

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Hubbard Auditorium, Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 8:35 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
Ms. Loretta Sullivan	Legislator
Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services - MH
Ms. Lisa McCafferty	Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services – PH
Ms. Liz Myers	Director of Social Services
Ms. Mickelle Andrews	DSS Accounting Supervisor
Guest: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Chair of the Legislature

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Budget Status

- Mr. Chris Korba noted that the Treasurer's office has closed 2020. The return to local share on paper is \$41,000 but with COVID and fringe savings, the total returned is \$493,000. The 2021 budget is tracking well with one unexpected expense – Court Ordered Criminal Psychiatric services. The patient started treatment on 12/31/2020. The January invoice received is for \$33,125. There is a transfer of funds and budget modification resolution to move \$18,125 out of salaries into the Criminal Psychiatric line. MH is now responsible for 100% of the treatment charges. Legislator Mullen suggested looking into setting up a reserve account for these services at budget time later this year. Ms. Morgan shared that there are possibly 2 more patients going into this type of care. She is working with Mr. DeWind to help determine when these clients are ready to testify and getting them out of care sooner.

2. Personnel

- Jessica Corneby resigned 3/26/2021.

3. Critical Issues/Topics

- Waverly Clinic – Ms. Morgan noted that there is a resolution to have Ms. Sauerbrey sign a 2-year lease with no cost increase.
- Increase Head Count. Ms. Morgan has determined the need, due to increased caseload resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, to create an additional full-time Clinical Social Worker position and increase the headcount from 32 to 33. Clinic cases have increased tremendously and are at full capacity with an average of 14 intakes a day. This is not just a local trend; it is the same nationally. Ms. Morgan will email the stats to Legislators.
- Backfill – Accounting Associate II Position. This position impacts the MH department's financial accounts process.

4. Resolutions

- Authorize Execution of Cooperative Agreements Between the Law Department, ITCS, Sheriff, Public Health, DSS and Mental Hygiene.
- Transfer of Funds – Budget Modification.
- Execute Lease with Barterra Properties. LTD. For MH Satellite Office.
- Authorize Creation of Full Time Clinical Social Worker Position.
- Authorize Waiver of 90-Day Hiring Delay.

5. Proclamations

- None.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Lisa McCafferty presented highlights and resolutions.

1. Personnel
 - N/A.
2. Program Comments
 - Agency Report for March 2021 was forwarded to the Committee.
 - Agency Financials for December 2020 FINAL and March 2021 were forwarded to the Committee. Mr. McCann noted that the Treasurer's office has closed 2020. The amount returned to the County in Munis Reports of \$354,194 does not include the \$375,000 reduced earlier in 2020 as part of the 10% County reduction bringing the total to \$729,000. In addition, there was another \$131,184 in fringe savings. Most of the PH funding was not subject to the 20% NYS cut. EI continues to be underbudget; already \$25,000 under budget for 2021. Pre-School Transportation is also going well as more families are driving their kids.
 - Provided update on COVID-19 activities and status, including vaccine distribution. Starting this week vaccines are open to 16-year old's. Ms. McCafferty shared that 25% of the County population has had at least 1 shot. The infection rate is 3%. It appears there are asymptomatic people going out and spreading the virus.
 - The Governor has legalized marijuana for recreational use. The County will receive 1% of the tax and the towns & villages will receive 3%. They also can opt out.
3. Resolutions
 - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds – Community Cancer Prevention in Action.
 - Authorize Execution of Cooperative Agreements Between the Law Department, ITCS, Sheriff, Public Health, DSS and Mental Hygiene.
4. Proclamations
 - Public Health Week – April 5-11, 2021. (New)
 - Immunization Awareness Week – April 24-30, 2021. (New)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Ms. Liz Myers discussed caseloads, programmatic highlights, and personnel changes.

1. Budget
 - Ms. Mickelle Andrews shared that the 2020 budget is closed. DSS had a return of \$696,160. See Budget Overview from packet. There is nothing unexpected in the 2021 budget. The State is getting caught up on payments. The 20% cuts have been coming back but sometimes only 15%. The most recent withhold was 5%.
2. Caseloads
 - During March, Cash Assistance caseloads decreased 6 cases, with Family Assistance increasing 2 cases and Safety Net decreasing 8 cases.
 - MA-Only increased 12 cases.
 - MA-SSI decreased 7 cases.
 - Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 1 case to 3,718.
 - SNAP cases increased 39 cases. Cases had been low because the stimulus money is not counted towards eligibility.
 - Day Care increased 3 cases.
 - Services increased 6 cases. Hot line calls are increasing again. There have been a number of neglect petitions filed recently. The court is significantly behind.
 - See Caseload Summary.

3. Programmatic Highlights

- Tioga Career Center Report – \$20,000 additional funds were given to Tioga County from Broome County. 80% of the money needs to be spent by June 30. Some of the money will be spent on new chairs for the resource center. The virtual job fair was not as well attended as the past in person fairs. Unemployment fraud is still happening.

4. Personnel Changes

- Shawna Ives promoted to Support Investigator effective 3/1/2021.
- Brandy Lunn promoted to SWE effective 3/1/2021.
- Penny Ward promoted to OS III effective 3/1/2021.
- Christine Peterson promoted to Sr. Caseworker effective 3/15/2021.
- Randy Mangini, Caseworker, hired effective 3/15/2021.
- Sarah Rudin, OS I, last day was 3/19/2021.
- Marisa Hadden, Caseworker, hired effective 3/29/2021.
- Randy Mangini, Caseworker, last day was 3/29/2021.

5. Resolutions

- Authorize Execution of Cooperative Agreements between Law Department, ITCS, Sheriff, Public Health, DSS and Mental Hygiene.
- Authorize Waiver of 90-Day Hiring Delay – OS I.

6. Proclamations

- Child Abuse Prevention Month. (Repeat).

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the March 2, 2021 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Monell. Seconded by Legislator Mullen. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNED:

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services