

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

June 1, 2020

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

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

Leslie and Carlie will do the audit this month

Minutes of the May meeting were approved as presented.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: Zachary Housworth

Zach reported he is waiting for ProAction to give him permission to move back to having 50% staff in the office. They are currently at 25%.

Zach reported nothing has changed much from last month. He has ordered additional personnel protective equipment. Barriers for the transportation vehicles and Plexiglas that goes behind the seats have been installed to make sure they are keeping the seniors that they are transporting as safe as possible.

Zach reported referrals for the emergency funds have been slow. After reviewing it was determined that referrals might start to come in as community support programs time out.

Zach reported the last two food distributions were completed that Zach knows of at this point. There were 116 families served through the drive through distribution, DSS delivered 27 boxes to adult protective clients, Office for the Aging delivered 45 boxes to seniors that couldn't get to the distributions and DSS also delivered 160 boxes to senior housing facilities. Zach went on to say that the left over produce was given to Friendship House Food Pantry and leftovers from the previous distribution was given to the Hope Center.

Zach reported they continue to deliver 90 home delivered meals a day and so far there is no plan in place to reopen the congregate sites. Zach is waiting for guidance from NYSOFA.

Zach reported OFA continues to do transportation trips for medical and pharmacy only.

Zach reported he received guidance on the combined emergency funding from NYSOFA. They are going to be flexible with this. Zach is hoping to be able to use some of the funding to cover costs over the last couple of months such as staff time and mileage for the food distributions.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Steve Hampsey

Steve reviewed his monthly statistics which showed 110 active cases.

Dianne Lovejoy reported she worked with the Public Defender's office on the state reports and they are all up to date.

Nonie reported the year 2 Hurrell-Harring Grant was submitted and Sue is working with the state and the Treasurer's office on the other grants.

SOCIAL SERVICES: Amy Miller

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

- Renew Contracts with Voluntary Foster Care agencies
- Reappoint members to the Workforce Investment Board
- Workforce Development Budget Transfer
- Enter into contract with the Workforce Investment Board for WIOA funding
- Authorize Chair to sign Finger Lakes Chiefs Elected Local Official Agreement for Program Years 2020-2022
- Enter into contract with Clear for background investigation services
- Enter into contract with America Homecare as fiscal intermediary for Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program

Amy reported she is waiting on guidance regarding the Summer Youth Employment program. The staff have started recruiting youth and they have had businesses who have indicated interest.

Amy reported in April 2020, New York State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 14.5%. This change was the state's largest recorded monthly increase since current record keeping began in 1976. Amy estimates Yates County likely has an unemployment rate between 13 – 13.5%.

Amy reported Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer food benefits will be issued to all New York State households with school age children. This benefit will go to all families in eligible school districts, even if they do not qualify for free and reduced lunch and/or do not have food stamps. Amy will do a press release so those in the Penn Yan and Dundee School Districts are made aware of this.

Amy reported in person applications are still not allowed. There is an electronic application that is being used.

Amy reported Rainbow Junction reopened on May 26th and the Keuka Lake School plans to reopen on June 1st.

Amy reported the department has been receiving calls on how unemployment is going to affect their Medicaid benefits. Amy explained that although income received through an unemployment insurance benefit (UIB) is typically countable income under Medicaid budgeting methodology, the CARES Act specifically directed states to disregard the \$600 weekly Pandemic Unemployment compensation when determining eligibility for Medicaid. The regular UIB payments received are still counted as income. Additionally, the "recovery rebate" or "stimulus payment" is not taxable income and therefore not countable in eligibility determinations.

Amy reported New York opened an "exceptional circumstances" special enrollment period for anyone who is uninsured to apply for health care coverage.

Amy reported all current Medicaid, Child Health Plus, or Essential Plan enrollees who are due to renew coverage in April or May 2020 will have their renewal dates extended by four months.

Amy reported the Youth Bureau funding and Summer Youth Employment Programming are still on hold. At this time she is unsure if the summer recreational programs will be allowed.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Deb Minor

Deb updated the Committee on COVID-19. As of this date there were 43 positive cases. 1300 negative test, 35 have recovered, 7 deceased and 10 in isolation. Deb explained she is expecting to see more positive cases as more of the county entities are opened.

Deb reported there is a drive through COVID-19 testing event for essential workers held on June 6th from 10:00 – 2:00 at the Keuka Business Park. Individuals must register to participate.

Deb reported she has looked into what other counties are doing to get face coverings out to the public. Some are holding drive through distributions.

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

- Amend Resolution 284-19

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

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

- Appointment to MH Subcommittee
- RESOLUTION: Authorize signature of Amendment #1 wit Columbia University

Deb reported there were 2 reports received for the SAFE Act and 0 reported to DCJS.

CHAIRMAN: Doug Paddock

Chairman Paddock stated that Deb Minor, Sara Christensen and the Public Health staff continue doing an excellent job addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

VETERANS: Philip Rouin

Phil reviewed the proposal to move the Veterans Agency from the first floor to the second floor. The Committee approved.

Phil reported a Keuka College Summer Social Work Intern will be starting in the office from June 17th – August 21st.

Phil reviewed his statistics which showed 220 contacts for the month and 8 Veterans were transported to medical appointments.

Phil reported he has been working with George Roets on the Crisis Intervention Team.

Phil reviewed the claims settled for the month and reviewed upcoming Veteran related events.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Nonie Flynn

Nonie reviewed the project status report which showed there currently are no outstanding projects for Human Services.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.