

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

May 21, 2019

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

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Tom Osborne and Jerry King, County Manager Ryan Piche, Public Health Supervising Nurse Marcia Ashline, DSS Commissioner Jenny Jones, Director of Community Services Patricia Fralick, Veterans' Service Director Stephen Kilionski, Hospital CEO Jerry Cayer and Reporters Nick Altmire and Julie Abbass

Committee Chairman Greg Kulzer called the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Legislator LaChausse made a motion to approve the 4/16/19 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Supervising Public Health Nurse Marcia Ashline presented the 1st Qtr. Board of Health Report (attached).

The State conducts testing in homes to determine lead levels from paint, antiques, old toys, and/or flaking paint from sills. The State is changing the threshold for child lead poisoning screening from 15 to those with blood levels above 5, which would increase the current 4 case managed children to 9 cases. The lower threshold may increase referrals to Pre-K and Early Intervention program services.

As a result of her case reviews, Marcia had identified one record for each immunization and physical therapy services that did not comply with regulatory requirements, for which implemented corrective measures are being monitored.

Medical Director Daniel Root, M.D. oversees quality assurance reviews and participates in the monthly team meetings.

Director of Community Services Pat Fralick presented an overview of the 2019 Local Services Plan for Mental Hygiene and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. She promotes collaboration with all related agencies and providers to establish and track long-term goals in coordination with State regulatory objectives. Audits are conducted for County contract deliverables.

The County privatized services eight years ago, which heightened the need for collaboration, especially recognizing NYS requirements for various service plans and reporting to eleven (11) separate State Departments.

Plan development considers local, State and Federal information gathered from various sources. Staff surveys and most recently a community survey, indicate similar service focus. The

Federal level initiatives and trends are tied to grant monies. Since 2016, Pat has followed this development process for the annual plan due to the State by June 1st, to identify, address and track goals for enhanced service delivery. Ryan Piche noted that previous transportation issues have since been addressed by availing public transportation.

It is difficult to attract and retain mental health and alcohol and substance abuse workers. Agencies struggle to provide services to existing clients, so when an employee leaves it is very difficult to maintain service levels to those in need. An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to promote orientation and training to entice/attract workers. Providers are challenged by a spike in demands, but at times are able to respond to walk-ins.

Goals outlined in the Service Plan are annually tracked for progress, and if addressed, are replaced by another identified goal. Accomplishments are made possible through developed partnerships with providers and related agencies to serve those in need financed by grant funds.

School districts have been identified as a focal location through which to connect with students and/or families in need of any or various services. Mental health and alcoholism and substance abuse issues are not unique to Lewis County. No single agency or faction could develop this complex service plan, which is why Pat deems it imperative to collaborate with all stakeholders to mutually develop strategies tied to available grant funding for implementation.

The following agenda docket items were then reviewed and approved:

1. Resolution to appropriate Federal Salary Sharing funds into the Community Services account to purchase office area rugs in the amount of \$367.05.
2. Resolution to appropriate Pratt-Northam Foundation funds to establish a Careers Here Worker Program for BOCES students or in-college (undergraduate or graduate) students during the summer of 2019 at an hourly rate of \$11.10, minimum wage for a total amount of \$50,186.
3. Resolution for budget transfer in the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act accounts to reallocate funds for Youth Program in the amount of \$1,516.16.
4. Resolution approving appointments to Jefferson-Lewis Workforce Development Board.
5. Resolution appointing student representatives to Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board for the term of June 4, 2019, to terminate either on the date of their High School Graduation or upon ceasing to be full-time.
6. Resolution to transfer Special Legislative Contingency funds into the Youth Bureau budget account to support the National Lewis County Night Out Event - \$2,000. Legislator Lehman stated that the event lost their primary sponsor this year for advertising materials and food.
7. Resolution authorizing addendum to agreement between public health agency and Birnie Bus Service for transportation of preschool special education children
8. Authorizing agreement between Social Services and Cornell Cooperative Extension for foster care supportive and rehabilitative services- \$61,500
9. Authorizing 2020 agreements between Social Services and various foster care agencies

10. Authorize creating and abolishing certain positions in the Dept. of Social Services and authorizing Jenny Jones to refill positions effective 9/1/2019
11. Appropriate TANF Summer Youth Employment Program Funds-\$74,623
12. Appropriate State Opioid Response Grant funds-\$60,000 and Appropriate State Targeted Response Grant, Centers for Treatment Innovation - \$400,00
13. Authorizing Agreement between Social Services and Lewis County Opportunities for the Homeless Apartment Initiative to accommodate homeless individuals or families in Lewis County with temporary housing. Term: June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$42,394.00. Commissioner Jenny Jones stated that LCOI has offered a half-time FTE for the homeless shelter, which she predicts may result in some shorter shelter stays. The Case Manager will also remind occupants of scheduled provider appointments. The \$15,000 expense equates \$10,000 local share. The \$25/night expense will increase to \$38/night to cover the case manager, but remains well below the \$80/night hotel cost.

Jenny Jones also reported that New York State is in violation of the domestic violence regulations that allow victims to apply for public assistance to pay for shelter. The victims' County of residence is responsible to pay for the shelter.

At 5:11 p.m. Legislator Lehman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Moroughan and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board