

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Hubbard Auditorium, Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 8:30 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standing	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
Ms. Loretta Sullivan	Legislator
Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services - MH
Mr. Shawn Yetter	Commissioner of Social Services
Mr. Gary Grant	Deputy Commissioner of Social Services
Ms. Lisa McCafferty	Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services – PH
Guest: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Chair of the Legislature

MENTAL HYGIENE

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the May 4, 2021 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Sullivan. Seconded by Legislator Mullen. Motion Carried.

1. Budget Status
 - Mr. Chris Korba noted the 2021 budget is tracking well with one unexpected expense – Court Ordered Criminal Psychiatric services. The patient started treatment on 12/31/2020. There is a resolution to transfer funds from vacancy savings to pay the February invoice for this patient. Legislator Mullen discussed setting up a reserve account for these services at a Legislative Worksession. Committee Chair Standinger requested that Mr. Korba check with Budget Officer to see what he would suggest.
2. Personnel
 - Mike Cooke, LCSW-R moved to Waverly site 5/10/2021.
 - Christine Robinson, Accounting Associate II started 5/10/2021.
 - Michelle Walter, LMSW, started 5/10/2021.
 - Jessica Krohn, LMSW, started 5/24/2021.
 - Georg-Karen Hawks, Office Specialist II, started 5/24/2021.
3. Critical Issues/Topics
 - 730 Criminal Psych (discussed above).
4. Resolutions
 - Authorize Creation of a Full Time Clinical Social Worker Position. OA schools will pay \$32,000 annually for this position.
 - Transfer of Funds – Budget Modification. (Criminal Psychiatric services).
5. Proclamations
 - None.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Commissioner Yetter discussed caseloads, programmatic highlights, and personnel changes.

1. Budget

- Mr. Gary Grant shared that budget is tracking well in all program areas. He received a letter that the Weekly MA Shares will be increasing but he already budgeted for that.

2. Caseloads

- During May, Cash Assistance caseloads increased 7 cases, with Family Assistance increasing 2 cases and Safety Net increasing 5 cases. Cases are down 8% for the year.
- MA-Only increased 26 cases.
- MA-SSI increased 3 cases.
- Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 38 cases to 3,747.
- SNAP cases increased 72 cases.
- Day Care decreased 2 cases.
- Services decreased 4 cases.
- See Caseload Summary.

3. Programmatic Highlights

- Tioga Career Center Report – Unemployment rates in Tioga County remain lower than the state and national average. Two Workforce Board members were renewed for an additional three years. There is a resolution to amend the TCC budget to include \$20,000 from Broome County.

4. Personnel Changes

- Christine Robinson, Accounting Associate I, last day 5/7/2021.
- Kelsey Chandler, Office Specialist I, hired effective 5/10/2021.
- Laurette Potter, Social Welfare Examiner, hired effective 5/10/2021.
- Susan Wharton, PT Community Services Worker, hired effective 5/10/2021.
- Todd Russell, Caseworker, hired effective 5/10/2021.
- Katelyn Baker, Accounting Associate II, last day 5/28/2021.
- Still have several vacancies – Recruitment is difficult.

5. Resolutions

- Authorize Appointment of Director of Employment & Transitional Support.
- Amend Tioga Career Center Budget. Money will be used to purchase chairs and OTJ training.
- Appropriation of Funds. Enhanced funding for Non-Residential DV services through ANHC.
- Transfer of Funds. Northwoods Traverse software upgrade.

6. Proclamations

- None.

Legislative Chair Sauerbrey asked about the response from TC landlords on the rental assistance program. Commissioner Yetter receives a daily report of how many people in TC have applied. The applications are processed at the State level. He noted that through 6/7, there were only 34 rent arrears applications and 10 utility arrears applications. DSS has been communicating with the courts.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Lisa McCafferty presented highlights and resolutions.

1. Personnel
 - Maggie McGoff, Full-Time Provisional Public Health Educator, effective May 22, 2021.
2. Program Comments
 - Agency Report for May 2021 was forwarded to the Committee. Also included is the Healthy Neighborhood Annual Report for 2020-2021.
 - Provided update on COVID-19 activities and status, including vaccine distribution. Mask guidance for schools & camps is changing daily. Public Health received a letter saying that they will receive \$1.4 million dollars to work with schools for testing in schools in the fall. They have reached out to the local schools and they are saying no at this point; unknown what NYS will enact for guidance for the coming school year.
3. Budget
 - Agency Financials for May 2021 were forwarded to the Committee. Mr. McCann noted that the budget is tracking well, without any surprises. Additional funding streams are coming in. Mr. McCann has been working with Gary Hammond on vehicle purchasing plan for 2021 & 2022. May be able to use some of the additional funds to purchase additional vehicle with higher than typical 35% reimbursement in 2021 to improve fleet.
4. Resolutions
 - None.
5. Proclamations
 - Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

ADJOURNED:

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:18 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services