

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

September 7, 2021

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

Others present: Nonie Flynn, Connie Hayes, Tim Cutler, Dan Banach, Philip Rouin, Amy Miller, Annmarie Flanagan, Doug Paddock, George Roets, Zach Housworth by zoom.

Leslie and Dick will sign the audit this month.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as presented.

VETERANS: Philip Rouin

Phil reported he reviewed his 2022 budget with the County Administrator.

Phil reported he submitted an Aid to Localities request to NYS Office of General Services for reimbursement.

Phil reviewed personnel and trainings that were attended.

Phil reviewed his statistical report which showed 600 contacts and 36 Veterans were transported to medical appointments.

Phil reviewed upcoming Veteran Related Training/Meetings/Community events.

Phil reviewed claims settled.

Phil reviewed information on a pilot program, Expiration of Term of Services Sponsorship Program (ETS-SP). This program pairs an active duty service member with a local veteran peer mentor as they transition out of military service.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: Zachary Housworth

Zach reported there is no longer a waiting list for in home services. With the increase in COVID cases some did not want anyone coming into their home and the extra funding that OFA received took care of the rest on the list.

Zach reported the numbers for the home delivered meals have been going down. In researching the issue it showed that there have been a number of deaths and some family members are now providing meals for their loved ones. Also, there were a number of snowbirds that did not return.

SOCIAL SERVICES: Amy Miller

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

- o Amend Resolution 234-21(Authorize Contract with Safe Harbors for Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services)

Amy reported NYS has recently begun to release data regarding payments that have been paid to landlords for Evictions Assistance. As of August 10, 2021 payments have been made to Yates County Landlords in the amount of \$48,530.00. This does not include amounts paid to utility companies in the arrears. Amy explained that there are an additional 50 completed applications for Yates County.

Amy reported the moratorium on utilities has been lifted. In some cases, there seems to be a misunderstanding, people did not realize that just because the utilities could not be shut off, doesn't mean that the bill does not continue to accumulate. Unfortunately, HEAP is not able to be applied to past bills. There is Emergency Rental Assistance available (ERAP) people just need to apply for it through Social Services.

Amy reported HEAP begins October 1st this year. This is a month earlier than usual. The benefit levels remain unchanged since 2018. Typically, over 10% of Yates County households are in receipt of HEAP.

Amy reported the unemployment rate for Yates County as of July was at 4.1%.

Amy reported throughout the pandemic, households receiving SNAP benefits have received the maximum amount regardless of their eligibility. In Yates County 67% of households were receiving the additional benefit. Amy has not received information about whether this will continue in September.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Annmarie Flanagan

Annmarie reported as of today there are 25 new cases, 38 active cases, there are 98 people in isolation or quarantine, there is 1 in the hospital and there have 25 deaths, the last one being in February. The transmission rate is at 6.7%. Annmarie explained that the transmission rate the CDC likes to keep below 4%.

Annmarie stated that they are seeing people that have been vaccinated for 3 to 4 months are contracting COVID.

Annmarie reported the CDC is recommending that individuals who received either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine received a 3rd dose of the vaccine 8 months after their 2nd does. Yates County Public Health is ready to go back to mass vaccination efforts.

Annmarie update the Committee on the School ELC Grant. Annmarie explained with the new governor, things changed as of last Thursday. Annmarie is working on getting all the pieces together with the new updates and guidance.

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

- Authorize Director of Public Health to fill Public Health Nurse position
- Authorize Director of Public Health to create and Fill Temporary Full Time Public Health Specialist Position
- Authorize Director of Public Health to create and Fill Full Time Temporary Position (Registered Professional Nurse or Public Health Specialist)
- Authorize Director of Public Health to Create and Fill Three Temporary Nurse Positions
- Authorize Director of Public Health to Create and Fill Three Nurse Positions (Pulled)
- Authorize Director of Public Health to Create and Fill Temporary Part Time Senior Account Clerk Typist Position
- Authorize Director of Public Health to Contract with the SAY Rural Health Network to Hire Temporary Staff to Provide Oversight and Staffing of COVID 19 Testing on a Temporary Basis Position (Pulled)
- Authorize Director of Public Health To Contract With Cathy Bond, and Emergency Planning Consultant to Establish and Oversee the Surveillance and Testing Plans as Identified Under the ELC Schools COVID Grant

- Authorize Director of Public Health to Contract with Quadrant Bioscience for Pool and Individual COVID Testing
- Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and Commissioner Zucker to Modify the Proposed COVID-19 Mandate for all Healthcare Workers

COMMUNITY SERVICES – George Roets

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

- Appoint Community Services Board Mental Health Subcommittee Member
- Suicide Prevention Month-September

George reported there were 3 reports received for the SAFE ACT and none were reported to DCJS.

George reviewed the following program updates Yates Suicide Prevention Coalition, Yates INSYGHT, Crisis Intervention Training, Columbia University HEALing Communities Study, Yates County Crisis Services Plan, Transitional Care Management, Children’s Single Point of Accountability (C-SPOA), Yates Substance Abuse Coalition, and Mozaic.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Steve Hampsey

Steve’s statistical report was reviewed which showed 251 active cases as of August.

Steve’s resolution Authorize the Chairman to Sign Software Support Agreement Extension for Public Defense Case Management System Maintenance and Software Support Agreement between the Yates County Assigned Counsel Program Office and New York Site Defenders Association, Inc. was approved.

Steve’s grant update was reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.