



MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 10, 2020
Live Stream Link: <https://youtu.be/dvzBusMTvtQ>

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Elane Daly, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:19PM

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

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

MINUTES TO APPROVE: August 13, 2020, Motion by Nightengale, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATION: Monika Salvage, re: update on HEALing Communities Study – **Attached**

MENTAL HEALTH:

9-20-HH-13 Amending the Mental Health Center 2020 Budget to adjust for actual HEALing Grant money received.
Motion by Daly, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Brenda Wiemann (Office for the Aging) –

- Calls have begun for the Medicare Annual Enrollment period. Staff have 100% transitioned to a VPN access/shared computer drive to log, track and assign callers for remote work during this high-vole time period. Requests for in-person appointments are being saved for possible future public access to our office.
- CCOFA's bi-annual NYS Office for Aging Fiscal Assessment Report was received showing excellent work by our fiscal staff. CCOFA's Five-Year NYSOFA plan was approved. We will soon start work on the 2021 annual plan update.
- CCOFA is actively promoting the Census, voter registration and absentee ballot information through multiple avenues with existing and new clients.

Ray Bizzari (Mental Health/Social Services) – No updates

HAN SERVICES:

Motion by Nightengale to bundle HH 11 & 12, 2nd by Lattimore, all in favor.

9-20-HH-11 Authorizing the Director of Community Services to Fill a Caseworker Vacancy in the Adult Protective Services Unit

9-20-HH-12 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, 2020 through April 30, 2021

End of bundle

9-20-HH-9 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to create and the Director of Community Services to fill a Supervisor of Family Services position and abolish a Sr. Typist, Transportation Aide (PT) and Casework Aide (PT) positions in the Department of Social Services. **Motion by Nightengale, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.**

Discussion:

Bianco says HH-9 is a resolution where we're asking to create and fill a supervisor family services position and we're looking to in doing that abolish a senior typist, part-time transportation aide, part-time caseworker aide in DSS. In March when I spoke about our almost two-year effort to reorganize services and take a look at the way that we have our supervision structure organized. This is to make sure that we're monitoring and managing the casework and the supervisors and services appropriately. The supervisor family services position would be a part of this reorganization that would involve us distributing the work that right now is being done by the director of services. There is one director of services person that has oversight of all of the different areas of children's services, the protective services which is child protective and adult protective services, foster care services, preventive adoption, and juvenile justice eligibility. Part of our plan is to take away the foster care preventive eligibility and juvenile justice from the director of services and have this particular supervisor family services take over the responsibility of managing those supervisors and the work of all of the caseworkers that are underneath those supervisors. We feel that having one person, the director of services involved in that administrative supervision is just too big of a job. The reason we say that is we're trying to really pay attention to the changes in the work that come through from the state frequently, making sure that the documentation is being done appropriately to document safety, and risk assessments that have to be done on every case make sure the eligibility is done appropriately on every case for the foster care end. Also, making sure that the visits are being done that need to be made to make sure the children in families that we're working with and that we're investigating are done appropriately and that children are safe. There is a lot of administrative oversight and we think that pulling those two sections apart and having it be done by one person in each of those program areas will be more beneficial to the staff and to the families that we work with.

Daly says when this was presented the impression was the anticipation of the retirement of the director of services and that at that point if that was to happen you would give consideration to having a grade A over everything all of the ones you just described and then replace that with another grade A to look at the CPS workload. Bianco says that is correct. Daly asks if that's still potentially on the retirement of that director of services there will be no director of services replacement, but another grade A supervisor. Bianco says that is still the plan. Daly says the grade A salary is less than a director of services. Bianco says that is correct.

Lattimore asks how much is state federally funded out of the population that we employ. Bianco responds 62%.

Batman says he is concerned about us talking about how much a position is funded by the state. The governor has made pretty clear that if the state doesn't get additional help from the federal government or other source that he will cut the reimbursements to counties and the legislature for good or bad has given him that soul authority. He thinks for us to count on this year and probably at least maybe going into next year getting reimbursement and the amounts we have historically is a huge financial mistake. We just don't know how much reimbursement we're going to get we don't know we have no idea. We better plan on the short term of that reimbursement getting cut.

Bizzari thinks there are a couple issues with the position and the strategy that we have. One is related to reimbursement and the other is one protecting children keeping them safe keeping them in the best possible placement that they have reducing their length of stay. Also, this this plan really is a response to the changing work in this department, the number of kids in foster care, and the challenges. I think I've spoken about this quite a bit up there the exposure that the county has financially on family first legislation and its impact on length of stay in RTC placements, so if you want to adopt the position that the concern about the reimbursement prevents us from filling the position I think the position in the work is to prevent millions of dollars of additional expenditure over years, but also to keep kids safe and keep them in the appropriate level of placement. I understand that the governor's budget has some potential impact, but these are mandated services. We put this plan together as a way to really sort of address that in a substantial and meaningful way and hopes the legislature will support it.

Nightengale says in congruence with what Ray was saying having worked in human services, but you always want to prevent escalating levels of care because that kind of money wildly exasperates budget impact. She says to Batman that she would rather err on the side of protecting the most vulnerable where we have statistics provided to us where they are escalating already these numbers of placements. Especially some very high risk placements that could go on to residential care or some who already have because of lack of available services. My understanding is that this this will be able to mitigate that movement to the higher level of care given what foster care homes we have now and their level of training or ability to take on these kids. Our savings long term will far outreach what we may lose in state funding.

Batman says he is not suggesting that the lack of state funding is a reason or the reason to do anything. He responded to the fact that twice tonight already we've heard a question and answer about how much state reimbursement we will get. The answer to that question is we don't know and that's the only point he is making. We cannot be making decisions based upon how much state aid we're going to get this year, but there are concerns about filling these now. He does not have any issue with the concepts the idea. Early intervention is an example of a program that absolutely saves money in the long run without question. My concern is at this point in this environment what we need to do is not take committee by committee, department by department and say this is a great program it's a great idea we need to do it, but rather to take it in a total context of what this county needs to do. The legislature may disagree, but if we postpone this for a couple months until the budget and we see a little bit better what the budget priorities are.

9-20-HH-10 Authorizing the County Legislature to create and the Director of Community Services to fill a Case Supervisor Grade B (Permanency Specialist) position in the Children & Family Services Unit. **Motion by Nightengale, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.**

Discussion:

Bianco, we feel this is a critical position and the reason why is because having somebody pay attention specifically to children coming into foster care and looking at the children's needs, the level of care need, and making sure that we do everything we can to search out a relative resource family, friend, or teacher that is interested in providing care for this child while the child is in our custody. The child caseworkers have so much work to do, but there's so many other things that they need to do when the child comes into care. They have to set up visitation with the parents, working with the parents and getting them into services right away, determining what's going on with the kid with school. We feel that having somebody that their main focus as part of their job is to take a look at those kids coming into care and work really quickly within the first 30 to 60 days to determine what's going on with this child.

HEALTH:

9-20-HH-1 Authorizing the Health Department to enter into a contract with Birnie Bus for Transportation of Preschool Physically Handicapped Children. **Motion by Lattimore, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.**

9-20-HH-2 Authorizing the Public Health Director to create and fill a Supervising Billing Specialist position in the Health Department. **Motion by Lattimore, 2nd by Nightengale, all in favor.**

9-20-HH-3 Authorizing the Cayuga County Legislature and the Public Health Director to create & fill an F/TE-I Service Coordinator Position.

Motion by Kerr, 2nd by Nightengale.

Motion by Daly to table, 2nd by Batman, all in favor.

9-20-HH-4 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director enter into contract with HRI (Working in Collaboration with NYSDOH) and accept funding for the time period of 07/01/2020 through 06/30/2022. **Motion by Nightengale, 2nd by Kerr.**

Motion by Batman to amend to add in the 2nd Resolved, "Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature", 2nd by Nightengale, all in favor.

All in favor of the resolution as amended.

Motion by Batman to bundle HH 6, 7 & 8, 2nd by Nightengale, all in favor.

9-20-HH-5 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Public Health Director to accept additional funding under the Immunization Action Plan grant focused on Flu outreach. Motion

9-20-HH-6 Authorizing the Public Health to enter into contract and accept funding from NYS Health Foundation to utilize in the Health Department's COVID-19 response

9-20-HH-8 Authorizing the Public Health Director to collect bids, award a bid and complete required renovations on our Dill Street Clinic

End of bundle

9-20-HH-7 Authorizing the Cayuga County Legislature and the Public Health Director to Create & Fill a F/T E-I Service Coordinator Position to temporarily fill behind a medical leave of absence. **Motion by Batman, 2nd by Nightengale, all in favor.**

Kathleen Cuddy (Health) –

- Update on COVID-19 activities including schools
- Other program updates

Discussion:

Cuddy says we continue to work our seven days a week on COVID related work. The last few weeks a lot of focus on school readiness. One of the things that every health department in New York state has found extremely frustrating is the State Department of Health issued a mandate that when a child or worker has to leave school because they don't feel well in the k-12 realm they cannot

come back to school until they've had a health care provider's assessment and a negative COVID test and are symptom-free. It does not allow for some discretion with the health care provider who knows their patient to say that know it is allergies or whatever circumstance. What we've all been told through the state department of health is it should have been health care provider OR a negative COVID test and symptom free. That or is a big fat deal and it's causing a big fat problem. It is supposedly sitting on the governor's office waiting to be passed through, but we've been hearing that for three four weeks. After just speaking to one pediatrician today that one pediatrician did three COVID tests yesterday for children that she did not think were merited, but she knew they wanted to get back to school. It's problematic because there's a neighboring county who is not following the mandate and so now we get the, but they let us do it this way. It's inconsistent and really makes the local health departments and the state health department look a little ridiculous. It is frustration for the schools as well as for health departments as well as for healthcare providers.

Motion by Nightengale to adjourn at 8:32PM, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.



**“I’m a
FIRST RESPONDER”**



**“I’m a
FIRST RESPONDER”**



**“I am
TOO”**

**HEALing
Communities
Study**

Cayuga County

Data, COVID-19, Stigma

Health & Human Services Sub-Committee

Monika Salvage, Project Director
September 10, 2020



“I am strength. I am hope. I am not alone. I took buprenorphine and am in recovery.”

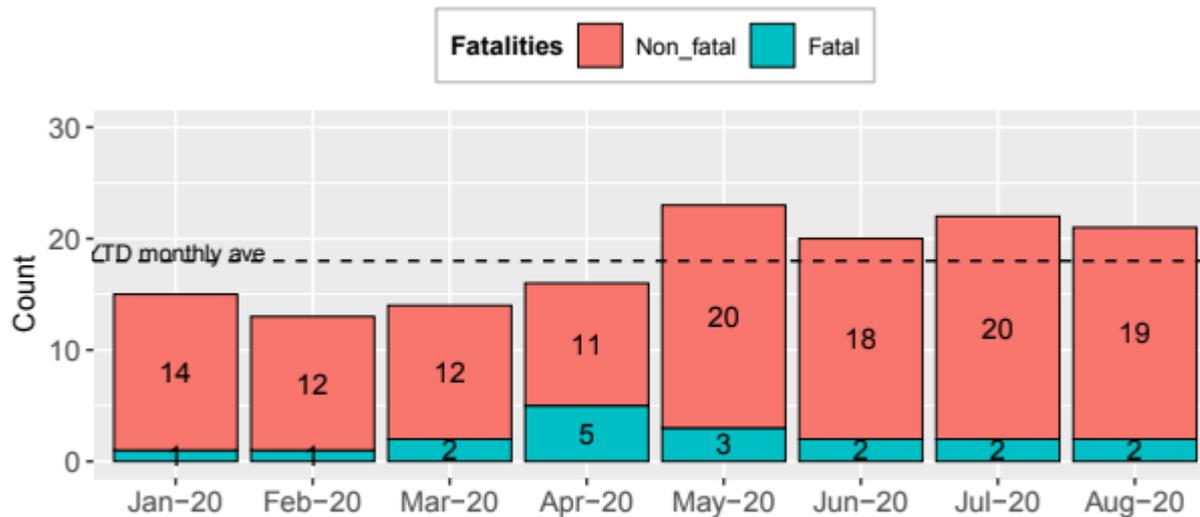
Good news: Additional funding

\$500,000 additional intervention funding coming to Cayuga County!

- \$75,000 to offset state cuts for CHAD, Grace House for substance use prevention, services at the jail, housing
- Expand prevention efforts
- Expand access to treatment
- Expand linkage to treatment
- Expand community outreach & communications

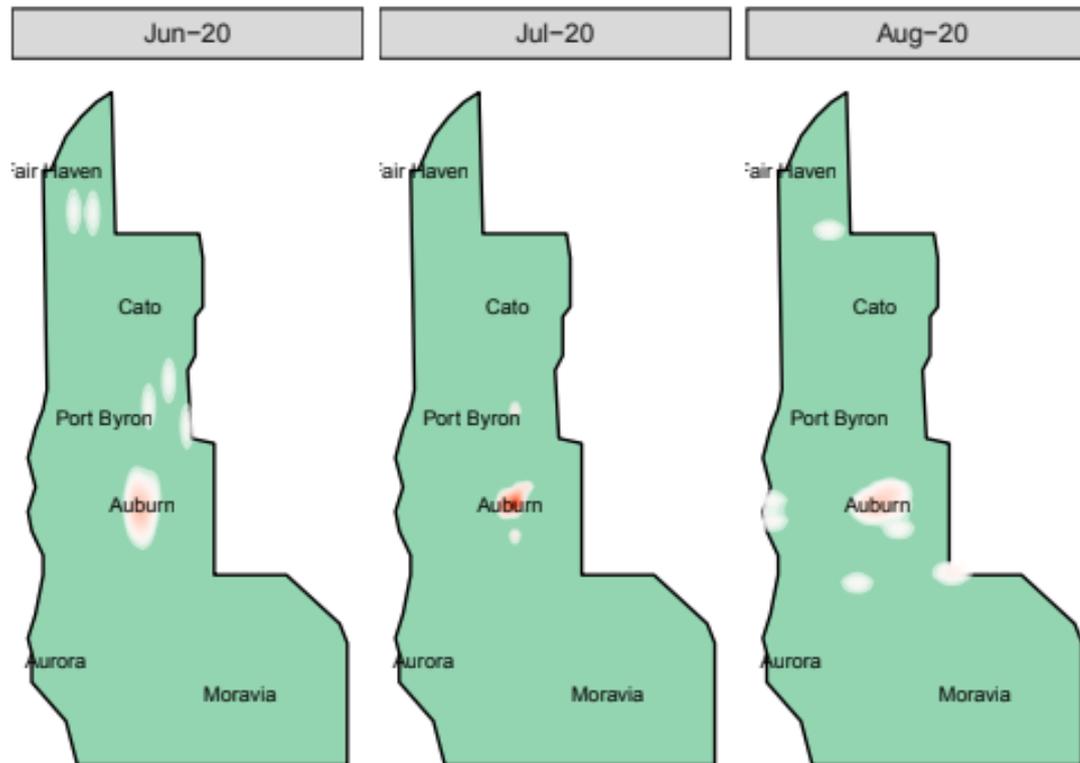
Bad news: Overdoses are on the rise

- Jan-Aug 2020
 - 144 overdoses
 - 18 fatal overdoses
- Mar-Aug 2020
 - 116 overdoses
 - 16 fatal overdoses



Data source: ODMAP

Where overdoses are happening



Data source: ODMAP

OVERDOSES IN AUBURN, NY FROM 2015 TO 2019





“I’m a
FIRST RESPONDER”



“I’m a
FIRST RESPONDER”



“I am
TOO”

Carry naloxone (Narcan) Save a Life

Recognize the signs of an opioid overdose
Learn where to get Narcan® and how to use it

cayugacounty.us/narcan



**HEALing
Communities
Study**

Cayuga County

What we are doing about it

- **New Narcan training & distribution methods**
 - Total 416
 - Online 214
 - Pop-up events 187
 - Jail 15
- Reaching different populations, geographic areas
- >40% have witnessed overdose in the past
- Uptick in bystander Narcan administration





What we are doing about it

- **Post-overdose outreach**
- Engaging first responders and law enforcement
- Leave behind Narcan card at the scene of overdose
- Working on Narcan leave-behind program with Auburn Fire Dept.



Request a free Narcan kit at
cayugacounty.us/narcan

HEALing
Communities
Study

Cayuga County

What we are working on

- Increasing linkage with recovery peer advocates
- Expanding access to medications for opioid use disorder
- Reducing the stigma around opioid use disorder and treatment



Reducing the stigma

“I did not have to steal today. I didn’t sell anyone an overdose today. I didn’t harm my family or friends today. I showed up for life today. Today I am strong, accountable, reliable, open-minded and honest. Today I am able to stay centered in the now. I am an addict. I am in recovery. Today I am not alone.”



“When I felt I couldn’t go on, you showed me I could. When I felt alone, you proved I was not. I am hope. I am In recovery.”

NIH
HEAL
INITIATIVE

HEALing Communities Study
New York

Overcoming opioid use disorder takes more than willpower. Help reduce stigma in your community that discourages people with opioid use disorder from seeking help.

HealTogetherNY.org/Cayuga