

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
July 6, 2022

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

Others Present: R. Anderson, T. Boyde, A. Carrow, P. Curran, A. Cyr, K. Demick, D. Fanton, B. Geisel, D. Healy, K. Hooker, E. Kayes, C. Knapp, T. Linn, A. Mattison, B. Riehle, T. Shaw

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Human Services Committee Janice Burdick at 2:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried to approve the June 1, 2022, Human Services Committee meeting minutes.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Director Tyler Shaw attended the meeting and submitted the Department of Health's monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Shaw stated that they are up two lead cases from this time last year. Mr. Shaw stated that clinic services such as: STD medical services, HIV HCV testing and counseling. Mr. Shaw stated that they are up across the board with children's services as well as with referrals for both early intervention and preschool. Mr. Shaw stated that they are planning to have several health education booths at various County events, with their first appearance having been at the Andover 4th of July Festival the previous weekend where they offered COVID-19 Boosters. Mr. Shaw stated that they will be at the Allegany County Fair as well. Committee Chair Burdick asked if they had given many boosters at the booth in Andover, and Mr. Shaw replied that they gave two boosters. Mr. Shaw thanked the Town of Centerville for hosting the most recent free rabies clinic on June 25, noting that they were able to vaccinate 100 animals.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Shaw stated that there had been 4 new COVID-19 cases reported, but that overall cases are down which is good news.

Monkeypox Update

Mr. Shaw stated that as of yesterday, there have been 120 confirmed cases of Monkeypox in New York State, with 111 in New York City, 5 in Westchester County, 1 in Sullivan County, 1 in Chemung County, 1 in Rocklin County, and 1 in Suffolk County. Mr. Shaw read from a Monkeypox fact sheet that is included on the last page of the minutes. Mr. Shaw explained that if anyone has any of the symptoms associated with Monkeypox to please contact your healthcare provider and that all of the testing is being funneled through the Health Department in coordination with the New York State Health Department. Mr. Shaw stated that across the State there have been some individuals that presented with similar symptoms that ended up being Chickenpox, and that those vaccinations are still available.

Request for Approval to Renew WIC Clinic Site Agreements

Mr. Shaw requested a resolution approving the renewal of the following WIC clinic site agreements:

- Alfred Seventh Day Baptist
- Angelica United Methodist Church
- Belfast United Methodist Church
- Bolivar Fire Department

- Canaseraga Fire Hall
- Cuba First Baptist Church
- Fillmore Wesleyan Church
- Friendship United Methodist Church

Legislator Healy asked how often the WIC clinics are held. Mr. Shaw explained that the clinics are typically held at least once a month at the various clinic sites. Legislator Healy asked if all of the sites hold clinics at the same time of the month. Mr. Tyler explained that each site varies and that clinic dates and locations can be found on the Health Department's website. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request for Resolution Approving a Service Provider Contract with Paula Gleason

Mr. Shaw requested a resolution approving a service provider contract with Paula Gleason to provide preschool services to children in Allegany County who are referred to and found eligible for the preschool program. This contract has been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney. This contract runs from August 1, 2022, to August 31, 2024. Services are paid at \$55 per half hour therapy session. We bill Medicaid for these services and also recoup 59.5 percent of what insurance will not cover, if any, from the state. We expect the financial impact for this individual's contract to be around \$10,000 or less for services rendered. All related services have been budgeted based on historical trends and services provided for eligible children for the fiscal year and can be found in cost center: A2960.4.42-Education Contract. Committee Chair Burdick asked if this service is provided in school or if children need to go to a provider. Mr. Shaw explained that the service is typically provided in the child's home, but that it could be center or school based. Mr. Shaw stated that it depends on the provider's schedule and the parents plan. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Kayes introduced Senior Caseworker Bethany Geisel to talk about Child Protective Services in Allegany County.

My name is Bethany Geisel, and I am a Senior Caseworker for Allegany County Child Protective Services (CPS).

What does CPS do? The answer is both simple and complex. CPS stands for Child Protective Services which is responsible for providing child protection against abuse and neglect. We attempt to provide child protection services with regulations and protocols that vary by State and by County. Allegany County CPS utilizes a two-track system which includes traditional CPS, and Family Assessment Response or (FAR). I am a traditional CPS investigator and cannot speak for FAR, but Traditional and FAR work very closely. Although no CPS cases are identical, I will try to walk you through a typical traditional CPS case.

First a report of child abuse or neglect is made to the State Central Registry (SCR). This report can be made by anyone, and can be called in anonymously, and the source of that report is confidential. If the SCR accepts the report, jurisdiction is determined and it is passed along to our agency to be investigated. Last year, Allegany County had 747 SCR reports. In 2022, there have been roughly 360 reports. Once the SCR report has been assigned to a Caseworker, the children listed on the report have to be seen, and their safety has to be assessed within 24 hours. For example, if the allegations are that the parent/caregiver is under the influence of illicit substances while acting as sole caretaker of the children, the Caseworker must assess the sobriety of the person caring for the children at that time. The source of the report and a history check of all persons listed on the report are also completed within 24 hours of a case being opened. Within

7 days of having the SCR report, the assigned Caseworker continues to assess for safety. This is done through face-to-face interviews with the maltreated child and everyone who lives in the child's home, as well as the alleged subject and everyone who lives in the subject's home. Home visits are conducted to assess the safety of the home itself. During a home visit we are looking for appropriate sleeping arrangements, adequate amounts of food, running water, and any possible safety concerns like drug paraphernalia, or a firearm that is accessible to children. We have an obligation to speak with all biological parents who still have parental rights. If the maltreated child spends more than 50 percent of their time with this parent or substitute caregiver, full interviews and home assessments will be conducted with everyone living in their home. Releases and collateral contacts are gathered during this time as well. At the 7-day mark, a safety assessment must be completed surrounding 18 different safety factors. These safety factors are on the pamphlet sized paper I handed out to you all. The Caseworker uses the evidence gathered thus far in the investigation to choose one of five possible safety decisions:

1. There are no safety factors present, the children are not likely to experience immediate or impending danger
2. Safety factors exist but do not rise to the level of concern that would require a safety plan
3. At least one safety factor is present that rises to the level of concern requiring a safety plan be put in place
4. At least one safety factor is present that rises to the level of concern requiring removal of the children or continued placement of the children
5. At least one safety factor is present that rise to the level of concern requiring a safety plan or removal but access to the children is being denied.

If a safety plan is necessary, it is intended to be short term and a case cannot close with a safety plan still in place. The plan is created in conjunction with the caregiver, and lists specifically what actions the caretaker will take to protect the children, as well as the specific actions the Caseworker will take to protect the children. For example, if there are allegations of sexual abuse, the safety plan may be that the alleged subject will not be left alone with the children at any time until further investigation is completed. One caregiver needs to agree to, and sign the safety plan for it be effective.

If the safest course of action is to remove the children from the caretaker, we work closely with our Attorney and Family Court in order to ensure all the legal documents and evidence are in order. We also work with our legal team to file other petitions in court assisting us in obtaining Orders of Protection, access orders and court ordered services. Most of these court actions lead to collaboration with our foster care team and/or our preventive team.

Within approximately 60 days, the Caseworker has collected enough information through collateral contacts, interviews, and home visits to come to an investigation conclusion. Another safety assessment is completed, as well as a risk assessment. A case can either be unsubstantiated or substantiated. Unsubstantiated means there is not enough evidence to say the alleged subject acted in a way that they knowingly or willingly put the children in immediate or impending danger. Substantiated means there was enough evidence the alleged subject acted in a way that they knowingly or willingly put the children in immediate or impending danger.

A case can close with referrals to services based in the community, preventive services in place, an ongoing neglect petition in court, or a removal. We refer to community services as much as possible, hoping the added help will assist the family in correcting concerning behaviors and prevent a repeat report. We work with families to help them identify their support system as well. As with any career, protocols are constantly being updated and changed. Best practices are implemented to improve the quality of our work, in turn requiring us to do more. Since I have been with the County, the protocol to assess for sex trafficking, culture, and gender identification has

changed. We also keep up on the regulations of our Multiple Disciplinary Team (MDT), and work closely with our Child Advocacy Center (CAC). Most recently, our burden of proof has changed. In order for a case to be substantiated, we are now required to have a Fair Preponderance of Evidence, which is higher than the prior Burden of Credible Evidence.

Throughout the entire investigation, the Caseworker communicates with the CPS Supervisor and decisions are made together. No assessment is completed without input and conversations with a supervisor. Some decisions are made with Deputy Commissioners, the Attorney, and the Commissioner as well. We are supported from the start of the case, all the way to the end of the case.

There is so much more I could talk about and would love to share with you all. At the end of the day Allegany County CPS is a team. We are an agency that is on-call 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, that requires a lot of hard work and dedication. You don't get through that without being a team. I personally believe myself and my coworkers are some of the most dedicated, compassionate workers in Allegany County. A lot has happened in my years of working here, and I can say that our team supports each other no matter the situation. Allegany County CPS is a strong team of Caseworkers, Supervisor, Deputy Commissioners, and Commissioner. I could talk all day about my team and what we do, so if you have any questions feel free to pop down. Someone will be around to happily answer any questions. Thank you for having me today.

Committee Chair Burdick asked if CPS Caseworkers go as a team when they go into a home. Ms. Geisel explained that if it is a new family to them and they don't know their background very well, they do go in pairs. Ms. Geisel explained that depending on the allegations, they may also take law enforcement with them. Ms. Geisel explained that if they know the family and that they are not overly threatening, they will go alone. Committee Chair Burdick asked when follow-up occurs. Ms. Geisel stated that they have approximately 60-days to close an investigation, and follow-up depends on the outcome. Legislator Ricketts-Swales stated that if she was not mistaken, CPS Caseworkers are literally on-call 24 -hours, and they rotate a phone on the weekend. Ms. Geisel explained that all Allegany County Senior Caseworkers sign up for on-call, which is one week at a time from Monday to Monday. Ms. Geisel explained that anytime there is a report outside of their normal office hours between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, the on-call person would respond. Legislator Healy stated that they investigate mental, sexual, and physical abuse, but that there are also mandated reporters in addition to the hotline. Ms. Geisel explained that a mandated reporter can be school staff, doctors' offices, and law enforcement, but that the hotline number is the same. Ms. Geisel explained that they call the source of a report at the beginning of the investigation to obtain their input, read them the narrative, confirm the report, and obtain any other relevant information. Ms. Geisel explained that if the report comes from a mandated reporter, they will follow-up with them as the case is closing and ask if they have any additional concerns. Ms. Geisel stated that they do not follow-up with non-mandated reporters because they could be a family member or anonymous. Legislator Healy stated that he worked with Child Protective Services for many years with his role as a State Police Investigator. Legislator Healy stated that he knows that the role of CPS Caseworkers is mentally and emotionally draining and thanked them all for everything that they do. Committee Chair Burdick asked how many CPS Caseworkers are staffed. Ms. Geisel stated that there are currently 8 on staff. Committee Chair Burdick thanked Ms. Geisel for presenting the information and that this is another example of some of the things that go on behind the scenes in this County that we are not totally aware of, and that it is such an important and potentially dangerous thing that they do. Ms. Kayes commented that she thinks that they are a stellar CPS team, and that they are incredible at what they do.

Ms. Kayes asked to make a correction to the CPS hotline calls on her monthly report, stating that the month of May 2022 should read 78, year-to-date totals of 317, and total open cases of 148. Ms. Kayes stated that May is usually a high month with school starting to wind down, with folks being worried that kids are going to be home with not a lot of community oversight.

Request to Fill Two Social Welfare Examiners

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes requested permission to fill two full-time Social Welfare Examiners (AFSCME Bargaining Unit, Grade: 11, Step: Base to 7) and any resulting backfills in the Department of Social Services. The annual salary is estimated to be between \$36,107 and \$43,885, with benefits estimated to be between \$15,757 and \$19,151. This position is funded with 38 percent County funds, 10 percent State funds, and 52 percent Federal funds. This position is included in the 2022 Budget. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Request for Resolution to Amend the January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 Contract with Allegany Council On Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

Ms. Kayes requested a resolution to amend the January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022 contract with Allegany Council On Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, 3082 Trapping Brook Road, Wellsville, NY 14895 for Drug/Alcohol Services and Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery services as follows:

Drug/Alcohol Services will increase from \$47,300 to \$55,183
Increase in hours from part-time (30) to full-time (35)

The change will commence when a new hire occurs. Appropriations should be made in account #A6010.482. Drug/Alcohol Services are reimbursed by case count at either 100 percent Federal, or 29 percent State. Legislator Harris asked if this position is an ACASA employee that we contract with, and if they are just making adjustments to the contract. Ms. Kayes explained that once the request is approved, the County Attorney will amend the contract from two part-time positions to one full-time position. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request for Resolution Approving Renewal of Contract for HEAP between DSS and Allegany County Office for the Aging

Ms. Kayes requested a resolution approving the renewal of the contract for the time period August 20, 2022, to August 19, 2023, for HEAP between DSS and Allegany County Office for the Aging, 6085 Rte. 19, Belmont, NY 14813 as follows:

Appropriations: A6010.476 Economic Dev./Interagency Contracts

Revenue: A6010.4610.00 Federal Administration Reimbursement

The funds are included in the 2022 Budget in the amount of \$38,500, with 100 percent Federal funds. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request for Resolution Approving Renewal of Contract for HEAP between DSS and ACCORD Corporation

Ms. Kayes requested a resolution approving the renewal of the contract for the time period August 28, 2022, to August 27, 2023, for HEAP between DSS and ACCORD Corporation, 84 Schuyler Street, Belmont, NY 14813 as follows:

Appropriations: A6010.476 Economic Dev./Interagency Contracts

Revenue: A6010.4610.00 Federal Administration Reimbursement

The funds are included in the 2022 Budget with 100 percent Federal funds, and \$15 per application processed. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

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 stated that the front desk calls continue to increase, and are up from last year at this time. Ms. Mattison also stated that insurance counseling appointments are also continuing to increase. Committee Chair Burdick asked what the reason may be for the increased calls at the front desk. Ms. Mattison explained that some of the increases were calls inquiring about the senior picnic, as well as call for farmers market coupons. Ms. Mattison explained that the numbers for her report are from May which was Senior Citizen Month, and people were calling regarding the different services that they provide. Legislator Healy asked for an explanation of the senior farmers market coupons. Ms. Mattison explained that the farmers market coupons are a Federal program for New York State residents age 60 or greater that meet certain income limits. Eligible seniors can qualify to receive five \$5 farmers market coupons for a total of \$25 that can be used at any participating farmers market in New York State. Ms. Mattison stated that the income limits for a household of one is \$2,095 per month, a household of two is \$2,823 per month, a household of three is \$3,550 per month, and continues from there for certain increments.

Request Permission to Enter into a Contract with LifeStation, Inc

The Allegany County Office for the Aging requested a resolution for permission to enter into a contract with LifeStation, Inc., 2 Stauber Avenue, Union, NJ 07083 for Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) services. Services will be paid at the following rates:

Landline or Cellular Compatible	\$13.50 per calendar month per individual
GPS Compatible	\$15.50 per calendar month per individual
LTE Smartwatch	\$20.50 per calendar month per individual
Fall Detection (Optional)	Additional \$5.00 per calendar month per individual
Extra Pendant	Included- Free of charge

This pricing includes free installation, tech support, and training, and has been included in the 2022 Budget. Legislator Ricketts-Swales asked how individuals can obtain these units. Ms. Mattison stated that OFA has access to funding streams to help those unable to pay for these units so they can maintain independence at home. Legislator Ricketts-Swales asked what options are available for those that may not qualify for funding assistance. Ms. Mattison explained that they will provide those individuals with information and a list of PERS providers in Allegany County along with their various rates. Legislator Harris asked if Medicaid is not covering the costs for the PERS units. Ms. Mattison stated that Medicaid does not cover these units unless an individual is on a waiver program or receiving homecare through a Medicaid service. Legislator Harris commented that it does not seem fiscally responsible for an insurance company to not provide these units. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Senior Fraud and Prevention Event

Ms. Mattison stated that OFA is participating in a Senior Fraud and Scam Prevention event at the Belmont Legion on 29 Schuyler Street next Thursday, July 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Ms. Mattison stated that this event is in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office, Center for Elder Law and Justice, First Citizens Bank, and Senator Borrello's Office. Ms. Mattison stated that reservations are not required in order to attend the event, but there will be a lot of good information presented.

Senior Picnic

Ms. Mattison announced that the Allegany County Senior Picnic is coming up on Tuesday, August 16, with a rain date planned for Wednesday, August 17. Ms. Mattison stated that the picnic will be held at the Allegany County Fairgrounds from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ms. Mattison stated that they will have Stearns Chicken Barbeque, a band, and a number of vendors. There will be a t-shirt contest for funniest, prettiest, and most creative. There will also be prizes for the longest married couple, eldest female and eldest male, and eldest veteran. The cost will be \$10 per person at the gate and covers the cost of the chicken. Ms. Mattison stated that you can pre-register now, but they are limited to 500 total guests.

Farmers Market Coupons

Ms. Mattison stated that they have a number of locations throughout Allegany County with farmers market coupons available now. Ms. Mattison stated that they will also have the coupons available at the picnic as well as a farmers market to use them right at the picnic.

Town Hall Sessions

Ms. Mattison stated that they are now holding town hall sessions beginning in August and going through October. Ms. Mattison stated that they have 13 town hall sessions scheduled. Ms. Mattison stated that the New York State Office for the Aging requires them to hold a public hearing every year. Ms. Mattison stated that many people may remember the senior forum where it was held once at the Genesee Valley School. Ms. Mattison stated that they started going out into the community last year, and they received wonderful feedback with how that allowed smaller groups to say what they needed, and for the Legislators to hear that. Ms. Mattison stated that information for these town hall sessions can be found on their website.

Alzheimer's Walk in Cuba

Ms. Mattison stated that they are having a Southern Tier Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 8 in Cuba. Ms. Mattison stated that this is the first time this event has been brought to Allegany County and the information can be found on their website. Committee Chair Burdick commented that Ms. Mattison had previously sent an email to the Legislators with the event details.

Request to Accept and Appropriate Increased Fund from the State

Community Services Director Robert Anderson requested a resolution to accept and appropriate an additional \$65,899 of increased funding from the State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASIS) for the 2022 fiscal year. The 2022 Budget adjustment requested is as follows:

A 4220 – Council – Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Revenue: \$ 65,899		
A 4220.3486.00	State Aid – Substance Abuse	\$ 65,899
Expenses: \$ 65,899		
A 4220.457	Council on Alcohol Substance Abuse Contract	\$ 65,899
	Total increase in grant:	\$ 65,899

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

New Business

Legislator Hanchett commented that she had recently experienced a situation that got her thinking about a mobile crisis intervention unit in Allegany County. Legislator Hanchett stated that there may be funding issues, but with the County having a high suicide rate along with other issues, she really sees where a mobile crisis intervention unit could be used. Ms. Hanchett stated that in reaching out to the hotlines, they do not have the resources to help someone in great need. Dr. Anderson stated that there is a need and that crisis intervention is provided but it is limited. Dr. Anderson stated that they were given a certain amount of funding when St. James closed, but one, it is difficult to run a 24-7 mobile crisis unit on less than a half million dollars, and two, trying to find somebody that would take the job. Legislator Hanchett asked if there are any agencies that provide these types of services that might be cheaper. Dr. Anderson stated that this type of service costs a lot of money regardless of who provides it. Dr. Anderson stated that Community Services does provide mobile crisis for those that they know about, but they do not pick up the emergency calls because it is difficult for them to respond in the middle of the night. Dr. Anderson explained that they almost always go with law enforcement, and that Allegany County could not do what they do in terms of mental health outreach without law enforcement.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators

Monkeypox: Get the Facts

- Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus
- Monkeypox can make you sick including a rash or sores (pox), often with an earlier flu-like illness
- Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact including:
 - Direct contact with monkeypox rash, sores or scabs
 - Contact with objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox
 - Through respiratory droplets or oral fluids from a person with monkeypox
- This contact can happen during intimate sexual contact including:
 - Oral, anal, and vaginal sex or touching the genitals or anus of a person with monkeypox
 - Hugging, massage, or kissing and talking closely
 - Touching fabrics and objects during sex that were used by a person with monkeypox, such as bedding, towels and sex toys
- We know the virus can be spread in fluid or pus from monkeypox sores, and are trying to better understand if the virus could be present in semen, vaginal fluids or other body fluids



What Are the Symptoms?

- Early flu-like symptoms of monkeypox can include:
 - Fever
 - Headache
 - Muscle aches and backache
 - Swollen lymph nodes
 - Chills
 - Exhaustion



- A rash or sores, sometimes located on or near the genitals or anus, but sometimes in other areas like the hands, feet, chest or face – sores will go through several stages before healing
- Sores may be inside the body, including the mouth, vagina, or anus
- Some people experience a rash or sores first, followed by other symptoms and some only experience a rash or sores
- Monkeypox can be spread from the time symptoms start until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed – this can take several weeks

If You Have a New or Unexplained Rash, Sores, or Other Symptoms...

- See your healthcare provider – if you don't have a provider or health insurance, visit a public health clinic near you
- When you see a healthcare provider for possible monkeypox, remind them that this virus is circulating in the community
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out



If You or Your Partner Have Monkeypox...

- Follow the treatment and prevention recommendations of your healthcare provider
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until all your sores have healed and you have a fresh layer of skin formed.



For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/monkeypox