

CAYUGA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: APRIL 11, 2019, CHAMBERS – 5:30PM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

<i>Elane Daly</i>	<i>Legislator District 11, Chair</i>
<i>Aileen McNabb-Coleman</i>	<i>Legislator, District 6, Vice Chair</i>
<i>Keith Batman</i>	<i>Legislator, District 7</i>
<i>Michael Didio</i>	<i>Legislator, District 14</i>
<i>Timothy Lattimore</i>	<i>Legislator, District 13</i>
<i>Charlie Ripley</i>	<i>Legislator, District 9</i>
<i>Benjamin Vitale</i>	<i>Legislator, District 3</i>

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Elane Daly, Chair at 5:32 PM.

EXCUSED: Aileen McNabb- Coleman.

OTHERS: County Attorney Chris Palermo, County Administrator J. Justin Woods, HR Administrator Michael Russell, Director of Office for the Aging Brenda Wiemann, Public Health Director Kathleen Cuddy, Citizen Reporter Ryan Franklin and Benefits/ Tax Associate Kristy Capone.

MINUTES TO APPROVE: MARCH 13, 2019, Motion by Batman, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Batman, all in favor.

- OFA Advisory
 - Angelia Mack, 4144 Baptist Corner Rd. Auburn, NY 13021 Term 4/1/2019 – 12/31/2023 (New appt)
- PWDD (People with Developmental Disabilities) Subcommittee
 - Joan Meyers, 3529 SE Townline Rd., Marcellus, NY 13108, Term – 1/1/19 to 12/31/22 (New appt.)
 - Elizabeth Signorelli, 6175 Court Street, Cayuga, NY 13021, Term – 1/1/19 to 12/31/22 New appt.)
- Alcohol & Substance Abuse Subcommittee
 - Gary Mann, 141 Atkinson Ave, Syracuse, NY 13207, Term – 1/1/19 to 12/31/22 (New appt.)

CAYUGA COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING/

BRENDA WIEMANN, DIRECTOR

ROUTINE RESOLUTIONS

- 4-19-HH-15 Authorizing the Cayuga County Administrator and the Director of the Office for the Aging to sign an agreement with Elderchoice for meal service
 - This is a renewal of a contract to provide meal service for seniors in a local Social Adult Day program. **Motion by Vitale, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.**
- 4-19-HH-16 Authorization to fill a part-time Aging Services Specialist in the Office for the Aging. **Motion by Didio, 2nd by Lattimore, all in favor except Batman.**

Discussion:

Batman says I want to say I absolutely support this position, but my question is you do not need the permission of this body or administration to seek a position, to advertise, to interview, what you need from this body is to fill the position. He says we tend not to do this much here and I am not sure why and my point is that our approval is not necessary to get the process underway. Batman says it is true that there would be a greater delay filling this position if you waited until next month but it is not a six-week delay. He says it is going to take time to do all the stuff you need to do so my question is, if you balance the fact that we are going to lose a couple weeks in filling the position and the reason we have this process of going through all the committees to get recommendations. He says for us to circumvent that process there has to be a reason that is more compelling than the position is important because there are not many positions in the County that we all would agree that are not critical. Batman says so the question I have is why we would circumvent the process just to maybe save a couple weeks and maybe no time at all. Wiemann says so if you recall at the last Health & Human Services meeting you thanked me for going through the correct process with my last fill. She says I was able to do that then because we could delay that fill, we could manage that in our department. She says this is a critical position, it is a fully funded and budgeted position and I am certainly not trying to circumvent anything but I am trying to do what is best for our community members. Lattimore calls the question.

POLICY MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE

- March for Meals week update
- Meals on Wheels membership update

Discussion:

Wiemann says I would like to thank Keith, Aileen and Justin for participating in the March for Meals. She says it was great to have leaders from our community participate. Batman says I would like to add that, it was a great experience and I was glad I did it. Wiemann says I would like to mention that I have look into the membership of Meals on Wheels a little further and the program seems to offer a fair amount of benefits for a very minimal cost and the cost is something we can take out of our department expense. She says we are probably going to go the route and there are benefits with doing that one being name recognition, identifying ourselves as a Meals on Wheels provider. Wiemann says we are still facing a shortage in our meal program in terms of or budget vs the demand. She says people are experiencing on many of the delivery routes a delay on getting their meals because of the shortage of volunteers but even at this point if we had more volunteers we still would not be able to serve everyone who has asked us. She says historically I know that this has happened in the past where we had to limit the meals and slow down so we are hoping it will resolve itself once again. Wiemann says the May meeting is Senior Citizen day and we are open to nomination for Senior Citizens of the year.

