

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**April 21, 2020**

Present via video conference: Legislators Randy LaChausse, Richard Chartrand, Greg Kulzer, Phil Hathway, and Andrea Moroughan.

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Jerry King, Tom Osborne and Ian Gilbert; County Manager Ryan Piche; County Atty. Joan McNichol; Treasurer Eric Virkler; Human Resource Director Caitlyn Smith.

Committee Chairman Randy LaChausse called the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to approve the 3/17/2020 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Moroughan and carried.

**COVID-19 update – Public Health Director Ashley Waite**

Public Health Director Ashley Waite gave updated figures: 254 individuals have been tested, 11 tests are pending, 232 have come back negative, 11 confirmed cases, 8 fully recovered, 3 in isolation, 388 individuals have been quarantined, and 35 additional non-residents have been quarantined. Social Services and Office For the Aging have been used 6 different times to help out with wrap around services for those individuals who have been quarantined. There have been 1, 345 call with Covid questions answered by Public Health. They have also followed up on complaints by making sure those businesses have the correct information and have been sending out guidance materials to local businesses as necessary.

Public Health started the “I Wear My Mask” campaign which has garnered a lot of attention. Their Social Media presence has had 139,886 views and more than 21,000 likes and shares.

County Manager Ryan Piche reported that both Legislators Gilbert and LaChausse have received email traffic from Senator Richie’s staff about a re-opening approach using separate regions of New York State. Several of the counties in her district have signed on to this and just today Governor Cuomo made an announcement to that affect. Legislator Gilbert, Legislator Burns and Legislator LaChausse all voiced their opinions in favor of having Chairman Dolhof submit some type of generic letter stating that Lewis County supports a regional approach to re-opening businesses.

The following dockets were then reviewed:

1. Resolution authorizing amendments to the agreement with Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization under the Healing Community Study (“HCS”) project activities in Lewis County, working towards the identified primary and secondary outcomes by revision to the scope of services and work undertaken by FDRHPO in year 2 of the HCS project and authorizing the Lewis County Director of Community Services to execute such amendments to the agreement.

YEA:   5                        NAY:   0  

2. Resolution to authorize amendments to the 2020 agreements between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Community Services Department and the various contract

agencies with whom Community Services is engaged to incorporate 2020 CFR updated guidelines and state aid federal guidelines.

YEA: 5 NAY: 0

3. Resolution to appropriate funds in Community Service accounts in the amount of \$389,309.36 for the increase in funds for year 2 of the Healing Communities Study.

YEA: 5 NAY: 0

4. Resolution authorizing an agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Department of Social Services and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County to provide supportive and rehabilitative services that may include parent education services to families whose children have been named in a child abuse and/or maltreatment report, or who have been assessed at risk for foster care placement, or who are in foster care and whose placements could be shortened through the provision of such services, or families who are below 200% of the Federal Poverty Limit and evidence an ability to benefit from parent education services in accordance with criteria established by Department Regulations. The term shall be from June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021 at flat fee of \$500.00 per month per family for all clients referred by DSS with an open case, with the total amount not to exceed \$61,500.00 per year. The local share cost of these services is 25% after Federal (50%) and State (25%) reimbursements.

YEA: 5 NAY: 0

5. Resolution authorizing an amendment to the agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Office For the Aging with Nascentia Health, Inc. with respect to the termination provisions therein, with either party having the right to terminate upon sixty (60) days prior written notice.

YEA: 5 NAY: 0

6. Resolution to authorize an agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Department of Social Services, and St. Anne Institute for the provision of foster and residential care services for a term of April 1, 2020 through April 1, 2021 at a per diem cost not to exceed the Maximum State Aid Rate established by the NYS Dept. of Health. There is no local share cost until costs exceed the foster care block grant and then the local share is approximately 25% for foster/residential care and is based upon the eligibility of the client. The State share is approximately 25% and Federal share is approximately 50%.

YEA: 5 NAY: 0

Lewis County General Hospital CEO Jerry Cayer gave a brief update on the Covid-19 to the hospital. In March there was a \$1.9 million loss. Within the last week there have been discussions with the local CSEA union to have 35 individuals in low volume areas take a Covid-19 leave. The Governor just announced that certain hospitals can re-open for elective surgeries as long as they follow guidelines, one being that everyone coming in for surgery needs to have a Covid test done within 48 hours. Currently it is taking 4 days to get the results. Jerry went on to explain that Samaritan recently received a unit that can process test results within an hour. Jerry is looking at purchasing that same unit for Lewis County General Hospital. Joan McNichol asked about whether the hospital would get any reimbursement under the PPP Program, Jerry responded that an application was submitted for the Physicians unit and the Foundation so he is

hopeful that on the next round there could be some reimbursement. The hospital and Nursing home couldn't be submitted because they share the same EIN and have over 500 employees.

Further discussion was had on the Regional Re-start letter. It was decided with consensus from the Committee to have him submit something.

At 2:44 p.m. Legislator Moroughan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator LaChausse and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board