

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, March 28, 2016

Chambers

Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman, Town of Stockbridge
James Goldstein, Vice Chairman, Town of Lebanon
Lewis Carinci, City of Oneida
Joseph John Pinard, Town of Lenox

Others Present

Joanne Eddy, Director, Youth Bureau
Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services
Kelly Golley, Director of Administrative Services, Public Health
Christine Coe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator
Marcia Rafte

Absent:

Eve Ann Shwartz, Town of Hamilton

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 meeting minutes of February 9, 2016 and February 22, 2016. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Pinard, seconded by Carinci and carried unanimously.

Youth Bureau

Director Joanne Eddy presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison Counties and to modify the 2016 adopted County budget

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

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreement with agencies to provide youth services and to modify the 2016 adopted County budget

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

Social Services

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to renew an agreement with Family Counseling Services of Cortland County, Inc.

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 Pinard to approve the resolution, seconded by Carinci and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald provided expenditures and caseload summary for February 2016 with most programs at or near budget. Caseloads are showing a reduction locally; however, they are going up on the State-side. SNAP recipients are down due to the new work requirement.

Fitzgerald reported that West Virginia is the latest state to require drug testing for some welfare recipients, which has been a requirement in New York State for several years.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. DSS is holding a fund raising campaign for child abuse awareness by selling pinwheels and having a wear blue casual day on Friday, April 1st. The pinwheels will be planted in the garden in front of the County Office Building and proceeds will benefit the Madison County Community Action Mentoring Program, which provides adult mentors to work with our youth, providing positive role models.

Approximately 150 families have applied for the home buyout program in the Oneida flats. It is still being determined how to handle the homes with County liens against them. There may be Federal monies to cover some or all of the County costs. Once more information is available and the numbers are calculated, Fitzgerald will bring a proposal regarding lien forgiveness to the Committee for consideration.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to execute a contract modification and modifying the 2016 adopted County budget (BRIDGES)

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

Authorizing the Chairman to execute a contract modification and modifying the 2016 adopted County budget (Liberty Resources)

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

Authorizing the modification of the 2016 adopted County budget (Community Support Program Overpayment)

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

Resolution authorizing the Chairman to proclaim April as Alcohol Awareness Month

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

Cook reported that she is looking at ideas for State Aid with the former Consumer Services funds; 1) provide a one-week police training program for response to emotionally disturbed individuals in order to avoid arrests of the mentally ill and get them the proper services, and 2) establish a peer recovery center for those with mental health and substance issues, which is in the planning stages.

Marcia Rafte stated that Teisha has assured her that the fourth quarter funds for Consumer Services has been set aside and that Consumer Services will be putting in a claim through their attorney for the services provided during the first two months of 2016 for which they should be reimbursed.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Goldstein to enter into executive session at 11:04 a.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Supervisor Pinard seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Pinard to exit executive session at 11:08 a.m. Supervisor Carinci seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Public Health

Director of Administrative Services Kelly Golley presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing attendance at an out-of-state conference

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

BRiDGES' Reality Check Presentation/Discussion

BRiDGES' Reality Check Program Coordinator Heather Bernet and Morrisville-Eaton Senior and Reality Check Youth Leader Jordyn Camp shared ideas with the Committee to improve the health of Madison County specific to tobacco. Four years ago, Reality Check presented to this Committee on tobacco marketing in stores with the goal of implementing a display ban in Madison County. Shortly after that, the Village of Haverstraw, New York was sued by the tobacco industry for their tobacco display ban, and their pursuit was put on hold.

Heather thanked the Committee for their time and consideration and provided them with a packet of materials that included an evaluation of tobacco marketing in 29 Madison County stores by local youth and photos of some tobacco displays.

Jordyn stated that the tobacco industry's focus is on the lower income and our youth. While surveying the stores, they photographed placement of the tobacco displays with the perspective of what a five year old sees. Branding towards children is not always obvious to adults. Reality Check's goal is to reduce youth exposure. Many stores are open to change but are concerned about competition. Heather stated that the Public Health and Tobacco Policy Center is available to directly support municipalities' tobacco control policy initiatives. There are currently 52 tobacco retailers in Madison County. An easy place to start is to propose no new tobacco retailers in Madison County, then eventually reduce retailers who sell tobacco products, especially near schools.

Goldstein questioned how much it will hurt retailers, especially with the Oneida Indian Nation competition. Heather stated that the proposal would not change current tobacco customer, but prevent new ones – our youth – from starting. Education and new laws has reduced youth smoking, which is inspiration to continue reaching out. Heather presented a resolution designating Madison County parks tobacco-free for the Committee's consideration. Goldstein believes that parks were included in Madison County's Local Law on Tobacco Use a few years back. Heather stated that BRiDGES can provide free signage for Madison County parks if that is the case.

The Committee recommends having the Public Health and Tobacco Policy Center begin with Public Health Director Eric Faisst, and then bring any proposals to this Committee for consideration.

Other Business

Supervisor Carinci stated that the Wanderers' Rest Humane Association received a call from the NYS Troopers regarding an animal abuse case. With assistance of the United States Humane Association, the owners were able to bring their animals in to get spayed and neutered for free with grant funds and no charges were filed. Most animal abuse cases are dismissed; the goal is to stop reproduction. Carinci recommends that animal control officers encourage pet owners to bring their dogs and cats to the shelter to get spayed and neutered rather than pursuing owner arrests and animal seizures.

Preferred Agenda

The Committee unanimously agreed to include all resolutions in their April 12th Preferred Agenda on a motion of Stepanski and second of Goldstein.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pinard at 11:51 a.m., seconded by Stepanski and carried.

Next meeting: Monday, April 25, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

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