

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 28, 2024
Meeting Chambers/Zoom

Committee Members Present

Mary Cavanagh, Chairwoman, City of Oneida
Alex Stepanski, Town of Stockbridge
Michelle Kinville, City of Oneida
Kyle Reger, Town of Cazenovia

Others Present

Jesica Prievo, Commissioner, Social Services
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services
Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health
Erica Bird, Deputy Director, Public Health
Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency
Tina Wayland-Smith, County Attorney
John Pinard, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
Mark Scimone, County Administrator
Samantha Field, Public Information Officer
Emily Burns, Clerk to the Board
Peggy LeClair, via Zoom
Melissa During, Town of Lenox, via Zoom
Sarah Murdie, Executive Director, Wanderers Rest
Brian Manning, TKF Architects
Michele Browell, Confidential Secretary, DSS

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 11:02 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 April 30, 2024. A motion was made by Supervisor Stepanski to approve the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Reger and carried unanimously.

Presentation on Wanderers Rest

Sarah Murdie, Executive Director gave a presentation on the relocation efforts of their building. This shelter is currently the only open admission dog and cat shelter in Madison County. They currently have 74 cats and 40 dogs on site. There is 17 staff members that work 40 hours plus several volunteer hours. If anyone is interested in volunteering, there is an application online

that is followed by an orientation. They are currently working with the Veterans Agency to promote adoptions. They also work with school districts with community service for students.

They need to relocate due to the current building in need of several repairs such as the foundation, exterior walls, kennel space, HVAC system and septic. They currently have no meet and greet area and the workspace and storage space is limited. They are hoping to get 5 acres of land in the Canastota Business Park. In order for this to happen the land will need to be rezoned. There will be a vote on this by the Village of Canastota on June 3rd. This land is ideal because it does have water and sewer on location.

Brian Manning from TKF Architects in Cazenovia presented drawings of the proposed new building. The building will be 14,000 square feet and cost 5.5 million including the land. This will include a good flow of space with more free space, offices for staff and meetings and an isolation unit for medical and animals with behavioral issues. There will be storage in the attic space.

Mental Health

Director Cook let the Committee know that she has a budget modification going before the Finance, Ways & Means Committee for a the Staff Social Worker position that will be in the Canastota School District.

Director Cook gave an update on the OPD project they are working on. The Oneida City Police Department has mapped out three hot spots of crime areas in the city. The next phase of this project includes mental health and substance abuse outreach. A two-sided hand out was created and these are being handed out during outreach efforts of OPD along with crisis worker Marcie Soule. They have also gone into homeless encampments to hand out resource information.

Public Health

Director Eric Faisst has a resolution going before the Finance, Ways & Means Committee. The resolution is Modifying the 2024 Budget for the renewal of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program Grant. This is the third year of the grant, and it is used to help identify health hazards or environmental safety threats in your home.

Director Faisst presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Public Health Department Approved Charges and Fee Schedule

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

Social Services

Commissioner Jesica Prieto provided the Commissioners Report and Burial Summary for April 2024. There has been a new column added to the report for "Percentage Expect". This will show the estimate of what the current month's percentage expensed should be for each category based on prior year accruals. The Foster Care expenses are higher than budgeted. If this trend continues there are other children's services categories that are under budget and will cover this shortage.

Commissioner Prieto and Deputy Commissioner Brett Hembach met with Mark Scimone and Cindy Edick to discuss the DSS budget. They have some ideas on how to adjust the budget going forward.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer reported the updates for the Veterans Agency. The 4th annual Veterans Awareness Hike was May 11th. They had 34 participants along with 8 dogs. They are hosting "Meow Monday's and Fur Friday's" which includes cats and dogs on site for adoption through Wanderer's Rest. A Marine and his family adopted a pet into their family through this event. The Madison County WAVEM annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on May 30th. This will be at 11:00 and Deanna Matt from Public Health will be singing the National Anthem. The first Madison County VSA sponsored Veteran Breakfast outreach event will take place on June 14th. This will be a pilot to see how it goes and the hope is to take it around the county. A Veterans family barbeque is being planned for August.

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 Kinville to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Reger and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: June 25, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. – this may change to 10:00 or 10:30 depending on the agenda for the Solid Waste Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh