

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Meeting Chambers/Zoom

Committee Members Present

Alex Stepanski, Chairman, Town of Stockbridge

Brandee DuBois, Vice-Chairwoman, City of Oneida

Mary Cavanagh, City of Oneida

John Pinard, Town of Lenox

Melissa During, Town of Lincoln, via Zoom

Others Present

Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Social Services

Brett Hembach, Director of Administrative Services, Social Services

Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health

Shawn Prievo, Deputy Director of Administrative Services

Tina Wayland-Smith, County Attorney

Mark Scimone, County Administrator

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer

Christina Kennedy, Corporate Compliance Officer, via Zoom

Emily Burns, Clerk to the Board

Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services

Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator

Jim Monfort, Director of Financial Services, CCSI, Inc.

Ron Raymer, Director Veterans Agency

Lukas Duimstra, Veterans Counselor, Veterans Agency

Cindy Edick, County Treasurer

Keith Lummis, Assistant Director of Finance

Peggy LeClair, via Zoom

Beth Piersall, Confidential Secretary, Mental Health

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman 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 July 26, 2022. A motion was made by Supervisor Cavanagh to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman DuBois and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2022 Adopted County Budget (Provider State Aid Adjustments)

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

Director Teisha Cook and Jim Monfort, Director of Financial Services CCSI, presented the 2023 Mental Health budget summary. Last year, the MHD assumed responsibility for the Pathways Peer Recovery Center. Office space from the Gorman Foundation was renovated for the Pathways Recovery Center. State aid funding was utilized for the renovations at Pathways. Mental Health Fees will increase by \$270,920 in 2023. Personal Services will increase by \$171,327 with one new social worker in 2022 and requested one Sr. Staff Social Worker to oversee the school clinics in 2023. Director Teisha Cook noted that revenue generated from school visits has not been budgeted. Dr. Chlebowsky's hours will be increased by 3 hours per week in 2023. The last 3 years, the Mental Health Department has generated a profit.

Director Cook reported that the social workers will begin going to Chittenango and Cazenovia Schools this week, a second social worker has been hired for Chittenango. We continue to recruit for Hamilton. Oneida School district made the decision that they will not have a satellite clinic at this time.

Public Health

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2022 Adopted County Budget

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

Director Eric Faisst presented the 2023 Public Health budget summary. Director Faisst reported that most cost centers have decreased with the exception of Early Intervention and Preschool. Transportation costs have increased by 20% per route and since 2021, they have seen a 20% increase in the number of children being transported. The Director of Children with Special Needs will be retiring next year. In anticipation of this retirement, they have budgeted for a temporary Assistant Director, for four months to allow for training. A current Health Educator II position, that has responsibilities as our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, will be converted into two full time positions; one full-time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position and one Health Educator I. Public Health will be utilizing Emergency Preparedness grant funding, state aid, and Healthy Neighborhoods Grant funding to help support these two positions. State aid funding will be increased in 2023. Public Health continues billing for COVID 19 vaccinations.

Social Services

Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald noted they have contracts pending with OFA for HEAP certification, Stoneleigh Housing for furnace repairs and replacement, and Jennifer Genovese for staff support as these providers need to complete the insurance waiver. The Committee approved moving forward with these contracts.

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the Commissioners Report. These numbers are through the month of July 2022. Numbers should be at 58%. On a positive note, the Medicaid weekly share will decrease by \$20,000 per week through March 2023.

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2022 Adopted Budget (PEAF)

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

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the 2023 DSS budget summary. Due to the rise in the number of high level placements, including foster care, JD and State Training School, the projected local cost increase for 2023 is \$920,000. General Administration has decreased, they will be terminating a contract with Northwoods Traverse software for caseworkers.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer reported that things are going well at the Veterans Agency. Total client contacts for June was 373 and 466 for July. Anthony Spinelli has been hired as the new Veterans Service Counselor and will start on September 19th.

Director Raymer presented the 2023 budget summary. State aid will increase from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Personal Services will increase from \$181,205 to \$187,375 in 2023 due to increase in salaries. This is an increase of 3.4%. The proposed 2023 budget will decrease by 2.5% due to the increase in state aid.

Abolishing Veterans Service Counselor Position and Creating a Veterans Service Counselor II Position in the Veterans Service Agency

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

Director Raymer provided a PowerPoint presentation on how the Joseph P. Dwyer Peer to Peer support program state aid funding of \$100,000 has been utilized in other counties. This will assist in establishing Madison County Mission 1st Veterans Community Center. They would like the VCC to be open 6 days a week, Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Veterans would be able to receive assistance with claims, attend support groups, utilize food pantry and enjoy being with other veterans in one location at the Madison County Mission 1st Veterans Community Center. Director Raymer noted that we currently have 5,000 veterans in Madison County and 1,000 veteran dependents. All Veteran Service Officers at Madison County Veterans Service Agency are veterans themselves.

Youth Bureau

Commissioner Fitzgerald presented the 2023 Youth Bureau budget summary. The projected budget will decrease by 5%. The Youth Bureau will be withdrawing from the state funded Runaway Homeless Youth program for 2023.

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 Pinard to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 a.m., seconded by Vice-Chairwoman DuBois and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: September 27, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Piersall for Chairman Alexander R. Stepanski