CAYUGA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & LONG TERM CARE

KATHLEEN CUDDY, DIRECTOR

ROUTINE RESOLUTIONS:

Motion by Vitale to bundle HH-11-HH-13, 2nd by Batman, all in favor.

- 4-19-HH-11 Authorizing the Chairman of the County Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into a memorandum of understanding with various colleges and universities to allow for nursing students and public health interns at the Health Department
 - Cayuga County Health Department continually gets requests to take on nursing students and public health students looking to complete an internship.
 - The Public Health Director be authorized to enter into such agreements as they may arise.\
- 4-19-HH-12 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into a 3-year agreement with the NYS Department of Health to allow the Health Department continued participation in the Zoonoses (Rabies) Program
 - The NYS Department of Health administers the mandated Zoonoses (Rabies) Program for the State of New York.
 - Funding in an amount not to exceed \$79,854 has been made available for the Cayuga County Health Department to continue to participate in this mandated program for a three-year period; the first year being April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020 and the second year being April 1, 2020- March 31, 2021 and the third year being April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022. The estimated grant award for each 12-month period of this 3-year contract will be \$26,618.
- 4-19-HH-13 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into a one year extension with NYSDOH for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program and accept funding associated with the extension
 - The NYS Department of Health has awarded the Cayuga County Health Department a one year contract to participate in the 100% State funded Healthy Neighborhoods Program for the purpose of reducing risks within homes of disadvantaged individuals related to fire and injury, asthma, lead poisoning, and indoor air concerns.
 - That the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director be authorized to enter into a one year contract extension with NYS DOH to participate in the 100% State funded Healthy Neighborhoods Program for the period of April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 for the total amount of \$141,360.

End of bundle

- 4-19-HH-14 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into a contract with East Hill Family Medical, Inc. & Finger Lakes Community Health for the provision of STD services. **Motion by Vitale, 2nd by Batman, all in favor.**
 - The County's Department of Health is responsible for providing diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) under Article 23 of the Public Health Law.
 - East Hill Family Medical, Inc. & Finger Lakes Community Health as Federally Qualifying Health Care Centers serving our community are able and willing to provide screening and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.
 - The Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director be allowed to enter into a contract with East Hill Family Medical, Inc. & Finger Lakes Community Health for the provision of diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases for the contract period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

POLICY MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE:

- EI/Preschool Provider Shortage
- Watershed Rules and Regulations Update
- NYSDOH Survey

Discussion:

Cuddy says we were surveyed for our Diagnostic and Treatment Center so I would like to report our survey results. She says we did receive some citations, one of them was we did not change our Site at 8 Dill Street our primary site for immunizations. She said we slowly made the transition so we need to go through a certificate of needs process with the state health department to change the address on our certificate and this is underway. Cuddy says another citation was our credentialing of our health care providers is not as robust as it should have been. She says in this case it is our Medical Director, the Tuberculosis Pulmonologist and we have to have credentials on those STD Service Providers as well. She says fortunately the credentialing that is done by the hospital that any of these places are associated with is acceptable and as well, East Hill has a credentialing process. She says we have a couple of what I consider minor citations one being our AED that we have on site did not have the pediatric pads in it, they were waiting because we needed a key to put on there but we didn't have it, we did remedy it that day. Cuddy says another was our emergency response was in a drawer and the want to see it in a bag labeled emergency response, that is resolved now. She says all of our clinical staff has taken the necessary trainings but our clerical staff who assist at immunizations, they need to take the domestic violence, child abuse and the human trafficking trainings. She says we also had hand sanitizer on the wall next to the table that children sit on and it is considered a potential issue so we have taken the hand sanitizer down, and our infection control committee, we did not have a separate committee but it will now be part of our QA. Cuddy says the plan of correction was accepted and a certificate of need is underway. She says overall I felt good about that. We will still be anticipating at some point in the future a License Homecare Service survey.

