HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
December 17, 2019

Present: Legislators Greg Kulzer, Randy LaChausse and Andrea Moroughan.

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Tom Osborne, Ron Burns and Jerry King, County Manager Ryan Piche, County Atty. Joan McNichol, Treasurer Patty O’Brien, Public Health Director Ashley Waite, DSS Commissioner Jenny Jones, DSS employees Katie Garito, Vicki Zubrzycki and Temmie Kubinski, Office for Aging Director Crystal Collette, Director of Community Services Patricia Fralick and Reporters Nick Altmire and Julie Abbass

Committee Chairman Greg Kulzer called the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Legislator Moroughan made a motion to approve the 11/19/19 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator LaChausse and carried.

DSS Commissioner Jenny Jones introduced her staff Katie Garito, Vicki Zubrzycki and Temmie Kubinski and made the attached power point presentation to explain social services benefit programs: SNAP, HEAP, Medicaid, Child Care Assistance, Child Support Enforcement, Temporary Assistance and Fraud.

SNAP benefits are allowed based on varying household income thresholds for those without earned income, those with earned income, or households with elderly and disabled persons. Program services are administered with 7.5 staff with an average caseload of 356 each.

The SNAP caseload is 1,425 encompassing 2,588 people, and is all Federal monies. The average Lewis County household benefit is $195.96/month with y-t-d expenditures of $3,278,328. There were 569 transactions processed in November.

HEAP benefits are for heating, cooling, furnace clean and tune or repair and replacement. Eligibility is based on income guidelines. There have been 699 applications processed since 11/12/19. DSS must respond to eligible persons within 24 hours if they have a quarter of a tank or less of fuel. There were 1,296 automatic payments made for those eligible for SNAP and Temporary Assistance benefits. The program is administered with 4.5 staff. The 2018 regular HEAP expenditure was $1.2 million, and an overall total of $2,042,298 for all 4 programs.

MEDICAID benefits are based on household income and resources, and include seven varied programs administered by 5 staff. There are 993 local Medicaid cases, 603 SSI, 138 Chronic Care, 45 Foster Care/Adoption; 31 burials y-t-d and 41 applicants registered in November. The large majority of applications are submitted through the NYS Healthcare Exchange, but the more complex applications that need in-depth review or research to determine eligibility are required to go through the local DSS office. For those cases, the local DSS expends $93,027 monthly, with an annual local budget of $5 million. That figure does not include the County’s IGT payments to Lewis County General Hospital.
Ryan Piche impressed the importance and monitors the Medicaid Program very closely for any impacting changes proposed at the State level, which is also monitored closely by NYSAC. Each recipient is assigned a case manager to assure optimum efficiency of healthcare services. Jenny stated that payments are made to insurance companies, not to vendors.

Ryan said the State imposed Medicaid Cap has helped to keep the local appropriation level static, but any change could have substantial impact on local share cost, with a compounding affect if the State reduces payments to providers, our largest being LCGH. There was an initiative on behalf of counties through NYSAC to have NYSDOH include the IGT payments in the Medicaid Cap, but State officials would not broach the subject.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT/CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE programs are administered by 4 staff for 1,294 cases, 520 petitions filed to-date with expenditures of $3,348,409.

FRAUD UNIT is administered by 2.2 staff who conducted 269 investigations y-t-d, 14 of which were referred to the District Attorney for prosecution. Other persons identified as having received overpayments had willingly agreed to refund respective amounts.

Jenny offered, but there were no questions about explained programs.

The following dockets were then reviewed and approved:

1. Resolution to appoint Ed Steckly as member of the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Sub-Committee of the Community Services Board: effective 1/1/2020- 12/31/2023
   YEA 3            NAY 0

2. Resolution appointing members to Developmental Disabilities sub-committee of Community Services Board: Tina Cummings, Louise Fox Katie Zehr for term effective from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023.
   YEA 3            NAY 0

3. Resolution to appoint Melanie Bush, John Exford, Debra Susice as members of the Mental Health Sub-Committee of Community Services Board: effective 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2023; and Randy Clendenning to fill un-expired term of Kim Cavanagh from 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020
   YEA 3            NAY 0

4. Resolution authorizing an agreement through the Lewis County Public Health Agency with South Lewis Central School to provide related services to the Preschool Special Education Program for children with special education and health care needs for the period beginning January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 at a cost in accordance with the rates set forth by the State Education Department dependent on the number of children assigned.
   YEA 3            NAY 0
5. Resolution to authorize the addition of a one-on-one (1:1) aide at the rate of $9.00 per half hour session under the Public Health Preschool Related Programs. Ryan Piche noted the South Lewis Central School has been providing services and are now requesting payment.

YEA______________3_________________         NAY________________0___________

6. Resolution authorizing agreements through the Lewis County Department of Social Services, and the following providers for program services in the amounts herein set forth:

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<tr>
<th>CONTRACTOR</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>TERM DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medlab, Inc.</td>
<td>Purchase of Services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Drug Screening)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNY Potsdam</td>
<td>Training for DSS Employees</td>
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DEPENDENT UPON JENNY JONES PROVIDING AMOUNTS AND TERM DATES

THIS RESOLUTION WILL BE PRESENTED FOR ACTION ON JANUARY 7, 2020

YEA______________3_________________         NAY____________0_____________

7. Resolution authorizing an agreement through DSS, and Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings for the provision of paternity testing services at a cost of $45.00 per sample and not to exceed an annual cost of $10,000. The local share cost, if any, will be incurred depending upon test results. If the test results are positive, the father pays the fee.

YEA______________3_________________         NAY____________0_____________

MOTIONS:

YEA ___________3________________  NAY _____________0_____________

Ryan Piche introduced newly appointed OFA Director Crystal Collette.

At 3:15 p.m. Legislator LaChausse made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Moroughan and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board