



MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 13, 2019, Chambers – 5:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Elane Daly at 5:28 PM.

MEMBERS: Legislators Michael Didio, Aileen McNabb-Coleman (Vice Chair), Benjamin Vitale and Charlie Ripley

EXCUSED: Keith Batman & Timothy Lattimore

OTHERS: : Legislators Ryan Foley, Joseph DeForest, County Attorney Chris Palermo, Director of Office for the Aging Brenda Wiemann, Public Health Director Kathleen Cuddy, Youth Bureau Director Lloyd Hoskins, Director of Community Services Ray Bizzari, Staff Development Supervisor Jennifer Marshall, Deputy Director for Social Services Christine Bianco, Citizen Reporter Ryan Franklin and Benefits/ Tax Associate Kristy Capone.

MINUTES TO APPROVE: May 9, 2019, motion by Ripley, 2nd by Vitale, all in favor.

APPOINTMENTS:

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

- **Brenda Wiemann (Office for the Aging) -**

Highlights:

- Senior Citizen Day 2019 The May Legislative Meeting was at Emerson Park on Tuesday, May 28th. Director Wiemann was presented proclamations for Senior Citizens month and Home Delivered Meals Volunteers. We honored Betty Walowsky and Patricia Messina as Senior Citizens of the Year.

Notable Activity:

- Caregiver Specialist received a sponsorship to attend the National Caregiver Respite Conference in Buffalo 5/1 and 5/2.
- Director and Caregiver Specialist attended a phenomenal Alzheimers' Association presentation by Teepa Snow, "one of America's leading educators on dementia" 5/22.
- In final stages of laborious 2019-20 NYSOFA Annual Plan revisions
- NYConnects staff provided a presentation to the Springport Seniors 5/9
- Began in-depth NYSOFA Business Acumen training for the purpose of "building sustainable contractual partnerships to enhance your services." 5/14

Other Activity:

- Held quarterly NY Connects No Wrong Door Partners meeting 5/6
- Provided monthly Medicare 101 class 5/7
- Held In-service with Homsite regarding housing assistance and repair programs 5/9
- Aging Specialist attended Onondaga County Elder Law fair 5/23
- Participated in Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan meeting 5/23
- Provided information for Cayuga County Health Department and ACH needs assessment 5/30

Concerns:

Senior Nutrition Program Budget shortfall: This concern continues to grow due to increased demand for the service/ the aging population. Efforts to address the issue include: increased attention to program eligibility requirements; implementation of a waiting list; pulling in Managed Long Term Care Medicaid income; and recently joining Meals on Wheels.

Discussion:

Wiemann says we have been pondering on what to do with our nutrition program. She says we have had such an increase in demand and looking at the last five months of demand and billing for the meals we have come to the conclusion that the only way to get through the end of the year is reduce the number of meals we serve for the remainder of the year. She says looking at the way to make the smallest impact and still attempt to stay on budget we have decided that we currently deliver meals five days a week but we will be stopping the Thursday deliveries effective on July 11. Wiemann says this is not the first time our office has had to reduce meals to stay within budget. She says we know on the horizon that there is some discussion at the Federal level to increase some of that funding significantly for the year 2020, but nothing on the horizon for this year. She says letters have went out to everyone who is involved.

HEALTH:

Motion by Vitale to bundle HHS-3 – HHS-5, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

- 6-19-HH-3 Authorizing the Public Health Director to carry out a budget modification in the WIC program budget to cover costs for at state mandated WIC meeting
- 6-19-HH-4 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Department to request NYS to postpone the changes to proposed lead level regulations
- 6-19-HH-5 Authorizing the creation of a temporary leave bank for a Cayuga County Health Department Employee

End bundle

- 6-19-HH-1 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into a contract with Durham Transportation Services and with Red Creek School District for transportation of preschool children living in the northern area of the County. **Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Ripley, 2nd by McNabb-Coleman, all in favor.**
- 6-19-HH-2 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into a contract with Boyle and Anderson Law Firm to assist with legal issues. **Motion by Ripley, 2nd by McNabb-Coleman, all in favor, except Vitale opposed.**

Discussion:

Cuddy says WIC has their Big Latch on event coming up in August for World Breastfeeding day that will be held at Hoopes Park. She said there will be vendors there and it is truly a great event. Cuddy says coming up on August 3 Play Space will be celebrating their second anniversary, which has been a great asset to our community. She says Watershed Rules and Regulation is open for comments thru tomorrow then we will be getting together to sort thru the comments that were made and move forward from there. Cuddy says HABS season is upon us, we have a button on the Health Department website called HAB and the DEC has a new way people can report to them harmful algae blooms if they see them. She says Auburn, Owasco and Wells College will be utilizing the Community Science Institute Lab in Ithaca for their water testing because it is slightly less expensive than some of the other laboratories.

HUMAN SERVICES:

Motion by Ripley to bundle HHS-7, HH-8, HHS-10- HHS-11, & HHS-12, 2nd by Didio, all in favor.

