

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

July 19, 2021

Present: Legislators Andrea Moroughan, Richard Chartrand, Greg Kulzer, Phil Hathway, and Lisa Virkler.

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

Committee Chair Legislator Moroughan called the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Legislator Virkler made a motion to accept the minutes from June 15, 2021 as recorded, seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

### **Covid-19 Grant Funding** – Public Health Director Ashley Waite

Ashley Waite began by sharing that Public Health has received several grants related to covid-19 and her presentation would outline how much has been spent; what funding has paid for items; what new funding is coming in; and the plan for what the new funding will be spent on because it has to be approved by the state as well as the Board of Legislators.

In 2020 Public Health has received \$440,590.00 of which \$372,211 has been spent as of June 24, 2021, most was spent early on in 2021 when there was a peak in cases. Expenditures have included regular, per diem, and temporary staff time and overtime for pandemic response activities; supplies, postage, and printing; rent for Maple Ridge testing site; wrap around services for individuals isolated or quarantined, such as groceries or hotel, which is the responsibility of Public Health; cell phones and I.T. costs; and advertising for clinics and preventative actions for the public.

The different types of grants/funding that Public Health has received are \$31,050 Immunization grant; \$13,566 Supplemental Immunization grant; \$6,785 NYS Health Foundation RFP; \$89,956 Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant; \$63,955 of a total \$95,373 Supplemental Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant (this funding must be spent and submitted in order to receive reimbursement); and \$636,017 Article 6 State Aid which has to be used to provide Public Health services and requires a local share.

There is \$1,101,471 of ELC School Funding that is available to Public Health and the purpose of this funding is to support and maintain in person learning. This funding goes through July 31, 2022 and can be used to pay for assessing school districts needs regarding Covid-19 testing; Covid-19 testing and increasing access to testing; Covid-19 technical assistance to schools; and wrap around services of positive cases of school members. There is \$468,693 of Covid-19 ELC Funding available and the purpose of the funding is to increase capacity for case investigations, contract tracing, testing and surveillance, and vaccination activities. This funding goes through March 31, 2023 and can be used to pay for increasing staffing and overtime for the above activities; public education and awareness campaigns; wastewater testing which works well in large communities that have municipal water; and Covid-19 technical assistance to schools,

childcare programs and other community settings. There was further discussion on aspects of wastewater testing and how it can be affective in highly populated areas.

The spending plan for the \$1,101,471 ELC School Funding is to create a Deputy Public Health Director which will serve as a liaison for schools, ensuring access to latest Covid-19 data, mitigation strategies, and access to testing; continuation of the free community Covid-19 testing performed by the Lewis County Health System; and purchasing a mobile testing trailer. Legislator Chartrand suggested Ashley might want to plan on purchasing a truck to haul the trailer too. The spending plan for the \$468,693 Covid-19 ELC Funding is to create another Public Health Nurse position which will train with the current communicable disease nurse who plans to retire in 2 years; a one-time payment of overtime for exempt employees from July 2020 through June 2021; continues payment of overtime and additional time for staff working on Covid-19 response activities going forward; and wastewater testing. There was further discussion on the municipal water systems in the county and the cost of testing.

Office For the Aging Director Crystal Collette briefly spoke about the upcoming Healthy Aging Day at the Lewis County Fair which is Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Resolution amending the Compensation Plan of the County of Lewis with reference to the Lewis County General Hospital to abolish one (1) Part-Time Cleaner position and create one (1) Part-Time Custodial Worker position.

AYE   5   NAY   0  

2. Resolution to authorize agreement between Lewis County Public Health Agency and NYS Department of Health to accept Covid-19 award of \$1,101,471.00 for continued Covid screening and testing expenses and activities and appropriate funds in the Public Health Agency accounts upon receipt of notice of acceptance/approval.

AYE   5   NAY   0  

3. Resolution amending the Compensation Plan of the County of Lewis with reference to the Public Health Department to Create one (1) Full-Time Deputy Director of Public Health, Grade III contingent upon acceptance by the Department of Health of the grant budget and Create one (1) Full-Time Public Health Nurse position, Grade 25, effective immediately.

AYE   5   NAY   0  

4. Resolution authorizing agreement between the Lewis County Public Health Agency and Lewis County Health System for the continuation of Covid-19 screening and testing for the community for 52 weeks at an estimated cost of \$641,160.00, subject to NYS Department of Health acceptance of the Public Health budget.

AYE   5   NAY   0  

5. Resolution authorizing one-time payments to certain identified management exempt employees who provided documentation of their time and dates of service to Public Health in Covid-19 related grant fund activities, in the total amount of \$104,783.62.

AYE   5   NAY   0

6. Resolution approving proposed new rates for the 2021/2022 school year, to send to the State of New York Education Department for approval regarding the agreements with the agencies and independent contractors who provide services to the Preschool Special Education Program for children with special education and health care needs.  
AYE 5 NAY 0
7. Resolution authorizing agreement between the Department of Social Services and North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Inc. to provide rehabilitative and supportive services to families for the period from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022.  
AYE 5 NAY 0
8. Resolution authorizing agreement between the Department of Social Services and Office for the Aging for the purpose of providing the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) outreach and certification services to low-income residents of Lewis County, for the period beginning October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.00, with no local share cost.  
AYE 5 NAY 0
9. Resolution authorizing Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to execute registered childcare provider agreements for eligible Lewis County recipients under the Block Grant from NYS Office of Children and Family Services, subject to review and approval by the County Attorney and with a list of said agreements to be provided to the Clerk of the Board.  
AYE 5 NAY 0
10. Resolution to appropriate funds in the WIOA accounts for Program Year 2021 per the Notice of Obligational Authority for Youth Services, in the amount of \$41,330.92.  
AYE 5 NAY 0

At 3:33 p.m. Legislator Virkler made a motion to adjourn the Health & Human Services Committee meeting, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board