

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, June 22, 2015

Chambers

### Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman, Town of Stockbridge  
James Goldstein, Town of Lebanon  
Joseph John Pinard, Town of Lenox  
Paul Walrod, Town of Georgetown

### Others Present

John Becker, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors  
Mark Scimone, County Administrator  
Donald Smith, Director, Veterans Agency  
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health  
Melissa Maine, Deputy Commissioner, Social Services  
Joanne Eddy, Director, Youth Bureau  
Christine Coe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator

### Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Alex Stepanski called the meeting to order at 10:40 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 June 9, 2015 special meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Pinard, seconded by Goldstein and carried unanimously.

### Veterans Agency

Director Donald Smith provided a report of the Veterans' Service Agency's activities and statistics for May 2015. The WAVEM Memorial Day Ceremony was held on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> with Supervisor Pinard as guest speaker. Three elementary students read their essays and Victor Ramirez sang the National Anthem. Smith will be serving 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. Smith shared his and the Veterans appreciation of the Purple Heart resolution that was passed by the Board. The Veterans Service Agency's 2014 Annual Report was provided for the Committee to review.

### Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook provided the Mental Health Department's fiscal and accounts receivable reports for March 2015. Cook reported that the clinic is doing well with revenues ahead of expenditures. The department now has four contract social workers, with another to start in August, that she supervises directly.

Teisha Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

#### **Authorizing the modification of the 2015 adopted budget**

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

#### **Authorizing the modification of the 2015 adopted budget**

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

### **Re-appointing member of the Community Services Board**

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

### **Social Services**

Deputy Commissioner Melissa Maine provided the expenditures and caseload report for May 2015 which is overall on budget and holding steady. The Department is waiting to see what happens with legislation that would raise the age of criminal responsibility in New York. If the legislation is passed, it would likely result in increased juvenile delinquency referrals to Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth Program. As grant funds for this program expire, optional funding opportunities will be explored.

### **Public Health**

#### **Greater Access to Mental Health Services Bill – Valesky & Magee letters**

The Board of Health submitted letters to Senator David Valesky and Assemblyman William Magee requesting their support and advocacy of the Greater Access to Mental Health Services bill A.6376 (Bronson) S.2065 (Young) which would require all mental health plans in New York State to cover all licensed mental health providers who provide mental health and alcohol/substance abuse treatment services. Although it is too late to have an impact during this legislative session, Supervisor Goldstein recommended that this Committee submit a resolution supporting the aforementioned bills. County Administrator Scimone will draft the resolution to go before the Board.

#### **Supporting Greater Access to Mental Health Services Bill A.6376 (Bronson)/S.2065 (Young)**

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

### **Youth Bureau**

Joanne Eddy presented the following resolution to the Committee:

#### **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an Agreement with Catholic Charities**

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

### **2014 TAP Survey Report - presentation**

Youth Bureau Director Joanne Eddy shared the Madison County 2014 Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey results with the Committee. The survey was administered as part of an ongoing process to assess the risk and protective factors, developmental assets and resources present in the lives of adolescents in Madison County. The TAP Survey provides a voluntary, confidential, anonymous and structured process for obtaining responses to a wide range of questions from a large number of teens.

The information obtained from the TAP Survey provides a valuable supplement to other countywide assessments by providing the teen perspective on important issues. It is hoped that the data gathered from the TAP Survey will be useful when planning and developing appropriate programs and services to help youth make the increasingly difficult transition into adulthood, and when trying to obtain and prioritize resources to be used for these efforts

The 2014 TAP Survey results were generally positive, although, the following were areas of concern:

- The transition from 8th to 9th grade continues to be the point where the most dramatic increase in reported participation in illegal or harmful activities is observed
- Continues to be a significant increase between reported use of alcohol by students in grades 7 and 8 and reported use of alcohol by students in grades 9 - 12.

- The decrease in the reported perception of how much people harm themselves if they use alcohol, tobacco or marijuana regularly.
- Students in grades 9 - 12 reported usage of heroin and other opiates at twice the rate reported on the national 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
- Reports of behaviors related to bullying increased.
- Increase in the percentage of students that reported feelings of isolation, depression and suicidal thoughts.
- Students in grades 9 - 12 reported that they had seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, made a plan, and had actually attempted suicide at least once in the past year at rates exceeding those reported nationally on the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior.

It is hoped that the information contained in this report is found to be informative and thought-provoking and that it will initiate discussions regarding youth issues in Madison County and ways to strengthen our communities and families to make a positive difference in the lives of our young people. The 2014 TAP Survey Report can be downloaded at: [www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/youth-bureau/home](http://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/youth-bureau/home).

Chairman Stepanski questioned whether the results were different between large and small schools. Eddy stated that she could not answer that; however, larger schools do have a bigger influence on the data. Stepanski questioned whether gambling was included in the survey. Eddy stated that it was not part of the survey at this time.

### **Other Business**

#### **Community Action Partnership – Request for Change**

County Administrator Scimone informed the Committee that Kimberly Lorraine, Operations Manager for Community Action Partnership (CAP) submitted a request for alternative use of the 2015 County funding that they receive. The original request was to support the Healthy Families and Early Head Start programs. CAP provides wrap around services, including housing stability and food security for the clients who participate in their long term programs. It has been their experience that families can better focus on the needs and development of their children if their basic needs are met. She would like this Committee to consider allowing CAP to utilize the 2015 County funding to support housing and food stability for Madison county residents. The Committee approved the request.

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Walrod at 12:20 p.m., seconded by Pinard and carried.

**Next meeting:** Monday, July 27, 2015 at 10:30 p.m. in the supervisors' large conference room.

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