

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2022

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Clary, Campbell, Fedler, Shaw, Skellie, Ferguson, Wilson

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, O'Brien, Haff, Hogan

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Melissa Fitch, County Administrator

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1) Call to Order

2) Accept Minutes – December 21, 2021

3) Department Reports/Requests:

A. Public Health

1. Resolution Request – Grant Carryover

2. Staffing Update

3. Miscellaneous

B. Social Services

1. Executive Budget (State) Items of Interest

2. ERAP/Funding Resolution Request

3. Rental Supplement Plan Update

C. Community Services Board/Mental Health

1. Resolution Requests

a) 2021 Budget Amendment – Court Ordered Psychiatric Expenses \$83,500

b) 2022 Budget Amendment – NYS OASAS (100% State Aid) \$41,250

2. Adirondack Peer to Peer Request for Proposal Update

D. Youth Bureau

1. Winterfest Update

E. OFA/ADRC

1. OFA Advisory Council Appointments

2. Overnight Travel Request

4) Other Business

5) Adjournment

Chairwoman Clary called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 21, 2021 meeting was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Wilson, and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/REQUESTS:

PUBLIC HEALTH – Tina McDougall, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

• Grant Carryovers:

- Early Intervention Administration \$9,976.
- School Funding \$1,513,343.
- Fellowship Program \$980,000.
- COVID Vaccine Response Plan \$167,293.
- Public Health Preparedness \$16,893.
- COVID Enhanced Detection \$110,867.
- Child Passenger Safety \$15,000.
- DSRIP \$87,276.

A motion to carryover various unspent grant funds and forward to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and adopted.

- Staffing Update – Public Health has reduced staff quite a bit due to the state taking over the case investigations and no longer doing the contact tracing. They have some upcoming retirements, are advertising for those positions and have a couple of applicants.
- Miscellaneous:
 - Testing Site opens tomorrow from 9AM to 3PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays; pcr test through Quadrant Biosciences. Going to try this for a couple weeks and see what the interest and need is for the site. Mr. Haff asked if there was any criteria for testing and the Director stated no. She does not think there is going to be a big push for tests and it has been going down in our area. Insurance will be billed for the test and there is no out of pocket expense to get tested. They want to try this for the community and they were too busy prior. One to two people at the site and the person does their own test and scheduled in 10 minute intervals from 9 to 3. We are not buying the test kits.
 - Information on clinics available on the county website.
 - Proposed State Budget – Some positive things for Public Health; increases base grant for Article VI funding from \$500,000 to \$577,000 as well as reimbursement for fringe benefits. The Governor at the end of the year signed into law that Early Intervention services would be covered by third party insurance and right now there is a proposal included that if for some reason not covered it will be reimbursed by the state and that is currently a county responsibility. One negative impact is preschool providers to get a COLA increase in the rates that they are paid of 11%.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES: Tammy DeLorme, Commissioner, addressed the following items:

- Executive Budget (State) Items of Interest – Budget proposed to modernize the foster care maximum state aid rate – how much we can pay foster parents for providing services because of a settlement to a recent lawsuit. This change would mandate districts to pay 100% of the maximum state aid rate for children that are in regular therapeutic special needs and emergency foster boarding homes. The state has indicated that they are not planning to cover the additional cost to increase the rate of foster care and they are only going to increase or cover the increase in adoption expenses. This is not a problem for us because we already pay the maximum state aid rate and actually stand to gain if OCS does pay more toward adoption subsidies. Added in \$62.5M over what was in the budget last year for child care and raised eligibility income level up from 200% to 300% of the federal poverty level increasing over a three year period. Child welfare financing structure which is set for five years was up this year and they are continuing to fund preventive services at the same rate; 62/38. Payments for raise the age remain the same. Alignment for how the schools and county pay for committee on special education placements funding to stay the same as last two years which shifted more cost to the schools not the county and proposing to keep the same. Triple FS funds, flex funds for family services, that is tanif money will remain the same as last year. The funding has been flat for a number of years and will not increase but the cost of the items have increased. The transition rent supplement is included at the \$100M level, the same as last year. Code blue is being funded the same as last year. NYSAC is anticipating a public assistance program change requiring the County to determine safety net assistance applications within 30 days which

in the past was 45 days and believe that will be an increased cost statewide. \$25B housing plan included in proposed budget but no details. State Medicaid take over is still on their agenda. DSS Medicaid staff are fully funded at 100% through the Medicaid cap. Mentioned that possibly the federal government will extend the public health emergency through June 30, 2022.

- ERAP/Funding Resolution Request – Carryover of Funds – A motion to carryover the balance of ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program) revenue to 2022, funds set aside to draw down to cover their administrative costs of operating this program, in the amount of \$19,728 was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Fedler, and adopted.
- Rental Supplement Plan Update – The State gave us an opportunity to provide funding for rental assistance. \$100M continues to be in the budget. The State assigned a lot of work to the counties and hopes to get more information from state colleagues on this. She still does not have a final plan that is what she wants to submit. Her focus will be on the people that we have the hardest time finding housing for once they become homeless; large families, and single adults released from incarcerations. Have that be a positive outcome for the County to reduce the amount of money spent on motels. The plan will have to be submitted prior to next meeting and it would still require multiple levels of approval in this process. She will review with the committee the plan she submits at the next committee meeting. Funding associated with this plan is \$131,000 and will divide up as needed for appropriate eligible people going forward. This is not something that would go into effect in the next month or two but she does have to submit a plan by the middle of February. Mr. Wilson stated he thinks the DSS Commissioner is well within her area of responsibility to formulate a plan to submit for the state funding.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD/MENTAL HEALTH – Rob York, Director, addressed the following items:

- Resolution Requests:
 - 2021 Budget Amendment – Court Ordered Psychiatric Expenses – A motion to amend the 2021 budget in the amount of \$83,500 to cover 2021 court-ordered psychiatric expenses increasing appropriations from fund balance was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Wilson, and adopted. Mr. Henke stated this is an unfunded mandate and the state should be covering the cost not the counties and recommends advocating for that change. The Director will keep the committee informed of any advocacy going on.
 - 2022 Budget Amendment – NYS OASAS (100% State Aid) \$41,250 – The Director has had conversations with Sheriff Murphy on the utilization of these funds and they will be utilized within the jail for some transition release services to assist inmates as they are being released from the facility to connect with appropriate services in the community. A motion to amend the 2022 budget to allow acceptance and pass-through of \$41,250 (100%State Aid – NYS OASAS) for the provision of jail-based transition release services was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Wilson, Shaw, and Mrs. Fedler, and adopted.
- Adirondack Peer to Peer Request for Proposal Update – Received responses from three outside entities: Adirondack Vet House, People USA, and SUNY Adirondack. Starting to

assemble selection committee and ready to move forward. Chairman Hall designated Chairwoman Clary to represent Washington County. Anticipates a recommendation/decision within a month and will bring back to committee. The executive budget does include the \$185,000 funding for this program.

YOUTH BUREAU – Mike Gray, Director, addressed the following items:

- Winterfest – Cancelled due to COVID.
- Lifeguard trainings scheduled for February 21st – 25th at the Hudson Falls Intermediate School at no charge and another April 18th – 22nd. Summer/youth recreation staff that need Red Cross/first aid training can contract his office.
- State budget funding is flat, same as last year.
- Thanked the Board for support on the merger with Warren County and will keep committee informed as he moves forward.

OFA/ADRC – Gina Cantanucci, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- OFA Advisory Council Appointments – A motion to appoint Tina McDougall – Washington County Public Health, Val Baez – Granville, and Julian Hadley – Cambridge to the OFA Advisory Council was moved by Mrs. Fedler, seconded by Messrs. Campbell and Wilson, and adopted.
- Overnight Travel Request – The Directors for OFA from across the State come together and do a lot of strategic planning with the NYS Office for Aging executive staff. The leadership institute will take place April 5th – 7th in Clayton, NY (St. Lawrence County) and requesting approval for an overnight stay. There is a registration fee and the cost for the event is approximately \$287 and have the funds in the budget to cover. A motion to approve overnight stay and attendance at OFA leadership institute April 5th – April 7th was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Shaw, and adopted.
- Unmet Needs Funding – Received late in 2021 an allocation of \$85,000 in unmet needs funding, 100% State funds and did carry over the funds to the 2022 budget. Estimating \$45,000 to \$50,000 of that funding needs to be spend by March 31st. They are scrambling to come up with a solid plan and discussed with the State who suggested putting in a written request for a program extension and she plans to proceed in that manner. The extension would allow them time to come up with a solid plan for the use of this funding and hopes the extension is through September 2022. A piece of that plan is to add in additional contractors for personal care services. The office has a wait list for individuals in need of personal care services. The agencies that they contract with do not have the staff and requesting the committee's approval to send out a request for proposals for home care agencies and look for adding on additional home care agencies to their current subcontract list in an attempt to find a workforce to addressed their wait list for personal care services. A motion to approve issuing a request for proposals for home care agencies for personal care services was moved by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and adopted.
- Some unmet needs funds were allocated to expand their senior transportation program. Contracted services started in January to serve ten individuals through GoGo. Will follow up with the committee when closer to the program year end in March and possibly look to expand the program to incorporate more individuals.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors