

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**October 19, 2021**

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

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

Committee Chair Legislator Moroughan called the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Legislator Virkler made a motion to accept the minutes from September 21, 2021 as recorded, seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Authorizing Renewal Agreements between Lewis County Community Services and Various Providers for Program Services.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
2. Appointing Julie Grau and Anna Platz as members to the Community Services Board.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
3. Appointing Anna Platz as a member of the Mental Health Sub-committee of the Community Services Board.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
4. Appointing Julie Grau, Cassie Forbus, and Christopher Paige as members of the Substance Use Disorder Sub-committee of the Community Services Board.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
5. Appropriating funds in Community Services Accounts for additional State Aid in the amount of \$23,756.00.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
6. Amending Compensation Plan with Reference to Lewis County General Hospital to Create one (1) full-time Laboratory Technician Trainee.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
7. Authorizing Agreement between Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College and Lewis County Office For the Aging for Service Needs Assessment Community Survey for a cost of \$20,000.00.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
8. Authorizing Agreements between Office For the Aging and Various Providers for Program Services.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0

9. Accepting additional Covid-19 Vaccine Response Grant Funds from New York State Department of Health.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
10. Authorizing Agreement Extension between the Lewis County Public Health and James McGuinness & Associates, Inc. for maintenance and support of the software program for the Preschool Program for a cost of \$9,500.00.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
11. Authorizing Agreement between Lewis County Public Health and Venesky & Company for Professional Accounting Services to assist with the annual Cost Report for Diagnostic & Treatment Center Program at a cost of \$8,500.00.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
12. Authorizing Agreements between Lewis County Department of Social Services and Various Foster Care Agencies.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
13. Authorizing Renewal Agreements between Lewis County Department of Social Services and Various Providers for Program Services.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
14. Authorizing Agreement between Lewis County Social Services and Venesky & Company for development of a structural component depreciation model for the Stowe Street Building Renovation for a total cost of \$12,000.00.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
15. Re-Appointing Jennifer Jones, Lewis County Commissioner of Social Services as a member to the Lewis County Opportunities Board of Directors.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
16. Rescinding Resolution 255-2021 and Authorizing Acceptance of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Allocation for Non-Residential DV Services and Agreement between Lewis County Department Of Social Services and Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. as Service Provider under the plan at a cost of \$25,000.00 for a term of October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0

The following motions were made:

1. Legislator Moroughan made a motion to authorize Social Services Commissioner, Jennifer Jones to refill one (1) full-time Senior Account Clerk position effective immediately due to resignation, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.
  
2. Legislator Moroughan made a motion to authorize Social Services Commissioner, Jennifer Jones to refill one (1) full-time Employment & Training Specialist position effective immediately due to resignation, seconded by Legislator Virkler and carried.

Legislator Chartrand reported that the Executive & Finance Committee met for the hospital, and they estimate between a \$1.5 to \$2 million dollar deficit by the end of the year. They have applied for two different grants, USDA and Provider Relief Funding. The hospital does have a healthy fund balance in case they are not awarded the grants.

At 1:50 p.m. Legislator Chartrand made a motion to enter executive session for discussion on a personnel matter, seconded by Legislator Virkler and carried.

At 1:57 p.m., Legislator Virkler made a motion to enter regular session, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

### **HEALing Community Study** – Dr. Harney & Community Services Director, Patricia Fralick

Dr. Harney began by explaining that there was grant issued to Columbia University to study evidence-based interventions in ten counties with the highest per capita overdose rate across New York State. It was a federal grant with Columbia University having the oversight and FDRHPO as the local administrator, along with the Lewis County Health System and several community-based organizations. In 2017 and 2018 Lewis County had one of the highest per capita rates of overdose deaths in the state, this was prior to this study. Lewis County was chosen to implement the inventions in the first wave along with 4 other counties, starting in June of 2021 and going though to June of 2022. The planning/strategizing phase was 12 months prior to June 2021. Once the study phase is over in June 2022 there needs to be a sustainability plan to keep the strategies that worked in place.

The evidence-based strategies are to: use Lewis County information and data to choose interventions that will specifically meet the county's needs; all interventions were implemented by June of 2021; the study provided \$346,925.00 to date to implement evidenced based strategies to meet the identified needs of Lewis County; and these interventions will be funded though June of 2022.

Interventions included: Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (OOPP) at Lewis County Health System; Hiring a case manager at Lewis County Health System to identify patients and follow-up with making sure appointments are maintained; Installation of drug disposal containers in county locations; Installation of Naloxone kits in county locations; Public Service Information; Increase resources for access to medications for Opioid Use Disorders (MOUD); Connecting Lewis County Health System ER patients to on call peers using PeerRX; and safer prescribing education policy development.

Intervention outcomes to date are: Drug Disposal containers are at 6 locations in the county and 540 pills have been destroyed since July 15, 2021; Naloxone emergency kits are in 3 locations and another 7 are waiting to be installed; From 9/9/2021 to 10/4/2021 PeerRx has had 12 referrals from the ER and 7 patients have connect with local peers; Lewis County Health System has hired a case manager nurse who will oversee the OOPP; Lewis County has 3 additional MAT providers and additional patient hours; Lewis County Health System will be finishing the hospital pain management/safer prescribing protocol.

Intervention sustainability plan is to have the HEALing Community Study Implementation team monitor outcomes until June 2022; over the next 8 months the HS local coalition will make recommendations for interventions that showed value and positive results; some services such as peer support and MOUD are billable through Medicaid and private insurance so they should be self-sustainable; use the Annual Opioid Settlement dollars to offset intervention costs, specifically the Case Manager use which is the largest cost.

Legislator Virkler questioned if Narcan kits are available to anyone, Dr. Harney responded that they are available to any user or family member of a user. Joan McNichol questioned if the 540 pills that were destroyed indicates over prescribing of drugs, Dr. Harney responded that he was surprised the number wasn't higher and although overprescribing is an issue there has been considerable progress made. Legislator Moroughan questioned what the process is for those that are incarcerated and use drugs, Pat Fralick responded that when they are discharged from jail they are monitored during their transition period, the hope is that they will eventually leave with a kit.

Legislator Hathway questioned if Dr. Harney was advocating for the Opioid Settlement Funds, Ryan responded that a portion of the funds could be used to sustain these programs but there should be some funds left for schools. Legislator Hathway didn't disagree but pointed out that all of these programs were interventions and not prevention. Pat Fralick responded that there has been lots of federal dollars for treatment but now it is starting to shift towards prevention through schools, with a possible second round of funding.

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

Ashley reported the number of cases has plateaued, around 100 cases per week. There are currently 4 individuals hospitalized, which is lower than previously reported. Lewis County continues to remain a high transmission area. The Pfizer booster dose is available, however the Moderna booster is not yet recommended or available. There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose vaccination available to those that are immunocompromised. Public Health is preparing for when the Pfizer vaccination is available for 5- to 11-year-olds. They continue to keep up with Case Investigations and Quarantining.

Legislator Dolhof questioned if the media is correct in stating that you can mix vaccines, Ashley responded that there has been no formal guidance on that yet. Legislator Chartrand questioned if there would be a need to manufacture more vaccine for booster shots, or do they have plenty available, Ashley responded that it is a smaller dose but not sure how it will look yet. Legislator Hathway questioned why certain areas of the county have higher numbers, Ashley responded that there have been no conclusions drawn on that yet. Legislator Gilbert questioned how school transmission levels look now that kids are wearing masks or socially distancing, Ashley responded that the numbers do show a decline in transmission.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Virkler made a motion to adjourn at 2:35 p.m., seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board