

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Meeting Chambers/Zoom

Committee Members Present

John Becker, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Town of Sullivan

Brandee DuBois, Vice-Chairwoman, City of Oneida

Mary Cavanagh, City of Oneida

John Pinard, Town of Lenox

Melissa During, Town of Lincoln

Others Present

Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services

Tricia Platt, Deputy Commissioner for Financial Assistance, Social Services

Lukas Duimstra, Veterans Counselor, Veterans Agency

Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services

Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator

Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health

Tina Louis, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau

Tina Wayland Smith, County Attorney, via Zoom

Mark Scimone, County Administrator

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer

Quinn VanLine, BOCES, New Visions Program

Dan Cummings, BOCES, New Visions Program

Peggy LeClair, via Zoom

Beth Piersall, Confidential Secretary, Mental Health

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman John Becker 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 December 13, 2021. A motion was made by Supervisor Pinard to approve the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Cavanagh and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook reported that Mat Roosa will be providing an update on the Mental Health Needs Assessment at the February 8th Board of Supervisors meeting. There will be an upcoming press release regarding the website.

There was a recent incident in the community that involved a collaborative response from Oneida Police Department, Liberty Resources mobile crisis staff and the Mental Health

Department. Director Cook noted that this joint effort to provide assistance to someone in the community indicated the system we have in place is working well.

Public Health

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Abolishing a Director of Administrative Services Position and Creating a Deputy Director for Administrative Services Position in the Public Health Department

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

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget (Preschool)

A motion was made by Supervisor Cavanagh to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman DuBois and carried unanimously.

Director Faisst reported that Public Health has been awarded the Healthy Neighbor Grant for \$170,000 for five years. This grant will assist with environmental needs such as lead poisoning prevention, indoor air quality, reduce asthma hospitalizations, and residential injuries. The grant begins in April and this will allow them to hire a full time sanitarian to oversee this project. The sanitarian will work with staff from DSS, CAP, fire, EMT and codes enforcement personnel.

Director Faisst also provided an update on COVID-19. There are currently 50 new cases, with a total of 141 new cases over the recent weekend. We have 238 active cases at this time. On January 9, 2022, there were 727 active cases, which dropped to 239 on January 24, 2022. On January 8, 2021, we had 421 active cases and this number dropped to 249 by January 29, 2021. Madison County does not include the results from rapid at home tests in their statistics. Currently 16 residents are hospitalized - age 35-44 (1), age 45-59 (3), age 60-74 (7), 75 or older (5). Seven are vaccinated and nine are unvaccinated. The current positivity rate in Madison County is 13.6%, state positivity rate is 10.5%. Hospital capacity is 9%, hospital ICU capacity is 17%. A few weeks ago there was no hospital capacity availability. Vaccination rate - 18 years and over, 84%, a total of 75% have received 1 dose, 70% have completed the vaccine series. People age 18-25 who are part of the workforce and not attending college have the lowest vaccination rate. Public Health continues to offer vaccine clinics. Healthcare workers must receive their booster by February 21, 2022. All three colleges will be requiring boosters. Cazenovia College had 20 recent positive tests and Colgate had 40 positive tests. Testing -The rapid testing site the county has been offering in Morrisville will be closing. The State is running a daily testing site on SUNY Morrisville's campus. MCDOH is trying to partner with the Oneida Health testing site and have Public Health staff assist with testing. Public Health received 3100 rapid test kits and they will be available on Saturday, January 29th, it is a drive-thru event with a 2 tests/per car limit.

Social Services

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald presented the Commissioners Report. These numbers are through December 2021. All categories are now at 100%. Medicaid is the single largest expense at \$9 million. SNAP benefits, \$17.4 million in SNAP benefits was distributed in Madison County. This was completely supported by federal dollars. If someone was not already

receiving the maximum SNAP benefit, this was increased so they received the maximum benefit the last 16 months. This benefit will continue through at least March of 2022. Commissioner Fitzgerald provided an overview of the Department of Social Services, including all programs and services and the contact information for his Deputy Commissioner's and Confidential Secretary.

Director Tina Louis presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Dr. P. Scott Petosa of K.A.G Consulting for Open Services

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Dr. P. Scott Petosa of K.A.G. Consulting for Detention Prevention Services

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

Veterans Agency

Lukas Duimstra, Veterans Counselor, provided program updates and stated that the agency continues to meet client's needs and connect them with services. Total client contact for December was 264 and so far for January it is 281 which is an increase in client contacts. Staff continue to meet with clients in person and if someone is unable to come into the office, they will go to their residence. Veterans Agency staff will also transport clients to necessary appointments.

Youth Bureau

Director Tina Louis provided an overview of the services the Youth Bureau offers. They focus on needs of all children and youth under age 21. The Youth Bureau is under the Department of Social Services. Funding is allocated from New York State Office of Child and Family Services. Programs that received NYS OCFS funding in 2021 include: Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Madison County Children's Camp, Village of Hamilton Swim Program, Great Swamp Conservancy, Youth Bureau Leadership Program, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program. In 2020, another youth program funding stream was added through the Madison County budget. Programs that received Madison County funding in 2021: The Haven at Skanda Farm, Community Action Program Mentoring Partnership, BRiDGES LGBTQIA Youth and Adult Initiative. The Youth Board is made up of youth and adults from around the county. The Youth Development Program Supervisor, Coordinators and Case Assistants oversee programming, offer training and manage contracts including School Services, Leadership, Service Learning, Boys Council, Girls Circle, Fatherhood, Motherhood, One to One Mentoring, Parenting Classes, Safe Harbour, Independent Living, Job Shadowing and Internships, Coached Family Visits and Life Skills Coaching.

Preferred Agenda

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

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Vice-Chairwoman DuBois to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Cavanagh and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: February 22, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Piersall for Chairman John Becker