

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**May 19, 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 2:44 p.m.

Legislator Hathway made a motion to approve the 4/21/2020 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Moroughan and carried.

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

Public Health Director Ashley Waite informed the committee that testing has been ramped up and she is currently working through who will pay for the tests. There is a new state computer system that will be implemented to manage positive cases as well as contacts and monitoring. The entire state will be using this system which will help with communication, statistics and accuracy. Current employees who are willing to help with contact tracing are taking training to become certified. There have been more positive cases as we expand out testing and begin testing a higher number of individuals.

Legislator Hathway asked if the number of people being tested included individuals who were re-tested or only new individuals being tested. Ashley responded that each test counts as a separate test even if it is testing the same individuals more than once. Legislator Chartrand asked for clarification on who is paying for the tests done on nursing home residents/employees. Ryan said it is being discussed further because it shouldn't fall on the hospital to pay for all the tests but currently they are being sent through the hospitals vendor for results. Ashley confirmed that there are 30 contact tracers in Lewis County and they don't receive any special pay as they are already current employees.

Ashley responded to Legislator LaChausse's questions that tests will still continue to be delivered on a regular basis. Jerry Cayer responded that the testing machine was not delivered yet but hopefully within the week it should come however the testing re-agents won't come until June or July. Remote testing will be coming but the issue of who is paying for these tests needs to be determined first. Ryan explained the difference between a state testing facility and a private testing facility. The state facility is free but overwhelmed and won't take any more tests and a private facility charges \$100 for each test. If an individual has no symptoms their insurance company won't pay either. Ryan would like to see a state run testing center open up locally to help with this.

Ashley explained the order that people need to be tested. Essential workers are on the top and the list goes down from there, normal residents are unfortunately not at the top. Some legislators have heard from their constituents that they want more mobile testing. There was further discussion on testing and who is being tested.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Resolution with reference to NYS SEQRA review, lead agency determination and negative declaration with respect to the proposed new operating room and clinic addition project at the Lewis County General Hospital.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
2. Resolution to appropriate funds in the Office For the Aging Department accounts in the amount of \$127,078.00 for additional expenditures anticipated related to the Covid-19 pandemic.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
3. Resolution awarding bid and authorizing agreement with Birnie Bus Services, Inc. for transportation services of children in the Lewis County Preschool Special Education Program. *This was withdrawn due to contract pricing still under negotiation.*  
YEA      NAY
  
4. Resolution authorizing agreement between Lewis County Public Health with Beaver River, Copenhagen, and Lowville Academy. The school will subcontract with the Lewis County Health System for evaluation services under the Preschool Special Education Program for the period of May 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 at a cost in accordance with the rates set forth by the State Education Department.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
5. Resolution re-appointing Jennifer Jones as Commissioner of the Lewis County Department of Social Services for an additional five (5) year term commencing on July 8, 2020 and terminating on July 7, 2025 at the current annual salary of \$79,591.00, subject to approval by the NYS Department of Social Services.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
6. Resolution appointing student representatives to serve on the Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board for a term effective July 1, 2020 through to the date of their High School Graduation, or upon ceasing to be a full-time high school student.  
YEA   5   NAY   0

At 3:12 p.m. Legislator Hathway made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board