

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Meeting Chambers/Zoom

Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman

Loren Corbin, Town of Brookfield

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

Mark Scimone, County Administrator

Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services

Tina Louis, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau, via Zoom

Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health Services

Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency

Tina Wayland Smith, County Attorney, via Zoom

Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services, via Zoom

Kathryn Scheirer, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator, via Zoom

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer, 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 February 23, 2021. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Supervisor Corbin seconded by Supervisor Shwartz and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook reported that clients are still having appointments through telehealth. Clients can call or email to set up an appointment. They plan to keep the option of telehealth with it working well especially for the appointment after 4:00 p.m. The department is currently serving 1,100 clients and they are seeing an increase in college students. This is due to the option of not having to come to Wampsville for the appointment.

Director Cook presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget

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

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Public Health

Director Eric Faisst gave an update on COVID-19 cases. The seven-day average is eight new cases per day. There are currently 47 active cases with no cases in nursing homes and there are two hospitalizations. Next week the department will be reporting vaccination data by zip code. There have been 22,000 first doses of the vaccine given. This week there will be clinics every day, with two sites each day and one day with three sites. There will be a new site in Oneida on Wednesday. The department received 900 doses this week of the vaccine, this is an increase from 200. It has been a challenge to get people registered due to qualifying restrictions, there are currently several slots available for appointments. Thursday will be the last day for testing in Wampsville.

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing 2021 Budget Modification for the Federal & State Grant Immunization Action Plan

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 should be at this point. There has been an increase since July 2020 with 10,500 residents receiving Medicaid through the State Health Exchange. SNAP totals are not going up due to the extended unemployment benefit. A discussion was held regarding homelessness. This tends to be a seasonal issue with changing of the weather. When the temperature is below 32 degrees homeless clients can be housed under Code Blue. In 2020 the department had 230 clients present themselves as homeless. Only a small percentage were assisted with the rest deciding to make their own plan. There is some federal funding coming that the department will be splitting with CAP. Community Action Program will use their portion for long term housing and DSS will put theirs towards hotel/motel rooms as needed. Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the Departments 2020 Annual Report and also had the Management annual evaluations available for the Committee members to view.

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Community Action Program, Inc.

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

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

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

Authorizing the Modification of the 2020 Adopted Budget

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

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 and two more upcoming this month. The Veterans suicide outreach walk has been changed to May1, 2021. This will be a 22-mile walk to bring awareness to the veteran community that the Madison County Veteran Service Agency is available to assist all veterans. Total client contact for the month of February was 431 and so far for March is 367.

Youth Bureau

Director Tina Louis spoke on the Youth Bureau now accepting proposal requests from community-based non-profit organizations to provide services to youth from July through December 2021. There is a FAQ section on the County website under the Youth Bureau page for applicants to view.

Director Louis presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Board of Supervisors to Accept a Gift of Personal Property on Behalf of Madison County and Modifying the 2021 Adopted County Budget

A motion by Supervisor Magliocca to approve the resolution, seconded by Chairman Stepanski 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 Shwartz.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Supervisor Shwartz to adjourn the meeting at 11:27 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Magliocca and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: April 27, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski