



MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 5:30PM
Live Stream Link: www.youtube.com/live/iEr_Xsz7eFk

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Elane Daly, Chair at **5:31 PM**

MEMBERS: Legislators Christina Calarco, Michael Didio, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Brian Muldrow, Heidi Nightengale (Vice Chair), and Lydia Patti Ruffini

OTHERS: Chair of the Legislature David Gould, Kathleen Cuddy, Christine Bianco, Jen Marshall, Brenda Wiemann, Lauren Walsh, Rich Graham, Chris Palermo, Shereen Androsko, and Secretary to the Chair Sarah Blowers

MINUTES TO APPROVE: February 9, 2023, **Motion by Calarco, 2nd by Nightengale, all in favor.**

APPOINTMENTS: Motion by Patti Ruffini to approve appointments, 2nd by Calarco, all in favor.

OFA Advisory Board:

Karen Stewart, 5996 South St Rd, Auburn, NY 13021, Term – 3/1/23 to 12/31/28

PRESENTATION: Cayuga County Corporate Compliance Plan

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Kathleen Cuddy (Health) –

Early Intervention: therapeutic and special ed services for children aged birth to 3 years

- The rollout of new software from NYS Bureau of Early intervention has been further delayed. No timeline given for its implementation.
- Staying prepared for anticipated survey sometime this year
- The last week in Feb. there were 160 children enrolled in EI; numerous children are on wait lists to receive services from Speech Therapist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Special Education itinerant teacher. Most common reasons are provider shortage, provider not serving that geographic area.
- Staff provide education on activities families can do at home with their children while they await therapist.
- We continue to brainstorm alternate manners to serve children in this highly regulated service area.

PreSchool Special Education: administer funds to provide therapeutic services for children 3- 5 years old

- Staff created and presented a live training for Preschool agency and individual providers on how to properly submit invoices and required documentation. References to the regulatory explanation for requirements were cited. The training was also recorded and posted to the Cayuga County Health Dept. YouTube channel with documents on the website. Staff spend an inordinate amount of time trying to verify proper documentation and communicate errors to vendors regarding billing reimbursement for this highly regulated program.
- The draft rfp for PreSchool Transportation services will be finalized soon and sent to vendors for bid.

Health Education : oversees chronic disease and injury prevention programs and public information, community health improvement plan

- Efforts to focus on how to increase health literacy, our Public Health Fellows and grant funded programs like Healthy Neighborhoods are creating more videos and posting to our FaceBook, Instagram and YouTube Health Dept. channels.

Recent videos posted:

- Radon testing and prevention
- First aid kits with partners from Auburn Fire Dept.
- Gross motor skills with partners PlaySpace, Wheel sport and Pedestrian Safety grant

Community Health Services: maternal and child health program, immunizations, communicable disease control

- A site visit from NYSDOH regional communicable disease staff is scheduled for Thursday March 9, 2023.
- Dr. Gioia is acting as our current licensed professional oversight as we search for a Director of Community Health
- Anticipating Art. 28 (clinic) and Art 36 (homecare) regulatory surveys from NYSDOH no dates identified Policies and procedures reviewed and in practice, required trainings documented.
- Maternal and Child Health Partnership program is working well. Partnership participants include but are not limited to: Cayuga Counseling (Healthy Families, Child Advocacy Center), Auburn OB/ Gyn (referrals prenatal), Auburn Community Hospital (referrals post-partum), Cayuga Community Health Network (Duala program and PICHC program), WIC

WIC: Women Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program

- Formula shortage nationwide still impacting infant feeding options. Shipments of formula continue to be sent to WIC office to help provide supply for participants unable to locate appropriate food in stores
- 91.22 % participants are actively engaged with WIC – and outstanding percentage due to connection with staff and service options in person and virtual

Continue our search for candidates to fill vacant positions

within the department. Human Resources and Civil Service are assisting. A staff member will attend Syracuse University Job Fair in March. Methods of outreach include but are not limited to:

- Handshake (college site)
- Indeed
- Zip recruiter
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Link'd In
- Employee email

Various opportunities exist in our Accounting, Community Health, WIC, Environmental Health, Health Education and Children with Special Health Care Needs divisions.

Lauren Walsh (Community Services) –

○ CLINIC UPDATE:

-The total census since last March 2022 has grown by 200 clients (currently 2,213). The number of total visits increased from 31,483 in 2021 to 31,828 in 2022. In 2022, the monthly average of admissions was 133. In February 2023, there were 156 admissions compared to February 2022 where we had 116 admissions. There has been a total of 143 crisis walk-ins/calls since January 1st, 2023 (15 of those were referred by schools and 5 brought in by the police).

○ DAYTIME MOBILE CRISIS:

-Both Health Home Care Manager and Staff Social Worker positions have been hired. Once onboarding and cases are transferred, we will begin responding to daytime Mental Health Crises.

○ HEALING CAYUGA UPDATES

-Overdoses: Overdose fatalities decreased by 43% over the last two years, counter to the national trend; 12 reported overdoses in February, 2 fatalities outside of Auburn; Overdose fatality rate is still higher in rural areas than in Auburn; Overdose data is publicly available now on the county website www.cayugacounty.us/overdosedata

-Narcan Distribution: Over 3,000 kits (=6,000 doses) distributed since 2019 (15-fold increase); Methods include in-person, online, wall-mounted boxes, business and school outreach, jail; More overdose witnesses administered the first dose of Narcan than first responders in 2022, thereby saving lives

Overdose Spike Alert Plan: Developed and finalized a response plan with 14 community partner agencies in case of an overdose spike; Created email and text distribution lists for quick notification of stakeholders

-Overdose Taskforce: Direct responders meet monthly to discuss individuals at high risk for overdose and death

-Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant: Goal is the diversion of substance use-involved individuals away from criminal justice and child welfare systems toward treatment.

-Implementation planning of grant activities has started with partner agencies:

-Peer support at CPS and Foster Care division of DSS to keep families together and increase family reunification.

-911 call diversion of people in crisis toward crisis counselors to free up law enforcement resources.

-Peer support at arraignment for rapid linkage of people with opioid use disorder toward treatment and opioid court (Auburn Intervention Court)

-Reintegration support for individuals leaving substance use treatment and incarceration

-Narcan distribution with a focus on rural areas

-Creation of an overdose fatality review board

-Communications: Media coverage of local trends and efforts in The Citizen and Spectrum News; PBS Newshour crew interviewed Cayuga County stakeholders for their opioid segment on healthcare challenges in rural communities series; to be aired in April; Monika was asked to represent NY and present Cayuga County work and outcomes to the national HEALing Communities Study consortium and federal funders

Christine Bianco (Social Services) – No updates

Brenda Wiemann (Office for the Aging) –

- We are inviting all elected official and community leaders to participate in the 2023 March for Meals event by joining us during the week of March 20th – 24th to serve meals to older adults in Cayuga County. Those interested can call us at 253-1427 or e-mail meals@cayugacounty.us to participate.

- We are off to a good start with two subcontracted aides working with our Aging Services Specialists to provide personal care and housekeeping to the hard-to-serve areas of the county. This arrangement is expected to provide more service in the rural areas, more flexibility for scheduling, stronger care teams, and improved continuity of care for the people we serve.
- We have been able to fill our Aging Services Assistant position, but one Food Service Helper and the Finance Offer 1 positions remain vacant with no applicants.

Debra Dennis (Youth Bureau) –

- Applications for OCFS Funding have been sent to various contacts I have made within the county. The OCFS applications are due back to me by 3/24/23. I have been assisting with some questions on the completion process with agencies we have not funded in the past. Once all applications are received, I will get together with the Youth Advisory Board to discuss allocations.
- Youth Advisory Board- still looking to recruit 3 members.
- All 2022 Program Annual reports and our 2023 Administrative Summary are complete and have been submitted to NYS OCFS for review.

RESOLUTIONS:

- HEALTH: Motion by Nightengale to bundle HH 1-3 by Nightengale, 2nd by Calarco, all in favor.**
- 3-23-HH-1 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to accept funding from New York State Department of Health to participate in federally funded program Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce and Data Systems.
- 3-23-HH-2 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to Contract with Multiple Service Agencies, School Districts and Individuals for the Provision of Services for Children Eligible for 3-5 Services (SED-4410 pre-school special education services).
- 3-23-HH-3 Authorizing the Public Health Director to Purchase Vehicle for the Health Department.
- SOCIAL SERVICES:**
- 3-23-HH-4 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Commissioner of Social Services to Enter into a Contract with Booker T. Washington Community Center Inc. **Motion by Calarco, 2nd by Nightengale, all in favor.**
- 3-23-HH-5 Authorizing the Chair of The Legislature to Extend A Contract With Housing Visions Consultants, Inc. **Motion by Nightengale, 2nd by McNabb-Coleman, all in favor.**
- 3-23-HH-6 Authorizing the Commissioner of Social Services to Fill 2 Human Services Examiner Position in the Department of Social Services. **Motion by Calarco, 2nd by McNabb-Coleman, all in favor.**
- 3-23-HH-7 Authorizing the Commissioner of Social Services to Purchase Three Vehicles for Department of Social Services. **Motion by Calarco, 2nd by McNabb-Coleman, all in favor.**
- MENTAL HEALTH: Motion by Calarco to bundle HH 8 & 13, 2nd by Patti Ruffini, all in favor.**
- 3-23-HH-8 Authorize the Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature and the Director of Community Services to enter into a contract for mental health counseling.
- 3-23-HH-13 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to fill a Senior Clerk Position at the Community Mental Health Center of Cayuga County due to the reclassification of a position by the Cayuga County Civil Service Commission.
- OFA: Motion by Calarco to bundle HH 9-11, 2nd by Patti Ruffini, all in favor.**
- 3-23-HH-9 Authorization to fill a Food Service Helper position in the Office for the Aging.
- 3-23-HH-10 Authorizing an increase in hourly wage for Part Time Food Service Helpers in the Cayuga County Office for the Aging Senior Nutrition Program.
- 3-23-HH-11 Authorizing the Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature and the Director of the Cayuga County Office for the Aging to sign the contract for service to produce and mail the quarterly Senior News & Views newsletter.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

3-23-HH-12 Adopting a revised and restated Corporate Compliance Plan. **Motion by Calarco, 2nd by Nightengale, all in favor.**

Motion by Didio to adjourn at 6:50 PM, 2nd by McNabb-Coleman, all in favor.