

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**August 20, 2019**

Present: Legislators Greg Kulzer, Richard Chartrand, Randy LaChausse, Andrea Moroughan, and John Lehman

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Tom Osborne, Ron Burns and Jerry King, County Manager Ryan Piche, Public Health Director Ashley Waite, DSS Commissioner Jenny Jones, Office for Aging Director Kelly Hecker and Reporters Nick Altmire and Julie Abbass

Committee Chairman Greg Kulzer called the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Legislator LaChausse made a motion to approve the 7/23/19 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Lehman and carried.

Public Health Director Ashley Waite presented the 2nd Qtr. Board of Health Report (attached).

Eight teams and approximately 200 participants competed in the Community Cup events. The South Lewis Central School team prevailed again this year.

Staff received training for Quality Program Review and learned warning signs of suicide and making appropriate referrals.

Immunization clinic attendance has been increasing largely due to non-medical exemptions being terminated by State legislation. All children must be fully immunized, unless there is a medical reason for exemption. This includes Amish and Mennonite schools, for which Public Health is responsible to complete an immunization report and submit to the State. All other schools are responsible for reporting to the State. Ashley estimates that 60 children will be affected that had previously not been immunized. In response to Legislator Chartrand, Ashley reported she contacts the designated person in charge over all Amish schools. They are not opposed to immunization, but want more information.

One person exposed to rabies overseas was treated upon their return to the U.S.

All eight of the diabetes class participants attended and completed the program.

Of the 141 children screened for elevated blood lead levels, 16 had levels above the State threshold of 5 mcg/dL that takes effect 10/1/19. Four of those are being case managed for blood lead levels above 15. Ashley estimates 18 children will require case management annually of the 60-80 tested. Prior to the State lowering the threshold level Public Health staff case managed four children annually. Most of the higher blood lead levels are caused by home renovations that are temporary and quickly resolve. Lead levels can be lowered by hand washing, taking calcium and vitamin C and other precautions. Elevated lead levels may be caused by contact with outside soils and/or food spices. The average cost for lead testing/evaluations is \$826 or \$2,200 for an environmental assessment and in-hospital removal of lead from the blood. When the latter is

necessary children are prohibited from returning to the home. Snow Belt Housing customarily makes referrals to Public Health.

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Office For Aging Director Kelly Hecker announced the Brantingham Golf Course was sponsoring a tournament for the benefit of EISEP Program on 9/6/19 and urged participation.

She reported State notification for approved \$36,650 funds for unmet needs, which is a new budget line item to lower the numbers on waiting lists for services. There are currently 40 persons on the County EISEP Program waiting list, as well as others waiting for Personal Care and Housekeeping services. Kelly has submitted an expenditure plan to the State for these funds, of which 34% may be allocated for ancillary needs, ie. bathroom railings, chairs or ramps, raised toilets – all of which were previously ineligible expenditures. Kelly hopes to provide some personal care, housekeeping and legal services, while also assisting some persons with hoarding issues.

Upon State approval of her submitted plan, Kelly hopes to assist 15 persons on the EISEP waiting list, and also plans to assist seniors with snow shoveling this winter.

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The following agenda docket items were then reviewed:

1. Resolution to create temporary DSS Fiscal Manager part-time (not to exceed 200 hours) \$5,600. The long-term Fiscal Manger in the Department of Social Services had informed of her impending retirement; and is willing to return as a per-diem employee; and some transitional training would assist the department with 2020 budget preparation, mandated reporting and year-end closing reports; and the department budget has savings generated by the retirement of the long tenured employee.

Legislator Kulzer voiced his disagreement, stating the appointed employee has been training for 2 years. He took exception to the docket being presented again after being opposed by 4 of the 5 committee members at the last meeting.

DSS Commissioner Jenny Jones explained the various job responsibilities assumed by the new Fiscal Manager, further compounded because the former position has yet to be filled because of a lack of qualified candidates. At this point, Legislator Chartrand distributed an informational sheet prepared by Jenny that outlined contributing factors of additional responsibilities of the new Fiscal Manager including retirements and resignations over the recent past, urging the Committee to approve the temporary position. Ryan Piche added that any time there has been an opportunity to reduce staff Jenny has supported doing so. Indeed, there are 6 less DSS staff than 2 years ago. Legislator Lehman also voiced his objection to presenting the docket again after 4 of 5 committee members objected.

**The docket was again defeated by a vote of 2 to 3 with Legislators Kulzer, Moroughan and Lehman opposed.**

2. Resolution to create DSS Office Specialist Temporary full-time (Grade C11) \$15.02/hr. Effective October 15, 2019 – April 20, 2020 to assist during the HEAP season. Jenny Jones reported historically hiring 2 workers for the HEAP Program. At the end of last year, one vacant office specialist positions were not refilled. Jenny had determined that one of the positions would be need only during the HEAP season, hence, her request at this time that is 100% State reimbursed and needed to handle the substantially increased phone activity during that time. If there is an emergency phone call for heat, it must be figured out and addressed within 18 hours.

**The docket was approved by the Health & Human Services and later by the Finance & Rules Committee, with only Legislator Moser opposed.**

3. Resolution authorizing reclassification of DSS Office Manager (Grade 21) at \$22.39/hr. to Office Manager II (Grade 24) at \$22.47/hr. The CSEA agreement allows the union to request reallocation of titles in the CSEA salary grade plan; and the Human Resources Director has conducted a classification review and point factor analysis and has identified duties and responsibilities and other factors which support the reclassification; which is also supported by the Commissioner of Social Services.

**Legislator Chartrand made a motion to refer this docket to the Finance & Rules Committee for appropriate consideration, seconded by Legislator Lehman and carried.**

4. Resolution for agreement between Public Health Department and Beaver River Central School District to provide certified and/or licensed speech language therapy for preschool children residing within the Distric for the period 7/1/19 to 6/30/20 at rates set by the NYS Education Department Program Services Reimbursement Unit. **Approved.**
5. Resolution amending Agreement between Public Health and Susan Gydesen for Pre-K Program series pursuant to State Rates; Parent & Family Counseling: Basic session (30-59 minutes) \$44.00, and Extended session (60+ minutes) \$66.00. In response to Legislator Kulzer, Ashley Waite stated the average session is one hour. **Approved.**
6. Resolution for Inter-municipal agreement with Counties of Cayuga, Cortland, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, and Tompkin as the Central New York Public Health Alliance to provide mutual aid to each other during a public health emergency, with reimbursement upon the request of the responding county from 8/1/19-12/31/24. **Approved.**
7. Resolution for Agreement between DSS and Office for the Aging for (HEAP) outreach and certification services to low income residents, especially households with elderly and handicapped individuals from 10/1/19 – 9/30/20 for amount not to exceed \$6,000. **Approved.**
8. Resolution for contract with ICU Security & Private Investigations for armed security guard services at DSS; 75% reimbursement through Federal and State funding sources. Contract amount is \$82,836.75 for 2,232 regular hours and not to exceed 25 overtime hours from 11/1/19-10/31/20. **Approved**
9. Resolution to transfers \$24,014.85 in DSS Budget for changes in the SNAP Bonus Plan. **Approved**
10. Resolution to appropriate WIOA funds for Adult and Dislocated Worker Program per the Notice of the New York State Department of Labor in the amount of \$14,765.33. **Approved.**

11. Resolution to rescind Resolution to approve transfer from the Youth Bureau account to Special Legislative Contingency due to additional funds received from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, negating need for County funds in the amount of \$2,000. **Approved.**
12. Resolution to approve the 2019 Resource Allocation Plan with NYS Office of Children and Family Services for increased of \$2,284 for 2019 for a total of \$23,399. **Approved.**
13. Resolution appropriating State Aid from State Office of Children and Family Services to support Lewis County Night Out event in the amount of \$2,284. **Approved.**
14. Resolution for agreement for “DocuWare” system with Toshiba America Business Solutions, Inc., and DSS and authorize payment of \$28,841 to install and maintain intelligent indexing, training hours, 5 new work stations, and 4 scanners. The Board additionally authorizes server upgrades estimated to be \$5,000. The Board further authorizes payment of annual maintenance and support service fees for the system commencing in 2020 at \$3,102. All the above costs are 75% reimbursed costs to DSS, with the estimated 2019 local share cost of \$8,460 and \$775.50 in 2020. **Approved.**
15. Resolution to transfer Capital Data Processing funds of \$33,841 into DSS Accounts for the DocuWare purchase. **Approved.**
16. Resolution to Abolish a Registered Professional Nurse (RPN), permanent full-time, Grade 33; and Create a Public Health Nurse (PHN), permanent full-time, Grade 35; and authorize Ashley Waite to fill effective 8/5/2019. **Approved.**

At 5:07 p.m. Legislator Lehman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board