



MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, July 12, 2021 at 5:30PM
Live Stream Link: <https://youtu.be/V5cDUp3bafU>

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

MEMBERS: Legislators Michael Didio, Ryan Foley, Tricia Kerr, Timothy Lattimore, Heidi Nightengale (Vice Chair)

EXCUSED: Mark Strong

OTHERS: Brenda Wiemann, Kathleen Cuddy, Christine Bianco, Richard Graham, Lacey Bailey, JoAnn Hildebrant, Lorie Fischer, Eileen O'Connor

MINUTES TO APPROVE: June 14, 2021 Motion by Nightengale, 2nd by Kerr. All in favor.

APPOINTMENTS: None

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Brenda Wiemann (Office for the Aging) –

- OFA prioritizes outreach efforts for older adults and caregivers through the Aging Well column in the Citizen, through the Human Services Coalition (Catalyst Cayuga), Facebook, our website, the Senior News and Views and numerous press releases and ads for upcoming programs. This has resulted in over 109 items published since January 1st.
- Virtual programming continues with weekly Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes and the twice monthly Caregiver Coffee Hour. Medicare 101 is being offered both virtually and now in-person at the Fingerlakes Mall for the upcoming months.
- The congregate senior meal sites at Boyle and Stryker Apartment buildings have reopened and participation is gradually increasing.
- Farmer's Market Coupons for those 60 and over are being distributed at 10 sites throughout the county, with OFA staff providing drive-through service at 8 locations.

Kathleen Cuddy (Health) –

- Public Health: WIC move estimating mid-August
- Environmental : children's camps, HAB awareness, hydrilla
- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Community Health: COVID-19: vaccination rates, creative clinic outreach sites, education re. prevention and not going to work/ school/daycare with symptoms, insurance recoupment for administration over \$70 G

Attorney Graham gave a brief update regarding next month's public hearing about the proposed Local Law to separate the Department of Social Services and Mental Health Department which were merged by Local Law No. 5 in September of 2014.

Ray Bizzari (Mental Health/Social Services) –

Mental Health

- We conduct ongoing evaluations of our operations and service delivery methods via weekly leadership team meetings Staff input and problem solving capabilities has been impressive over my tenure here and it's difficult to quantify that value to the legislature or other stakeholders. The theory of a flat organizational structure and team leadership, regular supervision and support, projecting the decision-making process as values driven coupled with ethical leadership that puts the mission first and foremost has served the department well.
The leadership team recently identified what seems to be the best summation of the transformational work they've done over the years and I think it will resonate with the legislature. In 2011, the department employed 53 staff that delivered 11,000 units of service with a local share of \$1.7 million. Today, the department employs 50 staff that delivers over 30,000 units of service a year with no local share in clinic operations. We were able to recruit and retain an impressive team of medical providers and clinicians that provide accessible, evidence based treatments in a true open access model. Along the way, we were able to extract \$250,000 in state aid that was in clinic operations (replacing it with earned revenue) to fund mobile crisis, FFT, MST and peer supported respite. The departments has also accrued a healthy reserve.
- The clinic remains very busy, caseloads for both therapists and prescribers are higher than they've ever been and our visit count exceeds projections. We struggle to see patients as often as they need because of caseload size and the pace of new intakes. *We are addressing this issue and have implemented some strategies that we believe will be helpful.*

- Spikes in overdoses and suicide ideation/attempt/completions remains alarmingly high. *We consulted with OMH regarding suicide prevention efforts and have a plan for going forward. Concurrently, we plan to expand Mobile Crisis response to include a peer to respond to overdoses. Hopefully law enforcement will utilize this more in an effort to help reduce fatal overdoses and connect folks with life-saving treatment.*
- We anticipate the telephone waiver ending in 60 days.
- The Local Plan was submitted.
- The clinic's move into a more integrated treatment model is progressing with staff gaining competency through trainings and experience
- HEALing Communities Study moves into its second year of implementation and we will be disbursing funds that further support the targeted work.
- The adult, 4 bed peer supported respite program opened 7/1
- I am beginning to use my accruals in anticipation of retiring so will be out of the office most of July to start

Social Services

- New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) applications are still being taken by the state. Our community-based partners continue to assist county residents with applying for the funds. Approximately 500 Cayuga County residents have applied for ERAP funds so far.
- OTDA is continuing to allow the following waivers through close of business September 30, 2021:
 - Allowing Temporary Assistance (TA) eligibility interviews to be conducted by phone;
 - Allowing TA recertification interviews to be conducted by phone;
 - Allowing drug/alcohol and domestic violence screenings to be conducted over the phone;
 - Extending domestic violence waivers;
 - Enabling districts with local procedures or other processes that require frequent contact with individuals experiencing homelessness and residing in emergency housing to conduct these contacts via phone, with reduced frequency, as appropriate for the population.
 - Clients who wish to utilize the waivers will be allowed to do so, and clients who wish to be seen in person have that option as well.
- Emergency housing numbers have been between 65 and 70 cases housed by the Department with approximately 20 of those cases being families.

RESOLUTIONS:

HEALTH:

- 7-21-HH-1 Authorizing the Cayuga County Legislature and the Public Health Director to accept funding for the ELC grant. **Motion by Nightengale, 2nd by Kerr. All in favor.**
- 7-21-HH-2 Authorizing the Cayuga County Legislature and the Public Health Director to fill an F/T E-I Service Coordinator Position. **Motion to Amend by Kerr, 2nd by Didio. All in favor. Motion to accept as amended by Didio, 2nd by Nightengale. All in favor.**
- 7-21-HH-3 Authorizing the Public Health Director to fill a Principal Typist position within the Health Department. **Motion by Kerr, 2nd by Dido. All in favor.**

HUMAN SERVICES: Motion to bundle 4,5,7,8 & 9 by Nightengale, 2nd by Dido. All in favor.

- 7-21-HH-4 Authorizing the Chair of the Legislature and the Director of Community Services to Accept \$25,000 Funding from NYS OTDA and Enter Into a Contract with CAP
- 7-21-HH-5 Authorizing the Chair of the Legislature and the Director of Community Services to Enter into a Contract with Booker T. Washington Community Center Inc.
- 7-21-HH-6 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Director of Community Services to Enter into a Contract with Cayuga Centers for additional services for the provision of Family Preservation Services, Enhanced Foster Care Support Services and Restorative Case Management. **Motion by Lattimore, 2nd by Didio. All in favor.**
- 7-21-HH-7 Authorizing the Chair 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
- 7-21-HH-8 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to fill 4 Clerk (Seasonal) Positions in the HEAP Unit of the Department of Social Services.

7-21-HH-9 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Director of Community Services to enter into a contract with Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca (CAP) to perform any outreach activities for this State Mandated HEAP Program (100% Federally Funded), for the period of October 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022

MENTAL HEALTH:

7-21-HH-10 Authorize the filling of a vacant Account Clerk Typist position at the Cayuga County Mental Health Center due to a resignation. **Motion by Nightengale, 2nd Didio. All in favor.**

ADJOURNMENT: 6:26 p.m. Motion by Lattimore, 2nd by Kerr. All in favor.