

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**October 18, 2022**

Present: Lisa Virkler, Chair; Andrea Moroughan, Vice-Chair; Richard Chartrand; and Jeffrey Nellenback. Jessica Moser entered at 1:40 p.m.

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 1:22 p.m.

Legislator Virkler moved to accept the minutes from September 20, 2022 as recorded, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

**Public Health Assessment – Ashley Waite, Public Health Director**

Ashley Waite explained that a Community Health Assessment is to identify key health issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis; assess a community's current health status, needs, and issues; analyze health outcomes, health behaviors, gaps in services and health equity; and is required of the local health department every 3 years. The data and information gathered with the assessment is used to help form the Community Health Improvement Plan, form other public health activities under article 6 state aid funding, and grant applications. Many other community-based organizations utilize the data in their own planning of initiatives or activities.

The data that is received comes from NYS Prevention Agenda, made up of vital records, medical records, insurance claim records, surveys, and US Census Bureau, Community Health Survey conducted by the JCC Center for Community Studies each year, and the Lewis County Health Improvement survey which is new this year. The NYS Prevention Agenda helps form the New York State Health Assessment and Improvement Plan, which started in 2008. The 5 priority areas that are outlined are preventing chronic disease; promoting well being and preventing mental and substance use disorders; promoting health and safe environments; promoting healthy women, infants, and children; and preventing communicable disease.

Due to the past two years of the pandemic, some of these initiatives were not focused on as much as they normally could have been. In the last 3 years, the focus has been on adult obesity, childhood obesity, and suicides. The percentages that are used are per 100,000 of population. Currently, Lewis County has a 38% rate of adult obesity, and if you just look at the population with an annual household income less than \$25,000 the rate jumps to 55%, which is higher than the statewide average of 34%. If you include adults who are overweight in to the mix then the rate jumps to 69%, which is higher than the statewide average of 62%. The prevention agenda goal is 24%, which Lewis County is much higher than.

Lewis County has a 23% rate of childhood obesity, and if you add in children who are overweight the rate jumps to 69%, which is higher than the statewide average of 62%. Lewis County is far worse than the goal of 24%. County Manager, Ryan Piche pointed out that in the past Lewis County has had the highest obesity rate in New York State. Ashley Waite stated that Lewis County currently has the highest suicide rate in the state. Legislator Dolhof pointed out that the rate is based on per 100,000 of population, which can skew the big picture. Lewis County has a 22% rate of suicides which is much worse than the prevention agenda goal of 9.9 per 100,000 population. In 2019, there were 7, in 2020, there were 4, and in 2021, there were 3.

Looking ahead at the next three years, the Lewis County Priorities Council, who helps analyze data and form additional priorities, focused on binge drinking, smoking, and falls resulting in hospitalizations. Lewis County has a rate of 31% for binge drinking, which was taken before the pandemic and the thought is that number is probably much higher now. The prevention agenda goal for Lewis County is 16%. Lewis County has a rate of 18% for smoking, and if you look at just adults with annual household income less than \$25,000 it jumps to 27%. The prevention agenda goal is only 11%.

Lewis County has an average of 194 falls per year that require hospitalization. This data has been reflective of what community-based organizations serving our aging population are seeing in the community. The prevention agenda goal should be 174 per 10,000 of population over 65 years of age. The next steps are to look back at the last 3 years of interventions and assess the effectiveness, research new evidence-based interventions, and continue to work with community partners to establish the interventions, timelines, and goals for the next 3 years.

Legislator Moroughan ask Ashley Waite if she could give some data on the vaccination clinic that was held on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Lowville Fire Hall. Ashley reported that there were over 500 vaccines, both flu and/or covid booster, given. They ran out of covid boosters and have ordered more with plans to hold another clinic when more vaccines are received. She hopes to be able to also travel to the northern and southern parts of the county to hold additional clinics there. There was discussion on alternate locations.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Authorizing renewal agreements between Lewis County Community Services and Coordinated Care Services, Inc., Rubenzhal, Knudsen & Associates, and Mental Health Association in Jefferson County for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for continued program services.  
AYE   5              NAY   0
2. Amending Compensation Plan with reference to Lewis County General Hospital to create one (1) part-time Clinical Laboratory Technician position, salary \$26.46 to \$33.81/hour.

AYE   5              NAY   0  

3. Re-appointing Ms. Karen Rennie as a member of the Lewis County General Hospital Board of Managers effective November 2, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

AYE   5              NAY   0  

4. Authorizing renewal agreements between Office For the Aging and McManus Hotel and Osceola Outpost, LLC for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 to provide senior meals for the Nutrition Program and to continue the Evening Meal program at Maple Ridge Center facility.

AYE   5              NAY   0  

5. Authorizing amendment to existing agreement with Adirondack Central School District and Lewis County Public Health Agency for child transport services at a rate of \$482.00 per day.

AYE   5              NAY   0  

6. Approving the 2022 Resource Allocation Plan with NYS Office of Children and Family Services in the amount of \$29,376.00 for comprehensive planning for youth services.

AYE   5              NAY   0  

7. Supporting Operation Green Light in recognition of active military service members and those in transition to civilian life and declaring the week of November 6, 2022 through November 12, 2022 as a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform.

AYE   5              NAY   0  

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Virkler moved to adjourn at 1:47 p.m., seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board