Cuddy says the Watershed Rules and Regulations, we had a couple stakeholder meetings Monday and Tuesday. She says it was well received and the people who were present had some valid issues that they said you should give consideration to. She says, next month we will be holding the public meetings on May 15 & 16 at 6:30 PM.

Cuddy says our preschool/ early intervention transportation bids are due next Wednesday. She says there are significant provider shortages to serve the children and it is becoming more difficult to secure therapists to provide the service within the time frames that are required by New York State. She says Lorie Fischer who is our Director of Children's Special Health Care Needs will speak to our board a little more about this. Cuddy says Cayuga County may have to revert to a waiting list, which is something that we have had the good fortune not to need to do but it is more common than you realize. She says it is harder to serve outside the city because if you can see five clients in the City of Auburn in a day why would you only see two in that same time period if you had to drive outside of the City.

Cuddy says we are starting to work on our Harmful Algae Bloom public information so you will be seeing more about that as the season progresses. She says we also have a community health assessment that we are required to do this year and I expect that you all will be asked to participate in a survey on what you feel our community health needs may be. She says this should be ready in the next month or two.

MENTAL HEALTH & DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

RAY BIZZARI, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

ROUTINE RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Vitale to bundle HH-1- HH-4, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

- 4-19-HH-1 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to fill a Caseworker vacancy in Child Welfare Unit
- 4-19-HH-2 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to fill a full-time Human Services Examiner position in the Support Collection Unit of Social Services
- 4-19-HH-3 Authorizing the County Administrator and the Director of Community Services to renew the contract with Rescue Mission for Homeless Family and Transitional Housing
- 4-19-HH-4 Authorizing the County Administrator and the Director of Community Services to enter into a contract with the Fort Hill Cemetery to provide for indigent burials

End of bundle

Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Lattimore.

- 4-19-HH-5 Authorizing the County Legislature and the Director of Community Services to create and fill 1 part-time Case Work Aide position in the Children & Family Services Unit. **Motion by Batman to amend the resolution to abolish the part time caseworker, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor resolution as amended.**

Motion by Vitale to bundle HH-6-HH-9, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

- 4-19-HH-6 Authorizing the County Administrator and the Director of Community Services to enter into a contract with Chapel House for provision of a Supportive Case Manager
- 4-19-HH-7 Authorize the filling of a full-time Code and Billing Specialist position at the Community Mental Health Center of Cayuga County due to resignation
- 4-19-HH-8 Authorize the filling of one full-time Heath Home Care Manager and abolishing one Social Work Assistant position at the Community Mental Health Center of Cayuga County
- 4-19-HH-9 Authorize the Director of Community Services to fill a Principal Account Clerk vacancy

End of bundle

RESOLUTIONS WITH BACKGROUND

Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Vitale, all in favor.

- 4-19-HH-10 Authorizing the County Administrator and the Director of Community Services to enter into a contract with Hillside Children's Center for the recruitment, training and retention of foster parents

- The department is experiencing some challenges with recruiting and training an adequate number of foster care families. We compete with other providers that pay higher rates. We added some dollars to this contract to pi-lot social media recruitment. This recruitment works for other departments and providers so we thought we would test it out for the remainder of this year. The additional dollars came from existing funding in our .4 line so there is no budget impact in 2019.

Discussion:

Vitale says we mentioned that there was a \$29,000 increase and there will be more advertising to get more people, would it be possible six months from now to have Ray come back to us and give us a report on how this is going. Daly says six months from now would be good. Woods says I will make a note. Batman says this is a substantial change in the amount, at what point when we are changing the nature of our relationship with a contractor do we actually go out and do a new RFP. Woods says that is a great question. generally many of these Social Services contracts tend to come forward for renewal when the contracts are up or if the department is seeking to make change. He says in the time I have been here I have not seen many go out to bid. Batman says most of the contracts we do in our professional area have requirements, certifications, certain trainings, and that may mean there is a limited amount of people, which may be the case here but it would seem that is a program that attempts to recruit the trainings. He says this seems in a different category to me. Palermo says the contract with Hillside, there is two people that work on the fourth floor all week, families comes in and we may have removed four or five children so these people are immediately called into action. He says they find us a family keeping siblings together and any other requirements and if I remember correctly this contract with Hillside was created for that purpose so that service was not provided here in house by employees. Vitale says that is why we should review this again in six months and see then if we want to do a RFP.

