

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Meeting Chambers

Committee Members Present

Mary Cavanagh, Chairwoman, City of Oneida

Kyle Reger, Town of Cazenovia

Alex Stepanski, Town of Stockbridge

Others Present

Jesica Prieto, Commissioner, Social Services

Brett Hembach, Deputy Commissioner, Social Services

Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services

Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator

Jim Monfort, Director of Financial Services CCSI

Erica Bird, Deputy Director, Public Health

Tina Louis, Director, Youth Bureau

Melissa Felton, Second Assistant County Attorney

Mark Scimone, County Administrator

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer

Emily Burns, Clerk to the Board

James Cunningham, Chairman

Paul Walrod, Vice Chairman

John Pinard, Town of Lenox

Keith Lummis, Assistant Director of Finance

Cindy Edick, Treasurer

Michele Browell, Confidential Secretary, DSS

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 10:06 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 July 23, 2024. A motion was made by Supervisor Reger to approve the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Stepanski and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into a Three-Way Agreement with Chittenango Central School District and the Town of Sullivan for a Satellite Mental Health Clinic

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

For Discussion: Authorizing the Modification of the 2024 Adopted County Budget- MH State Aid.

Director Cook informed the Committee that this budget modification will be going before the Finance Ways & Means Committee. They will be added a fourth position in the school districts.

Director Cook told the Committee that she is working on a project disaster plan for Mental Health. This will involve training related to the support of first responders. Mental Health staff will be trained, and a team will be deployed to help with community and first responders when needed. Training will start in 2025.

Director Teisha Cook and Jim Monfort, Director of Financial Services, CCSI presented the 2025 Mental Health budget summary. There will be a decrease in revenue by \$52,000. The department has been notified that they will be receiving a state grant of \$145,000. There will be some personnel changes with adding a Supervising Social Worker which will supervise 10 school staff. There is currently a vacant Sr. Staff Social Worker that will be left vacant at this time. There will be an increase of \$9,800 for Dr. Chlebowsky who is the medical director. This will be the first increase since 2018. There is an estimated net profit of \$328,000 for the 2025 budget.

Public Health

Deputy Director Erica Bird presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter an Agreement with the New York State Department of Health ATUPA Grant

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

For Discussion: Authorizing the Modification of the 2024 Budget for Indoor Radon Grant Renewal

Deputy Director Bird informed the Committee that this budget modification will be going before the Finance Ways & Means Committee. This is year three of the five-year award.

Deputy Director Bird presented the 2025 Public Health budget summary. The overall estimated 2025 budget would be \$13,000 lowered than the 2024 amended budget. This excludes the Wanderers Rest contract that is requesting an increase of \$23,000. There is a 1.6% increase in personal services expenses, lower than the staffing raises due to three vacancies and a retirement in 2024. There will be a 6% increase for preschool transportation. This will be offset by a

\$100,000 reduction in early intervention transportation. The department also has a grant that will pay 50% for one of the management staff's salary along with smaller operating expenses.

Social Services

Commissioner Jesica Prieto provided the Commissioners Report and Burial Summary for July 2024. She reported that there have been 1,009 CPS reports, 35 children in care of which 7 are in institutions. There have been 37 neglect petitions, and 9 children are in OCFS custody.

Commissioner Prieto presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Together for Youth

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with VenTek, Inc.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Together for Youth (formerly Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth)

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

Commissioner Prieto and Deputy Commissioner Brett Hembach presented the 2025 DSS budget summary. The projected expenses for 2025 are \$35.1 million which is a decrease of \$121,000 from 2024. Overall expenses have increased by \$9,000 and the local share is anticipated to decrease by \$60,000. There are three vacant positions that the titles will be revised and are accounted for in the 2025 budget. There is an anticipated increase of over one million dollars in daycare assistance. This is due to changes in state regulations, the state has been covering these increases so far. The categories of aid to dependent children, foster care, and Juvenile Delinquency are budgeted at \$369,975 less this year. This is a result in a change in their budgeting approach. There is a projected decrease of \$445,393 in state training schools.

Veterans Agency

A report of the Veteran's Agency updates was supplied along with the departments 2025 Budget Summary.

Samantha Field let the Committee know that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony/grand opening for the Madison County Veterans Community Center on September 19th at 1:00.

Youth Bureau

Director Tina Louis and Deputy Commissioner Brett Hembach presented the 2025 Youth Bureau budget summary. The projected expenses are \$389,805 which is a decrease of \$13,592 from

2024. The local share is estimated at \$245,683 which is a reduction of \$13,663 from the 2024 budget. The SWIMS program will also offset the Youth Bureau Director cost.

Director Louis gave department updates. The funding allocations have been released and Director Louis is working with Purchasing on the RFP process. Previous contracts cannot be renewed due to the wording in the RFP, and they are working on changes for that language.

Review Committee Description

The committee description was reviewed. Department Heads were asked to make any suggestions and email them, so Emily has them by Thursday.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Supervisor Reger to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the performance of a particular contractor, Supervisor Stepanski seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. A motion was made by Supervisor Stepanski to exit executive session; Supervisor Reger seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Preferred Agenda

It was the consensus of the Committee to allow any eligible resolutions from today's meeting to be added to the Preferred Agenda. All resolutions were voted on and approved by the Committee.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Supervisor Reger to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Stepanski and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: September 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh