

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

May 3, 2021

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

Others present: Jim Multer, Connie Hayes, Nonie Flynn, Tim Cutler, Earle Gleason, Amy Miller, Annmarie Flannigan, Zack Housworth, Phil Rouin, Doug Paddock, Steve Hampsey.

Leslie and Ed will do the audit this month

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as presented.

Phil Rouin recognized Sydney Lyon who interned in the Veterans Office.

SOCIAL SERVICES: Amy Miller

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

- Recognize Yates County Distinguished Youth Award Recipient
- Authorize Contract with ProAction of Steuben and Yates Counties, Inc.
- Authorize Chairman to Sign Child and Family Services Plan
- Reappoint Elizabeth Cromheecke to the Yates County Youth Board

Amy reviewed the Emergency Rental Assistance Program that the Federal Government authorized. Amy explained Yates County has been given \$120,000 for outreach efforts to find individuals/landlords that have rent arrears. This funding is not to pay rent arrears. Amy is working with various agencies to help determine the individuals/landlords. The agencies will provide outreach and access for renters and landlords to apply directly for funding through an online portal. The initial money from the payments will be pooled for non-NYC counties.

Amy reported a judgement for a class action lawsuit under Stewart v. Roberts determined that Temporary Assistance cases were incorrectly denied based on the use of vehicles as resources. The judgement certified a class, set a procedure to identify class members, and ordered retroactive relief to class members. In order to comply the Office of Temporary Disability Assistance will send a notice to all adults and heads of household who were denied or discontinued Temporary Assistance due to excess resources during the above time frame. Recipients are entitled to an interview by the district to determine if they are class members.

Amy explained that some individuals who were determined ineligible due to ownership of a vehicle with a Fair Market Value over a specified level, may now be eligible for retroactive relief.

Amy reported that Remedy Staffing will be holding a drive through job fair in the parking lot of the County Office Building on May 22nd.

Amy reported staff are working on the summer youth employment program and recruiting both worksites and program participants in anticipation of receiving our full allotment on time this program year.

Amy reported she continues to work with FLCC on establishment of a remote learning lab in the Workforce Development suite. This would allow residents to participate in classes remotely.

Amy reported she has been informed by the Workforce Investment Board that all 4 counties are to reduce their 20-21 Youth proposed budget allocation by 20%. A decrease will impact services for

clients including youth wages and incentives.

Amy reported the annual Youth Bureau reports have been returned and are being sent to NYS. All programs that have previously receive YDP funding has received information on contract renewals. Proposals are due back by May 14th.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Annmarie Flanagan

Annmarie reported there have been 3 cases of E Coli, all identified from the Penn Yan Central School District. The 3 cases have been resolved and there have been no new cases.

Annmarie reported there have been 3 new cases of COVID since the last report on Friday. There are 2 in the hospital and 139 in quarantine. There have been 3,385 individuals that have received the 1st dose of vaccine, 2,414 have received the 2nd dose and 8,361 individuals are completely vaccinated. Yates County currently is at 39.7% of being fully vaccinated.

Annmarie explained she has been utilizing a large group of MRC volunteers for assistance in the vaccination clinics. Annmarie will be working on some form of recognition for later this summer.

Annmarie reviewed efforts that are being done to promote getting the COVID Vaccine.

Annmarie reported on the need to have an LED sign that would be used to inform the community of various events and information that would be useful to the community. The consensus of the Committee was to have Annmarie work with Joe Reed and come up with a cost, a rendering and a policy for next month.

Annmarie reported she will be interviewing for the part-time position Account Clerk Typist soon.

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

- Sign Agreements with ARC of Yates DBA Keuka Lake School
- Sign Agreements with Finger Lakes UCP DBA Happiness House
- Sign Agreement with Anthony Cerneskie, Speech Language Pathologist
- Sign Agreement with Christine Toner, Speech Language Pathologist

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

George submitted a written report that asked for the approval of the following resolution. The Committee approved.

- Mental Health Month 2021

George reported there were 4 reports for the SAFE ACT and 1 was reported to DCJS.

George updated the Committee on the Yates Suicide prevention Coalition, Youth INSYGHT, Crisis Intervention Training, Columbia University HEALING Communities Study, Yates County Crisis Services Plan, Transitional Care Management/Adult Single Point of Accountability and the Children's Single Point of Entry (C-SPOA)

VETERANS: Philip Rouin

Phil reported on projects and various trainings that the department has undertaken.

Phil reported on his statistics which showed 439 services were provided and 23 veterans were transported to medical appointments.

Phil reviewed upcoming Veterans events.

Phil reviewed the claims settled.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: Zachary Housworth

Zack reported local providers continue to have no additional aide hours to provide to the seniors on the ESDEP/Home Care wait list. There are currently 13 individuals on the PCI list and 4 on the PCII list. Zack explained that NYSOFA and Aging NY continues to advocate for higher wages for aides in NY but the State funding is not increasing.

Zack reported there were 163 families that participated in the April 15th food distribution at the Town of Starkey Highway Department. The next distribution will be on May 20th at the Town of Starkey Highway Department. Signups were made available on April 26th.

Zack reported over the past 12 months he has seen an uptick in the number of customers that can't afford all or part of the monthly cost of their Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) units. Office for the Aging has a donation program that covers these costs for individuals that can't afford this service on their own. However, donations to this fund in 2020 were less than 10% of what was needed to be covered.

Zack explained he has submitted for 2 grants to assist with funds for seniors with economic hardships and a 3rd grant will be submitted in June.

Zack reported the Region 7 Caucus meeting was held in March with NYSOFA Director Greg Olsen and Aging NY Director Becky Preve attended. Zack explained that OFA should be receiving an additional \$70,000 in program funding and another \$15,000 from NYS Unmet needs program.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Steve Hampsey

Steve reviewed his statistics which showed there are 345 active cases at the end of April.

Steve updated the Committee on where various grants stand.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.