



MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, August 9, 2021 at 5:30PM
Live Stream Link: <https://youtu.be/ZV8dz2V2WiQ>

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Elane Daly, Chair @ 5:33

MEMBERS: Legislators Tricia Kerr, Timothy Lattimore, and Mark Strong

EXCUSED: Michael Didio, Ryan Foley, Heidi Nightengale (Vice Chair)

OTHERS: Chair Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Brenda Wiemann, Kathleen Cuddy, Ray Bizzari, Richard Graham, Lacey Bailey, Stephen “Max” Pinchak II, Daniel Lovell, Nancy Purdy, Jodie Nickerson,

MINUTES TO APPROVE: July 12, 2021 Motion by Strong, 2nd by Kerr. All in favor.

APPOINTMENTS: None

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Brenda Wiemann (Office for the Aging) –

- OFA continues to help facilitate homebound vaccines upon request.
- Our NYConnects long term care options and benefits eligibility intake call volume has increased over 11% since last year, and 67% since 2018.
- One new employee has started, and one has accepted a position to start in September, soon getting us back to our prior staffing level.
- The preliminary architectural drawing is being reviewed for the office space at Boyle

Kathleen Cuddy (Health) –

- Public Health Fellows program
- WIC program updates including office move
- COVID-19 updates

Legislator Mark Strong opened a discussion in regards to mask policy, inquiring whether masks are “recommended” or “mandated” within county buildings.

Ray Bizzari (Mental Health/Social Services) –

Social Services – Christine Bianco

- Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week is September 13-17, 2021. We wish to celebrate and recognize the DSS staff who do so much to empower children, youth, and families facing a variety of life challenges and obstacles. Their hard work and dedication positively impacts and transforms lives, and we can't thank them enough for tackling this challenging work.
- We are seeing the Adult Protective Services caseload numbers trending upwards over the past quarter. Typical caseload right now is 20+ cases per worker which is about 20% higher than it had been.
- New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) applications are still being taken by the state. Through August 1, 524 Cayuga County residents have applied for ERAP funds. There have been 160,000 applications filed statewide. Distribution of the money to landlords has only just started to happen.
- DSS Emergency housing numbers have been right around 70 cases of which approximately 50 are homeless singles and 20 are homeless families.

Mr. Bizzari also discussed the relocation of Evergreen Heights residents due to the facility losing its operating certificate. About 60 residents with assisted living needs have been moved from the Weedsport adult care facility. Mr. Bizzari emphasized the adverse impact the situation could have on this population.

RESOLUTIONS:

HEALTH: Motion to Bundle 1, 2, 3 & 4 by Kerr, 2nd by Strong. All in favor.

- 8-21-HH-1 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into contract with New York State Department of Health for provision of the Early Intervention Administration grant.
- 8-21-HH-2 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter contract with HRI (working in collaboration with NYSDOH) to participate in the New York State Public Health Corps. Fellowship Program and accept funding
- 8-21-HH-3 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into a 1-Year Contract with NYS Department of Health to Participate in the 100% Funded “Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program” for the Period 10/1/20 – 9/30/21
- 8-21-HH-4 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to enter into the Public Health Preparedness Contract with HRI (Working in Collaboration with NYSDOH) and Accept Funding for the time period of 7/1/21-6/30/22

End of bundle

HUMAN SERVICES:

- 8-21-HH-5 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to fill 3 FT Caseworker Positions in the Child Welfare Services Units of the Department of Social Services. **Motion by Kerr, 2nd by Lattimore. All in favor.**

MENTAL HEALTH:

- 8-21-HH-6 Authorize the filling of the Administrative Assistant Position at the Cayuga County Mental Health Center due to a retirement. **Motion by Kerr, 2nd by Lattimore. All in favor.**

ADJOURNMENT: 6:50 p.m. Motion by Strong, 2nd by Lattimore. All in favor.