

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 2, 2022

Members Present: J. Burdick, J. Ricketts-Swales, G. Hanchett, B. Harris, D. Root, J. Rumfelt, P. Stockin

Others Present: R. Anderson, G. Barnes, K. Black, T. Boyde, B. Budinger, A. Carrow, J. Crump, P. Curran, A. Cyr, J. D'Arcy, K. Demick, K. Dirlam, D. Healy, E. Kayes, C. Knapp, T. Linn, C. Malota, B. Reynolds, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, T. Ross, E. Saxton, T. Shaw

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Human Services Committee Chair Janice L. Burdick at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried to approve the February 2, 2022, Human Services Committee meeting minutes.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Request to Accept and Appropriate Funds

Allegany County Community Services/Mental Health requested a resolution to accept and appropriate funds that have been increased by the State Office of Mental Health for the 2022 fiscal year. The budget adjustment for the 2022 Budget is requested as follows:

Revenue: \$ 57,124		
A 4313.3490.1078	State Aid – Mental Health Support Housing	\$ 1,600
A 4315.3490.1200	State Aid – Mental Health Community Reinvest	\$ 55,524
Expenses: \$ 57,124		
A 4313.456	Mental Health Contract – Supported Housing Arbor Dev	\$ 1,600
A 4315.458	Mental Health Contract – Reinvestment Arbor Dev	\$ 55,524
FISCAL IMPACT:	Total grant:	\$ 57,124

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Director Tyler Shaw attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

COVID-19

Mr. Shaw gave statistical data for COVID-19 transmission within Allegany County as follows:

- 7-day positivity rate is 5.4 percent as of 3/1/2022
- According to NYS, Allegany County's fully vaccinated population is at 49.7 percent
- 57 percent of individuals 18 or older have at least one dose

Masks

Mr. Shaw stated that masks will be optional across all day cares and schools beginning today. Masks will be required when returning from isolation on days 6 through 10, and anyone with a known

exposure should wear a mask for 10 days. Mr. Shaw explained that schools can be stricter with their guidance, but he has not heard of anyone adopting anything more than the state guidance at this time.

Clinics

Mr. Shaw stated that testing clinics have switched days to Mondays and Fridays between 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., and COVID-19 vaccinations are still available each Tuesday, with second doses and booster doses available on Saturdays.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review.

Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)

Senior Social Welfare Examiner Jonah Crump gave a brief description of the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). Mr. Crump stated that SNAP caseloads average approximately 180 clients. Mr. Crump stated that there are several budgetary guidelines for eligibility determination such as, unearned income and specific household factors, but they focus on 150 percent of the poverty level as a starting point for their income guidelines. Mr. Crump stated that their department has 13 examiners handling all aspects of eligibility for approximately 2700 SNAP cases. Mr. Crump stated that they communicate with clients through the My Benefits website which is run by the State. Mr. Crump explained that most of their clients are received in their office about one day after applying on the My Benefits website. Mr. Crump explained that they would call clients on the phone to complete and verify their eligibility requirements. Mr. Crump explained that once their office receives all of the information, they plug the data into their budgets to determine eligibility. Mr. Crump stated that once a client is receiving benefits, their office will continue to communicate with the clients for the first six months. Mr. Crump stated that once the certification period of six months is done, they will assist clients with recertification. Mr. Crump stated that they recently received ESAP for elderly and disabled clients which is a three-year eligibility period, and follows the same process as SNAP. Chairman Philip Stockin asked if the SNAP program was different from the free and reduced meals program for the public schools. Mr. Crump stated that it is different because the free and reduced meals is issued through the State, and with the recent EBT pandemic funds, there were a lot more people who qualified for that program that would not have received SNAP ordinarily.

Request to Fill Account Clerk Typist

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes requested permission to fill one Account Clerk Typist (AFSCME Bargaining Unit, Grade: 7, Step: Base to 7), and any resulting backfills due to a retirement in the Department of Social Services. This position is responsible for maintaining daily financial reports and processing authorized temporary assistance, HEAP, services payments, and other related duties. The annual salary for this position is estimated to be between \$32,625 and \$38,195, with benefits estimated to be between \$12,747 and \$14,923. This position is funded with 38 percent County funds, 10 percent State funds, and 52 percent Federal funds. The amount for this position in the 2022 Budget is \$38,009. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

OFFICE FOR THE AGING

Office for the Aging Director Anita Mattison was unable to attend the meeting but had previously submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Accountant Kimberly Black attended the meeting and presented their requests to the committee. The Office for the Aging had also submitted

several re-appropriation requests, and the County Treasurer later indicated that those specific requests would need to be amended and re-submitted at a later date.

