

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

August 3, 2020

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

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

Leslie and Terry will do the audit this month

Minutes of the July meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment:

James Warren, Council on Alcoholism spoke to the Committee regarding legal Marijuana. Mr. Warren is asking law makers to limit the number of facilities where shops selling marijuana and also to enact regulations that no facility be allowed within walking distance of schools, parks and so on where children will be.

Doug stated that a sample zoning regulation be put together addressing Mr. Warren's concerns and given to the towns so that zoning would be town wide. The county has no jurisdiction when it comes to land use.

SOCIAL SERVICES: Amy Miller

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

- Appoint Youth Board Member Lilly Hall
- Allocate Funding for Summer Youth Employment Program
- Authorize Chairman to Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Lifeguard Funding for Municipalities
- Enter Into Contract with ProAction for the Provision of HEAP Administration
- Workforce Development Budget Transfer

Amy reviewed a vacancy review form for a Social Welfare Examiner that will become vacant due to a retirement. She also reviewed a vacancy review form for a Caseworker position that became vacant in June due to a resignation. The consensus of the Committee was to go forward and re-fill both positions.

Amy reported on Code Blue/COVID Housing. So far for 2019 -2020 the Code Blue expense is \$81,217. Amy explained that last season 60 cases were housed, of those, 3 were families. The average stay was 17 nights. All claims for Code Blue have been sent to the state, and approximately \$20,000 has been received to date.

Amy reported \$37,198 has been spent on housing for COVID. There were 29 cases of those 3 were families. The average stay was 19 nights. This expense has been submitted to our Office of Emergency Management to be included in our FEMA package.

Amy reported the allocation for our Summer Youth Employment Program has been received. There are 19 youth in job placements across the County. Personal protective equipment along with job readiness training is being provided to all youth. Virtual Career Readiness stipends is also being offered to some applicants.

Amy reported Yates unemployment rate for June 2020 was 8.5 compared to June 2019 which was 3.0.

Amy explained that recently del Lago and Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack issued the required Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN) notice. The WARN Act requires covered businesses to provide early warning of closures and layoffs to workers, employee representatives, the Department of Labor, and the local workforce development boards. Advanced notice gives workers, their families, and communities' time to transition, seek new employment, enter workforce training programs with assistance from the Department of Labor and local workforce development boards. The ACT applies to private businesses with 50 or more full time workers in New York State. It also provides information about Career Center system, how to file an unemployment Insurance claim, comparing health care coverage options and how to identify useful community resources.

Amy reported there still is no information available regarding Youth Bureau funding for 2020.

Amy reported the Youth Bureau is moving forward with their partner project with Rotary on laundromat bookshelves.

Amy reported the Youth Bureau Director has agreed to be a part of the Youth Activities Committee at the Yates Community Center.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Deb Minor

Deb reported as of July 23rd Yates County's U.S. Census response rates is at 47.7%. Yates County lags behind neighboring counties and behind the overall New York State self-response of 58.1%.

Deb updated the Committee on the COVID-19 statistics. 56 positives cases, 5,673 negative test, 15 individuals in quarantine related to the positive case, and over 200 in isolation due to traveling. Deb explained the time it takes to get results back is taking longer. Deb reported as of Friday she was notified that the State will be allowing counties additional funding for COVID. The funds can only be used to hire additional contract tracers. Deb will be looking into this further.

Deb reported the next Rabies Clinic will be held on Aug 12th 6-7 pm at the Potter Fire House. All those attending are asked to pre-register online, and limit the number of individuals attending. Please do not bring children. All animals need to be leashed or in a carrier. Everyone must wear a face covering and maintain 6 feet distance from others not in their household.

Deb reported Indian Pines Beach was recently temporarily closed due to a suspected Harmful Algal Bloom.

Deb reported the S²AY Rural Health Network is launching a Dispose RX Campaign. This is an education campaign to make communities in our region aware of what Dispose Rx is and how easy it is to use. Billboards and postcards will be used along with continued promotion of ongoing county drop off areas.

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

- RESOLUTION: To renew agreement for transportation

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

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

- Appointment to the Mental Health Subcommittee

Deb reported there were 8 reports received for the SAFE Act and none were reported to DCJS.

Deb reported the 3rd Quarter hold for OMH and OSAS funding is being implemented per the NYS Department Of Budget. George is also working with the Office of Mental Health on

contracting under the Systems of Care SMSH grant.

Deb reviewed program updates for Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yates, Systems of Care, Crisis Intervention Training, Columbia HEALing Communities Study, Required Community Services Annual Plan, and Funding crisis in 2020-21 local assistance.

VETERANS: Philip Rouin

Phil updated the Committee on Veteran Service Projects which included virtual Board of Veteran Appeals video hearings, VA telehealth and video conferences.

Phil reported Veteran Service Officer Carrie Ahearn received her accreditation from the New York State Division of Veterans Services.

Phil reviewed his statistical report which showed 225 services provided with 18 veterans transported for medical appointments.

Phil reported on the upcoming Veteran related events.

Phil reported the claims settled this month totaled \$255,417.05

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: Zachary Housworth

Zach reported NYS Office for the Aging (OFA) notified him that there would be no cut the OFA's funding. However, Zach has developed a backup plan if the funding should be cut.

Zach reported so far 300 Farmers coupon packets have distributes and there are 200 left to disburse. Coupon packets can be used at the Windmill as well as the Market on Main Street on Saturdays.

Zach reported staff have begun conducting home visits following NYSOFA's guidelines. All staff have been provided with masks, gloves, face shields, and sanitizer and customers are being provided with masks and sanitizer provided by NYSOFA. Staff are calling before leaving for home visits to ask customers a COVID-19 questionnaire similar to the one that is filled out upon entering the County Office Building.

Zach reported with regards to Emergency Response Funding. So far 12 customers have been assisted for emergencies using a total of \$4,681.00 of the emergency funding. There is approximately \$35,000 left. Ashley Tillman is assisting with caseworkers and customers in obtaining emergency funding.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Steve Hampsey

Steve reported most of the courts have reopened. He has not received dates for when Torrey and Barrington will reopen.

Steve reviewed his statistical report which showed 338 total active cases as of the month of July.

Steve updated the Committee on the status of various grants.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm