



MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 11, 2019, Chambers – 5:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Elane Daly at 5:30 PM.

MEMBERS: Legislators Keith Batman, Timothy Lattimore, Aileen McNabb-Coleman (Vice Chair), Benjamin Vitale and Charlie Ripley

EXCUSED: Legislator Michael Didio

OTHERS: 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, Director of Administrative Services Grace Blowers, Principal, Social Welfare Examiner Mary Rathbun, Citizen Reporter Ryan Franklin and Benefits/ Tax Associate Kristy Capone.

MINUTES TO APPROVE: June 13, 2019, Motion by McNabb-Coleman, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

APPOINTMENTS:

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Highlights:

Expansion of the Home Delivered Meal program due to additional funding

- **Notable Activity:**
Senior Farmer's market distribution underway
- **Upcoming Events:**
NYS Office for Aging Annual on-site review July 22- 24th
Caregiver Workshop series July 24th, July 31st, and August 7th
- Auburn ER for 210 hours with no end in sight. I get calls on it every day.
- **Brenda Wiemann (Office for the Aging) –**

Discussion:

Wiemann says we are very grateful that you agreed to give us funding for the home delivered meal program and I am happy to report that it made a significant difference in our ability to move forward, reduce the waiting list and we were able to let the recipients know that they would not be losing their meals. She says we will working on reducing that waiting list but part of the issue at this point is the lack of volunteers. Wiemann says the farmer's market coupons distribution went faster than it ever has before distributing 760 sets of coupons in less than three weeks. She says our Caregiver workshop series starts next week and we have been trying to rebuild this program. There is a huge need in the community for caregivers who have family members that are dealing with health issues and our caregiver specialist is relooking to see what is needed in the community and this workshop is her way or reaching out in a group setting to give information that people are in need of.

HEALTH:

Motion by Batman to bundle HH-1 & HH-2, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

7-19-HH-1 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into a contract with NYS for the Bike/Pedestrian/Wheelsport Safety Program

7-19-HH-2 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into an agreement with other Central New York County Health Departments for the purpose of mutual aid in regards to public health emergencies

End bundle

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Highlights:

- Community Health Assessment-focusing on the online survey that was just released.
- Healthy Babies, Healthy Moms, Healthy Communities campaign-just launched new campaign should see advertising on buses, television, etc.

Discussion:

Cuddy says HABS are upon us, Cayuga Lake has quite a bit. She says the DEC has this online reporting site, which is very helpful. McNabb-Coleman says I did have a constituent reach out and ask under what circumstance we utilize reverse 911 relating to water quality. Cuddy says if it is a do not drink situation. She says there is also other ways they can get information, the County website has a "notify me" link so when a press release goes out you can be directly emailed. Lattimore says Owasco has had a lot of fish kill do we know what that is about. Cuddy says the DEC is looking into that and part of what they have said is the temperature changes and the natural spawning habits of fish maybe triggering this. Cuddy says our community health assessment is underway and we are making an effort to get public feedback. She says an email went out with a link to the survey and the input is very helpful to us. Cuddy says you may have seen the commercials on channel 3, Healthy Mom, Healthy Baby, Healthy Community. She says they are also posted up in some of our bus shelters within the city. She says this is a nice initiative to talk about getting early prenatal care. In addition, this will refer people to call the Health department where we can link families up with a number of different services in our community. Cuddy says we are really working hard to be that universal referral.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Highlights

- Received \$30,000 for readiness activities related to Family First legislation that radically reshapes foster care placements and reimbursement
- Received approximately \$150,000 in CNYCC (DSRIP) funds to work with Cayuga Health Network and to fund staff salaries related to the project
- Dr. Michael Pratts has scheduled a training in early September for school district personnel on the new protocol that assesses risk for threats made against students and/or schools and how those cases get tracked. There were several assessments completed at MH this past school year
- The question of oversight for the jails behavioral health programs. A lot of risk and exposure out there.
- Community First Choice Option creates an increase in department workload, oversight and the change in payments will require additional staff.
- Changes in how LDSS pay for domestic violence shelter services has changed and will require a greater local share even if managed properly.
 - Writing before the hospital made its decision on the nursing home but using the facility as a shelter is a smart move for taxpayers and reducing mandated costs related to emergency housing. 2019 is seeing significant increases in hotel costs
- SAMHSA 3 day site visit July 15,16,17th

- We have another regional pilot opportunity (like Mobile Crisis/respice/Open Access Center for Addictions) with Office of People with Developmental Disabilities, regional LDSS's, OMH and counties to create a crisis response team with access to respice and other supports to help manage these kids that require specialized care. PWDD provides no services for <18 year olds and they often end up in foster care and they are hard to place and when placed, are the most expensive placements and have no real discharge plan until they age out. Today (6/25/19) there's a 17 year old kid in Tompkins County LDSS custody marooned in the

HUMAN SERVICES:

Motion by Ripley to bundle HH-3 – HH-8, 2nd by McNabb-Coleman, all in favor.

- 7-19-HH-3 Amending the Social Services 2019 Budget to accept 100% federal funding from the Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS)
- 7-19-HH-4 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Director of Community Services to enter into contracts with various clinical psychologists to conduct clinical parental and child assessments for child welfare cases
- 7-19-HH-5 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Director of Community Services to enter into a contract with Cayuga Counseling Services, Inc. for the provision of community, detention or respice based mental health diagnostic assessments to children and to make recommendations for treatment
- 7-19-HH-6 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to fill 4 FT Clerk (Seasonal) positions in the HEAP Unit of the Department of Social Services
- 7-19-HH-7 Authorizing the Chairman of the Cayuga County Legislature and the Director of Community Services to enter into a contract with Cayuga County Department of Mental Health for the provision of Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- 7-19-HH-8 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

End bundle

MENTAL HEALTH:

- 7-19-HH-9 Authorizing the Chairman of the Cayuga County Legislature and the Director of Community Services to accept an Innovation Fund Grant from the Central NY Care Collaborative. **Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Lattimore, all in favor.**

Discussion:

Bizzari says we have talked a little bit before about the grant from Columbia University for the sixteen New York State counties. He says there has been some negotiations between the National institute of Drug Abuse, Columbia and three other states that had also got this award. He says the have lined up all the states with the counties in New York State, and brought them all under the umbrella of Columbia University. Bizzari says this is a four-year grant, they have already been awarded the money and the will be coming here August 1 to brief me more in depth. He says every county has to hire a Project Director, which is \$60,000 job with fringe and an Epidemiologist at around \$75,000 a year. They wanted me to hire these positions by the end of the month but I told them it doesn't happen that way here, it doesn't happen that quickly. Bizzari says what I would like to do is to get permission to advertise and interview for those positions but not put anybody on until the money comes. I know when I sent this out Dennison had the question if these would be county employees, I am not really going Civil Service to create these positions. He says I talked to Chris whether or not we could hire them as contractors for the County, I talked to Joel about hiring thru "Nick's Ride 4 Friends" and we would supervise them and he could get some administrative money for it. He says I would like to go one of these two ways, I am just waiting for you to give me the go ahead to start this process. Batman says correct me if I am wrong on the law here but I think because of Civil Service Unions, you cannot create an arrangement with someone where you bypass those requirements. He says these would be Union positions thru us. Palermo says I am not sure, these have not been Civil Service positions in the past, we may be okay do that but we will have to create this model on how this is going to work into compliance with funding. Bizzari says I will go whatever route Chris tells me to, I just wanted to get a start on this. Lattimore says I would say go ahead and get things lined up pending on the funding. Bizzari says I will come back with a resolution that talks about how much money, where it goes and how it moves. Then, Chris will tell me how we are going to hire them.

PRESENTATION:

**Ray Bizzari – Cayuga County’s Emergency Housing Current Strategies and Future Opportunities
(See attached)**

Motion by Batman to adjourn at 6:55 PM, 2nd by Ripley, all in favor.

Cayuga County's Emergency Housing Current Strategies and Future Opportunities

Shelter v Motels

RULES

- “Where Found”
- Code Blue
- Inspections/OTDA Licensing
- Safety
- Case Management
- Sanctions
- Reimbursement 100% Code Blue; 29% Single Safety Net; 100% Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

What resources do we have?

- Chapel House 19 singles (men)
- Ray of Light 16 singles (men and women)
- DV Shelter 9
- Family Transitions 8 hard to house families
- Sex Offenders 2 designated motels
- Hotel/motels every family and anyone when shelters are at capacity
- Case Management contracts find affordable housing for the homeless

Numbers and the spend

Emergency Housing Expenses (shelters and motels)

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>	<u>2019 Projected</u>
701,118	637,861	784,768	657,877	1,315,754*

Code Blue expenses have more than doubled and year hasn't ended

Safety Net expenses will almost double and that expense has the greatest local share

*local share for shelter only projected at \$653,604

Numbers and the spend

Motels are used when all shelter beds are full

- In 2018, LDSS used 294 motel rooms
- YTD 2019, LDSS used 190 motel rooms
- LDSS housed an average of 31 recipients in motels in 2018 and 2019
YTD average is 50

Recipients housed in motels stay on average, between 33-47 days before retaining permanent housing

What's been done to manage the mandated, high-cost of emergency shelter/housing?

- Eliminated the payment of security deposits (250-300k savings)
- Ray of Light (annual savings of 90-100k in each of contracted 5 years: difference between motel v ROL rate)
- Referral to Adult Protective Services for representative payee to manage money and pay bills for folks that are evicted for not paying rent
- Effective Case Management contracts
- Solution to End Homelessness Program Grant
- Homeless Services Coordinator
- Point of emphasis on managing the problem

Shelter v Motel

- Shelters are cheaper than motels
- Shelters are supervised, safer and staffed 24/7
- Experience tells us that motels are more attractive than shelter beds so “where found” sometimes brings folks here
- Using motels is chaotic and time-consuming for staff
- Motel damage necessary expenses/less damage expense at shelters
- As untreated mental illness/substance abuse issues are a principle driver of homelessness, the opportunity to provide integrated services is a meaningful step towards short and long term improvement in the numbers

Proposed Shelter Plans

The Vision

- All single men/women and families sheltered at the nursing home: capacity will meet county's needs for a decade or more
- Sex Offenders housed at Ray of Light (no more motels)
- DSS Temporary Assistance/Employment/Adult Protective Services/Mental Health/Substance Abuse/Primary Care services pushed in. Satellite clinics bill for services. Reduced traffic at COB.
- Sufficient adult respite opportunities for those in crisis
- Some permanent, supervised housing for the hard/impossible to house
- Much improved emergency housing for families/children
- Police drop-off capability

NYS OTDA Opinion on the project

- Facility in excellent shape (thanks to Gary and his guys) and needs very little to meet licensure
- Will be state of the art and a model in NYS
- Discussions with NYS Homeless Housing Assistance Program staff indicate strong possibility of a vendor receiving funding to purchase, make any renovations and for the county to be reimbursed 25% of first year contract cost
- OTDA commitment to work with us throughout the process

Option 1

RFP

3 year lease to experienced shelter operator and contract for shelter services

PRO

- Opportunity to measure the financial and human impact of the project
- Allows for earlier implementation/start-up
- Keeps options open for additional building uses

CON

- County retains property in the long run

OPTION 2

RFP

Lease/option to buy with experienced shelter provider and contract for shelter services

PRO

- Also allows for an earlier start-up
- More predictable project for vendors...can apply and negotiate financing for capital expenses
- County realizes short and long term financial benefits

CON

- County retains property in the short run but then sells

How to fund the project?

- HHAP application for purchase, renovations and 25% off first year operating budget
- Push in 100k OMH State Aid for respite
- Provider can bill/contract for Home and Community Based Services respite rate
- Code Blue shelter funds 100% reimbursed
- Collapsing funded, separate case management/homeless coordinator contracts into the project (\$160k)
- 100% Temporary Aid to Needy Families reimbursement for shelter costs
- 29% Safety Net reimbursement for shelter
- Investigate private funders interest
- Seek other blending strategies with future local and regional opportunities
- The 2019 total emergency housing spend is projected to be at least \$1.5 million

Projected savings

- 40k annual cost for county to maintain the building
- Difference between the motel/shelter rate
- Related expenses related to regulatory compliance with emergency housing rules and regulations
- Motel damages
- Staff time