

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**MAY 4, 2020**

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

Others present: Earle Gleason, Amy Miller, Bill Holgate, Connie Hayes, Tim Groth, Dan Banach, Deb Miller, Steve Hampsey, Diane Lovejoy, Doug Paddock, Zach Housworth, Tim Cutler, Rick Willson, Phil Rouin, Nonie Flynn, Pat Killen, Jim Multer.

Leslie and Bonnie will do the audit this month.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as presented.

Chairman Paddock commended Deb Minor, Sara Christensen and the Public Health Staff for the continued excellent job addressing the COVID-19 pandemic

**Office for the Aging – Zachary Housworth**

Zach reported all staff are working from home as of March 30<sup>th</sup>. Four staff have to stop by the office for a few hours each week to voucher payments, deposit contributions, etc. All home visits have been postponed and staff are following up by phone. All voice messages are forwarded to staff every half hour between 8:30-4:30 and they all have access to their voicemail and email from home.

A general outline for phasing in a return to on site staffing is being finalized and we will be ready to return when the time comes.

Zach reported Pro Action applied and was awarded \$70,000 to assist with Hope Center operations as well as emergency needs in the community. This funding can be used in tandem with other funding from the referring program or agency on its own.

Zach reported OFA has partnered with Yates County and Foodlink to distribute boxes of shelf stable food at both mobile giveaways as well as deliveries to seniors, low income housing residents, and Adult Protective Services customers. The next distribution date will be May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Zach reported they are still delivering about 90 home delivered meals each day. Currently each senior in Yates still has at least 5 shelf stable emergency meals as well as an emergency food box containing what FoodLink refers to as 36 shelf stable meals.

Zach reported OFA is scheduled to get approximately \$94,000 in combined emergency funding from two of the federal stimulus packages to be used to assist Yates County seniors during the pandemic. The additional funding cannot be used to replace other funding that they have so they have to prove that any expenditure is for program expansion or new programming.

**Public Defender – Steve Hampsey**

Steve reviewed his monthly statistics which showed there are 78 active cases as of the end of April.

Steve reviewed a position review form for a full time Assistant Public Defender position that is vacant due to a promotion. Steve explained the need to take this position from part-time to full time and stated that the additional funding for the position would be coming from the Hurrell-Harring grant monies. The Committee approved.

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

- Authorize Public Defender to Create and Fill Full-Time Position (Assistant Public Defender)

**Social Services – Amy Miller**

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

- Ratify Signature on Proposal
- Enter into contract with GATE Anger Management
- Enter into contract with ProAction for assistance with the summer youth employment program

- Authorize Chairman to electronically sign 2020 Yates County Child and Family Services Plan

Amy reported the Youth Bureau recommends the appointment of Elizabeth Cromheecke to the Yates County Youth Board for a one year term beginning 5/30/2020.

Amy reported on unemployment rates. For the week ending 3/28/2020, Yates County had 442 new initial unemployment claims. The previous week had 82 new claims. The same week last year had 22 new claims. Amy explained the most recent date is for the week ending April 18<sup>th</sup> and Yates County is combined with Ontario. The data indicates 921 new claims for the week, down from 2,026 the week before and only 57 new claims from the same week the year before.

Amy reported on Food Stamp Supplements. Emergency allotment benefits will be issued as supplements to SNAP households that have not or will not receive the maximum household benefit, based on the household's size for March and for April 2020. In Yates County 67% of the cases are below the maximum benefit. The average amount a household will receive in Yates is an additional \$163.81.

Amy reported a program has been created to provide childcare to essential workers at no cost. This allocation of funding for childcare for essential workers comes to the state from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which provided New York with \$163.6 million in emergency relief to the childcare system.

Amy reported the office has been provided with a free mobile application that county residents can use to submit necessary documents for Temporary Assistance, HEAP, Medicaid, and Food Stamps. NYDocSubmit is a mobile app that provides individuals who have applied for or are receiving Department of Social Services benefits, the ability to simply and quickly submit documentation to DSS. The app is available for download on Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Amy reported the regular HEAP program has been extended through June 30<sup>th</sup> and a third emergency benefit has been added. All recipients who received the regular benefit and have been notified of shut off are eligible for the third benefit.

Amy reported the department continues to provide homeless housing to clients rather than risking public health by having no stable place to stay. The cost for this up to April 24<sup>th</sup> is \$6,624.

Amy explained the Youth Bureau funding and Summer Youth Employment Programming are on hold. Amy is waiting on guidance on whether summer programs will be permitted or if business will be open to provide employment sites.

#### **Public Health – Deb Minor**

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

- Authorization to renew and sign an agreement with Schuyler County for Public Health Shared Services for the period July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021.

Deb updated the Committee on the current COVID-19 numbers. Currently there are 29 positives, 1 new case, 18 recovered, 2 in hospital, 2 deaths, 299 negative tests, and 19 in isolation or quarantine. Deb explained that 72% have been associated with long term care. Deb stressed people need to continue to follow the current guidelines of social distancing and wearing of face coverings when not able to maintain a 6 foot distance from others in public places to prevent a resurgence of community spread.

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

- Authorize Signature of an Agreement with Health Research Inc. for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program grant award in the amount of \$249,625
- Authorize Signature of an agreement with Michelle Westlake, Physical Therapist for preschool services.
- Authorize Signature of a contract with Great Expectations Physical Occupational and Speech Therapy, P.L.L.C. for the provision of services for preschool children.

#### **Community Services**

Deb reported there were 7 reports received and investigated for the SAFE ACT, none were reported to DCJS.

Deb reported the current NYS budget includes a 10% administrative cut.

**Veterans – Phil Rouin**

Phil reported there were 532 services provided last month and 3 veterans were transported to medical appointments.

Phil reviewed upcoming Veteran related training, meetings and Community events.

Phil reviewed the claims settled.

Phil and Carlie reviewed a proclamation for a WWII U.S. Army Veteran who is turning 100 on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Discussion took place in that the Committee wanted to make sure that there was something in place so that no one was missed. Also, Phil would have to check with the individual and the individual's family to obtain approval for a proclamation. It was suggested that Phil put a program together for Veteran's turning 100 this year.

Doug stated that he thinks it's a great idea but wants to make sure we get the information and the individual and family are ok with it. A resolution/proclamation should be done in the month of the individual's birthday.

Nonie will follow up with Phil to see if there are any others that have reached this mile stone in the first quarter and include them in the resolution. Phil will prepare a resolution for Monday's legislative meeting.

**County Administrator – Nonie Flynn**

Nonie thanked everyone for their work during the pandemic.

Nonie reviewed the project status report as it relates to Human Services.

Meeting was recessed at 3:12 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 5:15 p.m.

Ed moved to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person or persons and the financial history of a particular corporation or corporations, with Committee members, other legislators, the County Administrator and Information Technology Director present, seconded by Terry.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.