

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 4, 2021

Committee members present: Leslie Church, Ed Bronson, Terry Button, Carlie Chilson, Dick Harper, Bonnie Percy

Others present: Bill Holgate, Jim Multer, Rick Willson, Connie Hayes, Nonie Flynn, Tim Cutler, Pat Killen, Earle Gleason, Dan Banach, Doug Paddock, Amy Miller, Deb Minor, Phil Rouin, Zack Housworth, Steve Hampsey, Dianne Lovejoy, George Roets by Zoom.

Leslie and Ed will do the audit this month

Minutes of the December meeting were approved as presented.

SOCIAL SERVICES: Amy Miller

Amy reviewed the following resolutions that would be needed. The Committee approved.

- Authorize contract for fraud investigation services
- Authorize contracts with America Homecare, G.A.T.E. Counseling Services, Keuka Housing Council, Keuka Counseling-A Healing Journey
- Authorize contract with Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes for co-located mental health services
- Authorize MOU with Local Workforce Investment Board
- Appointment to the FL WIB, Colin O'Malley through 6/30/22
- Authorize Commissioner of Social Services to Fill Vacancy (Caseworker)

Amy reported she did lose a caseworker during their probation period. Amy reviewed a position review form to a caseworker. The Committee approved.

Amy reported she has received guidance from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance regarding public assistance applicants/recipients. Districts must continue to refrain from assigning mandatory in-person work activities. Districts should continue to utilize work activity assignments that do not require in-person contact such as distance learning and on-line workshops that may be conducted safely from the individual's home. Districts are encouraged to engage with community partners to identify virtual services offered locally. Mandatory assignments to virtual work activities may be made when the district has determined that based on the individual's employment assessment, the virtual activity is an appropriate assignment and the individual has access to the resources needed to engage in the virtual activity such as a computer and internet access from home, as well as computer literacy skills.

Amy reported the Governor did extend eviction protections under the Tenant Safe Harbor Act.

Amy reported the Federal Government has extended federal unemployment benefits available under the CARES Act for an additional 11 weeks. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefits will be available until March 14, 2021.

Amy reported the unemployment rates for November 2020 were 4.1% up from 2019 which were 3.4%. Amy explained there are 472 individuals on unemployment.

Amy reviewed her goals.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Deb Minor

Deb reported Influenza has been categorized as regional for the week of December 19th. The incidence of flu is currently highest in the Capital region, but all regions are starting to see an increase.

Deb updated the Committee on COVID-19. As of this date there are currently 11 deaths, there are over 600 positive test results, well over 20,000 negative results. We currently have more than 100 active cases that we are monitoring each day. There are over 300 individuals that are in quarantine. Deb explained that with numbers like this it is occupying an enormous amount of time. Many of the staff worked long hours over the weekend. Deb reported that over the weekend there were 54 new positive cases. Our 7 day positivity rate is 9.5%, there are 930 individual hospitalized in the Finger Lakes Region. We are exceeding all of the other regions. Our positivity rate for the Region is 10.22% and our hospital capacity is at 30.78%.

Deb explained that Public Health is working with Finger Lakes Community Health to offer additional testing and Public Health will also be hold some testing events. Finger Lakes is continuing to hold testing events this week and next week. Deb is unsure if they will be able to continue after that. Public Health has a testing event tomorrow and then they will reassess if they will be holding any additional events as focus shifts to disbursing the vaccine.

Deb reviewed the following resolutions that would be needed. The Committee approved.

- RESOLUTION: Authorize agreement with Rhonda Relyea, Speech Language Pathologist

Deb reviewed her goals.

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

George reviewed resolutions that would be needed. The Committee approved.

- Resolutions appointing members to various committees

George reported there were 3 reports for the SAFE Act and none were reported to DCJS.

George reported on program updates for the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yates, Yates INSYGHT, Outpatient Mental Health Services, Crisis Intervention Training, Columbia University HEALing Communities Study, Monroe County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Task Force, and Yates County Crisis Services Plan.

George's goals were reviewed.

VETERANS: Philip Rouin

Phil reported the installation of the remotely activated power door operators is complete.

Phil reported a Keuka College social work student will start on February 1st.

Phil reported on the trainings that have been completed.

Phil reported there were 299 services provided in December and there were 11 veterans transported to medical appointments.

Phil reported on upcoming Veteran related Training, Meetings, and Community Events

Phil reviewed the claims settled.

Phil reviewed his goals.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: Zachary Housworth

Zach reported on December 10th 204 families participated in the drive through pantry at the Produce Auction. Bulk pickups for an additional 20 Mennonite families, 10 Head Start Families and 11 Children and Family Services Families. Zach reported there will be a drive through food distribution on January 21st, and February 18th from 11 to 12:30 at the Town of Starkey Highway Department.

Zach reported that the 20% cut in state funding for 2020 has been restored. However, he does expect there will be a 20% cut in 2021 and has begun working on a place to cover the 20% cut if it should happen.

Zach reported ProAction's kitchen has been reopened. Approximately 50% of the staff has been cleared to return to work the rest will return by January 11th. The entire kitchen was professionally sanitized on Christmas Eve. Staff is also sanitizing again when they are putting everything back. Items for emergency meals have been ordered.

ASSIGNED COUNSEL: Dianne Lovejoy

Dianne reviewed her statistical report which showed a total of 422 active cases.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Steve Hampsey

Steve reviewed his statistical report which showed total active cases were 350.

Steve updated the Committee on the status of grants.

Steve reviewed his goals.

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.