POLICY MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE

- **This has been funded:** CHASE (Community Hub and Spoke model of comprehensive addiction treatment) is a grant application submitted to the National Institute of Health by Columbia University and Montefiore. Cayuga County is included in this. We participated in two site visits. If awarded, at least \$2million dollars would flow through MH to hubs and spokes (treatment sites). The challenge with the other resources brought into the county is that OASAS went around the local government unit so the services were not coordinated or integrated as well as they should be. In this model, we retain our traditional oversight responsibility. Several positions would be funded through this grant and we'd be part of a study design that identifies the efficacy of certain treatment strategies.
- Raise the Age update...the plan has been resubmitted yet again (redux).
- **The more we learn about this the more concerned we become with this additional workload and oversight responsibility.** Community First Choice Option, a Medicaid Waiver community alternative to nursing home placements begins 4/1/19 and 7/1/19. The Department is responsible for FSS Medicaid recipient's assessment/Plan of Care and capacity building. Many Fair Hearings will be lost by DSS's statewide as this is an impossible lift.
- I'm on vacation and available by phone/email 4/19-4/26 then in Saratoga for meetings 4/28-4/30.
- Medical staff at MH exploring ketamine induction as a treatment for chronic major depression with suicidal activity in individuals that have failed on 2 or more antidepressants.
- Worked with the hospital to assist in getting off the ground ER Waiver detox, 5 day buprenorphine induction with outpatient Medication Assisted Treatment within...that 5 day window and deploying peer resources for those individuals lost to treatment.
- Code Blue emergency housing will be called off in April

RESOLUTIONS:

- **(DEFEATED)** 4-19-LEG-1 Authorizing the County Administrator to fill New Purchasing Director Position. Motion by Didio, 2nd by Lattimore, resolution defeated all votes no.

Discussion:

Batman says I think that this is working its way thru and I know Justin will be providing us with more information. He says I am not necessarily opposed to the position but until we receive the additional information, I am uncomfortable voting for this.

Discussion:

Batman says Government Operations looked at the resolution setting the stage for the referendum and as it moves forward, I think that this is something, and I hope we could all agree we have to do, we have to set the stage for redistricting for sure. He says but there are a couple things in that I would like to go on record in committee for it gets to the floor that are a great concern to me. He says the idea that we would pass a law or resolution that would nullify what the citizens decided or directed us in terms of term limits is a bad move on our part. Batman says the people voted that we would have a three term or twelve years, I feel we should honor that and for us to include in here that as of a certain date the stuff before that doesn't count, I think is just wrong. Vitale says I think there is a lot of confusion whether it is three full consecutive terms or partial terms. He says I think this would also give us the opportunity to make that more clear. Palermo says it started out in 1992 we created the board of fifteen legislators, put in weighted voting, set up the districts. He says in 1995 we staggered the elections of the legislators and at the same time, there was a term limit provisions was added which said that nobody could serve more than twelve consecutive years. He says that this went on for a while then we had the issue arise that due to the NYS retirement system works, people would resign then come back, then they could say they did not serve twelve consecutive years. He says then there was an attempt to fix that around 2008, at that point all service prior to 2008 did not count because of the confusion on who would fit in where, so the clocks were reset and it was changed to three terms. He says included in that three terms was the provision that if you were appointed or elected to fill the remainder of a term, the incoming person was charged with the term and the outgoing person was not. Palermo says as I mentioned to the Government Operations committee I threw that number in there to give everybody the opportunity to think about how that would work for the board and I am not tied to that in anyway. Daly says Tim asked me the other day what if you had twelve years then you went off could you run again in four years. Palermo says no. Daly says what was the reasoning behind exempting service prior to 2022. Palermo says that is when this all kind of kicks in, two-year terms start and at that point anybody that runs they run with the understanding that I have a lifetime limit of fourteen years.

Motion by Didio to adjourn at 6:35 PM, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