Request to Accept Amendment 2 of Agreement with WNY Integrated Care Collaborative, Inc.

The Office for the Aging requested a resolution to accept Amendment 2 of the Agreement with WNY Integrated Care Collaborative, Inc. as follows:

1. TERM OF ADDENDUM

This Addendum shall commence on January 1, 2022 for one year through December 31, 2022. This Addendum may be extended with a written agreement, duly executed by the parties to the Agreement. Nevertheless, the parties shall remain entitled to terminate this Addendum as allowed under sections 8.1.1, 8.1.4, and 8.3 through 8.6 of the Agreement.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Independent Health Members, as determined by member's 2022 Evidence of Coverage (EOC) are eligible to receive 14 days of meals (2 meals per day) upon receipt of referral form by WNYICC and verification of eligibility.

If a current meals referral member is admitted to a facility for a new overnight stay prior to all meals being delivered. The current meal delivery is stopped, and a new referral must be received to re-start member for a new 14 days of meals.

3. PRICING

The pricing for this intervention includes the pre-meal intake and coordination, delivery, meal(s), post-intervention follow-up. Based on the eligible benefits filed by Independent Health with CMS for CY2022, members are eligible to receive up to 28 meals for 14 days per eligible referral received. At no time will Participating Meal Vendor or Sub-contracted vendors bill member for the meals.

Standard Meals:

Per Day (2 meals)

"Standard" : Fresh In-home meal delivery includes face-to-face delivery 2 meals Per Day for up to 14 days (up to 28 meals total). Includes: Pre-meal intake and coordination, delivery of meals, and all required reports.	\$24.00
"Alternate Standard" : Meals may be frozen, blast chilled, or shelf stable. Meals delivered either 1 time or up to 6 times within 14 days (up to 28 meals total). Includes Pre-meal intake and coordination, delivery of Alternate meals, and all required reports.	\$19.00

***Modified Meals:**

"Standard" : Fresh In-home meal delivery includes face-to-face delivery 2 meals Per Day for up to 14 days (up to 28 meals total). Includes: Pre-meal intake and coordination, delivery of meals, and all required reports.	\$24.00
"Alternate Standard" : Meals may be frozen, blast chilled, or shelf stable. Meals delivered either 1 time or up to 6 times within 14 days (up to 28 meals total). Includes Pre-meal intake and coordination, delivery of Alternate meals, and all required reports.	\$19.00

In the event special dietary needs are identified by the member during the intake assessment, there will be an additional cost to cover the modified meal by the meal delivery vendors. Examples of modified meals to accommodate special dietary needs include but are not limited to: diabetes friendly, lower sodium, gluten-free, vegetarian, pureed. Participating Meal Vendor will attempt to accommodate special dietary needs whenever practical and possible to do so within the available list of meal delivery vendors currently approved by Independent Health.

The payment schedule for the Modified Meals is:

“Standard Modified” : Fresh In-home meal delivery includes face-to-face delivery 2 meals Per Day for up to 14 days (up to 28 meals total). Includes: Pre-meal intake and coordination, delivery of meals, and all required reports.	\$24.50
“Alternate Modified” : Meals may be frozen, blast chilled, or shelf stable. Meals delivered either 1 time or up to 6 times within 14 days (up to 28 meals). Includes Pre-meal intake and coordination, delivery of Alternate meals, and all required reports.	\$19.50

The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request for Contract with Trusted Choice Homecare for Consumer Directed Care

The Office for the Aging requested permission to enter into a contract with Trusted Choice Homecare for Consumer Directed Care for homecare aides for the EISEP, III-E, Unmet Needs, and ADCSI grants. Trusted Choice Homecare will act as Fiscal Intermediary, and ACOFA will pay Trusted Choice Homecare \$23.75/hour for aide service. This rate is the same as the 2021 rate, and has been included in the 2022 Budget. Legislator Hanchett asked if the department was moving away from AIM. Ms. Black replied that they are just adding another option. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Rumpfelt, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Discharge Meal Program

The Office for the Aging requested permission to accept an addendum to the Service Agreement as a meal provider for the Post-Acute Discharge Meal Program through the WNYICC Master Agreement. The addendum reflects an increase in authorized meals from 14 meals to 28 meals per eligible member. The 2021 rate of \$23.50 per day (2 meals) for “Standard Meals” and \$18.50 per day (2 meals) for “Alternate Standard” meals. The 2022 addendum of \$24.00 per day (2 meals) for “Standard Meals” and \$19.00 per day (2 meals) for “Alternate Standard” meals. The 2022 addendum increases the approved CMS plans that are eligible for the benefit to include Independent Health Assure Advantage, HMO-SNP, Encompass 65 Basic HMO and Encompass 65. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request for Contract with Home and Health Services

The Office for the Aging requested permission to enter into a contract with Home and Health Services for homecare services for the EISEP, ADCSI, Unmet Needs, and III-E grants. Payments for services will be \$27/hour for PCA services, \$27/hour for in-home respite services, \$26/hour for Housekeeper/Chore services and \$125/per visit for RN Supervisory. These rates are the same as the 2021 rates, and has been included in the 2022 Budget. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request for Contract with Willcare, Inc.

