

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
January 05, 2022

Members Present: J. Burdick, J. Ricketts-Swales, G. Hanchett, B. Harris, J. Rumpfelt, P. Stockin, (Absent: D. Root)

Others Present: R. Anderson, G. Barnes, T. Boyde, B. Budinger, P. Curran, A. Cyr, K. Demick, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, S. Havey, D. Healy, K. Hooker, E. Kayes, C. Knapp, T. Linn, A. Mattison, T. Miner, S. Pullen, B. Reynolds, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, T. Ross, T. Shaw

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Human Services Committee Chair Janice L. Burdick at 2:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried to approve the December 1, 2021, Human Services Committee meeting minutes.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Request to Accept and Appropriate Funds

Dr. Anderson attended the meeting and requested a resolution to accept and appropriate funds that have been reallocated by the State Office of Mental Health from the 2020 fiscal year. These monies were not allocated or spent in 2020, and OMH has now authorized \$76,802 as additional funding for Allegany County. They have approved the expenses as listed below, and would like the amounts accepted and budgeted in the 2022 Budget as follows:

Revenue: \$ 76,802		
A 4310.3490.101A State Aid – Mental Health LA Adult	\$ 2,480	
A 4310.3490.1014 State Aid – Mental Health CSS	\$ 11,982	
A 4310.3490.1200 State Aid – Mental Health Comm Reinv	\$ 26,962	
A 4312.3490.570K State Aid – Mental Health Kids Health Homes	\$ 23,736	
A 4316.3490.1570 State Aid – Mental Health Home Adult	\$ 11,642	
Expenses: (per the state allocation budget) \$ 76,802		
A 4310.204 Mental Health Adm - Motor Vehicle	\$ 41,424	
A 4312.204 Mental Health Youth ICM - Motor Vehicle	\$ 23,736	
A 4316.204 Mental Health Home Adult - Motor Vehicle	\$ 5,855	\$ 71,015
A 4316.201 Mental Health Home Adult – Office Equipment (printers)	\$ 1,980	
A 4316.413 Mental Health Home Adult – Rental, Pers Property	\$ 3,807	
	Total grant:	\$ 76,802

The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Director Tyler Shaw attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Shaw highlighted the following items:

- Breastfeeding coordinators are back in the hospitals
- Routine immunization clinics are back up and running
- Additional influenza clinics planned

COVID-19 Update

NYSDOH Interim Updated Isolation & Quarantine Guidance

Mr. Shaw provided copies of the “Interim Updated Isolation & Quarantine Guidance,” and “Interim Advisory on Return-to-Work Protocols for Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 in Healthcare Setting,” documents issued by the New York State Department of Health on January 4, 2022. Mr. Shaw stated that these documents will be posted to the Allegany County, NY, website within a press release later today. Mr. Shaw stated that the new guidelines will be implemented as of today. Mr. Shaw stated that there will be new guidance coming out for K through 12 schools in the coming week. Mr. Shaw explained that the shortened 5-day isolation and quarantine period is for fully vaccinated individuals as well as un-vaccinated individuals. Mr. Shaw referenced page 2 of the “Interim Updated Isolation & Quarantine Guidance” document, stating that to be considered fully vaccinated as a contact to a COVID-19 positive individual, you must have received your booster vaccine if eligible two weeks prior to contact, otherwise you must isolate & quarantine for 5 days.

Contact Tracing

Mr. Shaw indicated that there will be new Contact Tracing guidance from NYSDOH sometime next week. Mr. Shaw stated that they are hopeful they will no longer be required to contact individuals who are close contacts of COVID-19 positive cases and focus only on positive cases. Mr. Shaw stated that the positive individuals should reach out to any community contacts to make them aware that they tested positive.

At-Home Test Kits

Mr. Shaw stated that they are pushing out the at-home test kits, and that they are feverishly attempting to create a reporting portal where at-home test results can be reported directly to the Allegany County, NY, website, and then made available directly to the contact tracing team. Legislator Harris asked about the benefits of reporting a positive at-home test and then following up with a physician for a PCR test. Mr. Shaw stated that the County Health Department will now be accepting at-home test results, and additional PCR testing would no longer be recommended as a follow-up to an at-home test.

Booster Eligibility

Mr. Shaw stated that the CDC is getting ready to make 12-15 year olds eligible for booster vaccinations, and will also be reducing the booster time-line from 6 months to 5 months.

