

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING** **Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Hubbard Auditorium, Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 8:33 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services - MH
Mr. Shawn Yetter	Commissioner of Social Services
Mr. Gary Grant	Deputy Commissioner of Social Services
Ms. Lisa McCafferty	Public Health Director
Guest: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Chair of the Legislature

### **MENTAL HYGIENE**

#### 1. Budget Status

- Mr. Chris Korba noted that 2020 adjustments are still being made. There will be some return to the County based on the original budget. The 20% in State Aid that was withheld has been restored. They have also received their full amount of State Aid for the first quarter of 2021. 2021 budget is tracking well. However, they have received an invoice for one day of Criminal Psychiatric Care from 12/31/2020. There is no discharge date noted. In the past the State paid for 50% of this care but no longer. The bill will be totally 100% paid by the County now. Legislator Mullen expressed his thanks to TCMH for getting through a difficult year and still having a return to the County.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the January 4, 2021 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Monell. Seconded by Legislator Mullen. Motion Carried.

#### 2. Personnel

- None.

#### 3. Critical Issues/Topics

- Waverly Clinic – Ms. Morgan shared that the Waverly Clinic lease is up at the end of August and the landlord has offered a 2-year lease with no cost increase. Legislator Mullen mentioned that he feels a long-term lease with the Village of Waverly should be explored.
- Vacancies – Ms. Morgan noted that she is having difficulty recruiting for the three clinician vacancies. They are averaging 12-15 intakes per day. The school-based workers had been helping the clinic but are now back in the schools.
- Incident Review – Ms. Morgan reported that suicide attempts have doubled in the last year (especially kids).

#### 4. Resolutions

- None.

#### 5. Proclamations

- None.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Commissioner Yetter discussed caseloads, programmatic highlights, and personnel changes.

### 1. Budget

- Mr. Gary Grant shared that the 2020 budget is getting close to being completed. DSS is \$700,000 behind in revenues from the State. With the 20% withhold, the State will be reimbursing 15%. FC costs have stabilized over the past few months. There is a surplus of over \$500,000 savings due to the reduction of MA Weekly Shares. Mr. Grant expects there to be a return of an additional \$200,000 to the County. He also anticipates another reduction in weekly shares. TCDSS will be receiving \$411,000 to assist landlords and renters after the eviction moratorium is lifted. The eviction process must be started, and the loss of rent must be directly related to COVID-19. A Fact Sheet can be sent to local magistrates. Committee Chair Standinger asked about transportation with Chemung County. Mr. Grant reported that DSS hasn't paid anything in two years. The route continues to run.

### 2. Caseloads

- During February, Cash Assistance caseloads decreased 13 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 10 cases and Safety Net decreasing 3 cases.
- MA-Only increased 32 cases.
- MA-SSI decreased 1 case.
- Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 15 cases to 3,717.
- SNAP cases decreased 37 cases.
- Day Care decreased 6 cases.
- Services decreased 6 cases. Continue to see a high number of CPS reports.
- See Caseload Summary.

### 3. Programmatic Highlights

- Tioga Career Center Report – Unemployment rates in Tioga remain lower than the NYS and Federal rates. Ms. McCall has been spending most of her time on UI Fraud. Eleven County employees were affected by the scam. Ms. McCall and Ms. O'Rourke have been assisting those employees. A Virtual Job Fair that will be held March 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 2 PM that will include live chats with employee representatives.

### 4. Personnel Changes

- Christine Robinson, Accounting Associate I, started 2/1/2021.
- Samantha Webster, promoted to Sr. Support Investigator, effective 2/1/2021.
- Luran Murphy, Case Supervisor, Grade B, last day effective 2/5/2021.
- Tricia Soper, Case Supervisor, Grade B, promoted effective 2/16/2021.

### 5. Resolutions

- Transfer of Funds (JD Program).
- Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2021 Budget (Safe Harbor).
- Authorize Waiver of 90-Day Hiring Delay. Commissioner Yetter explained that two Caseworker positions have been vacant since mid-January. By waiving the hiring delay by 30 days, the training process could begin that much sooner.

### 6. Proclamations

- None.

Legislator Mullen shared his appreciation for the hard work done by DSS.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Ms. Lisa McCafferty presented highlights and resolutions. Distributed the TCHD Annual Report to Legislators.

1. Personnel
  - Laura Schurter, Accounting Associate III, effective 2/1/2021.
2. Program Comments
  - Agency Report for February 2021 was forwarded to the Committee.
  - Agency Financials for December 2020 and February 2021 were forwarded to the Committee.
  - Provided update on COVID-19 activities and status, including vaccine distribution. Vaccine distribution is very unorganized. Cases are declining. There was discussion regarding re-opening businesses and schools. The Legislators expressed their gratitude for all the work being done by TCPH.
3. Resolutions
  - Re-establish Prior Year 2020 Capital Equipment Funds – Amend 2021 Budget Public Health.
4. Proclamations
  - Rabies Prevention & Awareness Month (repeat).

### **ADJOURNED:**

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gail V. Perdue*

Executive Secretary, Social Services