

## **HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**July 6, 2020**

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

Others present: Jim Multer, Rick Willson, Connie Hayes, Dan Banach, Earle Gleason, Doug Paddock, Pat Killen, Tim Cutler, Connie Hayes, Nonie Flynn.

Leslie and Carlie will do the audit this month.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as presented.

### **PUBLIC DEFENDER: Steve Hampsey**

Steve reviewed his statistical report which showed 302 active cases as of June.

Steve updated the Committee on the status of the various Grants.

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

- Authorize Chairman To Execute Distribution #9 Non-Competitive Grant And Any Contract Extensions Relating To Distribution #9 Non-Competitive Grant

Steve reviewed the need to have Lexis Nexis for legal research. Indigent Legal Services is willing to pay for the subscription which is approximately \$238 a month. Steve will have a resolution for Monday's meeting.

Steve reviewed a position review form for the position of Assistant Public Defender that has become vacant. The consensus of the Committee was to go forward with the refilling of the position.

### **ASSIGNED COUNCEL: Dianne Lovejoy**

Diane reviewed her statistical report which showed 439 active cases as of the end of June.

### **SOCIAL SERVICES: Amy Miller**

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

- Allocate WIOA Funding
- WIOA Budget Transfer
- Appoint member to the Workforce Investment Board
- Renew Residential Services Contracts
- Renew Contract for Driving School
- Renew Contract with Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes

Amy reported the weekly share of expenditures that Yates County is required to pay for Medicaid has gone from \$78,257 to \$70,645 a week. The reduction started in June and will last until May 2021. However, NYS has not yet reconciled the county Medicaid payments for the previous two state fiscal years.

Amy received notification late Friday that the Youth funding has been approved and is approximately \$2,000 more than last year. Amy's goal for summer youth employment is 30 youth placements. Amy reported that all summer recreation programs have been cancelled. Also, the MOU's for lifeguard funds have been returned from the Village of Penn Yan and the Town of Torrey.

Amy reported on Jobs/Unemployment which showed the numbers are bouncing back slightly. In March the rate was 5.2, in April it was 13.2 and in May it was 8.9. Amy reported Workforce currently has job openings available and also the last pandemic unemployment payment of \$600 will be on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Amy reported on Benefit eligibility and applications. Amy explained Emergency Allotment benefits were issued as supplements to Food Stamp (SNAP) households that have not or will not receive the maximum household benefit, based on the household's size, for June 2020. The supplement for each month will be the difference between the amount of SNAP benefits the household received for the month and the maximum benefit amount for the household's size. In Yates County 67% of our cases are below the maximum benefit (841) households. The average amount a household will receive in Yates is an additional \$1563.81.

Amy explained July 6<sup>th</sup> is the last day of the waiver that allows Temporary Assistance eligibility and recertification interviews to be conducted by phone, instead of face to face. Also, the in person appearances have resumed for Child support and some Family Court matters.

Amy explained the department is working with the school districts to provide childcare information to families in a district mailing because of the possibility that schools will not return in the typical fashion in September.

Amy reported in person visits for Children and Adult protective cases never stopped. Cooperating agencies have begun to open and DSS will be resuming in person parent education and visitation.

Amy explained the number of Child Protective Hotline calls is down slightly, but the level of severity of the reports has increased.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH: Deb Minor**

Deb updated the Committee on COVID-19. We have had 49 positive cases, and 3,472 negative cases. There currently is 1 active case and 16 individuals in isolation or quarantine. Deb explained that Finger Lakes Community Health will now offer asymptomatic open testing at 4 locations. The testing does require pre-registration at [www.localcommunityhealth.com](http://www.localcommunityhealth.com) and payment prior to services.

- Geneva Community Health center, 601 Washington St, Geneva – Thursdays 1pm – 2pm
- Newark Community Health center, 513 West Union St, Newark – Thursdays 9am – 10am
- Ovid Community Health Center, 7150 Main Street, Ovid – Thursdays 9am – 10am
- Penn Yan Comm. Health Center, 112 Kimball Ave, Penn Yan – Thursdays 9am – 10am

Deb reported a Rabies Clinic was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Penn Yan's Fireman's field. A total of 170 dogs and cats were vaccinated at the clinic. All social distancing precautions were observed. Deb explained that over 67% of those attending completed their paperwork online which helped out greatly. The next clinic will be on August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Potter Firehouse at 7:00pm.

Deb reported recently they had a skunk test positive for rabies and also a cat.

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

- RESOLUTION: Sign Inter-Municipal Agreement between Counties of Monroe, Livingston, Steuben, Yates, Schuyler, Chemung, Ontario, Wayne and Seneca.

Deb reported the NYS Education Department has now authorized the resumption of special education services through traditional face to face home visits or center based programs for the extended school year. Deb is working with providers and parents so these services are resumed in a safe manner.

Deb reviewed a vacancy review form to refill a Senior Account Clerk Typist position due to a retirement. Deb expects to be able to fill the position from within and will not be asking to back fill the position that becomes vacant. Deb would like to have time to access the position that has become vacant. The Consensus of the Committee was refill the Senior Account Clerk Typist position.

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

- RESOLUTION: Authorize Director of Public Health to Fill Vacancy

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES:

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

Deb reported the second year of the Columbia HEALing Communities Study has been initiated.

Deb reported on the Systems of Care. George received notification that a SAMSHA grant has been awarded to the Office of Mental Health for Systems of Care expansion and sustainability.

#### **VETERANS: Philip Rouin**

Phil reported the Veteran Service office has been moved to the second floor of the county office building.

Phil reported Michele Personius, a Keuka College social work intern started her field period with Veterans on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Phil reported there were 406 services provided for the month and 13 veterans transported for medical appointments.

Phil reviewed upcoming Veteran related events.

Phil reviewed the claims settled.

#### **OFFICE FOR THE AGING: Zachary Housworth**

Zach reported Donna Johnston from the Yates Christmas Program assisted 145 Mennonite households with gaining access to the food distribution. Zach explained that he Amy Miller struggle with finding entities for the leftover food if there are not a lot of people that have signed up for the distribution. The next 2 distributions will be July 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Produce Auction outside of Penn Yan and July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Town of Starkey Highway Department. Registration for these events starts 1 week prior to each event.

Zach reported on the Emergency Response Funding. So far 5 people have been assisted, referrals are slow to come in. The funding amount to \$2, 390 which assisted in utility payments, a new refrigerator for a senior. Funding is flexible and individuals have to be referred by a caseworker or agency the individual is with.

Zach reported Comfort Keepers is hoping to have all the Touching Hearts at Home on board by the end of July. Touching Hearts at Home did confirm that will be able to continue services in

Yates County up to the day they do the hand off to a new provider. It is going to be difficult for OFA to find in home care for people. This could lead to individuals needing to be put on a waiting list.

Zach reported NYSOFA has issued guidance that home visiting is to resume and provided a list of best practices. Zach explained all staff will be required to use masks, face shields, hand sanitizer, gloves, etc. There is a check list that everyone has before they go into a home.

Zach reported OFA is getting 400 Farmers Market coupon books again this year for distribution.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm