

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 6, 2022

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

Others Present: G. Barnes, K. Black, B. Budinger, A. Carrow, P. Curran, A. Cyr, D. Fanton, D. Fanton, D. Healy, E. Kayes, C. Knapp, T. Linn, L. Oyer, 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 2:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Rumfelt, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried to approve the amended March 2, 2022, Human Services Committee meeting minutes.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Director Tyler Shaw attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Shaw stated that some of their health education events are down likely due to COVID-19, but they are already starting to plan events in schools and booths at County events. Mr. Shaw stated that they have a booth setup outside of the Legislative Chambers today to promote Public Health Week.

COVID-19 Updates

- 50 percent of Allegany County residents have received their first dose
- 10,707 confirmed cases as of April 5, 2022
- 7-day positivity rate is 2.2 percent as of April 5, 2022, with 0 percent on April 4, 2022

Legislator Harris stated that he thought he saw that the State was reinitiating mask mandates for particular counties, and asked if that was based off positivity rates. Mr. Shaw stated that he had not heard that, but he did hear they were throwing around ideas of using metrics that specific populations will have to meet before a mask mandate would be reinstated, but nothing has been locked in yet. Legislator Harris also asked Mr. Shaw for his impression of the low positivity rate, specifically if he thought that it was because people were utilizing the at-home COVID-19 tests and not reporting positive results. Mr. Shaw stated that in general, he does not believe that is the reason because they are still receiving reports of positive cases from the at-home COVID-19 tests on a daily basis. Mr. Shaw explained that it does not mean that there are people who are not reporting positive results from the at-home COVID-19 tests, but he believes vaccinations, natural immunity, and treatment options have largely impacted the lower positivity rate.

Public Health Week

Mr. Shaw listed the different themes that will be covered during Public Health Week.

- Racism
- Public Health Workforce
- Community Collaboration and Resilience
- Health as a Human Right
- Closing the Health Equity Gap
- Climate Change
- Mental Wellness

State Updates

Mr. Shaw stated that they are awaiting a finalized State Budget, of which a Public Health funding increase was proposed. Mr. Shaw stated that they were advocating for an increase in lead poisoning prevention funds but does not know if that will make it through.

Influenza

Mr. Shaw stated that they are seeing an increase with influenza across New York State with a 41 percent rise in cases from the previous week. Mr. Shaw stated that Allegany County saw an increase from 0 percent to 3 percent from the previous week, and that influenza immunizations are still readily available.

Request Additional Grant Funding

The Health Department requested a resolution to accept and appropriate additional grant funding made available by the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program for the 2022 Budget. These monies are to be utilized towards the purchase of a desk for the Public Health Technician with responsibilities associated with the PHEP program. This request has been approved by the State for purchase as well.

COVID 19 – Dept. of Health

Revenues: \$2,000	
A4189.4489.00 Fed Aid-Other Health	\$2,000
Appropriations: \$2,000	
A4189.201 Office Equipment	\$2,000
Federal Award? X Revenue # A4189.4489.00	\$2,000

Award Fiscal Year – (Contract Period): July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

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

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Kayes introduced Senior Social Welfare Examiner Darien Fanton. Ms. Fanton read the following presentation:

Our Social Welfare Examiners carry both Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Public Assistance cases on their caseloads. They also process Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and Emergency HEAP. Public Assistance consists of the following:

Family Assistance

- *Households with minor children—may receive up to 60 months of cash*
- *After 60 months of assistance, the household becomes a Safety Net Non-Cash—all payments are made directly to company/landlord*
- *Those applying for any child under the age of 21 are required to file for child support against the non-custodial parent*

Safety Net Cash

- *Individual/Married childless couple—may receive up to 24 months of assistance under this category*
- *After 24 months, becomes Safety Net Non-Cash—all payments are made directly to company/landlord*
- *45-day wait*

Safety Net Non-Cash

- *Individuals/Families who have exceeded the maximum months allowed under FA and SN cash*
- *All payments are made directly to company/landlord; if there is remaining cash, the household will receive it directly*
- *Individuals in Drug & Alcohol Facilities*
- *These individuals receive a Personal Needs Allowance that is sent directly to the Facility along with their Congregate Care Shelter expense.*
- *45-day wait*

All three of these categories have a \$2,000 resource limit unless you are aged/disabled, then there is a \$3,000 resource limit

Emergency Assistance

- *EAF—Emergency Aid to Families*
- *ESN—Emergency Aid to Safety Net*
- *EAA—Emergency Aid to Adults (SSI recipients)*

Emergency Assistance can be many things...

