

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

September 8, 2020

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

Others present: Jim Multer, Rick Willson, Connie Hayes, Nonie Flynn, Tim Cutler, Pat Killen, Earl Gleason, Doug Paddock, Betsy Russel-Orr, Leigh Battin, Deb Minor, Phil Rouin, Steve Hampsey, Zack Housworth.

Leslie and Dick will do the audit this month

Minutes of the August meeting were approved as presented

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

Deb report Indian Pines and Red Jacket were closed over the weekend due to harmful alga bloom. The beaches were going to close after this weekend anyway.

Deb reported on the Rabies Clinic that was held on Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Potter Fire House. A total of 178 pets were vaccinated of those there were 129 dogs and 49 cats.

Deb updated the Committee on COVID-19. As of today there are 2 new cases that tested positive which brings our total positive cases to 63. There have been 8,000 negative tests. There are 22 in isolation or quarantine due to travel and 13 residents in isolation or quarantine.

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

- RESOLUTION: Agreement with HRI for ELC COVID-19 Enhanced Detection Grant
- RESOLUTION: Authorize creation and filling a temporary PHN position Immunization Program
- RESOLUTION: Agreement with NYSDOH for Supplemental Flu funding

Deb reviewed vacancy review forms for a Public Health Specialist or Public Health Nurse and a Public Health Educator that became vacant. The Consensus of the Committee was to refill the positions.

- RESOLUTION: Fill vacancy Public Health Specialist or Public Health Nurse
- RESOLUTION: Fill vacancy Public Health Educator

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

- Appointments to Community Services Board
- Suicide Prevention Month

Deb reported there were 2 reports received for the SAFE ACT and neither was sent to DCJS.

Deb gave the following Fiscal report for Community Services. Deb explained that planning has been put in place for the 20% hold on the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter for OMH and OASAS funding. A letter was received on 8/27/2020 regarding holding 20% of OPWDD funding, planning is under way. Plans also have been developed regarding a full 20% reduction in state aid if that becomes necessary.

Deb updated the Committee on the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yates, Systems of Care, Crisis Intervention Training, Columbia HEALing Communities study, and the Community Services Annual Plan.

### **VETERANS:** Philip Rouin

Phil reported he was elected as the New York State County Veterans Service Officer Association's Executive Director effective September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Phil reviewed his statistical report which showed 253 services were provided and 13 veterans were transported for medical appointments.

Phil reviewed the upcoming Veteran related trainings, meetings, and community events.

Phil reported on the claims settled this month.

**OFFICE FOR THE AGING:** Zachary Housworth

Zach reported the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program Coordinator will be handling emergency assistance and outreach for Yates OFA. ProAction was awarded CARES Act funding to support Senior Nutrition and Emergency Services. The program will operate until at least 9/30/21 and can serve anyone who is at or below 200% of the poverty level and has been impacted financially by COVID-19.

Zach reported there is unused USDA funding that will be available for 2 more months for emergency food distribution. The next 2 distributions will be September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Town of Starkey Highway Dept. and September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Produce Auction outside of Penn Yan.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Steve Hampsey

Steve reviewed his statistical report which showed as of August there were 375 active cases.

Steve updated the Committee on where various grants stood.

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

- Authorize The Chairman To Sign Software Support Agreement Extension For Public Defense Case Management System Maintenance And Software Support Agreement Between The Yates County Public Defender Office and New York State Defenders Association, Inc.

**SOCIAL SERVICES:** Amy Miller

Amy could not attend the meeting, Betsy Russell-Orr and Leigh Battin reported in her absence.

Betsy reviewed the following resolutions and appointments that would be needed. The Committee approved.

- Enter into a contract with Rainbow Junction
- Reappointment the following to a three year to the Youth Bureau for a term of 9/1/20 to 9/1/23. Amy Miller, Dan Condella, and Kathleen Campbell

Betsy reviewed the following list of questions that were sent to OTDA and their responses.

1. Will the 20% withhold apply only to State Aid (not Federal Aid)?  
*That is the current guidance.*
2. Will State Aid for both capped and uncapped funding streams be withheld?  
*OTDA: At this point, withholds have been applied to all OTDA State-funded district payments (OCFS and DOH may have different information).*  
*OCFS: OCFS is seeking clarification from DOB.*
3. Which State Aid to local social services districts will not be subject to the 20% withhold because they are in the category of “public assistance payments for families and individuals” which the SFY 2020-21 budget specifically *exempted* from across-the-board cuts in State Aid?  
*OTDA is currently working with the Division of Budget to clarify this.*
4. Don’t provisions of the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)* prohibit the State from increasing the share of Medicaid costs that are borne by local districts?

DOH will need to provide further guidance on this question.

If not, then how will the 20% withhold be applied in the case of Medicaid program and administrative costs?

DOH will need to provide further guidance on this question.

An increase to our Weekly Shares contributions that covers both program and administrative costs, with continued 100% (net-of-federal) State reimbursement for administrative costs continuing to be paid?

DOH will need to provide further guidance on this question.

An increase in our Weekly Shares that covers 20% of the anticipated State share of Medicaid program costs and, separately, bottom line adjustments for the 20% reduction in (net of Federal) State reimbursement for Medicaid administration?

DOH will need to provide further guidance on this question.

5. Will local aid which is backed by a contract or MOU be subject to this withholding?

OCFS will need to provide further guidance on this question

RTA Gap Funding

OCFS is working with DOB for clarification on this.

Safe Harbor grant

OCFS has confirmed that these funds are subject to the withhold.

6. Will the 20% withhold apply to Code Blue expenditures?

Yes

7. Although the New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG) is comprised of both State and Federal funds, by direction of the Office of the State Comptroller it is reflected in county budgets as State funding. How will the 20% apply to it?

OTDA: OCFS will need to provide further guidance on this question.

OCFS: OCFS is seeking clarification from DOB.

8. Will the amount of local aid that is withheld on each settlement statement be equal to 20% of what otherwise would have been payable after all other bottom line adjustments (including advances for child welfare, Foster Care Block Grant, etc.)?

For OTDA and OCFS, the withhold is 20% of the net claim Amount Due by program, not 20% the total settlement net payment amount. (DOH may have a different information).

9. DOB's guidance states that the funds withheld may either be released or become permanent at some unspecified point in the future. How then should local districts account for the amounts withheld as they appear on our settlements?  
Should we consider those portions of our claims to remain outstanding until further notice?

Yes

Or should they be written off immediately, and any portion subsequently released booked without reference to any claim?

No

Betsy reviewed the unemployment numbers for Yates County which showed in April 2020 the unemployment rate was at 13.2. For May it was 8.9, for June it was 8.5 and for July it was 9.5.

Tim moved to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person or persons with committee members, legislators and the county administrator. Seconded by Bonnie.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.