

## **HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**May 4, 2022**

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

**Others Present:** G. Barnes, T. Boyde, A. Carrow, R. Christman, A. Cyr, J. D'Arcy, S. Decker, K. Demick, D. Fanton, S. Havey, D. Healy, D. Horan, C. Jones, E. Kayes, C. Knapp, M. McCormick, B. Reynolds, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, T. Ross

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Human Services Committee Chair Janice L. Burdick at 2:36 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried to approve the April 6, 2022, Human Services Committee meeting minutes.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH – DR. ROBERT ANDERSON**

Dr. Anderson expressed his appreciation for providers of mental health services in Allegany County and beyond, especially throughout the pandemic when we've seen an increase in the need for services. Dr. Anderson remarked that as much as we all enjoy living in a rural area like Allegany County, none of us like being totally alone; many people during the pandemic ended up being alone with no one to talk to. Services are often more difficult to find in a rural setting. Those much needed services are being provided to County residents. Dr. Anderson thanked all providers who work in behavioral health and have continued to provide assistance in spite of all of the stresses from COVID-19 and with a reduced number of staff members. He thanked the County Legislature for the support that's been given to providers of mental health services, saying that they've been incredibly supportive of those in need of assistance with mental health.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Deputy Public Health Director Jamie D'Arcy attended the meeting and submitted the Department of Health's monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. D'Arcy noted that there has been a steady increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases. They are currently receiving reports of 10-40 positive cases each day, many of which are being reported from home testing. Fortunately, most people who are testing positive are reporting mild cold-like symptoms. Ms. D'Arcy stated there have not been any COVID-19 related deaths reported in Allegany County since March. To date, 14,527 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, and they've seen a slight uptick in the number of vaccine boosters given in the last two weeks. Legislator Ricketts-Swales asked if there are still COVID-19 test kits available to the public. Ms. D'Arcy said there are still test kits available if anyone would like them. They are working on replenishing supplies throughout the County.

Ms. D'Arcy stated that the Department of Health will be setting up a booth at the Allegany County Fair this summer and in addition to COVID-19 related health matters, they will focus on lead poisoning prevention. In addition to being present at the County Fair, the Department of Health plans to attend some of the larger events being held throughout the County to educate the public on health related matters. Committee Chair Burdick asked if COVID-19 testing kits would be available at the Fair. Ms. D'Arcy stated that not only will test kits be available, they will also be offering the vaccine. They also plan to offer the vaccine at the Wellsville Balloon Rally and the Cuba Garlic Festival.

An increase in funding for WIC for fruits and vegetables has been approved by Congress. Ms. D'Arcy stated that it's the first time in several years there has been an increase so they are glad to see it.

Ms. D'Arcy stated that the first positive rabies case in the County since 2019 has been reported. A raccoon in the Town of Belfast was determined to have rabies. The first rabies clinic of the year was recently held at Genesee Valley Central School and 191 animals were vaccinated at the event.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Response Grant**

The Department of Health requested a resolution to accept and appropriate additional grant funding (COVID-19 Vaccine Response Contract #C36916GG) from NYS Department of Health to be used for COVID-19 vaccine implementation expenses retroactive to January 1, 2021, and is available through June 30, 2024. The majority of the grant funds will be used to procure and operate a mobile vaccination vehicle allowing the County the ability to better provide COVID-19 vaccinations in remote and rural locations. Additionally, the funds will be used to purchase vaccination supplies, assist with integrating COVID-19 and vaccination data into the medical records system and with education and outreach. The expenditures have been approved by the State and the vehicle purchase has also been approved at the Federal level as well.

<u>Revenues:</u>		
A2029.3089.COVID	State Aid – COVID-19	\$176,663
<u>Appropriations:</u>		
A2029.204	Motor Vehicles	\$87,000
A2029.206	Health Equipment	\$400
A2029.404	Maintenance Contract – Other	\$2,000
A2029.406	Insurance/Bonds	\$1,250
A2029.408	General Supplies	\$15,000
A2029.409	Fees	\$45,313
A2029.422	Gasoline/Oil	\$5,700
A2029.462	Health Contracts	<u>\$20,000</u>
	Total:	\$176,663

Legislator Harris remarked on the purchase of a vehicle for vaccine distribution and wondered if the vehicle could be repurposed if we ever get past COVID-19. Ms. D'Arcy stated that it can be used for health education and getting other vaccines out to the public. Legislator Harris stated that it seems late in the game for the State to be distributing these funds (COVID-19 Vaccination Response Grant and Unrestricted ELC COVID-19 Grant) and wondered if the County can give supplies to first responders or others who may be in need of them. Ms. D'Arcy stated that the Health Department has been giving supplies to nursing homes, hospitals, schools, etc. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Unrestricted ELC COVID-19 Grant**

The Department of Health requested a resolution to accept and appropriate federal monies released by the NYS Department of Health, through the Health Research Institute. These funds, which were previously restricted, are associated with the State's "Mask or Vaccine" mandate and are designed to assist Allegany County in providing masks to residents and to increase public awareness. The purchase of KN95 masks, billboard advertising, and media outreach has been approved by the State.

<u>Revenues:</u>		
A2026.4489.ELCID	Federal Aid – CVD19 Epid & Lab Capacity for Infectious Disease	\$200,000
<u>Appropriations:</u>		
A2026.408	General Supplies	\$180,000

A2026.424	Legal Advertising	\$10,000
A2026.462	Health Contracts	<u>\$10,000</u>
	Total:	\$200,000

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

### **Year Nine (2021) Performance Incentive**

The Department of Health requested a resolution to accept and appropriate Performance Incentive Initiative monies for the General Fund for the 2022 Budget. The incentive was awarded to Allegany County Department of Health by NYSDOH based on the County promoting the practice of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae. The funds will be used to offset the cost of renovating and updating the Health Department clinic space.

#### Revenues:

A4010.3450.00	State Aid – Public Health – Other	\$22,000
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#### Appropriations:

A4010.410	Maintenance in Lieu of Rent	\$22,000
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The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Service Provider and Evaluation Contracts**

The Department of Health requested permission to enter into service provider agreements with the following:

#### Speech Therapists:

Juliana Hamm from Hamburg, New York  
Jennifer Smith from Alfred, New York

The Department of Health requested permission to enter into an evaluation contract with:

#### Physical Therapy:

Rehabilitation Today, 2416 Constitution Ave. Olean, New York 14760

The services and evaluations are for children in Allegany County who have been referred to the Preschool Program. The term of the agreements will be from May 1, 2022, through August 31, 2024. The Speech Therapists will be paid a rate of \$50 per half-hour of therapy for approved related services, and evaluations will be \$163 for each evaluation. Insurance is billed for these services and we are able to recoup 59.5 percent of any portion insurance will not cover from the State. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Rochester Regional Health Laboratory Services Agreement**

The Department of Health requested permission to enter into a laboratory services agreement with Rochester General Hospital (RGH) (Rochester Regional Health Laboratories) for the Reproductive and Sexual Health Program. The Health Department has had a laboratory agreement in place for many years with Rochester General Hospital. The term of the agreement will run from April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Budget Transfer – Health Contracts**

The Department of Health requested a budget transfer of \$1,500 from A4035.461 Health Contracts to A4010.461 Health Contracts to correct an over budget scenario that was created when establishing appropriations for the newly created Medical Consultant position.

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

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Kayes thanked the Board for helping Social Services commemorate Child Abuse Awareness Month.

### **Request to Fill Director of Temporary Assistance**

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes requested permission to fill the Director of Temporary Assistance position (PEF Bargaining Unit, Grade 9, Step: Base to 11) and any resulting backfills in the Department of Social Services. This position is responsible for the administration of all Temporary Assistance programs including Public Assistance, Medicaid, Food Stamps, HEAP, and Fraud. The annual salary is estimated to be between \$53,103 and \$73,507, with benefits estimated between \$23,174 and \$32,078. The State provides 10 percent funding for the position, while 52 percent is paid for by Federal funds. Committee Chair Burdick asked why the salary range was so large. Ms. Kayes stated that the salary offered will be determined by the level of experience of the candidate for the position. The salary offered would need to be competitive with what that person is currently earning. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Request to Fill Account Clerk Typist Position**

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes requested permission to fill an Account Clerk Typist position, (AFSCME Bargaining Unit, Grade:7, Step: Base to 7) and any resulting backfills in the Department of Social Services. This position is responsible for maintaining daily financial reports and processing authorized Temporary Assistance, HEAP and Services payments as well as other duties. The annual salary is estimated to be between \$32,625, and \$38,195, with benefits estimated to be between \$14,238, and \$16,668. The State provides 10 percent funding for the position, while 52 percent is paid for by Federal funds. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Request to Fill Employment Specialist**

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes requested permission to fill an Employment Specialist position (AFSCME Bargaining Unit, Grade12, Step: Base to 7) and any resulting backfills in the Department of Social Services. This position is responsible for verifying employability of Jobtrak clients and assigning duties based on abilities and any medical restrictions. The annual salary is estimated to be between \$37,355 and \$45,061, with benefits estimated between \$16,302 and \$19,665. The State provides 10 percent funding for the position, while 60 percent is paid for by Federal funds. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

**Adult Protective Services Grant**

The Department of Social Services requested a resolution to accept and appropriate \$13,156 in Federal funds through Administration for Community Living-American Rescue Plan Act, Adult Protective Services Grant as referenced in 22-OCFS-LCM-04. This allocation will assist in responding to the need for emergency short-term housing, community outreach, WRAP around services and to improve processes.

Revenues:

A6010.4610.ARPCA	Federal Aid – DSS American Rescue Funds ARPA	\$13,156
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Appropriations:

A6010.201	Technology, computer, scanner	\$5,025
A6010.407	Homeless bags	\$1,650
A6010.409	WRAP around services, outreach	<u>\$6,481</u>
	Total:	\$13,156

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

**Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund (DTVF) Grant**

Social Services Commissioner requested a resolution to accept National Children Alliance (NCA) DTVF grant money in the amount of \$34,254. Ms. Kayes also requests that the 2022 Budget be adjusted to account for an increase in the original amount of the grant that was accepted and appropriated (Resolution No. 60-22). This grant will be used at the Child Advocacy Center for training and for the purchase of computer equipment.

To accept and appropriate the grant funds:

Revenues:

A6202.4689.CAC	Federal Aid – Other DSS – CAC	\$34,254
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Appropriations:

A6202.201	Equipment	\$22,373
A6202.402	Mileage Expense	\$377
A6202.405	Conference Expense	\$774
A6202.409	Fees Expense	\$750
A6202.421	Training Expense	<u>\$9,980</u>
	Total:	\$34,254

To remove what was budgeted in 2022:

Revenues:

A6202.3689.CAC	State Aid – Other DSS CAC	(\$11,210)
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Appropriations:

A6202.421	Training	(\$11,210)
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The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Northwoods Consulting Partners, Inc., Agreement**

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes requested permission to enter into an agreement with Northwoods Consulting Partners, Inc., for the purchase of the software program Traverse for Child Welfare. Traverse offers a web-based product that supports casework regardless of worker's location that enables staff to manage, create, and access case content and information from web browsers and mobile applications. Ms. Kayes stated the software will help with improving accuracy, provide real-time updates, offer the ability to have forms available for signature, and create a better chain of evidence in the area of Child Protective Services. She noted that it's very difficult, this was especially true during the pandemic, to bring documents back to the County Office Building and get everything entered into the system when staff are out on the road working with clients. This software will provide better mobility and all necessary forms will be available to staff. Legislator Harris asked if the Information Technology Department and County Administrator had had an opportunity to review the software. County Administrator Knapp indicated that it had been reviewed by both she and Information Technology. County Treasurer Ross stated that a large portion of the cost for this software is the annual maintenance fee and licensing fees for the users. Legislator Harris wondered if it had been budgeted for and if there is any outside funding available. Ms. Kayes stated that the funds are included in her budget and there is state and federal funding available. Legislator Harris expressed his concern that the County purchases a lot of software. He doesn't like to spend money on software that might not get used. Legislator Ricci asked if there is any recourse in the event the software doesn't work well. Ms. Kayes stated that there are several counties using this software, and they are happy with it. This software has been looked at in great detail; she's not expecting a failure. Ms. Knapp remarked that we are in a software driven society. Most of the software we've purchased works as advertised and is a great investment. If it's not, it can be referred back to the County Attorney for legal recourse. Legislator Healy asked if this will help with state and federal mandates. Ms. Kayes stated that the current system is very cumbersome to use and this will help ease that burden. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Budget Adjustment – Northwoods Consulting Partners, Inc., Agreement**

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes requested a resolution for an adjustment to the 2022 Budget to cover the cost of purchasing software from Northwoods Consulting Partners, Inc., as well as the annual maintenance fees.

<u>From:</u>		
A6010.482	Social Services Adm Contractual	\$258,250
<u>To:</u>		
A6010.201	Social Services Adm Office Equipment	\$158,000
A6010.403	Social Services Adm Maint. Contracts	<u>\$100,250</u>
	Total:	\$258,250

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

### **OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

Office for the Aging Director Anita Mattison was unable to attend the meeting but submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Committee Chair Burdick went through some highlights in the report. The units of service for health insurance counseling increased from 152.5 last month to 190.5 this month. Housekeeping/Chore (PCI) increased from 923.5 last month to 1,134.75 this month. Tax Counseling for the Elderly resulted in a total of 380 federal returns and 372 state returns filed, totaling \$327,471 in refunds for clients. Ms. Burdick noted that the May Party Schedule is included in the agenda; if anyone is interested in attending they should RSVP to the Office for the Aging.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle presented a memorandum recommending Brent L. Reynolds of Alfred Station, New York, be appointed to fill the remainder of a vacant, unexpired four-year term as a member of the Community Services Board commencing immediately and expiring December 31, 2023. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Journal Clerk  
Allegany County Board of Legislators