Mask Distribution

Mr. Shaw stated that thanks to community partners, they have established pilot distribution sites that have been able to hand out masks, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizer. Mr. Shaw stated that there will be a press release today with all of the locations and times for each of the townships where these items will be distributed. Mr. Shaw stated that the at-home test kits will be added to the distributions next week once they get the reporting portal up and running. Legislator Ricketts-Swales asked where to direct people for the press releases regarding mask and test kit distribution sites. Mr. Shaw stated that the press release will go out later today that will include a table of towns, locations, times and dates of the distributions that can be found on the Allegany County, NY, website, <https://www.alleganyco.com/coronavirus/county-government-notices/>, as well as the Allegany County Department of Health Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AlleganyCountyDOH/>, the Office of Emergency Management Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AlleganyCountyOEM> and through various community partners. Mr. Shaw stated that they have an entire media distribution network that includes the newspapers. Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle stated that Allegany County Legislators should be receiving all County press releases directly to their email. Legislator Ricketts-

Swales asked how the general public was made aware of the distribution at the Houghton Wesleyan Church in Houghton, NY, occurring that evening. Mr. Shaw stated that they collected all of the data prior to making a press release so that they are not sending multiple press releases. Mrs. Riehle stated that this particular press release had gone out about thirty seconds ago. Legislator Harris stated that particularly for the recent KN95 mask distribution held in Alfred, NY, the local fire department did a good job posting the information on social media, and as a result handed out about 900 masks. Legislator Harris stated that it is a team effort, and that press releases are an opportunity for legislators to share the information with their constituents

Request for Agreement with Nicholson Pharmacy-Mark Hunter

Mr. Shaw requested approval to enter into a contract with Mark Hunter to provide pharmacy consultant services. This is primarily for our Reproductive and Sexual Health program, which requires a pharmacist to oversee medication distribution, approve formularies, inventory, and proper disposal. The contract period is between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022. This contract has been reviewed and approved by the Interim County Attorney. The cost will be \$50 per hour for services rendered, and has been budgeted for 2022, under Cost Center A4035.456. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Rumpfelt, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Mr. Shaw ended by thanking his staff for their efforts seven days a week over the last two years, and that it has been very tough, and they are getting burned out. Mr. Shaw thanked various groups for their help and volunteerism including, County Staff and Departments, School Districts, School Nursing Staff and COVID-19 teams, and Community Partners for vaccination and rapid testing clinics. Mr. Shaw stated that he appreciates everyone's efforts. Committee Chair Janice Burdick thanked Mr. Shaw and his staff for the hours they have worked throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and going forward as it looks like it is going to continue for a while.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING

Office for the Aging Director Anita Mattison attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Mattison briefly highlighted several items from her monthly report.

- Front desk calls this time last year totaled 1,529 units of service, compared with 2,566 units of service this year, which is just over 1,000 calls.
- Health insurance counseling in November of 2020, totaled 373 units of service, compared with 511 units of service this year.
- PC level 1 housekeeper chore activities this time last year totaled 948 units of service, compared with 1,093 units of service this year.
- Information and assistance this time last year totaled 1,547 units of service, compared with 1,919 units of service this year.
- Personal Emergency Responses this time last year totaled 151 units of service, compared with 173 units of service this year.
- Meals on Wheels this time last year totaled 7,716 home delivered meals, and 339 congregate meals, compared with 7,670 home delivered meals, and 792 congregate meals. The numbers reflect a decrease this month due to three holidays, but the average daily home delivered meals serve approximately 430 individuals.

Waiting Lists for Services

Ms. Mattison stated that their goal was to reduce their waiting lists which had been happening, but they have added to their waiting lists due to discharges from the hospitals of individuals who had been admitted due to COVID-19. Ms. Mattison stated that these individuals are in need of services upon being discharged, but have been placed on the waiting list due to the number of hospitalizations. Committee Chair Janice Burdick asked if there may be other sources of assistance available to these

individuals. Ms. Mattison stated that there is assistance through Medicare Help if an individual receives Medicare, but that is a transitional service which is short-term, and they will end up back on our waiting list. Legislator Harris asked if there was anything other than money that could alleviate the waiting lists. Ms. Mattison stated that there has always been a home health-aid crisis which has increased in the past two years. Ms. Mattison stated that the recently hired part-time laborers are working as many hours as they can. Ms. Mattison stated that staffing for in-home care workers would be helpful, but that money is really the bottom line. Legislator Harris asked if Medicare eligible individuals are sent there first. Ms. Mattison stated, yes, that they assess them for multiple options before determining where to seek assistance. Ms. Mattison explained that their waiting list is done through prioritization based on multiple criteria. Legislator Harris asked if the increase in phone calls was entirely COVID-19 related. Ms. Mattison stated, not entirely, that many are due to COVID-19, but others are looking for modifications to their homes or help with nutrition. Legislator Harris asked if there was any chance that the calls coming into the OFA were because individuals are unable to get in to see their primary care providers. Ms. Mattison stated, no, because they actually receive a large volume of calls directly from providers.

Committee Chair Janice Burdick thanked Ms. Mattison and her staff for the many hours worked to help protect our seniors.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Kayes began by thanking the committee for the donation of books for the foster care children, and that they were well received. Ms. Kayes highlighted items from her monthly report.

Food Boxes

Ms. Kayes stated that they were able to secure some food boxes for families this Christmas.

Foster Care Adoption Services

Ms. Kayes stated that the number of children in DSS foster care saw a significant decrease between 2020 and 2021, which is believed to be a result of the families first initiative, where the States' initiative is to rely more on relatives, and resources within the community for the placement of children rather than placing them in foster care. Ms. Kayes stated that while they are seeing some success, they are still providing case work to those children as if they were in foster care. Ms. Kayes stated that this is a positive change.

Request to Fill One Caseworker and any Resulting Backfills

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes is requesting permission to fill one full-time Caseworker (AFSCME bargaining unit, Grade 16, Step: Base to 7), and any resulting backfills due to a resignation. This position is responsible for ensuring the safety, health, and welfare of children, families, and adults. The annual salary is estimated to be between \$41,309 and \$51,537, with benefits estimated between \$16,140 and \$20,136. This position is funded 35.57 percent with County funds, 21.89 percent with State funds, and 42.54 percent with Federal funds. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Rumfelt, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Request for Agreement for Allegany County Community Services Contract

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes is requesting a resolution to approve the January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, contract with Allegany County Community Services, 45 North Broad Street, Wellsville, NY 14895, for Qualified Individual (QI) evaluations of children being placed in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). The fiscal impact will be 42.54 percent Federal

reimbursement, and 21.89 percent State reimbursement for all non-Medicaid billable expenditures. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request to Accept and Appropriate New York State Safe Harbour Funding

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes is requesting a resolution to accept and appropriate the New York State Safe Harbour funding of \$43,350. This grant was originally awarded to the County Division for Youth, but as a result of a state decision, it is transitioning from the Youth Bureau to the Department of Social Services for the 2022 Fiscal Year. The budget adjustment is requested as follows:

Revenue:

A 7328.3089.00	State Aid - Safe Harbour C-Sec Grant DFY/DSS	\$ 43,350
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Expenses: (per the state allocation budget)

A 7328.402	Mileage (staff travel to attend trainings)	\$ 1,000
A 7328.407	General Supplies (program materials)	\$ 1,000
A 7328.421	Education (staff training and development)	\$ 3,000
A 7328.474	Contractual (public awareness campaign)	\$ 15,389
A 7328.475	Contractual (Arden Contract for payroll services)	\$ 19,961
A 7328.476	Contractual (wrap around funds/client assistance)	\$ 3,000

Total grant:	\$ 43,350
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Ms. Kayes stated that they plan to utilize these funds within the Child Advocacy Center to build a practice around survivors of trafficking or at high risk for trafficking. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Rumfelt, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Request to Renew Existing NMS Labs Contract

County Administrator Carissa Knapp requested a resolution to renew the existing contract with NMS Labs for toxicology laboratory services as ordered by the Allegany County Coroners, that expires on December 31, 2021, (Resolution #310-20), and authorization for the Chairman of the Board to execute the agreement. The funding is included in the 2022 Budget – A. I 185.429 Contractual. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request to Renew Existing Monroe County Contract

County Administrator Carissa Knapp requested a resolution to renew the existing contract with Monroe County (Resolution No. 317-20) to provide Medical Examiner Services for the Allegany County Coroners commencing January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. The funding is included in the 2022 Budget - A1185.429 Contractual. Legislator Harris asked if we still have an ME contract with Olean General Hospital. Ms. Knapp stated that she would check to see when that contract expired and report back. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Rumfelt, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request for Appointments to Community Services Board

The Community Services Board recommends that Brooke Bradt of Angelica, Janice L. Burdick of Alfred Station, and Deborah Marshall of Wellsville be reappointed to a four year-term commencing January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2025. The appointments were approved on a motion made by Legislator Rumfelt, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Appointments to the Board of Health

The Chairman of the Board recommends that Legislator Janice L. Burdick be appointed to fill the remainder of Judith D. Hopkin's six-year term, expiring July 7, 2025, as the Legislative Representative on the Board of Health. The appointment was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Appointments to the Citizens Advisory Council to the Office for the Aging

The Chairman of the Board plans to reappoint Janis Carson of Belmont, Joseph Felsen of Wellsville, Vicki Grant of Houghton, and Susan Stout of Wellsville as members of the Citizens Advisory Council to the Office for the Aging for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2022, and expiring December 31, 2024, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators. The appointments were approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Rumfelt, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Rumfelt, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators