

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
November 15, 2022

Present: Lisa Virkler, Chair; Andrea Moroughan, Vice-Chair; Richard Chartrand; and Jeffrey Nellenback. Jessica Moser was excused.

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Josh Leviker, Phil Hathway, and Ian Gilbert; County Manager, Ryan Piche; County Treasurer, Eric Virkler; County Attorney, Joan McNichol; and Human Resources Director, Caitlyn Smith.

Committee Chair, Legislator Virkler called the meeting to order at 2:28 p.m.

Legislator Virkler moved to accept the minutes from October 18, 2022 as recorded, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

County Manager, Ryan Piche announced that Robert Mackenzie was awarded the Health Hero Award which he absolutely deserved. He was nominated by the LCHS Human Resources Director Jessica Skiff. Ryan showed a few photos of the event.

Community Health Improvement Plan – Ashley Waite, Public Health Director

Ashley Waite began by listing the Lewis County Priorities of adult obesity; childhood obesity; adult cigarette smoking; adult binge drinking; suicide mortality; and falls resulting in hospitalizations. To address obesity the first focus area is Healthy Eating and Food Security which focuses on the following goals: healthy eating and food security; and increase skills and knowledge to support healthy food and beverage choices. The interventions are Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program; Increase utilization of congregate, home-delivered and evening meal programs; and Eat Well, Play Hard.

The Fruit & Vegetable Prescription Program consists of healthcare providers writing prescriptions for fresh fruits and vegetables to patients. The patient can redeem the prescription vouchers with local farm producers and at local farmers markets. The Congregate, Home-Delivered and Evening Meals is experimenting with rebranding, new locations, and new concepts to reverse declining participation and reimagine this critical nutrition program. Eat Well, Play Hard focuses on improving the nutrition and physical activity behaviors of preschool age children and their parents/caregivers by using educational strategies and skill building activities to promote healthy behavior change.

The second focus area for obesity is Physical Activity which focuses on the goal of improving community environments that support active transportation and recreational physical activity for people of all ages and abilities. The interventions are: Complete Streets; Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program; and Increase park-based Physical Activity through Community Engagement. The Complete Streets is an approach to planning, designing, building, operating, and

maintaining streets that enables safe access for all people who use them, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program (CSPAP) is a multi-component approach by which school districts and schools use all opportunities for students to be physically active, meet the nationally recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day, and develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be physically active for a lifetime. Park Based Physical Activity is working with parks and those who maintain them to identify and implement new park programming and outreach interventions.

To address smoking, the focus area is Tobacco Prevention which focuses on the goal of promoting tobacco use cessation. The interventions are use health communication and media to promote the treatment of alcohol dependence, increase awareness of available cessation benefits, and to encourage health care provider involvement with additional assistance from NYS Smokers' Quitline; and Promote Medicaid and other health plan coverage benefits for tobacco dependence counseling and medications. NY Smokers Quit Line is a free, confidential, evidence-based help to quit smoking, vaping, or tobacco for New Yorkers. Promoting Coverage Benefits for Tobacco Dependence Counseling and Medications is increasing awareness of Medicaid benefits for tobacco use cessation among Medicaid enrollees and health care providers.

To address Preventing Chronic Disease, the focus area is Chronic Disease Preventative Care Management which focuses on the following goals: increase early detection of Cardio Vascular Disease, diabetes, prediabetes and obesity; promote evidence-based care to prevent and manage chronic diseases; in the community setting, improve self-management skills for individuals with chronic diseases. The interventions are Promote testing for prediabetes and risk for future diabetes (testing for all other patients beginning at 45 and repeat testing every 3 years); promote referral of patients with prediabetes to DPP; expand access to DSMP, CDSMP, Walk with Ease, and Tai Chi for arthritis; expand access to DPP; and implement healthy together for families who children are overweight or obese.

DSMP, CDSMP, Walk with Ease, Tai Chi for arthritis, and DPP are programs to refer eligible patients through health information technology. Healthy Together is a family-based child (7-13) weight management and healthy living program, including nutrition education, behavior change and empowerment at its core and physical activity options.

To address suicide and binge drinking, the focus area is to promote well-being; and mental and substance use disorders which focus on the following goals: facilitate a supportive environment that promotes respect and dignity for people of all ages; and prevent underage drinking and excessive alcohol consumption in adults. The interventions are Teen Mental Health First Aid and Sources of Strength; and promote routine provider screening and referral to Credo's treatment programs. Teen Mental Health First Aid teaches teens in grades 10-12, or ages 15-18, how to

identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among their friends and peers. Sources of Strength is a best practice youth suicide prevention project designed to harness the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture, ultimately preventing suicide. Screening and referrals to Credo consists of promoting referrals to Credo's treatment programs for those who struggle with alcohol use as well as family members of those who struggle with dangerous alcohol use.

To address suicide, the focus area is mental and substance use disorders which focuses on the goal of preventing suicide. The interventions are Getting Ahead (Bridges); Zero Suicide & Zero Overdose; Lock & Talk; Suicide Hotspot Interventions; Gatekeeper Trainings; and Postvention. Getting Ahead is part of Bridges out of Poverty and is a curriculum that supports people in poverty as they create their own plan for stability. Zero Suicide is a system-wide organizational commitment to safer suicide care, based on the realization that people experiencing suicidal thoughts and urges often fall through the cracks in a sometimes fragmented and distracted health care system. Zero Overdose is dedicated to the expansion of overdose safety planning and preventing unintentional overdose deaths. Lock & Talk is promoting safe and responsible care of lethal means while encouraging community conversations around mental wellness. Suicide Hotspot Interventions is restricting access to means (through installation of physical barriers), encouraging help-seeking (By placement of signs and telephones), increasing the likelihood of intervention by a third party (through surveillance and staff training) and/or encouraging responsible media reporting of suicide (through guidelines of journalists). Gatekeeper Trainings are for QPR, safeTALK, adult and youth mental health first aid, and ASIST. Postvention supporting suicide loss survivors through an active postvention response.

To address falls, the priority is to promote a healthy and safe environment which focuses on injuries, violence and occupational health which has the goals of reducing falls among vulnerable populations. The intervention is to implement "Young at Heart" strength training program. Young at Heart is a fall prevention program that is a direct education intervention designed to increase physical activity and reduce sedentary behavior in older adults 60+ and/or in persons with disabilities. Ashley concluded by stating the plan needs to be submitted by the end of the year.

Honoring the Legacy, Building the Future – Ms. Joanne Rhubart, Lewis County Hospital Foundation

Joanne Rhubart began by stating that the mission on the Lewis County Hospital Foundation is to enrich and enhance the hospital's high quality healthcare services by building strong community relationships and raising funds to invest in the future of our hospital. The foundation is a separate 501c3 charitable not-for-profit organization from the hospital.

The Lewis County Hospital Foundation was established in 2001 as the official fundraising organization for the Lewis County General Hospital, every donation received for the hospital runs through the foundation. The Lewis County Government provided \$100,000.00 in Tobacco Settlement funds as seed money for the Lewis County Hospital Foundation.

The Foundations financial support comes from several different avenues and has benefited the hospital in many ways. In 2014, they were awarded a \$6.5 million debt reduction grant; they were awarded a \$1 million USDA Rural Development Grant to offset losses during the pandemic; in January 2022 they submitted a \$9 million grant to the NYS Department of Health to support the capital project, however to date the grant has not been awarded; they were provided \$150,000.00 to support the purchase of the automated breast ultrasound machine for the radiology department; funded a \$65,000.00 rapid testing machine at the start of the pandemic; purchased \$40,000.00 of safe patient handling equipment; purchased \$40,000.00 in new furniture for the nursing home elevator lobbies; provided \$20,000.00 for the stroke readiness program; and provided \$18,000.00 in funds for the creation of the helicopter landing zone.

The Capital Project Budget is approximately \$32,346,000.00 which breaks down in to \$31,946,000 for the surgical pavilion construction and East wing renovation; \$250,000 in an endowment; and \$150,000 in funding raising costs (capital campaign advisor, materials, and signs). The Sources of funding are through financing of \$29,946,000 and capital campaign of \$2,400,000. The Capital Campaign timeline is broken down into sections which are Pre-Campaign Planning (3-12 months); Feasibility Study (2+ months); Campaign Planning (2+ months); Quiet Phase (6-24 months); Kick-Off (until 65%+ of goal raised); Public Phase (3+ months); Post Campaign (3-6 months). Currently the campaign is in the Quiet Phase.

The capital campaign funds that are currently secured are \$202,695 from the Hospital Foundation; \$175,000 commitment from the Northern New York Community Foundation; \$150,000 commitment from the McSweeney Foundation; \$100,000 as a private gift; \$158,550 in additional capital campaign funding to date; and there are \$400,000 in capital campaign requests currently in the process. The Lewis County Hospital Foundation is requesting the Lewis County Government consider a gift of \$400,000 to support the “Honoring the Legacy, Building the Future” capital campaign. The funds would be split with \$250,000 to support the Endowment Fund and \$150,000 to support the capital campaign fundraising costs. Discussion followed with no decision being made and then Joanne concluded with stating how much the support would be appreciated.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Authorizing agreement between Lewis County Office For the Aging and Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. to serve as administrator of the Aging in Place Home Modification Program allocation from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

AYE 4 NAY 0

2. Authorizing agreement between Office For the Aging and Mary Lou Plante, Registered Dietician, to provide oversight for the Nutrition Program at an hourly rate of \$50.00 up to sixteen (16) hours a week from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

AYE 4 NAY 0

3. Authorizing renewal agreements between Lewis County Public Health Agency and various providers for program services.

AYE 4 NAY 0

4. Authorizing renewal agreement between both the Lewis County Public Health Department and Lewis County Department of Social Services with Lewis County General Hospital for Medical Director services from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$12,000 per year.

AYE 4 NAY 0

5. Authorizing agreement between the County of Lewis o/b/o Lewis County Human Resources and Social Services Department and Lee Vance, PSY.D. for employee assistance professional services from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 at an hourly rate of \$175.00, up to the not to exceed amount of \$10,000.00 per Department.

AYE 4 NAY 0

6. Authorizing agreements between Lewis County Department of Social Services and the County Law Department for legal services and representation in Family Court matters, child support enforcement proceedings, and purchase of services for collection and recovery matters for the term of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$174,127.00 for legal representation on neglect, abuse, foster care, J.D's and related Family Court matters; \$77,954.00 for child support enforcement legal representation services; and \$36,588.00 for the purchase of services for collection and recoveries.

AYE 4 NAY 0

7. Authorizing renewal agreements between Lewis County Department of Social Services and various providers for program and operating services from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

AYE 4 NAY 0

8. Awarding bid and authorizing agreement with GYMO Architecture., Engineering & Land Surveying, DPC for temporary and permanent housing feasibility and budget estimates on three potential sites.

AYE 4 NAY 0

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Moroughan moved to adjourn at 3:08 p.m., seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board