HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 15, 2019

Present:  Legislators Greg Kulzer, Richard Chartrand, Randy LaChausse, Andrea Moroughan and John Lehman.  Also Chairman Larry Dolhof, Legislators Tom Osborne and Jerry King

Others Present:  County Manager Ryan Piche, Pat Fralick, Kelly Hecker, Penny Ingham, Ashley Waite, Jenny Jones, Steve Kilionski, Patty O'Brien, Joan McNichol and reporter Nick Altmire

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

DSS Commissioner Jenny Jones made a power point presentation (slides attached) about Foster Care Programs.  During the past 2 years there have been no Juvenile Delinquent (JD) or Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) children orders for foster care.

Jenny recollected only 3-4 voluntary placements during her 30 year tenure.

Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) placements are for children with felony offenses.  The State and the County split respective costs 50/50.

The State sets most of the rates for all foster care services.

To-date there have been no petitions for Youths aged 16 years pursuant to the new Raise the Age requirements.  The cost will be $1,050/day for anticipated placement of 8 months.  The Children’s Home of Jefferson County is available for placement of male or female 16 and 17 year olds.  The State will reimburse related costs 100%.

Adoptive parents of children from foster care are subsidized by Federal funds through the age of 18 years old.  In 2018, Lewis County adoptive parents received an aggregate of $211,251.

It is very difficult to track funding from the various program sources that are specific to each child and their respective circumstances.

Title IV-E is a Federally-funded program that is scrutinized and audited by the Federal government for strict regulatory compliance.

Currently, there are 13 children in foster care aged 9 years and under.  DSS works closely with the school districts to retain children within their local district.  The costs for this program have increased year over year.

Atty. Joan McNichol requested the committee’s consideration to allow one authorizing Resolution that would encompass annual renewal Agreements/Contracts for ALL foster care vendors.  The committee indicated general consent.

Jenny reviewed the impact of the Federal Government shutdown on the Senior Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).  The government will pay February SNAP benefits on 1/17/2019; this is advanced payment so that funding is under the Continuing Resolution.  February 1st payments and thereafter are under the SNAP Reserve Fund.  Unknown how long the reserve fund will last.  DSS personnel worked ardently to process required paperwork so that the February
SNAP benefit could be issued to eligible recipients. Recipients realize they will not receive another benefit until March. The average monthly payout for the 3,000 Lewis County (11% of local population) eligible residents is $330,000. There is no local share for this program. The USDA program is $4.8 billion nationwide for an average 12.4% of the population. If food emergencies occur before the end of the Government shutdown, local share will be necessary.

SNAP benefits may be used for voluntary donation for home-delivered meals. The Office For Aging received a substantial amount from SNAP recipients.

At 4:40 p.m. Veterans’ Service Director Steve Kilionski reviewed his attached 2018 annual report.

The largest category of benefits is for disability compensation payments equating $1,352,710.84, mostly attributable to Vietnam and Korean War veterans. These are Federal funds received by Lewis County resident veterans.

The aggregate of $1,756,469.09 is an extraordinary amount, which includes a few cases adjudicated in 2018 that had been on appeal for 6 to 8 years. One of those cases settled for $137,000.

If veterans file an application for benefits directly with the Veterans’ Administration, then those benefits are exclusive and not tracked by the local agency.

Steve receives veteran referrals from other County agencies when they are pursuing health insurance coverage. He is unable to estimate the Medicaid savings (which is partially funded by local dollars) for veterans that are ultimately covered by Veterans’ Administration (VA). He has identified a source that he plans to utilize to extrapolate and track Medicaid savings.

The newly appointed Secretary of Veterans Affairs is Robert Wilke. The VA will always be funded regardless of the Government shutdown, he concluded.

The following dockets were then approved:

**Dockets**

1. Resolution authorizing Agreement with Graham Windham Agency for foster care services for the term of 1/1/19 ï¿½ 12/31/19 for an amount Not to Exceed maximum State Aid Rate established by NYS DOH.

2. Resolution authorizing lease agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Office For the Aging, and United Church of Copenhagen at a cost of $160.00 per month for the term of one year commencing on January 1, 2019 and terminating on December 31, 2019. The County share amount is $25% and the State/Federal share amount is 75%.

3. Resolution Agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Office For the Aging and Osceola Outpost for the purpose of providing senior meals for the Nutrition Program for the term of 2/1/19 through 12/31/2019 at a cost of $8.95 per
meal and $150.00 per month for rent. The County share is 25% and the State/Federal
share amount is 75%.

4. Resolution authorizing Lewis County Department of Social Services to serve as fund
recipient and administrator of the Pratt Northam Careers Here Program for student
intern employment positions. Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
between the County of Lewis, by and on behalf of the Department of Social Services, and
the Pratt Northam Foundation to outline the terms and provisions of DSS serving as
Administrator of the Careers Here Program and PN’s funding for same. Authorizing the
LC Commissioner of Social Services to execute the individual contracts between the LC
DSS as administrator and participating employer for each intern, subject to the approval
and review by the County Attorney. There are 10 slots for Lewis County, 2 of which are
allocated to BOCES. The $200 surcharge imposed on each employer by Jefferson
County has been eliminated.

5. Resolution authorizing the creation of a Temporary Part-Time Social Services Program
Examiner from March 4, 2019 through June 28, 2019 and the rate of pay shall be
$18.63/hr.

6. Resolution approving the 2019 Resource Allocation Plan between the County of Lewis
and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to engage in comprehensive
planning for youth services in the amount of $21,115.00.

Ryan Piche asked if Legislators had any questions of Department Heads in regard to their
distributed reports. There were none.

Legislator Chartrand made a motion to adjourn at 5:05 p.m., seconded by Legislator LaChausse
and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board
How Do Children Enter Foster Care?

- 1. Abuse and Neglect Petitions - Article 10 of the Family Court Act
- 2. PINS/JD Orders - Article 3 or 7 of the Family Court Act
- 3. Voluntary Placement Agreement
What Do Foster Care Placements Cost?

1. Agency Operated Foster Boarding Homes $507-$1,372
2. Kinship Foster Care $507-$1,372
3. Therapeutic Foster Boarding Homes $1,431-$1,762
4. Residential Treatment Centers $9,180-$16,290
5. OCFS Operated Residential Centers - $32,280/month (50/50)
6. Raise The Age Centers- $31,500/month (100%)
7. Adoption Subsidies $211,251/yr
Lewis County Data 2018

- 499 CPS reports received
- 20 Petitions Filed for Abuse/ Neglect
- 13 Children Entered Foster Care
- 18 Children in Care During 2018
- 13 Active Agency Operated Foster Boarding Homes
Foster Care Funding
Local District Costs

- After Placement and until the child can be returned home safely or other permanency is achieved the local district must cover the uncompensatable cost of care.
So What Does Lewis County Receive?

<table>
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<th>Lewis County Child Welfare 2018 Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spending</strong></td>
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<tr>
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Title IV-E

- Covers foster care maintenance, clothing administration and supervision. Adoption Subsidies and KinGAP
- Open ended 50% Federal Match
- Technical and Restrictive Documentation required:
  - Age
  - Citizenship
  - Legal Authority
  - Contrary To the Welfare/Best Interests
  - Reasonable Efforts To Prevent Removal
  - Living With A Specified Relative
  - Parental Deprivation
  - AFDC Financial Eligibility
  - Foster Home Certification
TANF-EAF

- All payments and services covered by Title IV-E plus services and tuition costs for foster care
- Block Granted and limited in appropriations in the State Budget
- Fairly Straight Forward Eligibility
- Cannot be used to pay for services covered by IV-E IF the case is eligible for IV-E.
- To be eligible for TANF-EAF the need for services must be due to an emergency. TANF-EAF may be authorized *only* once within a 12-month period. This authorization remains in effect for as long as the needs arising from the emergency continue, i.e., until the emergency ends.
Title XX

- Covers Social Services Only
- Block Granted appropriations restrict availability
- No financial means test of eligibility
- May not be used for assistance like payments, such as foster care room and board
Title XX Below 200%

- Covers all services that are covered by Title XX
- Block Granted and limited to appropriations transferred from TANF to Title XX in the NYS Budget
- Income information must be secured from the parent
  - Family Size  |  Monthly Income
  - 2           |  $2,743
  - 3           |  $3,463
  - 4           |  $4,183
- These fund allocation can not be reimbursed to pay for services that are TANF-EAF eligible UNTIL the district expends all the TANF-EAF allocation
Title XIX- Medicaid

- Covers Medical Services and related case management
- Open ended 50% Federal Match (some exemptions)
- No Income Test for Foster Care Children- categorically eligible
- Children remain eligible until age 26 if they age out of care or are adopted
Possible Effects of Families First Prevention Act

- Increase standards for foster family homes
- Require increased certification of residential centers to QTRP - currently 0 in NYS
- Requires a 30 day assessment of placement by a clinician not affiliated with the residential center
- Requires return to court within 60 days for children in residential settings to approve the assessment.
- Limits IV-E reimbursement to 12 months for QRTP’s
Questions?
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<tr>
<th>ANNUAL REPORT 2018</th>
<th>VETERAN STATUS</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>MODE</th>
<th>SERVICES RENDERED</th>
<th>RETROACTIVE AWARD AMOUNT</th>
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<td>48</td>
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NUMBER OF OPEN/ACTIVE CLAIM FILES: 63

Disability Compensation Payments = $1,352,710.84
Pension Payments = $125,132.00
Education Payments = $250,912.25
Vocational Rehab Payments = $27,714.00
Life Insurance Claim Payments = $0.00
Healthcare Enrollments = 145

Total Funds into the County Economy for CY 2018 = $1,756,469.09