

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 17, 2020

Present: Legislators Randy LaChausse, Richard Chartrand, Greg Kulzer, and Phil Hathway. Legislator Andrea Moroughan was present via conference call.

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; Reporters Julie Abbass & Nick Altmire.

Committee Chairman Randy LaChausse called the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to approve the 2/18/2020 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

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

Statistics: 1,374 cases in NYS and 12 deaths; 19 individuals on precautionary quarantine in Lewis County; 8 individuals tested in Lewis County; 4 negative and 4 pending. The individuals are being quarantined at home and are being followed up with by phone and/or physically checking in on them. Public Health is required to make sure all their basis needs are being taken care of.

Legislator Kulzer inquired about the specifics of being quarantined and Ashley Waite responded that they are required to have their own bathroom and own bedroom. They are not to interact with other family members in the household for the quarantine period. Public Health staff is also testing individuals in their residence who have travel history, are symptomatic, or have received negative tests for other possible viruses and are ill, anyone who has had contact with a COVID-19 positive person, and anyone the state requires be tested. Symptoms are a temperature over 100 degrees, cough, and shortness of breath.

Public Health is also providing written guidance to local businesses and training for additional staff when caseload becomes too high. In response to Legislator Osborne, Ashley reported that the lead time for results is 36 to 48 hours, but test results are being expedited for those at higher risk due to the virus. Legislator Kulzer reported that he had seen there is a treatment being worked on in Seattle with human trials already being conducted. Ashley explained that testing usually takes a long time, making sure it is completely safe, before it is available to the public.

Legislator LaChausse questioned who monitors quarantined individuals to make sure they are not interacting with others. Ashley responded that currently everyone is under a precautionary quarantine so most of the follow ups are just done over the phone. When there is a mandatory quarantine it will require a visual follow-up. If an individual is not following the quarantine guidelines there are other options available. One positive point is that the United States mortality rate is less than half of the global rate.

Ryan announced that the State has allocated \$67,000 in additional funds for Public Health. Things are happening quite quickly, with at least 3 conference call each day with various government groups and Ryan wondered if the Legislators would be interested in a daily conference call or continue with the daily email. Most of them prefer the email update at the end

of the day. There will continue to be more restrictions as time goes on and eventually services could be pared down to essential only. Legislator Gilbert stated that the NYS Governor is requiring groups to be less than 50 people and President Trump is advising to limit gatherings to 10 people or less. Sheriff Carpinelli inquired as to whether anyone had heard about the possibility of the thruways being shut down, no one had.

Legislator Chartrand asked if anyone has had any interactions with the Towns and Villages about cutting their workforce in half. Ryan said that he would, and Ashley added that Public Health had received a few calls and provided some guidance. Ryan indicated that our Highway Department was at 50% staff along with several of our other departments but reminded everyone that we won't be able to get to a real 50% due to the hospital staff being considered county employees. He also stated that a directive was sent out to have any staff that were sent home to work on some type of county business because they are still paid.

Lewis County General Hospital C.E.O Jerry Cayer reported that he had sent out information earlier today to everyone about screening individuals before they enter the hospital campus. The hospital is now trying to re-focus their efforts from preparing to being able to still offer general services and trying to find the appropriate balance. If there is a surge capacity, how would the hospital handle that, where would they expand to, and where would they add the additional beds. These are all the questions they are trying to work through.

Legislator Kulzer thought that it would be a good idea to be in touch with Fort Drum to possibly set up a M.A.S.H. center if things became overwhelming. Jerry responded that his connection with Fort Drum is through FDRHO but things haven't gotten to that point yet. Jerry updated everyone that the recertification process for the hospital is still being worked on. They are continuing to go forward on the hospital expansion with design plans and bids so that when the recertification does come though they can quickly move forward. The Sheriff asked what was being used to scan the public when entering the hospital campus and Jerry explained it was just an ear scanner for temps and offered to show the Sheriff how it is being done.

Legislator LaChausse asked Crystal Collette for an update on the home delivered meals program. Crystal explained that they have added 47 more people to that list and continue to reach out to other seniors to offer this service. She is meeting with Fred McManus to plan on what the future looks like as more and more people are signed up for this program. She is also working with local schools and Social Services to make sure people are getting their needs met. Legislator Kulzer asked if there had been any thought into using the Public Transportation system to deliver meals. Crystal responded that if current drivers cannot deliver, the plan is to have county employees fill in as some of them are home without work. If that eventually isn't sustainable then she would look into Public Transportation as a viable option.

The following dockets were then reviewed:

1. Resolution to authorize an Agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Community Services Department, with Coordinated Care Services, Inc. to receive provider support training for employees at the Lewis County Community Services Department, Lewis County Treasurer's Department and contract agency fiscal staff for three (3) sessions at a cost not to exceed \$4,380.00.

YEA: 5            NAY: 0

2. Resolution to appropriate \$130,975.08 in the Community Services Accounts for the Healing Communities Study. *There was clarification that this is for the Columbia University Healing Communities study to reduce opioid deaths.*  
YEA:   5        NAY:   0
  
3. Resolution calling on Members of the NYS Legislature to reject the Governor's 2020-21 Executive Budget Proposal to shift 100% of the costs of MHL §730.20 competency restoration services to the county, which will cripple county budgets and have a devastating impact on the counties' ability to pay for behavioral health programs.  
YEA:   5        NAY:   0
  
4. Resolution to authorize an Agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Office For the Aging with Lewis County Health System for them to provide adult day health care services to respite OFA clients at a daily rate of \$249.96 for an approximate (5) hour day for a term of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The daily rate including roundtrip transportation is \$390.28 and transportation one way is \$327.79. *Crystal clarified that the \$249.96 rate was for seniors who transported themselves to the program at the hospital, the \$327.79 rate was for seniors who needed a one way trip using the hospital transportation van, and the \$390.28 rate was for seniors who needed transportation to and from the program using the hospital van. The service will be provided with grant funding, this funding is also used for US Care services so this is just another option for seniors. Some Legislators questioned whether it would be more cost effective to use another form of transportation but Crystal explained that it was a set rate by the hospital which is set by the state. She also pointed out that the van is wheelchair accessible.*  
YEA:   5        NAY:   0
  
5. Resolution to authorize the Agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Office For the Aging with NNY Senior Services, Inc., D/B/A Seniors Helping Seniors to provide housekeeping/chore and/or respite services to designated elderly residents in Lewis County that are homebound, ill, or disabled and who have been accepted into care by OFA at a cost not to exceed \$23.50 per hour for the term January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.  
YEA:   5        NAY:   0
  
6. Resolution to approve the contract between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Department of Social Services with Liberty Translations & Interpreters, LLC to provide trained on-site interpreter services, telephonic and translation services to the Lewis County Department of Social Services for the period of March 1, 2020 through March 2, 2021 at the following rates: Spoken Language-Pre-booked - \$50.00 per hour; Spoken Language-Same Day - \$60.00 per hour; Client No Show or Cancellation without 24 hours' notice for Spoken Language - \$50.00 per hour; Telephonic - \$1.50 per minute; and Telephonic Cancellation \$1.50 per minute. Additionally, if LTI travels more than 15 miles from the nearest LTI location, or 30 miles roundtrip, there is a mileage charge of \$0.58 per mile. The local share is 25%, federal share is 50% and state share is 25%. *Jenny clarified that there are locations in Utica and Syracuse and they use this service for home visits when necessary.*

YEA: 5      NAY: 0

7. Resolution to authorize a Modification Agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Department of Social Services, and New York State Office of Children and Family Services for the purpose of registration and inspection of child day care providers for the term of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The Lewis County Department of Social Services shall receive \$8,400.00 quarterly (Maximum Funding Amount of \$33,600.00) for an acceptable level of compliance and performance as specified by the Division of Child Care Services for registration and inspection of child care providers.

YEA: 5      NAY: 0

8. Resolution to authorize an Agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Department of Social Services and the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc. for the purpose of conducting registration and inspection of family day care and school aged child care providers in Lewis County for the term of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$31,920.00, payable in quarterly installments of \$7,980.00 upon receipt of a completed Quarterly Registration Review Report from the DCCS Regional Office. The cost of these services are 100% federally funded with no local share cost.

YEA: 5      NAY: 0

9. Resolution to transfer \$1,124.11 in the Social Services accounts to reallocate funds for WIOA.

YEA: 5      NAY: 0

10. Resolution to authorize the Lewis County Commissioner of Social Services to move funds within the WIOA budget lines, provided that said amounts do not exceed the overall annual WIOA budget allocation to Lewis County, and provided that the Commissioner advises the Treasurer of the amounts and the WIOA accounts reallocated. *Ryan explained that this was for all DSS employees because Windows 7 is no longer being supported.*

YEA: 5      NAY: 0

11. Resolution to appropriate funds in the Social Services accounts for the purchase of various computer equipment in the amount of \$20,049.90 with funding coming from Project HAE Capital Equipment with a balance of \$93,918.94.

YEA: 5      NAY: 0

At 3:05 p.m. Legislator Chartrand made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board