



MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 9, 2020
Live Stream Link: <https://youtu.be/xUoJCPiFQIs>

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Elane Daly, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:11PM

MEMBERS: Legislators Keith Batman, Michael Didio, Tricia Kerr, Timothy Lattimore, Heidi Nightengale, and Charlie Ripley (Vice Chair)

EXCUSED: Tim Lattimore

OTHERS: Chair Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Legislators Chris Petrus, Ben Vitale, County Attorney Chris Palermo, Assistant County Attorney Richard Graham, Director of Office for the Aging Brenda Wiemann, Public Health Director Kathleen Cuddy, Assistant County Attorney Brittany Massi, Director of Community Services Ray Bizzari, Human Resources Administrator Lisa Lippoldt, and Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Amanda Morgan

MINUTES TO APPROVE: June 11, 2020, Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.

APPOINTMENTS: None

RESOLUTIONS:

OFA:

7-20-HH-1 Authorization to accept additional funding from the NYS Office for Aging (NYSOFA) and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) through the Corona Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.

HEALTH:

7-20-HH-2 Authorizing the Public Health Director to fill a full-time PHN vacancy. **Motion by Kerr, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.**

7-20-HH-3 **(TABLED by hiring committee for further information)** Authorizing the Public Health Director to set an on-call rate for non-bargaining nursing staff within the Health Department

7-20-HH-4 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to Extend the Public Health Preparedness Contract with HRI (Working in Collaboration with NYSDOH) and Accept Funding for the time period of 7/1/20-6/30/21. **Motion by Ripley, 2nd, by Kerr, all in favor.**

HUMAN SERVICES:

7-20-HH-5 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Director of Community Services to Contract with Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca (CAP) for Rapid Re-housing Case Management Services.
Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.

MENTAL HEALTH:

7-20-HH-6 Authorize the Chairman of the Cayuga County Legislature and the Director of Community Services to enter into 5-Year agreements with Colleges or Universities for Social Work Interns and/or Medical Students.
Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.

7-20-HH-7 Amending the Mental Health 2020 Budget to show the purchase of IT equipment for the Mental Health Center.
Motion by Kerr, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Brenda Wiemann (Office for the Aging) –

The Office for the Aging OFA COB office lacks sufficient space to safely accommodate clients in our small basement area. To resolve this, Chair McNabb Coleman and I did a walk-through of all potential basement space to look at expanding the OFA footprint.

Farmer's Market Coupon schedule is pending. New this year – drive through events at 8 locations throughout the county for income-eligible seniors.

Launching a virtual caregiver series called Powerful Tools for Caregivers using 8x8. Plan is to assist those in need to obtain short-term internet accessibility using CARES Act funding.

Discussion:

Wiemann discusses some new office space in the basement for the Office for the Aging to utilize. She says if we will try to accommodate these spaces they will need some work done on them. She hopes over the next month to see some movement on it. She wants to discuss the 2021 budget and says all together they have had \$250,000 that has come into the office for them to provide additional services. She says sometimes they are more expensive ways of doing things related to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the good things that has come out of this is they have been able to cover some of the meal program expenses that they thought would be an extra expense to the county in 2020 that they are now able to cover with the federal funds. The bad news is with the budget next year they are so far not hearing of any negative impact on the budget, but locally they have been directed to reduce their contractual by 10%. She explains that most of what they do is contractual – aide service, meal service, SCAT van are all contractual. She says if they have to reduce that by 10% that would reduce what we can pull down from the federal and state funding. Every \$1 dollar reduction with what the county has into the budget reduces what they can pull down by \$3. She says reducing by 10% will have a snowball effect on the total amount of revenue and money coming into the office and a significant impact on reduction in senior services. She gives a rough estimate of 25,000 less meals served in 2021, 6,000 less hours of aide service, and would impact well over 100 senior citizens in the county in 2021. She says we know they are some of the most vulnerable people during this crisis and they are receiving the services because they are near or at risk of being placed in a nursing home. She will be looking for some input and conversation about where the legislature sees those kinds of reductions to be made in our community. Kerr asks what the total of the contractual line is in her budget. Wiemann responds that it is about half of their budget.

Kathleen Cuddy (Health) – No updates

Discussion:

Cuddy says that the health department is doing good job in contacting COVID-19 to the extent that they are able to, but there is no question people are getting frustrated. She says that we need to refresh and reinforce wearing our facemasks, keeping our distance, and no unnecessary gatherings. She says one of the frequent things they are doing right now is helping to interpret the guidance that is constantly changing. She says the Route 90 sale is a big topic of conversation in the county and overall they facilitated a conversation and the majority of the supervisors sat not to hold it this year, but it is not an officially sanctioned anything by any one entity. She says the health department has no authority to say it cannot happen, but she wants to go on record that the health department prefers that it does not happen this year. She says it is an unnecessary gathering of people touching things, densely populated at times, and terrible traffic. She is on record with that and if someone agrees then she encourages that they spread the word. They are still continuing calls with the hospital and community leaders. She says the thing they really need to get their arms around are the best ways to enforce when there is infractions. She says they are constantly getting calls about people not complying with the guidance. She says at the board of health they are going to bring forward some discussion about an option that health departments can take. She says they have checked with DA to look at the enforcement of misdemeanors if they are issued by the city police, sheriff department, or the state. She says some if it is just so flagrant that it is appalling and it is for public health and not for politics. She says this is very attainable because we are adults and children will follow that behavior. She discusses putting together some quantitative data and if there is particular information someone is interested in to let her know. She says in the last few months they have issued 127 press releases, 1,717 tested people, 128 people in isolation, 388 people in quarantine, and 35 people in precautionary quarantine. When she says someone is in isolation that not only means the person tested positive for COVID-19, it has been recorded to them by the lab system, and then they take action. They have an assessment that needs to be completed which takes about 30 minutes to complete. She says there is education and also how they would take care of themselves if there are other people in the home. They have daily monitoring, delivery of the public health orders, daily drive by visits, discharge papers, and conversations with employers if they need it. She says that quarantine is very similar, but the ongoing visits are not as detailed. They had situations where they went onsite to farms and other workplaces where people did not have transportation and they performed specimen collections there. They are also seeing positives in facilities with residents and workers.

Ray Bizzari (Mental Health/Social Services) –

Highlights:

- Will issue an RFP for the Family Finding/Foster Care Recruiting/Training contract

- Staff has returned to the MH Center
- Been several neglect removals over the past few weeks...foster care placements are increasing as families struggle to meet the needs of their kids

Stuff to Pay Attention To:

- \$400,000 (20%) OASAS/MH state aid reduction and its impact on agencies
- 91 overdoses/14 overdose deaths in 2020...HEALing Communities work distributed a few hundred NARCAN kits via on-line training/pop-up training sites
- Suicides up as well...treatment system starting to return to work so hopefully we can re-create the system of care work but it's a long road

FYI:

- Bringing a resolution in August for the Grant Avenue shelter operated by Chapel House to increase the rate, staffing and also to contract for security visits to local motels in an effort to control and monitor some of the dangerous behaviors occurring in the homeless population.
- Family First implementation work continues....a lot of local share money is at stake here
- As NYS opens up, workload increases for DSS/MH are complicated by up in the air waivers allowing telephonic interviews and automatic recertification extensions
- There is a plan to extend SNAP benefits to children who receive free or reduced lunches but whose families are not receiving assistance. Food insecurity is a local issue here.
- We've extended an offer to NAACP and Harriet Tubman Center for Peace and Justice for the leadership and staff of both departments to participate in a process where we work to reduce/eliminate implicit bias in our work
- OTDA is proposing some significant changes to Long Term Care/Medicaid that we are not staffed up for

Discussion:

Daly asks about the NAACP and the training. Bizzari says he spoke at the town hall meeting that they had at the tourism place on Genesee Street. He says part of his comments were related to the disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system, implicit bias in the foster care system, and they provide a lot of benefits to the community. He says mental health services and substance abuse services there is a lot of stigma and that departments resources would be at their disposal from that perspective. He says there is work that we could do for sure. He says that mental health and social services would like to be a part of the solution. Batman thinks any training we can get related to inherent and implicit bias is really good. He says anything that the state does specifically designed for those professionals is really good. He is just concerned that we make certain we have a county response and not a department by department response. The problem is a county problem and not an individual department by department problem and wants to make certain we are coordinating that.

Motion by Batman to adjourn at 8:17PM, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.