

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 1, 2021

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

Others present: Doug Paddock, Jim Multer, Connie Hayes, Nonie Flynn, Tim Cutler, Earle Gleason, Dan Banach, Amy Miller, Phil Rouin, Zach Housworth, Annmarie Flanagan, George Roets.

Leslie and Terry will do the audit this month.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Annmarie Flanagan

Annmarie reported that as of today there have been 1,090 total positive cases, there were 3 new cases over the weekend. There have been 1,059 individuals that have recovered. There is still 1 in the hospital and there have been 25 deaths to date and there are 50 in quarantine. To date Public Health has given 1,000 first dose injections and 600 second dose injections. There were 67 positive COVID test in February.

Annmarie reviewed the following resolutions that will be needed. The Committee approved.

- RESOLUTION: Amendment to Agreement with HRI
- RESOLUTION: Agreement with NACCHO
- RESOLUTION: Agreement with Danielle Martin, Physical Therapist

Rabies Program - There were 124 animal bite reports during 2020. So far the state has not put financial support into this mandated service for the NYS Budget for this fiscal year 2021.

Communicable Disease – The annual Communicable Disease Snapshot will be going out to the health care providers in the county.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES:**

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

- RESOLUTION: Contract with Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes
- RESOLUTION: Contract with the Living Well, Inc.
- RESOLUTION: Contract with Our Town Rocks
- RESOLUTION: Appointment to CSB and Mental Health Subcommittee (Roberts)
- RESOLUTION: Appointment to CSB (Forshay)

George reported there were 2 reports received & investigated for the SAFE ACT and 1 reported to DCJS.

George updated the Committee on the activities of the Suicide Prevention Coalition, Yates INSYGHT, Outpatient Mental Health Services, Crisis Intervention Training, Columbia University HEALing Communities Study, Yates County Crisis Services Plan, and the Local Behavioral Health Emergency/Crisis Services Improvement Plan.

### **VETERANS:** Philip Rouin

Phil reported a new administrative clerk that is being supplied by Associates for Training & Development (A4TD) has started today. This is fully funded by A4TD and will be helping scan archived records in the County's Laserfiche database system.

Phil reported there were 252 contacts for services in the month of February and 22 Veterans were transported to medical appointments.

Phil reviewed the upcoming Veteran related training, meetings, and Community Events.

Phil reviewed the monthly claims.

**OFFICE FOR THE AGING:** Zachary Housworth

Zach reviewed the following resolution that would be needed. The Committee approved.

- Authorization To Sign Annual Update And 4-Year Plan Review And Approval For The Yates County Area Agency On Aging

Zach reported OFA partnered with Yates County Public Health and County IT to get a dedicated phone line set up for seniors 65+ with comorbidities, that didn't have access to a PC or internet to register for a vaccine on their own. After screening, seniors will be added to a waitlist that will then be used to register them for the vaccine through CVS. As of 2/25 Candice registered 41 seniors with CVS and 109 remain on the waitlist. The number to call for assistance is 315-531-3219.

Zach reported the next food distribution will be March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Town of Starkey Highway Department. Signups were made available on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Zach reported OFA was awarded the 5310 grant. This will allow OFA to purchase a second wheelchair accessible van and will eliminate the need for 1 of the aging vans and the second bus.

**SOCIAL SERVICES:** Amy Miller

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

- Recognize Laura Bagley as a Distinguished Youth
- Authorize lifeguard funding
- Amend Resolution 237-20
- Authorize Social Welfare Examiner, will be put on the legislative agenda but depends on additional information that Amy will provide prior to Monday's meeting.

Amy requested an additional Social Welfare Examiner position. Amy explained this position would replace a current HEAP position that is contracted through ProAction. The frequent turnover means that Amy rarely gets over the steep learning curve for the person in that position and is unable to process cases as quickly as is necessary. By adding the position, DSS would use the Federal funding to pay for the county position. Amy was asked to check with ProAction and see if they will increase the salary and send out an email to the Committee and Legislators as to their response.

Amy reviewed the Adult Protective Services Program, what the program is, and examples of situations to refer to Adult Protective Services.

Amy reported according to the U.S. Census Bureau, NYS ranks seventh among the states for adults experiencing food scarcity which translates into roughly 1.7 million New York Adults. The Comptrollers report also indicates that over 2.7 million New Yorkers received SNAP benefits in December which is up by 7.1% from February 2020.

Amy reported all counties received funding for the Emergency Solutions Grant through OTDA. The funding is designed to assist with housing issues that would include eviction prevention, rent

arrears, etc. At this point DSS has had very little use of the funding, because of the moratorium on evictions. DSS is reaching out to landlords to let them know about this funding and suggesting that they encourage their renters to apply for grant funding now, so perhaps this will avoid evictions later and keep money flowing to landlords. The funding is available only to individuals and families who are not eligible for DSS services, and payment is made directly to the landlords.

Amy reported unemployment fraud has become an issue that has been reported statewide. The Governor announced the launch of a new identity verification tool, ID.me, to fight unemployment benefit fraud and help New Yorkers with bona fide claims verify their identities and receive benefits faster. The Department of Labor has identified over 500,000 fraudulent claims and stopped over \$6.4 billion in payments to criminals since the start of the pandemic and distributed over \$70 billion in legitimate unemployment benefits to 4.2 million New Yorkers since March 2020.

Amy reported the 2020 Resource Allocation Plan was approved on 2/23/21. Vouchers have been submitted to the Treasurer's office and the process of submitting to OCFS for reimbursement will begin.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:** Nonie Flynn

Nonie reviewed the following resolution that would be needed for the Public Defender. The Committee approved.

- Resolution – Authorize Chairman to Execute Distribution #11 Non-Competitive Grant and Any Contract Extensions Relating to Distribution #11 Non-Competitive Grant

Nonie reported the Public Defender will submit his statistical report quarterly along with the grant updates.

Ed moved to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual or individuals with Committee members, Legislators and County Administrator present.

Seconded by Terry.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.