

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Meeting Chambers/Zoom

Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman

Loren Corbin, Town of Brookfield

Eve Ann Shwartz, Town of Hamilton

James Goldstein, Vice-Chairman, Town of Lebanon, via Zoom

Joe Magliocca, City of Oneida

Others Present

Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services

Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency

Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health

Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services

Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator

Tina Louis, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau

Tina Wayland Smith, County Attorney

Mark Scimone, County Administrator

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer

Cindy Edick, Treasurer

Michele Browell, Confidential Secretary, Social Services

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Alex Stepanski called the meeting to order at 10:29 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 for August 24, 2021.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Appointing Members of the Community Services Board.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget (Mental Health Intergovernmental Transfer).

A motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into a Business Associates Agreement with Zoom Video Communications, Inc.

A motion was made by Supervisor Corbin to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Coordinated Care Services, Inc.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Director Cook gave an update on the Pathways program. The program is currently working within the Mental Health Clinic and the Gorman Center. A bid will be going out for the renovations to the building they will be using. They are still looking for a Coordinator, but the program is going strong.

Public Health

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing an Agreement Amendment with Dr. Seelan Newton.

A motion was made by Supervisor Corbin to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Director Faisst gave an update on COVID-19. We are currently in the peak of the third wave with a seven-day average of 27 cases. There seems to be no consistent pattern of transmission. As of Monday, there were 175 active cases and a total of 97 deaths. There have been no in school transmission. There have been 369 break through cases and 11 hospitalizations of vaccinated people. There are approximately 490 tests done per day. BOCES is handling all of the testing in the schools. Booster shots have been approved and many providers will be giving the shots. The Public Health Department will be focusing on the unvaccinated and school age children.

Social Services

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald presented the Commissioners Report. These numbers are through the month of August. Almost all categories are where they should be at this point which is at or below 66%. There is a resolution being presented today for a shortage for the year in Foster Care.

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc. (BRiDGES)

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget (DSS Foster Care).

A motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Fitzgerald gave an update on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). There have been 239 applications submitted but there has been no word on the current total amount of payments that have been made.

Also discussed was an email from a local Funeral Director regarding the indigent burial rates. A resolution was approved two years ago with rates that will raise each year with the cost of living. In order for any action to be done all local funeral home directors that are doing indigent burials would have to agree, but this request would most likely be denied. Commissioner Fitzgerald will write a letter to the directors.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer gave program updates and stated that the agency continues to meet client's needs and connect them with the services they need. The agency continues with trainings. There were four trainings/events attended since last Committee meeting. Director Raymer met with Alicia Clifford, LCSW-R Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator for suicide prevention. Total client contact for August was 294 and so far for September is 255.

Youth Bureau

Director Tina Louis presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an Intra-Departmental Agreement between Department of Social Services and the Youth Bureau.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an Agreement with BRiDGES, Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc., Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County and the Madison County Youth Bureau for the creation of the Madison County Youth Council.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Director Louis gave updates. The New Visions class has started and there is a new instructor. The students will be around the County campus shadowing different departments. They will also attend a Board of Supervisors meeting

Requests are starting to come in for program funding provided through the County. A decision from the applications will be made in November with funding available at the beginning of the year.

There will be a resolution in December for appointing members to the Youth Board. There is both a youth and an adult interested that do not live in the County. Both have knowledge and experience that would be beneficial to the Board.

Preferred Agenda

The Committee unanimously agreed to include all resolutions in their Preferred Agenda, upon motion by Supervisor Magliocca and seconded by Supervisor Corbin.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: October 26, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski