

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 30, 2022

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

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES MEMBERS ABSENT: Fedler

SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, Hicks, O'Brien, 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 – February 23, 2002

3) Department Reports/Requests:

A. Youth Bureau

1. Youth Development Program Funding

2. Life Guard Training Update

B. Social Services

1. State Training Budget Resolution Request

2. Request to Carry Over Employee's Benefit Time

3. Various Program Updates

C. Public Health

1. Child Passenger Safety Program Grant Application

2. NYS Budget Update

3. Staffing Requests/Updates

4. Resolution Request – Budget Modification

5. Miscellaneous

4) Other Business

5) Adjournment

Chairwoman Clary called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers and via zoom.

A motion to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2022 meeting was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and adopted.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

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

- Youth Development Program Funding – This funding is used for recreation programs and some community-based organizations that they fund. Currently the program runs on a calendar year and the State is proposing to change to a federal year, October 1 – September 30<sup>th</sup>. His office would have to go through the resource allocation twice the first year but it would actually be better having the numbers and time to allocate to the programs going forward. The Youth Bureau supports this change. The State is also going to add \$5M to the Youth Development Program funding from the sports gambling revenue so he is anticipating about \$10,000 in additional funding.
- Life Guard Training Update – Training scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> at Hudson Falls Middle School from 10 AM to 2 PM. Please call his office to register.
- Global Youth Service Day April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Group of youth will be doing roadside cleanup on Shine Hill, Hartford.

- Project List – Supervisors can call the office if they are looking for some assistance with projects. Mr. Hicks mentioned Tri-County United Way community clean up day on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Granville.

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

- State Training Budget Resolution Request – Received a billing for one youth in OCFS custody in 2020 and has since been discharged in August 2021. The expense would come out of the State Training budget account line in the budget. DSS is responsible for 100% of the bill received but it is only reflective of half the cost of housing the youth in OCFS custody. The bill for 2020 is \$294,461 and the 2021 budget has \$166,000 in the account. Requesting a 2021 budget amendment to address this shortage in the amount of \$128,461. Anticipate being billed next year for the period of January 2021 through August 2021 and noted they only budgeted \$76,000 in the 2022 budget so they will be short next year. A motion to amend 2021 budget to transfer funds between programs to cover 2020 OCFS maintenance chargebacks for a youth in OCFS custody, increasing A.6126.4290 State Training School and decrease A.6100.4290 Medicaid \$128,461 was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Shaw, and adopted.
- Request to Carry Over Employee's Benefit Time – An employee is out on a 12-week FMLA and was required to use all of her sick time before she could draw disability and she is nearing the end of her disability period but her twelve weeks will not have passed. Her anniversary date with the County is right around the end of the disability period and she has seven days of vacation time and requested to transfer over into her new benefit time and will be drawing that down. A motion to forward request to carryover seven days of vacation time to the full Board was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, and adopted. It was noted that the Personnel Committee can approved this request, it does not need to go to the full Board.
- Various Program Updates:
  - Eviction Moratorium – The lengthen of time this eviction moratorium has gone on is of concern because if people do not have the money to pay past due amounts, it creates a mass eviction type of scenario. The Commissioner reached out to local courts to get an impact on evictions and the large percentage have not had evictions coming through court. If a tenant or landlord is waiting for the determination on their e-wrap application they are not able to be evicted. The DSS list of current homeless people includes seventeen adults without children – eleven on either parole, probation, or registered sex offenders, and eight families with twelve children and three of the families are the result of evictions. Having more homeless than they have experienced in the last two years. Still worry there will be a bubble going forward of evictions and it will be costly.
  - Status of Office – Overall very busy in the areas of SNAP and HEAP and have had to use overtime in their eligibility programs to ensure timeliness of determinations. Child Protective Services is also hopping because of the resignations. Half of the CPS Caseworkers are going through state training and cannot have a caseload until training completed therefore the trained Caseworkers have unusually high caseloads. The new workers can travel with them. take notes and make phone

calls. There are two CPS units with twelve Caseworkers with six in training unable to carry a caseload at this time.

- Efficient Use of County Cars – Standard practice for Caseworkers to be out in County vehicles and some other titles but it is typically Caseworkers that are seen out in the vehicles. Five units required to travel to meet the regulations of their programs: two Child Protective, an Adult Services, Preventive and HOPE - homeless, units. Do understand need to be efficient and productive as possible but sometimes they have to back track to connect with clients.
- Foster Care – Staff has been added to start recruiting foster parents and licensing them through DSS. Nearing the end of training for members of this new unit to become trainers and certifiers of foster homes. DSS has already been contacted from six separate households seeking to become licensed foster homes. Planning to beginning training for licensing foster homes later in April. Will be beginning to make purchases to support the training using the American Rescue Plan funds set aside for foster care. The Commissioner will prepare a list of what they need and present it next month to the committee.

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

- Child Passenger Safety Program Grant Application – A motion to approve applying for Child Passenger Safety Program grant usually around \$15,000 was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and adopted.
- NYS Budget Update – Still in line to receive increase in Article VI state aid to \$577,500 from their current amount of \$500,000. Also reimbursing fringe benefit expenses up to 50% to 75% and that is in addition to the increased Article VI state aid. Both changes are positives for the department.
- Staffing Requests/Updates – Fiscal Officer's last day is Friday and moving on to a different position. Plans to bring permission to backfill to the Personnel Committee and they have advertised the position. They are in process of interviewing for their other open positions. Received an application for Director of Patient Services, plan to interview that person by the end of the week and requesting permission to overlap until Assistant Director of Patient Services retires in early June so by the time the person is hired, the overlap would be about one and half months. A motion to approve overlap of positions, Director of Patient Services and Assistant Director of Patient Services, due to retirement was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and adopted.
- Budget Amendment – Requesting to transfer funds within the budget to purchase smaller vaccine coolers to take out fewer vaccine vials to their clinics at farms and homebound population. The current coolers are quite large for the amount of vaccine they would be taking. This expense would be covered under COVID or the Immunization grant. A motion to amend 2022 budget increasing A.4006.2625.53 by \$2,600 and decrease A.4006.4625.53 by \$2,600 was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, and adopted.
- Miscellaneous:
  - Annually LEAP requests donations to use toward their community garden. Public Health is able to purchase items to give to LEAP under the Lead Poisoning

- Prevention Program and requesting to spend up to \$200 for plants or seeds to donate to LEAP. A motion to approve expenditure of up to \$200 for plants or seeds for the LEAP community garden was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Wilson and Ferguson, and adopted.
- Wanted to make the committee aware that the NYS Department of Health (DOH) is contracting with Syracuse University to do wastewater surveillance testing for COVID and their goal is to have at least one testing site within each county. Last week had a call with the Washington County Sewer District, Syracuse and Public Health and the Sewer District has agreed to collect the samples for the weekly testing because they are regularly out taking samples. There is no cost to the County. This would be weekly testing looking for COVID and the report is publicly available. Public Health would receive a report each week from Syracuse University and they will help us interpret the data. Hope to start this testing in the next week or so. If there are any questions or comments, please direct them to the Public Health Director.
  - Issue with vaccine freezer with the alarm going off over the weekend and Public Health should know more in the next couple of days how they plan to address this issue. Eastern Heating and Cooling were on site yesterday, the freezer is leaking, it is going to be quite the job to fix and are waiting for the quote from them to fix. This freezer was supplied to Public Health from the State about five years ago at no county cost and have reached out to the State to see if that program is still available to replace this freezer. They are getting the quote to fix and also getting quotes on a new freezer and the cost would be covered under grants or state aid because they are required to have this vaccine that is held in the freezer per State requirements. There will be more to come on this issue and they are weighing their options. It was keeping the temperature until last night and there was only one vial in the freezer so checking to see if it can be used and was placed in another freezer. Mr. Campbell suggested due to availability possibly doing both fix the freezer and order a new one. The freezer has to be taken off site to fix for about two days.
  - Still doing COVID PCR testing at Public Health just need to make an appointment. A vaccine clinic is held on Wednesdays from 2PM to 4PM, walk-ins. This morning the CDC approved the additional booster and waiting on NYS DOH guidance. The NYS Department of Health was on site noting they come on site usually once every two years to do a review of their vaccine for children's program. There were no findings from that review and praised the staff.
  - The County Administrator stated there is a union negotiation session this evening with the nurses at Public Health and hoping that comes to a conclusion soon.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 A.M.

*Debra Prehoda, Clerk*  
*Washington County Board of Supervisors*