

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, August 25, 2014

Atrium Conference Room

Committee Members Present

Alex 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

Donald Smith, Director, Veterans Service Agency

Steve Chaires, Deputy Commissioner for Administrative Services, 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

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 July meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Carinci, seconded by Walrod and carried unanimously.

Veterans Agency

Donald Smith provided a report of the Veterans Service Agency's activities and statistics for July 2014 and upcoming September events along with his proposed 2015 budget. A slight increase in the budget was due to step salary increases and fringe benefit expense, a new desk and required training. Don also provided a report on his experience working as a City Counselor during Boys State Program 2014.

Social Services

Steve Chaires provided the expenditures and caseload report for July 2014 along with the proposed 2015 budget. Foster Care and JD/PINS programs are over budget at 64.87% and 91.33%, respectively, due to increased costs per day for children that need higher levels of care. Utility costs have also put the Emergency Aid to Adults program over budget at 86.31% due to a shorter HEAP program. The significant increase in costs associated with these programs along with needed facility repairs and car replacements will impact the 2015 budget with a proposed local cost increase of \$911,038 from 2014.

Supervisor Goldstein questioned the whether the increase of JD/PINS children needing higher levels of care is a new trend or an anomaly and whether provisional planning is needed. Steve Chaires will provide a response to the Committee.

Steve Chaires presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to renew an agreement with Madison County Office for the Aging

A motion was made by Carinci, seconded by Goldstein and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

For 2015 proposed budget, Teisha Cook stated that Mental Health is looking to hire two part-time contract workers in 2015. This would save on salary and fringe costs for the clinic. The department has downsized with five less full-time positions and plans to bring in more contract workers as full-time positions vacate. The proposed 2015 budget has increased \$321,451 from 2014 due to the vacant full-time Social Worker positions. The total cost to the county is \$171,047. A regulation change will impact Federal funding for administering Medicaid revenue but no guidance for budget planning has been provided.

Currently, Mental Health has \$76,861 in State Aid that is used for CNY services to provide a forensic case manager to the department. Teisha believes makes more sense to use this money for a forensic social worker for the Jail. She will be meeting with Sheriff Riley to discuss this further. The Community Services Board will be looking at State Aid and all contract agencies to provide a report for this Committee.

Karolyn Sayles provided an overview of Mental Health's Fiscal and Accounts Receivable Reports for July 2014 showing a year-to-date surplus of \$17,579.

Teisha Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to terminate agreement with Chittenango Central School District

A motion was made by Walrod, seconded by Pinard and carried unanimously.

Authorizing Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to enter agreement with ValueOptions

A motion was made by Goldstein, seconded by Carinci and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the modification of the 2014 adopted budget

A motion was made by Walrod, seconded by Pinard and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to proclaim September as National Recovery Month

A motion was made by Walrod, seconded by Carinci and carried unanimously.

Public Health

Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to modify an agreement with Lanpher's Transport, Inc.

A motion was made by Walrod, seconded by Pinard and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the modification of the 2014 adopted County budget for aerial application of mosquito adulticide

Discussion: A State of Emergency was declared for Madison County in the Town of Sullivan on August 25th due to the imminent threat to public health posed by the presence of EEE based on current mosquito activity in Madison County. A press release went out to the media and was posted on the website along with on Friday to notify the public that

Madison County Health Department is making plans for aerial spraying in the Town of Sullivan as soon as Tuesday, August 26th, weather permitting.

A motion was made by Pinard, seconded by Walrod and carried unanimously.

Eric presented the Health Department's 2015 proposed budget that is \$141,461 (4.63%) less than 2014. The 2015 budget year will be the first full year with the State Aid changes. There are currently two vacant positions, OAI and Public Health Educator. Eric would like to change the OAI to a part-time position and reclassify the Public Health Educator to a Biostatistician that can analyze health data to build capacity for health assessments and reduce the need to hire consultants. Costs for per diem nurses have decreased. Escrow payments to the State for the EI program save the department money and the revenue from the sale of the CHHA will continue for a couple more years.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pinard at 12:03 p.m., seconded by Goldstein and carried.

Next meeting: September 22, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. in the Supervisors' large conference room.

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