initial claims are still taking 1 year – 18 months on average due to the back log. Veterans' property tax exemption applications are due by March 1st (City of Oneida – May 1st). The Veterans property tax exemption has been adopted by the Waterville School District to apply to school taxes as well (each school district must opt in or out). On February 10th, the Veterans' Service Agency hosted a training for the Tri-Valley Funeral Directors' Association covering all veteran burial benefits and received several thank you letters in response.

Social Services

The Committee congratulated Commissioner Fitzgerald on his induction 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 attended with Chairman Becker administering the oath of office at the event.

Mike provided the expenditures and caseload report for January 2015. He noted that foster care caseloads are down, especially for higher level care.

Mike Fitzgerald presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing modification of the 2015 adopted budget

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

The redesign for the Employment and Training relocation to DSS will begin in May with the move occurring over the summer, along with the Sheriff's Road Patrol moving to the former fire hall.

Public Health
Eric Faisst reviewed the County's Corporate Compliance report with the Committee. All parts of the work plan are in place and the Corporate Compliance Committee is moving toward reviewing our practices and making them more effective. The annual compliance training is in progress. We are still waiting for OMIG to reactive the outstanding audit on the Mental Health Department from 2008. Corporate compliance's original purpose was to detect and address fraud and waste within the Medicaid program; however, it is moving toward enterprise risk management, expanding the process to including risks outside of Medicaid. Fortunately, the privatization of our ADAPT and CHHA programs reduces our risk.

Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing attendance at an out-of-state conference (Vaughn)
A motion was made by Carinci to approve the resolution, seconded by Pinard and carried unanimously.

Public Health charges approved charges and fee schedule
A motion was made by Stepanski to approve the resolution, seconded by Pinard and carried unanimously.

Reappoint members of the Board of Health
A motion was made by Pinard to approve the resolution, seconded by Carinci and carried unanimously.

Gas Compression Station Health Study – update
Eric provided an update and presentation on the Madison County Environmental Health Study Design for the proposed Georgetown Gas Compressor Station. Public Health was asked to participate last summer. Since then, the Health Department submitted comments on the proposed gas compressor station to the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) and has worked with a consultant group to design a health study to determine the impact of the station if it is built. Eric reviewed the health study goals and objectives, parameters, monitoring events, timelines, and costs of the 3-year process. The baseline monitoring is the most important piece for a balanced and objective study with an estimated cost of $70,000. Dominion is willing to be part of the study and it could become part of a large consortium study monitoring emissions at multiple gas compressor station sites. Eric is working to identify funding; however, funding for studies is difficult to find and grant funding may take too long with construction projected for the fall of 2015. The Committee agreed that shortcuts should not be made with the baseline monitoring and asked Eric to bring this issue back to the Committee if funding is not identified. Eric stated his appreciation for the Committee's support and concern.

The Georgetown/DeRuyter Community Group shared their concerns with the Committee regarding the compressor station's potential impacts on their home values, community health, and protected trout stream and birds. Michael Salter stated that, as an independent grants consultant, he will also try to identify funding for the health study.

Motion to Adjourn
There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carinci at 11:49 a.m., seconded by Pinard and carried.

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

Respectfully submitted by Christine J. Coe for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski and approved on March 23, 2015.