



MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:30PM
Live Stream Link: <https://youtu.be/F76aoXIPzyg>

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Elane Daly, Chair, 5:45 pm

MEMBERS: Legislators Michael Didio, Ryan Foley, Tricia Kerr, Timothy Lattimore, Heidi Nightengale (Vice Chair), and Mark Strong, Ryan Foley (in person)

OTHERS: Chair, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Kathleen Cuddy, Brenda Wiemann, Ray Bizzari, Chris Palermo, Brittany Massi, Rich Graham, Lacey Bailey, Lisa Lippoldt, Fred Cornelius, Jen Marshall, Jodie Nickerson, Dan Lovell

MINUTES TO APPROVE: March 8, 2021, Motion by Foley, 2nd by Kerr. All in favor.

APPOINTMENTS:

Community Services Board

Theresa Humennyj, 15 Calloway Drive, Auburn, NY 13021, Term- 1/1/21 to 12/31/24 (reappt.) **Motion by Foley, 2nd by Kerr. All in favor.**

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Brenda Wiemann (Office for the Aging) –

- We achieved 999 vaccinations with the J&J vaccine on 4/2/21 at the Red Creek Community Center with the combined efforts of Kinney Drugs, the Wayne County Dept of Aging and Youth, and the Red Creek Rotary and Red Creek Honor Society students. OFA staff diligently fielded ongoing calls and registered over 400 people for this clinic and assisted another 100 to access/register for other options in the past month.
- The Meals on Wheels Program has seen over a 9% increase in individuals and meals served in 2020, with growth expected to continue through 2021. Over the past year we have expanded delivery routes and tripled the number of volunteer drivers. We are recently getting more referrals for seniors that were independent until they got hit by Covid and are now having difficulty regaining their independence.
- We are unable to obtain enough PCAII aides through contracted agencies to fully serve eligible seniors due to the severe aide shortage throughout much of the country. We are in the process of exploring innovative options to meet this need.

UPDATES: Identified numerous Homebound individuals. Multiple agencies have reached out and offered to help vaccinate them. Great success with the joint venture with Wayne County for a clinic in Red Creek. PCA aides are becoming next to impossible to find, employ and retain. There is state money available to assist with this search and incentives.

QUESTIONS: Foley initiated a discussion on the Meals on Wheels program. Elane asked about help from Nascentia.

Kathleen Cuddy (Health) –

UPDATES & DISCUSSION: COVID – currently 129 people in isolation. Numbers going up in unvaccinated population and we are also seeing breakthrough cases on those who have received the vaccine. Now they are trying to push for people who are not vaccinated, providing education, transportation, etc. and continue to encourage preventive activities. Test site to be moved to Finger Lakes Mall and continue to be administered through EMO. Data broken down by zip code and age group was received today. Cayuga County scored number 4 in the state out of 62 for people high in the social vulnerability index. 65 plus and total population we are right in the middle. Zip code breakdown will help target the needed areas. Having the Towns, Villages, City, Office for the Aging, etc registering people assisted tremendously in our ability to help reach the vulnerable population. New guidelines have been released and all entities are working to stay within the safety parameters. App available to download once you have had both doses of vaccine. Were able to get some of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine last week. Were able to go into Jail and vaccinate inmates and some staff. Will be able to offer this vaccine to farm workers in a wider group. Hoping to get this to college students as well so they are fully vaccinated before school ends for the session.

Ray Bizzari (Mental Health/Social Services) –

- May bring a resolution next month to contract with probation for juvenile justice probation officer services

- The Local Services Plan work is underway
- Family Court placed a PINS youth with the county...this is 100% local share cost
- Code Blue weather may be coming to a close...was a long winter with a lot of motel damages
- Will form and charge an opiate overdose task force as the numbers of overdoses/deaths remains too high
- The county clinic continues to admit patients and treat their opiate use disorder with medications as this remains an unmet need
- Working with Farnham/CHAD on a SAHMSA grant to open an OTP (opiate treatment program) in Cayuga County
- The 5% cuts in DSS/MH/OASAS state aid was restored in the enacted budget
- The open access county clinic continues to experience a very high number of intakes and visits; both therapists and prescribers experience very high caseloads
- Calls today (4/8) with OTDA on the influx of federal and state funds for eviction/rent relief
- Looking at claiming practices in both departments so as to identify the true costs of other department services that MH/DSS claims/pays/reimburses so the legislature can understand the true costs related to local share.
- Additional Update: Hutchings & OTDA coming in to provide the transient population with Johnson & Johnson vaccinations.

QUESTIONS: Daly inquired about the collaboration with Probation and whether there was a correlation between that and the noted PINS placement. Bizzari, no. This was already in the making. Daly, is rent money coming in to the department or will it be outsourced? Bizzari, OTDA held details until budget passed. Not all information has been released. Heads up is that money goes to NYS some for the Upstate region. This can pay 12 month arrears, 3 months future and utility areas. Broken down by eligible population and deadlines. Meeting to strategize how best to publicize and promote this program. Foley asked if Ray could send out a spreadsheet regarding costs that may be directed to other departments. Kerr asked about the housing program and confirmed that applications will be going through a state portal and sustainability review and money for relocation. Bizzari stated that specifics have not been shared yet, but his take is that once the money is gone, it is gone and it reverts to using traditional resources through DSS, but other folks are raising these same questions.

RESOLUTIONS:

OFA:

- 4-21-HH-1 Authorization To Fill One (1) Full-Time Account/Clerical Support Staff Position in the Office for the Aging due to a resignation. **Motion by Foley, 2nd by Kerr. All in favor.**
- 4-21-HH-2 Authorizing the Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature and the Director of the Cayuga County Office for the Aging to sign the contract for service to produce and mail the quarterly Senior News & Views newsletter. **Motion by Foley, 2nd by Kerr. All in favor.**

QUESTIONS: Kerr asked if this newsletter is posted on the website. Wiemann, yes and all the legislators should receive it via email.

HEALTH:

- 4-21-HH-3 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into an agreement with the NYSDOH to participate in the Drinking Water Enhancement Program Grant. **Motion by Kerr, 2nd by Foley. All in favor.**

HUMAN SERVICES: Motion to Bundle 4, 5 & 6 by Kerr; 2nd by Nightengale. All in Favor.

- 4-21-HH-4 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Director of Community Services to Renew the Contract with Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca for the Provision of Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services

DISCUSSION: Foley asked what Domestic Violence Services are provided. Bizzari, Hotline and responsive staff. They are mandated services.

- 4-21-HH-5 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Director of Community Services to Renew Lease Agreements with Pitney Bowes Credit Corporation for Mail Equipment Located Within the Department of Social Services Accounting Department

DISCUSSION: Foley noted that BOE purchased one last year and wondered about sharing usage. Bizzari, daily usage mailing checks, letters etc. Really needs to be housed in COB. Ray will check with Grace prior to Ways & Means.

- 4-21-HH-6 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Director of Community Services to Renew the Contract with Rescue Mission for Homeless Family and Transitional Housing.

MENTAL HEALTH:

4-21-HH-7 Authorize the filling of one (1) Full-Time Staff Social Worker (CMH) Position at the Community Mental Health Center of Cayuga County due to a resignation. **Motion by Foley, 2nd by Kerr. All in favor.**

ADJOURNMENT: 7: 05 pm. Motion by Foley, 2nd by Daly. All in favor.