

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
January 21, 2020

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

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Ron Burns, Jerry King, and Ian Gilbert; County Manager Ryan Piche; County Atty. Joan McNichol; Treasurer Eric Virkler; Reporter Nick Altmire.

Committee Chairman Randy LaChausse called the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to approve the 12/17/19 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Community Service 2020 Overview – Patricia Fralick, Director

The Governor's Budget address, declaring an increasing Medicaid deficit, will be followed to see how this impacts service delivery. CCSI, the vendor the county contracts with for state reporting, will be vital in 2020 to make sure that every eligible dollar is submitted for maximum reimbursement to continue to deliver services to those in need.

One main initiative for 2020 is the Columbia Study which will continue over the next 3 years to study the impact of opioid deaths and is in the final stages of finalizing the steering committee. In response to Legislator Hathway, Pat explained that the 2017 spike in opioid deaths is believed to have been from a bad batch of heroin and since then the numbers have dropped back down significantly which can be partially attributed to the wide availability of narcan. Anyone can get trained and receive a free narcan kit, they also have the availability to go to a drug store, show their training certificate and get a prescription filled for narcan which is billed to their insurance.

The Fort Drum Regional Health Plan has been meeting on a weekly basis and continues to make progress. The Community Schools groups continues to gather information and move towards improving communication and access to students and families.

Office For the Aging 2020 Overview – Crystal Collette, Director

The first goal for 2020 is to keep seniors and people with disabilities at home by empowering those individuals, their families and the public to make more informed decisions about what is available to them as program options. OFA plans to make more people aware of their NY Connects Program, which is fully funded by the state.

The second goal is to ensure high quality of life for seniors and caregivers by enabling seniors to remain in their homes as long as possible and including support for family caregivers to increase the quality of life for the senior. OFA plans to advocate and expand the use of consumer directed personal care in EISEP as well as amplify caregiver support services to enable caregivers to care for older persons with chronic illnesses or disabilities better.

The third goal is to get seniors moving and seek Medicare & Medicaid reimbursement for the County by empowering seniors to stay active and healthy through the Older Americans Act services and those offered under Medicare. OFA plan to develop and expand Evidence Based

Programming with Double Play Fitness. Crystal explained that her recent experience with Water Aerobics was a fun and intense workout. OFA will expand the meal delivery for consumers under the age of 60 and bill through Medicare Long Term Care insurance plans to create new revenue streams.

The fourth goal is to promote healthy relationships, working to end Elder Abuse by promoting the rights of seniors. OFA plans to identify, strengthen and enhance collaboration of legal assistance, advocacy programs and healthcare providers. They will also provide trusted information and education to seniors and caregivers that will help them to identify abuse issues. There are roughly 70 to 100 referrals a year that are known and about 3 times as many that are not, most of them being of a financial nature.

The fifth goal is to become more business savvy by developing strategies to engage with and integrate into emerging healthcare delivery system transformation activities. OFA will participate in NYS OFA training initiatives and utilize skills to develop a strategic plan and to learn from other counties who are successfully integrating business approaches with the traditional service.

Public Health 2020 Overview – Ashley Waite, Director

Infrastructure will be a big part of 2020 as an accreditation team will be established to complete the self-assessment which has been put off for the past couple years. In an effort to help increase efficiency and workload there will be some research into medical record/billing platforms. With more than 50% of the staff being new to Public Health there will be considerable training and cross-training implemented by using NYSDOH Learning Management System to track and assess training in an effort to improve year over year.

Strategic Partnerships will be worked on in order to identify opportunities for public health to integrate into community planning and work on community health improvement initiatives. Public Health would like to improve tracking of local health impact of evidence based programs and implement a value based payment work plan. They will continue to work with community partners to increase referrals to evidence based programs and work with local health and human service agencies to improve health Literacy practices.

There will be an increased focus on tracking and evaluating the increased lead poisoning prevention caseload and associated costs and impact. The County will conduct a Staging Site Drill at Lowville Academy Central School on February 18, 2020. In response to Legislator Chartrand, Ashley indicated that lead can be found in other places besides paint in old houses and the new lowered minimum levels of lead increased the number of children who will now be referred. Public Health will continue to maintain their Facebook page which informs the public on upcoming health related events and programs.

Social Services 2020 Overview – Jenny Jones, Commissioner

DSS will focus on rebuilding the staff as many are new due to retirements and turnover. They will continue to work on communication by using a monthly newsletter and onsite training. Emergency Shelter has been an ongoing issue and with so many regulations and the small size the home on Dayan Street remains uncertified although there is a shelter worker onsite for 20

hours/week. Opioid addicts continue to reach out to DSS for further services. The Families First Act is about placing children, many whose parents are addicts and are unable to care for them, with relatives instead of foster care.

Docuware has been utilized and in full implementation for the upcoming federal tax audit. Point & Time Count will happen this Thursday which collects data for the Code Blue Program. There were roughly 50-60 homeless people counted for 2019. There was an increase in the number and cost of burials for 2019 which exceeded the budgeted \$60,000 but hopefully that will not be the case in 2020. Legislator Hathway questioned about a social media presence for One-Stop which Jenny explained is handled by Cheryl Mayforth of Jefferson County.

HEAP, which opened in November 2019 has had 1,049 applications and paid out a total of \$1,018,750.00 to date. In response to Legislator Moroughan's question about a set fee for burials Jenny explained that there is a set fee and it hasn't been raised for several years but in 2019 there were a few cases of needing larger than normal caskets and increases transportation fees.

The following dockets were then reviewed:

1. Resolution to appropriate \$404.23 of grant funds into Public Health accounts for Early Intervention education material.
YEA: 5 NAY: 0
2. Resolution to authorize an agreement with Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization and Lewis County Public Health to receive grant funds in the amount of \$6,250.00 to participate on the grant's action team and execute team deliverables for prevention and management of chronic disease in the community for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 and to appropriate the funds into the Public Health accounts.
YEA: 5 NAY: 0
3. Resolution to urge that the New York State Department of Health delay new lead poisoning regulations due to an unworkable timeline and exorbitant cost. *Legislator Kulzer questioned why the timetable was unworkable and Ashley Waite responded that there was no increased funding to coincide with the increase in workload.*
YEA: 5 NAY: 0
4. Resolution urging New York State Department of Health and New York State Division of Budget to require providers to maximize reimbursement from all third-party payers for Early Intervention services.
YEA: 5 NAY: 0
5. Resolution urging the New York State Governor and Legislature to improve the Early Intervention Program to better serve children and families through reforms to address the lack of available providers in many area of the state.
YEA: 5 NAY: 0

6. Resolution to appropriate \$11,500.00 of Medicaid funds into Social Services accounts for Community First Choice Options. *This is for a contract with OFA for home delivered meals.*
YEA: 5 NAY: 0
7. Resolution to appropriate \$25,000.00 of additional funding into Social Services accounts for TANF Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services through Lewis County Opportunities.
YEA: 5 NAY: 0
8. Resolution to appropriate \$20,000.00 of Code Blue funding into Social Services accounts for Safety Net expenses from October 2019 thru September 2020.
YEA: 5 NAY: 0
9. Resolution to transfer \$24,000.00 in the Social Services accounts to reallocate funds for WIOA.
YEA: 5 NAY: 0
10. Resolution to appropriate \$30,000.00 of State funds into Youth Bureau accounts for Safe Harbour program. *New funding through the Youth Bureau but will eventually go through Social Services and is specifically used for education and prevention of human trafficking.*
YEA: 5 NAY: 0

Legislator Moroughan made a motion to authorize Public Health Director, Ashley Waite, to put out an RFP for transportation needs of children receiving preschool special education services due to upcoming contract expiration, seconded by Legislator Hathway, and carried.

At 4:05 p.m. Legislator Chartrand made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board