- 6-19-HH-7 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to fill a Caseworker vacancy in Child Protective Services Unit
- 6-19-HH-8 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to fill part-time Transportation Aide position in the services unit of Social Services
- 6-19-HH-10 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to fill an Audit Clerk position in the Intake Unit of Department of Social Services
- 6-19-HH-11 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to fill a Caseworker vacancy in Child Welfare Unit

6-19-HH-12 Authorizing the creation of temporary leave bank for a Cayuga County Department of Social Services Employee

End bundle

6-19-HH-9 Authorizing the County Legislature and the Director of Community Services to create and fill 2 Case Supervisor Grade B positions and abolish 2 Sr. Caseworker positions in the Children & Family Services Unit
Motion by McNabb-Coleman, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

Discussion:

Bizzari says we are constricted by civil service with list about who you can put in certain positions so there has been quite a bit of work that has gone into this. Bianco says I would like to talk a little bit about our rationale on coming up with this plan. She says recently DSS has had a very high number of new staff, after filling these positions will have nine caseworkers on probation and we will have the other caseworkers who have been here less than three years. She says historically our senior caseworkers have been a combination of having caseloads and doing supervisory work of caseworkers and they would have two of them to supervise. Bianco says we are hoping by increasing our capacity by having more grade B's, we will be able to give more attention to the caseworkers and have the supervisory restructure we think we need in order for everyone to do a great job. She says we never have control in the number of cases that comes in, whatever comes our way we need to manage. In May, Child Protective had the highest number of CPS reports ever at 182 reports that came in. She says, also that month we were down four staff so the staff we had left had to handle more than they ever had. Bianco says we have been trying to come up with ideas on how to better serve the cases and the families that we work with but also take care of the staff so they want to stay and feel supported. Didio says why wait to hire more people because it is going to take quite a while to come up with the numbers to justify to hire more workers or not. Bizzari says we are trying to be responsible with the dollars. Foley says in the resolution it says this is the first step in restructuring of the services unit for Child Welfare, could you tell us what that plan is and how this piece fits into that. Bianco says what we mean about restructuring is looking at the staff we have seeing, if there is a better way to put some of the units functions more in line with where we are going with the unit. She says the idea we have with creating these positions is to have a supervisor that really partners in a way we never had before. Marshall says also cross training so we have more caseworkers that are able to do Child Protective as well as Foster care. DeForest says any idea on how long it is going to take to gauge the effectiveness of this or if more staff is needed. Bizzari says we are hoping to gauge the impact of it as we go along and if we need additional staff it will be in the 2020 budget.

MENTAL HEALTH:

Motion by McNabb-Coleman to bundle HHS- 13, HHS-14 & HHS-15, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

6-19-HH-13 Amending the Mental Health 2019 Budget to adjust additional State Aid funding

6-19-HH-14 Authorizing the filling of one full-time Staff Social Worker position at the Community Mental Health Center of Cayuga County due to a retirement

6-19-HH-15 Authorize the creation and filling of a full-time Senior Clerk position at the Community Mental Health Center of Cayuga County

End bundle

• **Ray Bizzari (Mental Health/Social Services) –**

- Stabilizing CPS supervision and casework/implementing Northwoods software
- Preparing for Family First legislative impact of foster/congregate care
- Raise the Age Plan for 17 year olds
- Recruiting/training and retaining staff/foster care families (big problem)
- Further reducing emergency housing costs (we save about 100k in ROL and about 225k in security deposits we stopped paying in 2019 (recurring) and there's still more savings to gain by increasing shelter beds and getting out of the hotel business)
- Planning for 1/1/20 implementation of CFCO which is a collection of all the Medicaid waiver programs for adults and making DSSs responsible for managing this new system and paying for some of it...
- Exploring a Family Resource Center model to better manage the CPS removal/emergency/foster/congregate care placements, align with Family First policies to reduce the increased financial exposure counties will have due to the legislation's impact on reimbursement but more importantly, to do a better job for kids and families
- Value Based Payment readiness for the clinic
- RFPing some state aid to increase adult respite opportunities

- Youth Bureau up in the air and I floated the idea of a conversation on E&T as well...these are opportunities to align services and generate recurring savings but not doing is fine by me...not looking for extra work but it does make sense
- Recruiting a provider to provide sex offender treatment for parolees/probationers/SIST/and folks we identify during treatment and figuring out how to pay for it
- Preparing for a SAHMSA site visit

LEGISLATURE:

6-19-LEG-1 Resolution in opposition to make New York State a Sanctuary State. **No motion**

Motion by Didio to go into executive session at 6:25 PM, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

Motion by Didio to come out of executive session at 6:49 PM, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

6-19-HH-6 Appointing the Director of Community Services and setting the salary. **Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Vitale, all in favor.**

Motion by Vitale to adjourn at 6:50 PM. 2nd by Ripley, all in favor