- *Homeless*
- *Heat/electric shut off*
- *Bulk Fuel Emergency—propane, oil, kerosene, wood, coal, pellets*
- *Eviction*
- *Assistance purchasing furniture (EAA—all other requests would be for PA recipients)*
- *Payment of Domestic Violence shelter costs*
- *Payments of Temporary Housing*

Public Assistance Applicants are required to comply with a Drug & Alcohol Assessment as well as an Employment Assessment with the Employment & Training Center. If deemed employable, they work closely with our Employment Unit and the Employment & Training Center to stay in compliance. They may be assigned to a Directed Job Search, Job Trak, Job Readiness classes, etc. If deemed unable to work, they would be required to provide medical/mental health evaluations and may be required to participate in treatment. They may also be referred to apply for SSI or disability. The goal with all of these requirements is to help the individual/family to become self-sufficient. Households continue to work with the Employment Unit while they remain active on Public Assistance.

Now that households can apply for Public Assistance on the MyBenefits website, we have seen a significant rise in applications. Along with MyBenefits, there are many other ways we can receive applications such as: in person at our front desk, mailed in, dropped off in our drop box, faxed in, emailed in, and uploaded through the NYDocSubmit smartphone app.

Interviewing and processing these types of cases can take up the bulk of our examiner's time. An interview for Public Assistance can sometimes take an hour or longer depending on the circumstances. We are in constant communication with multiple units such as: Child support, Fraud, and Employment to determine if someone is in compliance with the many requirements. We are required to make a determination within 30 days for the majority of cases but can take up to 45 days for those who apply for Safety Net Assistance.

Committee Chair Burdick stated that it is nice to have other people from the departments to come in and talk about what they do because they are really the “nuts and bolts” and thanked them for everything that they do.

Child Abuse Awareness Month

Ms. Kayes stated that she had placed a Child Abuse Awareness Packet in each of their mail boxes, and that the Pinwheels Campaign had begun with the blue pinwheels placed at the front of the Courthouse. Legislator Healy asked if child abuse cases have gone up or has it remained relatively the same. Ms. Kayes stated that child abuse reporting has remained the same with a small decrease during the pandemic. Ms. Kayes stated that they are now seeing reports picking back up, that it ebbs and flows depending on the time of year, but it is on par with previous years. Legislator Healy stated that years ago when he worked as a State Police Investigator in Allegany County, approximately 40 percent of their case load was working with Child Protective Services, and said his hat is off to everyone working in that field because it is emotionally taxing and demanding.

Request to Fill Two Account Clerk Typists

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes requested permission to fill two Account Clerk Typists, (AFSCME Bargaining Unit, Grade:7, Step: Base to 7) and any resulting backfills in the Department of Social Services (CSEU). This position is responsible for waiting on customers at the window, taking payments, building cases, and clerical support work for all aspects of Child Support Collection. The annual salary 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 66 percent Federal funds, and offset by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) collections. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Rumpfelt, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Request for Contract with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester for QI Assessments

The Department of Social Services requested a resolution to approve the March 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022, contract with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester D/B/A Catholic Charities Steuben/Livingston, located at 23 Liberty Street, Bath, NY, 14810 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 of expenditures that are non-Medicaid billable. Appropriations will be held in account A6010.409. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request to Apply for a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim and Witness Assistance Grant (CAC)

The Department of Social Services requested authorization to apply for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim and Witness Assistance Grant. This grant will allow the CAC to increase its mental health services by recruiting and hiring one additional FTE Mental Health Therapist to provide evidence-based, trauma-focused mental health services addressing the unique needs of children, and caregivers accessing CAC services. It will also allow the CAC to maintain and expand the use of its Mobile Unit for individuals who cannot access services in-person, or virtually due to socio-economic issues, cultural barriers, and transportation limitations.

FISCAL IMPACT: Total grant: \$90,466
Grant Fiscal Year: 2022
Obligation of County after grant expires: None

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

Request to Re-Appropriate CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant Funds

The Department of Social Services requested a resolution to re-appropriate the CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG CV) funding not spent in 2020 and 2021. The original resolution for

this grant was # 183-20 in 2020 and # 222-21 in 2021. This grant was to begin in April 2020; however, the contract was not approved until March 2021. Due to rental moratorium regulations, some of the grant money from 2020 and 2021 could not be used due to the rental moratorium.

Appropriations (\$438,482)

A 2024.472	COVID 19-DSS Cares Act ESG CV - Contractual	\$ 6,604
A 2024.480	COVID 19-DSS Cares Act ESG CV - Contractual	\$ 29,698
A 2024.481	COVID 19-DSS Cares Act ESG CV - Contractual	\$374,979
A 2024.482	COVID 19-DSS Cares Act ESG CV - Contractual	\$ 27,201

Revenue (\$438,482)

A 2024.4610.DSSCV	COVID 19-DSS Fed Aid DSS CARES Act ESGCV	\$ 438,484
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FISCAL IMPACT: Total Grant: \$ 543,861/ for 3 Years
Local County Share: 0.00

Federal Grant? Y Revenue # A.2024.4610.DSSCV Federal Aid Other - ESGCV Grant
Initial Contract Period- 04/01/2020 – 09/31/2022
Obligation of County after grant expires: NONE

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

Request for Contract with Northwoods Consulting Partners, Inc.-Software Purchase for Child Welfare

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes stated that the request for a contract with Northwoods Consulting Partners, Inc. required some corrections and additions, and would be brought to the Human Services Committee next month.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING

Office for the Aging Director Anita Mattison was unable to attend the meeting due to participating in a leadership conference but had previously submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Office for the Aging Accountant Kim Black briefly highlighted items from the monthly report.

- Personal Care Level 1 (PC1) is up 15 percent due to the hiring of additional laborers
- Personal Care Level 2 (PC2) is up almost 9 percent
- In-Home Contact and Support had a large increase due to distribution of at-home COVID-19 tests to seniors
- Caregiver Services have also increased due in part to the Alzheimer's Grant
- Tax Program began January 7 through March 11, and helped file 145 returns with refunds totaling approximately \$142,656, with an average refund of \$1,080 for our seniors
- Nutrition Education through Facebook Live events with Registered Dietician Erika Zerkowski received over 500 views in March

Request to Create and Fill Driver

The Office for the Aging requested to create and fill one part-time driver for the Meals on Wheels Program. Most drivers have their own route and deliver at the same time each day. Other drivers are used as substitutes, and are trained on 2 to 3 different routes. The hourly pay rate for this position is \$13.25, with an annual salary estimated to be \$5,512, with benefits estimated to be \$1,361. Funding for this position comes from 18 percent Federal, 38 percent State, 20 percent County, and 24 percent

participant contributions, as well as the required match percentages for those State/Federal funds. The amount in the current year's Budget is \$10,500. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Rumpfelt, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means Pending Board Approval to Create**

Request to Fill Meals on Wheels Driver

Office for the Aging Director Anita Mattison requested permission to fill one part-time Meals on Wheels Driver in the Office for the Aging. This position is responsible for delivering meals to homebound senior citizens. Most drivers have their own route, and deliver at the same time each day. Other drivers are used as substitutes, and are trained on two to three different routes. The hourly rate is \$13.25, and the annual salary is estimated to be \$5,512, with benefits estimated to be \$1,361. This position is funded with 20 percent County funds, 38 percent State funds, 18 percent Federal funds, and 24 percent participant contributions. The amount in the 2022 Budget for this position is \$10,500. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Request to Fill Two Luncheon Center Managers

Office for the Aging Director Anita Mattison requested permission to fill two Luncheon Center Managers in the Office for the Aging. This position is responsible for coverage at the Belmont Luncheon Center, call-in availability to cover vacations and sick days for regular Luncheon Center Managers. The hourly rate is \$13.25, and the annual salary is estimated to be \$5,512, with benefits estimated to be \$1,361. This position is funded with 10 percent County funds and 90 percent Federal funds. The amount in the 2022 Budget for this position is \$13,600. Legislator Hanchett thanked the Office for the Aging and the Meals on Wheels drivers for everything that they do for our seniors, and thanked them for the ride along. Ms. Black thanked everyone that has participated with the ride along and noted that Congressman Tom Reed also participated and presented them with a Congressional Proclamation. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Rumpfelt, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Re-Appropriation of ARP Funds for Congregate Meal Services

The Office for the Aging requested a resolution to re-appropriate and re-allocate American Rescue Plan Funds from 2021 to the 2022 County Budget. These funds were awarded to the Office for the Aging to help support Congregate Meal Services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are expendable through September 30, 2024. This grant has a 10 percent required County match which also needs to be appropriated from the 2021 Budget.

Appropriations (\$46,459)	
A2035.408 General Supplies	\$ 2,000
A2035.409 Fees	\$ 2,000
A2035.422 Gas & Oil	\$ 1,500
A2035.474 Contracts (Caterer/Go & Dine)	\$22,459
A2035.475 Contracts (RD)	\$18,500

Revenues (\$46,459)	
A 2035.4790.CN OFA ARP CMC6	\$41,813
A 6773.1289 Other Gen. Dept Income (Re-appropriated from A15.599.00)	\$ 4,646

FISCAL IMPACT:	Total Grant:	\$41,813
	Local County Share:	\$ 4,646

Federal Grant? Yes Revenue # A2035.4790.CN
 Initial Contract Period- 04/01/2021-09/30/2022
 Obligation of County after grant expires: NONE

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

Re-Appropriation of ARP Funds for Caregiver Services

The Office for the Aging requested a resolution to re-appropriate and re-allocate American Rescue Plan Funds from 2021 to the 2022 County Budget. These funds were awarded to the Office for the Aging to help support Caregiver Services, including in-home care during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are expendable through September 30, 2024. This grant has a 10 percent required County match which also needs to be appropriated from the 2021 Budget.

Appropriations (\$24,583)	
A2033.416 Telephone	\$ 800
A2033.474 Contracts (Homecare)	\$20,783
A2033.476 Contracts (PERS)	\$ 3,000

Revenues (\$24,583)	
A 2033.4790.FC OFA ARP FCC6	\$22,124
A 6773.1289 Other Gen. Dept Income (Re-appropriated from A15.599.00)	\$ 2,459

FISCAL IMPACT:	Total Grant: \$22,124
	Local County Share: \$ 2,459

Federal Grant? Yes Revenue # A2033.4790.FC
 Initial Contract Period- 04/01/2021-09/30/2022
 Obligation of County after grant expires: NONE

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

Re-Appropriation of ARP Funds for Home Delivered Meal Services (5)

The Office for the Aging requested a resolution to re-appropriate and re-allocate American Rescue Plan Funds from 2021 to the 2022 County Budget. These funds were awarded to the Office for the Aging to help support Home Delivered Meal Services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are expendable through September 30, 2022.

Appropriations(\$16,313)	
A2031.402Mileage\$1,000	
A2031.408 General Supplies	\$ 1,000
A2031.411 Repairs	\$ 1,500
A2031.422 Gas & Oil	\$ 3,000
A2031.423 Food	\$ 3,000
A2031.474 Contracts (Caterer)	\$ 6,813

Revenues (\$16,313)	
A 2031.4790.HD OFA ARP HDC5	\$16,313

FISCAL IMPACT: Total Grant: \$16,313
 Local County Share: \$ 0
 Federal Grant? Yes Revenue # A2031.4790.HD
 Initial Contract Period- 04/01/2021-09/30/2022
 Obligation of County after grant expires: NONE

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

Re-Appropriation of ARP Funds for Home Delivered Meal Services (6)

The Office for the Aging requested a resolution to re-appropriate and re-allocate American Rescue Plan Funds from 2021 to the 2022 County Budget. These funds were awarded to the Office for the Aging to help support Home Delivered Meal Services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are expendable through September 30, 2024. This grant has a 10 percent required County match which also needs to be re-appropriated from the 2021 Budget.

Appropriations (\$63,935)	
A2032.201 Equipment	\$ 2,000
A2032.404 Maintenance	\$ 5,000
A2032.409 Fees	\$ 5,000
A2032.411 Repairs	\$ 1,500
A2032.474 Contracts (Caterer)	\$34,477
A2032.475 Contracts (RD)	\$ 9,000

Revenues (\$63,935)	
A 2032.4790.MW OFA ARP HDC6	\$56,977
A 6773.1289.00 Other Gen. Dept Income (Re-appropriated from A15.599.00)	\$ 6,958

FISCAL IMPACT: Total Grant: \$56,977
 Local County Share: \$ 6,958

Federal Grant? Yes Revenue # A2032.4790.MW
 Initial Contract Period- 04/01/2021-09/30/2024
 Obligation of County after grant expires: NONE

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

Re-Appropriation of ARP Funds for Evidence Based Programs

The Office for the Aging requested a resolution to re-appropriate and re-allocate American Rescue Plan Funds from 2021 to the 2022 County Budget. These funds were awarded to the Office for the Aging to help support Evidence Based Programs during the COVID-19 pandemic and are expendable through September 30, 2024.

Appropriations (\$6,424)	
A2034.402 Mileage	\$ 424
A2034.405 Conference	\$ 500
A2034.408 General Supplies	\$3,000
A2034.409 Fees	\$1,000
A2034.419 Printing	\$1,000
A2034.424 Advertising	\$ 500

Revenues (\$6,424)
A 2034.4790.DD OFA ARP PHC6 \$6,424

FISCAL IMPACT: Total Grant: \$6,424
Local County Share: \$ 0

Federal Grant? Yes Revenue # A2034.4790.DD
Initial Contract Period- 04/01/2021-09/30/2022
Obligation of County after grant expires: NONE

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

Re-Appropriation of ARP Funds for In Home Contact and Support Services

The Office for the Aging requested a resolution to re-appropriate and re-allocate American Rescue Plan Funds from 2021 to the 2022 County Budget. These funds were awarded to the Office for the Aging to help support In-Home Contact and Support Services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are expendable through September 30, 2024. This request will be to bring down half of this grant in 2022, and the other half will be allocated in 2023. This grant has a 10 percent required County match which also needs to be appropriated from the 2021 Budget.

Appropriations (\$39,050)
A2036.401 Postage \$ 6,000
A2036.402 Mileage \$10,000
A2036.408 General Supplies \$ 5,000
A2036.409 Fees \$10,000
A2036.416 Telephone \$ 5,000
A2036.419 Printing \$ 3,050

Revenues (\$39,050)
A 2036.4790.BB Fed Aid OFA ARP SSC6 \$35,500
A 6773.1289 Other Gen. Dept Income \$ 3,550
(Re-appropriated from A15.599.00)

FISCAL IMPACT: Total Grant: \$35,500
Local County Share: \$ 3,550

Federal Grant? Yes Revenue # A2036.4790.BB
Initial Contract Period- 04/01/2021-09/30/2022
Obligation of County after grant expires: NONE

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

Re-Appropriation of ARP Funds for Vaccine Assistance

The Office for the Aging requested a resolution to re-appropriate and re-allocate American Rescue Plan Funds from 2021 to the 2022 County Budget. These funds were awarded to the Office for the Aging to help support Vaccine Assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are expendable through September 30, 2022.

Appropriations (\$9,417)

Ms. Oyer runs the Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Program in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association. Ms. Oyer explained that the Alzheimer's Association provides the education and runs support groups, but Ms. Oyer facilitates the support groups. Ms. Oyer has two support groups in Allegany County, with one being a book club that meets online the first Wednesday of each month, and the other being an in-person meeting at the Office for the Aging on the third Tuesday of each month. Ms. Oyer explained that the program is setup to help any caregiver at any age that is caring for a loved one with any form of Dementia. Ms. Oyer explained many of the services that she can offer caregivers such as: respite where the family member with dementia can go into a nursing home for five days so that families can take a vacation, in-home respite for 2 hours twice a week, and help with paying for daycare services at Total Senior Care. Ms. Oyer stated that they also offer several safety services such as: door alarms, night lights, and Life Alert. Ms. Oyer explained that these safety services have been able to help many people in the early stages of dementia to stay at home for a little bit longer. Legislator Ricketts-Swales stated that Ms. Oyer has helped her own personal family through this struggle, that she is wonderful and does a great job. Committee Chair Burdick thanked Ms. Oyer for everything that she does.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 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