The Office for the Aging requested permission to enter into a contract with Willcare, Inc. for homecare services for the EISEP, III-E, Unmet Needs, and Alzheimer’s Respite grants. Payments for services will be:

PCA I (Housekeeping/Chore):	\$ 22.75 per hour
PCA II (Homemaking/Personal Care):	\$ 24.00 per hour
RN Supervisory Visits:	\$120.00 per visit

The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request to Fill Account Clerk Typist

Office for the Aging Director Anita Mattison requested permission to fill one Account Clerk Typist (AFSCME Bargaining Unit, Grade: 7, Step: Base), in the Office for the Aging. This Account Clerk Typist position will add a greatly needed support position to the agency. The Account Clerk Typist will serve as the OFA Office Manager. This will free up the current Senior Account Clerk Typist position to provide direct assistance to the Accountant, Director, Deputy Director, and Nutrition programs which over the years have had increased workloads with no increased assistance. The annual salary for this position is estimated to be \$32,615, with benefits estimated to be \$12,745. This position is funded with 10 percent County funds, 25 percent State funds, and 65 percent Federal funds. The amount for this position in the 2022 Budget is \$45,360. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Rumfelt, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Crystal Malota, Nutrition Services Coordinator

Nutrition Services Coordinator Crystal Malota presented information about the nutrition services they provide as follows:

Meals on Wheels

Mrs. Malota stated that Meals on Wheels is more than just a meal, and the delivery driver may be the only person a client may see all day or week. The drivers check on their clients to make sure they are okay, that they have everything they need, and will let them know if they need something, or if something is wrong. There are 22 home delivered meal routes consisting of 13 paid drivers with a County van, and 9 volunteers that use their own vehicles. While they delivered over 100,000 meals in 2021, their drivers also deliver many other items such as: Ensure, grab bars, shower chairs, Depends, wheel chairs, blizzard boxes which consist of five shelf stable meals for unforeseen circumstances or inclement weather, cookies, cottage cheese, produce boxes, carnations, poinsettias, masks, gloves, sanitizers, and many other items. Mrs. Malota stated that they would never be able to do all of this without their drivers.

Congregate Meals

Mrs. Malota explained that there are two types of congregate meal programs. The traditional program is a setting where a group of seniors go to a set location during a set time and day for a meal and activities together. There are currently 9 sites that participate, with 8 sites currently open. The non-traditional, or Go and Dine setting is where seniors are given vouchers to have a nutritionally balanced meal at a partnering restaurant where traditional congregate sites are not available. They currently have three participating restaurants with sixty registered participants. Mrs. Malota stated that they distribute nutrition education on a monthly basis, and six times a year a presentation is given at one of the traditional congregate sites. Mrs. Malota stated that Dietician Erika Zerkowski provides interactive presentations through Facebook live where clients can ask real time questions.

Farmers Markets

Mrs. Malota stated that in the month of July, \$4 farmers market coupons are provided by the State for seniors to use at participating farmer's markets across New York State. They also collaborated with Allegany County United Way in 2021 to provide a \$10 produce coupon that farmers market recipients could redeem at participating farmer's markets within Allegany County.

Annual Senior Picnic

Mrs. Malota stated that they have an annual senior picnic that typically serves approximately 750 seniors with barbeque chicken, playing bingo, a band, and dancing.

March for Meals Month

Mrs. Malota stated that the month of March is March for Meals month, which is a national campaign that began with the Meals on Wheels of America. Mrs. Malota stated that this year takes on a special meaning because they are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of President Richard Nixon amending the Older Americans Act for citizens 60 years and older in 1972. To celebrate, March 22, 2022 is the Meals on Wheels ride along day and would be pleased to have the legislators ride along any day in the month of March.

Legislator Hanchett thanked Mrs. Malota for all that she and her staff do for our senior citizens, that she had an opportunity to participate in a Meals on Wheels ride along in another area, which is truly a great experience, and that she appreciates the innovative thinking outside the box to support our seniors, but also to support our local businesses and restaurants. Committee Chair Burdick stated that she has also had an opportunity to participate in a ride along, and if anyone has not had a chance, to please do it because it is really wonderful to witness the connection the drivers have made with all of the seniors.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Rumfelt, and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators