

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Meeting via 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

Joe Magliocca, City of Oneida

Others Present

Mark Scimone, County Administrator

Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services

Tina Louis, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau

Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health Services

Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency

Tina Wayland Smith, County Attorney

Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services

Kathryn Scheirer, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator

Cindy Edick, Treasurer

Michele Browell, Confidential Secretary, Social Services

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 for January 26, 2021. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice-Chairman Goldstein seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Cook gave an update on services. They are slowly working in some in person appointments and more staff are now in the office. Staff will be trained on calls that are diverted from 911 for cases that the Mental Health staff can assist with. Director Cook will give an update in March as to how this is going. There will be CIT training in November for all law enforcement that wish to participate.

Director Cook presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Freitas and Associates

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with George David Annas, MD

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

Public Health

Director Faisst gave an update on COVID-19. Numbers continue to improve, we had seven new cases today and are averaging nine new cases per day. We currently have 61 active cases which is down from 259 cases a month ago. There will be three clinics this week, 2nd doses will be administered in Chittenango on Wednesday, and 1st doses will be administered on Thursday and Friday at SUNY Morrisville. Due to the winter weather in Texas there was a shipping delay of vaccine. Director Faisst received an email last week from the state asking if we could assist with vaccinations at Nursing Homes. Over 65 years of age is the highest risk group. Testing numbers have dropped along with contact tracing and case investigations. Last weekend was the first weekend in the past year that no staff were in the Public Health building. Colleges are back in session with Colgate approved to administer vaccines. Director Faisst meets weekly with schools and hospitals. Last week the Board of Health had a mid-review related to high risk sports. The BOH also drafted guidelines for wedding events but are holding off to see if the state may come out with their own. There have been some changes in quarantine guidelines for schools and Director Faisst will be meeting with School Superintendents on Thursday.

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Modifying the 2021 Budget for Early Intervention Administration Grant

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

Social Services

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the Commissioners Report. Two new lines were added in January for Kinship Guardianship and Raise the Age to track expenses. Social Services is working with CAP to send out a landlord survey regarding the eviction moratorium. The purpose of this survey is to gather information.

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget

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

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget

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

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget related to Cares Act Emergency Solutions Grant (ESF-CV) Funding

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

Tina Louis, Director of the Youth Bureau stated that she has applied for certification through OCFS for an interim family program for Runaway and Homeless Youth.

The students in the New Visions Program are training to take calls in the COVID-19 call center. This will take the place of the internships that they would normally do.

Director Louis presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing Agreement Amendment with BRiDGES, Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc.

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

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer provided an update on the Veteran's Service Agency. The Agency is currently 100% staffed as of 2/8/2021. In person client contacts will continue to be restricted to emergency situations only. Staff has attended three trainings with two more scheduled this week. The Veteran's Agency has planned a 22-mile walk to help raise awareness of Veteran suicide. The planned route will be leaving the Madison County Office Building parking lot heading toward Rte. 5 to the Maple Leaf gas station on Tuscarora Rd. in Chittenango they will then turn around and head back. They will be wearing high visibility shirts with the Madison County Veteran's Agency name phone number. This will be the first of what is hoped to be an annual event. Total client contact for January was 326 and so far for February is 283.

Preferred Agenda

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

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: March 23, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski