

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, October 7, 2024 at 8:30 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
Mr. Jake Brown	Legislator
Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services (MH)
Mr. Shawn Yetter	Commissioner of Social Services
Ms. Mickelle Andrews	Director of Administrative Services (DSS)
Ms. Heather Vroman	Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services (PH)

Guests:	Mr. Jackson Bailey	County Administrator
	Ms. Elizabeth Myers	Deputy Commissioner (DSS)
	Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney
	Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial
 - Mr. Chris Korba noted that the 2024 budget is tracking well with nine months of expenses and eight months of revenue. Savings in salary & fringe due to vacancies is offsetting state take backs from previous years.
2. Old Business
 - Criminal Psych – Ms. Lori Morgan shared there are no new criminal psych bills.
3. New Business
 - Waverly location – Pretty much complete. There is an air handler problem that Gary Hammond is working on with the contractors. This issue may delay the opening in November. The final invoices won't come in until the project is complete.
 - Quarterly Remote Work Usage Report - Ms. Morgan shared there were 7 people working remote in July & August and 5 people in September.
 - Quarterly Strategic Plan Report – Ms. Morgan summarized that the plan to expand crisis services is in progress. As far as increasing digitizing of electronic forms, almost everything is done except for some releases. MH has been conducting agency surveys and implementing suggestions. The electronic resource guide was completed about a month ago. The Legislators expressed that they did not feel the need to go over monthly or quarterly updates of the HHS department's strategic plans.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the September 3, 2024 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Monell. Seconded by Legislator Brown. Motion Carried.

4. Personnel

- Diane Obregon, PT Accounting Clerk, resigned, effective 9/26/24
- Jeffrey Caris, School Support Program at Spencer school, resigning effective 10/10/24
- Christa Anderson, Accounting Associate I, resigning effective 10/18/24
- Jessica Murphy, Sr. CSW, Waverly site starting 10/7/24
- Jamison Colegrove, CSW, Owego site starting 11/4/24

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

- Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds (Mobile Crisis)
- Transfer of Funds 2024 Budget Modification (IT equipment for Waverly office)
- Authorize Contract with AspireHopeNY to Administer Parent Support Services
- Authorize Contract with Trinity to Administer Prevention & Jail Services
- Authorize Contract with Catholic Charities to Administer Ongoing Integrated Supported Employment Services
- Authorize Contract with RSS to Administer Psychosocial Club, Health Home Non-Medicaid Care Management, Health Home Service Dollars & Administration, Supported Housing Rental Assistance & Community Services, Warm Line & Drop-In Center
- Authorize Contract with Tomkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES to Administer Prevention Services
- Authorize Contract with Fairview Recovery Services for Contracting for Mental Hygiene Contracted Staffing

6. Proclamations

- None

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial

- Mr. Denis McCann reported that the 2024 budget is tracking well. The Munis report shows PH is at 72% including pre-school. However, there are both significant expenses and revenues that have not been received through September, including 3rd quarter state aid or grants. September was a large revenue month, with almost \$1 million in revenue received. El Escrow account is under budget by almost 40%. Mr. McCann noted they are keeping a close eye on Pre-school and are hoping they will not need any additional funds this year.

2. Old Business

- None

3. New Business

- Local Laws Introductory B – Revised Environmental Health Fee Schedule

- Agency Report for September 2024 forwarded to committee. Ms. Vroman thanked the Legislature & all departments for their support with the Tioga Castings property. Legislator Standinger thanked Ms. Vroman for her leadership of that situation.
 - Dental Van is booked solid. They are not accepting new appointments right now. They are recruiting to hire a part-time dentist.
 - Employee Wellness Day is coming 10/23. Open invitation for all Legislators.
 - Remote Update – There are 23 staff approved to work remote. Not all those 23 are participating weekly. Ms. Vroman expressed her appreciation for the program and feels it is going well.
 - Working with NYSDOH, PH was able to close the cases of 9 children with elevated blood lead levels.
4. Personnel
- Alexander Knapp, Public Health Technician, hired effective 9/23/24
5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
- Schedule Public Health Local Law Introductory B of 2024 for the Establishment of Revised Environmental Health Fee Schedule
 - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds (ASAP)
6. Proclamations
- Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (repeat)

Strategic Plan Update

- Accepting on-line payments for dental & Environmental Health starting next week
- Assessment with stakeholders
- Helping Homes – grant application to the Hooker Foundation for lead & cleaning products
- Worker satisfaction & training needs surveys have been on-going

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial
- Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that Foster Care and overtime are running over budget. Day Care and Safety Net lines are on target.
2. Old Business
- Remote Work Quarterly Report – included in packet. 17 staff members have been approved. Not all units are able to participate due to staffing shortages. It has been going well and Commissioner Yetter expressed his appreciation for the incentive to stabilize staffing.

- Strategic Plan Quarterly Update – Out of the 6 objectives, some have been completed or are in progress. On-hold is the needs assessment for mandated trainings. There is a workgroup with ED& P for affordable housing (long term).

Legislator Standing asked about the homeless housing situation at the Foundry property. Commissioner Yetter reported that surprisingly 3 individuals agreed to temporary housing. DSS is continuing to work with the remainder. SOS (OMH funded group) were helpful with working with individuals and families. There were no kids there on the day of the Public Health order.

3. New Business

- Caseloads
During September, Cash Assistance decreased 12 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 1 case and Safety Net decreasing 11 cases.
MA-Only increased 30 cases.
MA-SSI decreased 2 cases.
Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 23 to 3,366
SNAP increased 40 cases.
Day Care increased 5 cases
See Caseload Summary
Kids in Foster Care is the highest it's been in decades at 51. Most are due to substance abuse.
- Tioga Career Center report is attached. Unemployment continues to remain below the State & Federal levels.

4. Personnel Changes

- Kathryn Willett, PT Mail Clerk, hired effective 9/9/24
- Lorine Heveland transferred from AA II to OS II effective 9/9/24
- Nancy Hurley, PT Community Services Worker, hired effective 9/9/24
- Alyssa Kinney resigned as PT Caseworker effective 9/20/24
- Kim Heyman transferred from Employment Specialist to Social Services Investigator effective 9/23/24
- Caitlin Scanlon, AA II, hired effective 9/23/24
- Cherie Miller, Social Welfare Examiner, hired effective 9/23/24
- Christine Robinson, Social Welfare Examiner, hired effective 9/23/24
- Jason Stevens, Support Investigator, removed effective 9/25/24
- Melissa Barrett, PT Mail Clerk, retired effective 9/27/24

5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

- Create and Fill Two Full-Time Social Services Employment Specialist Positions and Amend Budget and Appropriate Funds
- Authorize Grant Application (pursue funding opportunities for the CAC office)

6. Proclamations

- None

Ms. Liz Myers gave an update regarding the CAC office. They are in the process of moving from one space to the space next door doubling in size. IT is moving all the computer/phone lines today. They will have the ability to perform medical exams on site. Ms. Myers thanked Ms. Morgan for carving out some interview space in the new Mental Hygiene office in Waverly.

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:07 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services