

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 25, 2021
Meeting Chambers/Zoom

Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman
Loren Corbin, Town of Brookfield, via Zoom
Eve Ann Shwartz, Town of Hamilton, via Zoom
James Goldstein, Vice-Chairman, Town of Lebanon, via Zoom
Joe Magliocca, City of Oneida, via Zoom

Others Present

Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services
Tina Louis, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau
Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health, via Zoom
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services
Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator
Tina Wayland Smith, County Attorney
Noah Devaney, Intern from Syracuse University
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 April 27, 2021. A motion by Vice Chairman Goldstein to approve the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook gave updates to the Committee regarding the termination of the contract for the Pathways Recovery Program. She would like to hire a Recovery Center Coordinator and two Peer Specialist. She has reached out to OMH for job descriptions and salary guidelines. This will be a separate stand-alone program within Mental Health.

A consultant was hired last month for the Mental Health needs assessment. He is currently interviewing members of the steering committee.

Mental Health is having a large number of crises calls and intakes. Director Cook would like to create an extra Social Worker position. This resolution is going before the Government Operations Committee.

Currently Mental Health is doing a mix of telehealth and in person appointments. Staff is encouraging clients to come into the office for appointments and they are incorporating conversations regarding vaccination. They are hoping by Fall to have mostly in person appointments.

Director Cook presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Terminate the Pathways Recovery Center Program.

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

Creating a Recovery Center Coordinator Position and Two Peer Specialist Positions in the Mental Health Department.

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

Public Health

Director Eric Faisst gave an update on COVID-19 cases. Numbers are improving, we currently have 29 active cases and no positive cases in Nursing Homes. There have been no deaths in several months and there is one person hospitalized. There are 39,805 residents that have been vaccinated or had the first dose of the vaccine. In the age range of 12-15 there are 22% with at least the first dose and 43% in the 16-17 age range have had at least the first dose of the vaccine. Clinics are continuing with one this Thursday at Public Health and next week at SUNY Morrisville on Wednesday and in Oneida at the Northside Shopping Center on Thursday.

Director Faisst presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement and Modify the 2021 Adopted County Budget for Public Health Preparedness Grant.

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

Accepting Bids and Awarding Contracts for Pre-School Children Transportation.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Solix.

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

Social Services

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald presented the Commissioners Report. All numbers are where they are expected be at this point. The Department was notified last week that the Medicaid weekly share will be going up by 23% effective next Tuesday. Every County will be seeing an increase. We will still be under what was budgeted for 2021 with this increase. There will be a conference call this afternoon regarding the rental assistance program. It is expected that an announcement will be made with the opening date of the state portal. The state will be making the payments to the landlords and the Department will be advertising and assisting.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer gave program updates and stated that the Agency continues to meet client's needs. The inaugural 22 km Veteran Awareness Hike was successful, plans are being made for next year's hike. The family of Reggie Emmons expressed gratitude and were overwhelmed for the support and well wishes for his 100th birthday. The agency continues with trainings. Director Raymer will attend the NYS DVS Accreditation for Veteran Service Officers in June. The Madison County WAVEM Corp. annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on May 30th at 11:00 a.m. The ceremony will be held at the Madison County War Memorial and the guest speaker will be Sheriff Todd Hood. Total client contact for April was 496 and so far for May is 383.

Youth Bureau

Director Tina Louis presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Madison-Oneida BOCES for the New Visions Government, Public Administration and Law Program.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Madison County Children's Camp and to Modify the 2021 Adopted County Budget.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with the Village of Hamilton and to Modify the 2021 Adopted County Budget.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with the Great Swamp Conservancy, Inc. and to Modify the 2021 Adopted County Budget.

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

Director Louis stated that her staff is working on a Summer Program that will allow youths to work in various locations within Madison County. They are also working on putting together a Youth Council. This will include representatives from BRiDGES, Cooperative Extension along with the Youth Bureau. Applications will be going out to the School Districts asking the youth what they are in need of. The mentors from the agencies will work with the youth to have their voices heard. Director Louis let the Committee know that she is continuing work on the Runaway Homeless Youth program. There will be more updates on this at the next Committee meeting.

Preferred Agenda

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

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Vice Chairman Goldstein to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m., seconded by Chairman Stepanski and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: June 22, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski