

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 26, 2019

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: LaPointe, Idleman, Skellie, Ferguson, Middleton, Clary

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Campbell

SUPERVISORS: Henke, Moore, Shaw, Hicks, Hogan

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Chris DeBolt, County Administrator

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Patty Hunt, Director Public Health

Kathy McIntyre, Asst. Dir. Public Health

Tammy DeLorme, Commissioner DSS
Public

Mike Gray, Director Youth Bureau

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1) Call to Order

2) Accept Minutes – May 29, 2019

3) Department Reports/Requests:

A. Public Health

1) Lead Poisoning Prevention Grant – Fall Outreach Program

2) Recognize Tai Chi Funding

3) Recognize Prevention Agenda Funding Award/Proposed Expenditure

4) Miscellaneous

B. Youth Bureau

1) Request for Resolution – Recognize Increased Runaway Homeless Youth Funding

2) Agency Updates

C. Social Services

1) Review Caseload Trends

2) Miscellaneous

4) Other Business

5) Adjournment

Chairman LaPointe called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2019 meeting was moved by Mr. Middleton, seconded by Mr. Skellie and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/REQUESTS:

PUBLIC HEALTH – Patty Hunt, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Lead Poisoning Prevention Grant – Fall Outreach Program – Halloween bag project that includes pencils, crayons coloring book, story book, stickers and informational flyers provided to health centers, Head Start, EOC, pre-K, libraries, WIC and Police Stations at a cost of just under \$800 and 100% grant funded. A motion to approve Halloween bag project items 100% funded under the lead poisoning and prevent grant was moved by Mrs. Clary, seconded by Mr. Skellie and adopted.
- Recognize Tai Chi Funding – Public Health collaboration with ADRC/Office for the Aging offering Tai Chi classes in various sites around the county. This is an evidence-based fall prevention program. A motion to recognize Tai Chi funds from the Office for the Aging in the amount of \$6,000 for program materials and site fees was moved by Mr. Skellie, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted.
- Recognize Prevention Agenda Funding Award/Proposed Expenditure – Kathy Jo McIntyre, Assistant Director of Public Health, wrote a small grant and received \$1500 from the Adirondack Health Institute. The purpose of the project was safety – bike and tick-borne illnesses. Requesting to purchase child reflective vests and they have partnered with

rescue squads and police departments and tick kits to distribute at community events. A motion to recognize Prevention Agenda funding from the Adirondack Health Institute in the amount of \$1,500 was moved by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Middleton and adopted. A motion to approve purchase of items requested, reflective vests and tick kits, was moved by Mr. Middleton, seconded by Ms. Idleman and adopted.

- Miscellaneous -
 - Get Up and Go Granville Event – Kathy McIntyre, Assistant Director of Public Health, stated this was a spinoff of the Winter Fest partnering with Granville EMS, other County departments and outside partners providing multiple activities. This was very well received and a good community event. Mr. Hicks complimented Public Health and the other County departments that participated in this event and stated it was well received.
 - June 13th legislation was signed to eliminate non-medical exemptions for immunizations. There are not a lot of religious exemptions in the county and are unsure what to expect but prepared for some.

YOUTH BUREAU – Mike Gray, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Recognize Increased Runaway Homeless Youth Funding through OCFS in the amount of \$27,818 included in the Governor's adopted budget. A motion to amend budget to reflect increase in Runaway Homeless Youth funding received from NYS OCFS in the amount of \$27,818 was moved by Ms. Idleman, seconded by Mr. Middleton and adopted.
- Agency Updates:
 - Update Loan Library – Purchase items to give out/loan to community-based organization for recreational activities and the last item purchased was Guitar Hero. Requesting to purchase some new games at a cost of about \$500, yard games and movie screen for recreation programs and community-based organizations. He would like to purchase out of the \$6200 in Flexible Funding recognized at the last Board meeting and has submitted that request to the State. If not an approved purchase with that funding then he would like to move money from the trust account to make this purchase and utilize it this summer. A motion to approve purchase of games/equipment was moved by Ms. Idleman, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted. A motion to approve budget amendment to purchase portable movie screen in the amount of \$118 from 4040 – miscellaneous to 2090 equipment was moved by Mr. Middleton, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted.
 - Offering safe sitter programs and will be around monitoring recreation programs. Recreation funding for the towns should be at least what was received last year; amounts have yet to be released.
 - Available for CPR training just call the office.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – Tammy DeLorme, Commissioner, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Review Caseload Trends – On the whole their numbers are pretty average at this point. Looked broadly at everything and it all seem about the same. Focused on Child Protective Services – reports are about the same but it is just the requirements the State has put on us are becoming more and more burdensome and takes longer to get the work done is one issue and the other is staffing. Six Caseworkers have resigned this year and that takes up a lot of talent. The training they need prior to having cases assigned to them is considerable.

If anyone has a concern for the welfare of a child a report can be made to a hotline. If they believe there is enough information to begin or warrant an investigation they will send it out to the local county. Within 24-hours they have to verify or validate that the child is safe. They then have seven days to see the child and investigate the allegations in the report. The Department is measured by the State on how quickly they get this done within the seven days' timeline and measured for caseloads – an active CPS Caseworker having 15 cases or less which is not something validated through State Law. As the case goes on more visits need to be done and follow up with children once or twice more and coordinate with other contacts, i.e. counselors, law enforcement. This all needs to be concluded within 60 days and make a determination on the case. She mentioned the complexities of the reporting. The department has fourteen front line CPS Caseworkers, two senior Caseworkers and two Supervisors. Without some relief they cannot get work done and more staff would require more supervisory duties than what the current staff can handle. Training for new Caseworkers is spread over seven weeks and has to be completed prior to having cases assigned to them. There is no income eligibility for child protective. From January 2019 – May, they have two hundred seventy-three hours of after-hours work to meet families in these cases. She wanted to bring this background information to the committee and will be asking to add staff and does not see any other solution. They are doing everything they can to share work and get things done. Planning to ask for two new Caseworker positions. Mr. Shaw, Budget Officer, stated these positions are 75% reimbursable by the State and the Commissioner mentioned she has some latitude with flexible funds for family services funding for staff. In April, 42% of caseworkers had over 15 cases and in May 38%, time in safety assessments (7-day window) 71% of reports were timely in April and 68% in May and overdue investigations past due over sixty days in April 11% and May 14%. The County Attorney anticipates future ramifications from changes the State has made this year and recommends looking globally at the impact to her department and staffing needs. She presented this information to give the committee time to process this information.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors