

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Meeting Chambers/Zoom

Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman

Loren Corbin, Town of Brookfield

Eve Ann Schwartz, Town of Hamilton, via Zoom

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

Joe Magliocca, City of Oneida, via Zoom

Others Present

Mark Scimone, County Administrator

Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services

Patricia Platt, Deputy Commissioner, Social Services

Tina Louis, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau

Kelly Golly, Director of Administrative Services, Public Health Services, via Zoom

Erica Bird, Health Statistician, Public Health, via Zoom

Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency

Tina Wayland Smith, County Attorney, via Zoom

Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services

Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer

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 March 23, 2021.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Supervisor Schwartz seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Public Health

Erica Bird, Health Statistician gave an update on COVID-19. There are currently 47 active cases in Madison County, none of which are in nursing homes. There have been three deaths in the past month. There is an average of six new cases per day with a seven-day positive average rate of 0.7%. There are currently 33,887 residents that have received at least the first dose of vaccine. Madison County staff have administered nearly 8,000 first doses. We are beginning to see a downward trend after a spike in cases at the end of March and early April. Focus is shifting from mass vaccination sites to smaller ones with more targeted outreach to address vaccine hesitancy. Smaller clinics will be offered in Wampsville and also Oneida which has the capability to do a drive through. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will resume at the Oneida Clinic on Wednesday.

Director Kelly Golly presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Modifying the 2021 Budget for Drinking Water Enhancements Grant Renewal.

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

Social Services

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald presented the Commissioners Report. All numbers are where they are expected be at this point. A question was asked regarding Medical Expenses being at 95%. Commissioner Fitzgerald explained that this is the percentage of revenue.

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted Budget for funding received through The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN).

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

Patricia Platt, Deputy Commissioner for Financial Assistance gave an update on rental assistance. Social Services mailed out 106 letters to landlords at the beginning of April asking them to complete an online survey to gage the financial hardship due to COVID-19. There were 55 responses of which 46 landlords have 20 rentals or less and 46 have five buildings or less. It was also determined that there are 175 units that are behind one or more months in rent and 127 units are behind one or more months of rent due to COVID-19. From this survey, it shows that landlords are owed over \$500,000 from tenants that have not paid rent during the eviction moratorium.

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) is working on a program to help with this issue. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will be a program that both landlords and tenants can apply to see if they are eligible for assistance. There will be more information regarding this program as OTDA has it available. Currently larger Counties such as Onondaga can assist landlords and tenants with their own program but smaller Counites, which includes Madison County, will need to wait for the ERAP program to become available. Social Services will work with Community Action Program (CAP) to do outreach for this program.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer gave program updates and stated that the Agency continues to meet client's needs. Staff is continuing with trainings, completing five since the last H&HS Committee meeting. The Madison County Veteran Service Agency (MCVSA) inaugural 22 km Veteran Awareness Hike will be May 1st starting at 8:30 a.m. Total client contact for the month of March was 609 and so far for April is 371. Staff is actively reaching out to Veterans

regarding COVID-19 vaccination. Those numbers are reflected in the client contact reporting. The Memorial Day Ceremony is scheduled to take place on May 30th. This will be an outside event with more information to follow.

Director Raymer presented the following Proclamation the Committee

Proclamation Honoring Reginald (Reggie) Emmons

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

Mr. Emmons will be celebrating his 100th birthday on May 9th. He is a WW II Veteran and is the recipient of several military awards. Mr. Emmons family has asked that he is flooded with birthday cards since they are not able to gather for a celebration. Director Raymer will be collecting card now through May 4th.

Youth Bureau

Director Tina Louis presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with The Haven at Skanda and to Modify the 2021 Adopted County Budget

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

Director Louis updated the Committee on the Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) Program Certification. This service was contracted out but will be more effective and efficiently run through Social Services. Director Louis worked with the state to get a policy and procedure manual together to bring this program to Social Services. The program is 60% reimbursed. Social Services became certified on March 30th and the agency has received its first case. Case Management will supply the youth with any needs they have. This will include mediation with the family or housing. Director Louis will be following up with the Committee with a resolution.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook gave updates to the Committee regarding the 911 diversion project that was started last month. They are receiving calls both day and night and it is going well. There will be more to come on this. Director Cook along with a few others had a meeting a few weeks ago with Chairman Becker regarding the state of mental health needs in the County. This has been brought to the forefront due to COVID and is a large concern. Director Cook has reached out for some outside guidance and there has been a steering committee created to help with a comprehensive need's assessment. The department has had limited in person appointments and has noticed that there are several "no shows" for these appointments.

Director Cook presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Enter into an Updated Contract Agreement with Aetna.

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

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.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to enter into executive session for the discussion of the financial and performance history of a particular corporation, Vice Chairman Goldstein seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. A motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to exit executive session; Vice Chairman Goldstein seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: May 25, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski