

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, December 13, 2021

Meeting Chambers/Zoom

Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman

Loren Corbin, Town of Brookfield

Joe Magliocca, City of Oneida

Eve Ann Shwartz, Town of Hamilton, via Zoom

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

Others Present

Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services, via Zoom

Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency

Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services

Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator

Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health Services, via Zoom

Tina Wayland Smith, County Attorney, via Zoom

Mark Scimone, County Administrator

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer

Cliff Moses, Board Vice-Chair, Town of Eaton

Beth Piersall, Confidential Secretary, Mental Health Services

John Nichols, via Zoom

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 November 23, 2021. A motion by Supervisor Corbin to approve the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Family Counseling Services of Cortland County, Inc.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement for Sign Language Interpreting Services with Communication Services, Inc (dba Interpretek).

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Vineall Ambulance, Inc. (dba Reliable Telephone Answering Service).

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

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget (Gorman Building Renovation).

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

Director Cook let the Committee know that Matt Roosa will be presenting at an upcoming Board Meeting to go over the Needs Assessment Survey. She will present the website at the January Committee meeting and said that it will be user friendly.

Public Health

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with McCarthy & Conlon, LLP.

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 Wanderers' Rest Humane Association, Inc. for Dog Shelter Services.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Public Health Department Contractors.

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

Director Faisst gave an update on COVID-19. There are currently eight school districts doing the test to stay in school. The department is currently using Binax test kits we received from Broome County. They are looking for another source to obtain kits for when those are gone. There is a challenge of finding eligible staff to conduct the tests and Public Health is working with BOCES on this. There was discussion on the state mask mandate. The department was notified on Friday of the new mandate. Chairman Becker released a statement to the media that Madison County will not be enforcing this. Committee members would like to see consistent messaging in support of wearing masks in Madison County. Public Health does not have the resources to carry out the enforcement activities that the Governor delegated to the local health departments. Currently there is an average of 50 new active cases per day. There are fewer

hospitalizations now then in 2020 at this time. There were 78 deaths in 2020 and 32 deaths in 2021. Of the 32 deaths, 19 were since May when masks were no longer mandated. Of those deaths, 63% were unvaccinated, average age was 71 with underlining medical conditions.

Social Services

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald gave an update on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). There is no more state money for this program and no new applications are being accepted from Madison County. There were 300 applications submitted and 80 were determined with checks sent to landlords. There was also the LRAP Program where landlords could apply if tenants did not apply for ERAP. This program is also out of money. The state has asked for additional funds from the Federal Government. The rent moratorium is set to end on January 15, 2022.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer gave program updates and stated that the agency continues to meet client's needs and connect them with the services they need. Total client contact for November was 372.

Youth Bureau

Public Information Officer, Samantha Field spoke about the BOCES New Visions class meeting with Senator Rachel May and Assemblyman John Salka. The students were able to ask the Senator and Assemblyman questions about their jobs. This Thursday morning the students will hold a "mock" Board of Supervisors meeting in the Chambers.

Preferred Agenda

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

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Supervisor Magliocca to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Corbin and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: January 25, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski