

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 16, 2021

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

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Jerry King, Tom Osborne, Ron Burns, and Ian Gilbert; 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 2:30 p.m.

Legislator Virkler made a motion to accept the minutes from 2/16/2021 as recorded, seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

COVID-19 Memorial Week – Community Services Director Patricia Fralick

Patricia Fralick stated that this idea stemmed from working with Public Health by doing case investigations and hearing many people talk about the care and assistance that they received from others in the community. This Memorial Week is an opportunity for the community to pause and reflect, remember those we lost, celebrate the resiliency of our community, and say thank you. This committee was made up of several local agency members throughout the county that met five times to put the events together. It was challenging to develop events and other items in a socially distance way, but the committee overcame that challenge.

There is a Service of Remembrance created by Lowville Clergy from the Baptist, Catholic, Mennonite, Nazarene and Presbyterian traditions that will be held virtually. People are also being encouraged to share their stories of community kindness in many ways. The color blue is being used with forget me not flowers and tags to put thank you messages on the fence on the corner of State Street and Dayan Street for display so anyone can read them. You can decorate your home or business and then take pictures for the photo contest. The committee is encouraging everyone to buy local and support local business by shopping local or eating at a local restaurant. Lastly remind essential workers that they are appreciated.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update – Public Health Director Ashley Waite

Ashley Waite reported that there have been 5,700 residents who have received their first dose of the vaccine which equates to about 29% of our adult population and 3,100 residents who have received their second dose which equates to about 16%. Public Health has administered around 2,000 first doses of the vaccine and 1,100 second doses. This week Public Health is expecting to receive 400 doses of the Moderna vaccine and 200 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is the most vaccine the county has received in a week.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be primarily used to vaccinate homebound individuals, their caregivers, and their household members who are eligible. There will be a clinic on Thursday in Croghan, on Friday in Osceola, and another on Friday in Turin. Ashley shared a map showing Lewis County and the different areas shaded depending on the percentage of

people vaccinated. The Southern end of the county was below 10%, while the Northern end was between 25 to 50%. Most of the county, specifically the middle, was between 10 to 15%. Currently on the Public Health wait list there are only 720 people signed up for vaccination. The focus now, since the eligibility has increased slightly and the availability of vaccines have increased, is to educate the public on who is able to get the vaccine and the benefits of it.

Ryan asked Ashley to give an update on the Southern end of the county. Ashley reported that there was a significant number of individuals from the West Leyden and Osceola areas that have signed up to get the vaccine than in prior weeks. She asked Legislators to continue to talk to their constituents and strongly recommend getting vaccinated. Legislator Kulzer volunteered to work at the Turin Clinic if there is a need. Legislator Dolhof questioned the unshaded areas on the map and Ashley said she was looking into it but hadn't received a response back. Ryan shared data based on zip codes as to the number of individuals who are vaccinated to show that some of the out of county individuals who work in Lewis County are also calculated into certain figures.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Resolution authorizing an agreement between Lewis County Department of Social Services and West Publishing Corporation's CLEAR software subscription for the purpose of search technology to locate people and businesses and authenticate their identities for the period beginning April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.
AYE 5 NAY 0
2. Resolution authorizing renewal agreement between Lewis County Department of Social Services and Liberty Translations & Interpreters, LLC to provide trained on-site interpreter services, telephonic and translation services for the period of March 3, 2021 through March 3, 2023.
AYE 5 NAY 0
3. Resolution authorizing Memorandum of Understanding between Lewis County Department of Social Services and Snow Belt Housing Company, Inc. for the purpose of invoicing and receiving reimbursement of Code Blue expenses pursuant to OTDA funding and requirements for the 2020-2021 Code Blue season and any future Code Blue seasons where the reimbursement of said expenses remains through Snow Belt Housing Company, Inc.
AYE 5 NAY 0
4. Resolution to proclaim the County of Lewis as a Purple Heart Community, honoring the service and sacrifice of our Nation's men and women in uniform and designating August 7th of each year as the day in Lewis County to remember and recognize Veterans who have received the Purple Heart Medal.
AYE 5 NAY 0
5. Resolution authorizing annual agreements between the County of Jefferson and the County of Lewis for purposes of administering WIOA and entering into agreements to organize and implement workforce development in the Jefferson-Lewis areas pursuant to WIOA for the retroactive term July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
AYE 5 NAY 0

6. Resolution authorizing separate agreements between the Lewis County Youth Bureau and Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County and Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. to provide the described identified support and outreach services by each under the Safe Harbor: NY Project program.
AYE 5 NAY 0

The following motions were made:

1. Legislator Chartrand made a motion to authorize Social Services Commissioner Jennifer Jones to refill one (1) full-time Social Services Program Examiner position due to promotion effective March 22, 2021, seconded by Legislator Virkler and carried.

Legislator Hathway commented about seeing an elderly gentleman at Walmart who was being assisted by a younger woman, which he believes is possible through a program from the county, and how it made a positive impact on him. Legislator Moroughan encouraged everyone to please get your vaccination and go to the Public Health website to sign up.

Legislator Chartrand thanked Legislator Dolhof and Ryan Piche who were instrumental in getting DPW workers on the eligibility list. Legislator Moroughan stated that everyone should look over the underlying medical conditions because it covers a wide variety of health concerns. Legislator Virkler stated that if a clinic locally doesn't work for you to look at other clinics outside this area such as those in Jefferson County.

At 2:57 p.m. Legislator Virkler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board