

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2021

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Clary, Campbell, Skellie, Losaw, Ward, Wilson

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Ferguson

SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, Shaw, Hicks, O'Brien, Hogan, Griffith

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Melissa Fitch, County Administrator

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1) Call to Order

2) Accept Minutes – January 27, 2021

3) Department Reports/Requests:

A. OFA/ADRC

1) Program Updates

B. Veterans

1) Peer-to-Peer Program Coordinator Position Posting Shared Position with Warren County

C. Youth Bureau

1) Request to Backfill Positions

a) JCR Program Coordinator

b) Program Assistant

D. Public Health

1) Department Updates

2) COVID/Vaccination Clinic Updates

4) Other Business

5) Adjournment

Chairwoman Clary called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Skellie, Losaw, Ward, and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/REQUESTS:

OFA/ADRC – Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell, Director, addressed the following items:

• Program Updates:

- OFA Advisory Council Appointment – A motion to appoint Kathy Jo McIntyre, Director of Washington County Public Health, to the Office for Aging Advisory Council to fill the vacant position left by the previous Director filling the unexpired term ending December 31, 2021 was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and adopted.
- February is typically a month during which agencies and organization do a lot of state and federal advocacy for the aging network. Older adults are waiting for 11,000 different types of services in the following categories: personal care level one and two, home delivered meals, case management, transportation, personal emergency response systems, home modifications and more. In Washington County only maintain waitlist for personal care services and case management. Due to the incomes of this population and their functional limitations most would spend down to Medicaid almost immediately costing the State hundreds of millions of dollars so the continued investment in addressing unmet needs therefore has a significant cost savings for the State Medicaid program while assuring a policy that does not require individuals to impoverish themselves in order to get the care they need. In New York savings from just one percent increase in home delivered meals would lead to \$11,427,143 of Medicaid

savings. Will provide the Supervisors with a document that outlines the services they provide and how we can save the State and County Medicaid dollars. Mr. Campbell stated our costs are capped and the savings would probably be on the percentage above the cap which benefits the State.

VETERANS – Ken Winchell, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- PFC Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Program Coordinator Position Posting Shared Position with Warren County – This is a program that they have had well over a year now and the position was originally vacated last year at about the same time as the pandemic and now the position has been posted again and accepting applications through March 5th. Just wanted to get the word out about this position and hopefully will start interviews at the close of the application period.

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

- Request to Backfill Positions:
 - JCR Program Coordinator – This position works directly with PINS youth (persons in need of supervision), JDs (juvenile delinquents) and can work with youth that are part of the Sheriff's pre-arrest diversion program. The position is 62% state funded and the total cost of the position is \$61,567, local share \$23,400 however working with DSS STSJP and also the Raise the Age Plan they are able to identify about \$85,000 in additional revenue that this position would help support. This position would also help the County receive an additional \$64,000 in revenue. The need is there for the position and the revenue to support it. A motion to forward backfill, JCR Program Coordinator – Program Specialist, to the Personnel Committee was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Skellie and Wilson, and adopted.
 - Program Assistant – The Director plans to promote from within to the JCR Program Coordinator position and it creates a Program Assistant vacancy. A motion to approve backfill and forward to the Personnel Committee was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and adopted.
 - At the end of March will be working with Granville Central School District to develop a program for a youth court where they would handle violations of school code of conduct. The school will run the program, he would just be providing the training on that program.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Kathy Jo McIntyre, Public Health Director, addressed the following items:

- COVID 19 - Starting second round of COVID 19 vaccine doses. So far they have vaccinated 1872 individuals and starting the round of second doses. Continuing to get more doses each week. The last allotment we received had 204 essential workers and 100 for comorbidities and to get this out into the community we reallocated them to the Glens Falls Hospital which are going to do one day clinics at the Glens Falls Family Practices in Granville and Cambridge and they will schedule those clinics. Public Health is continuing to work on administering second shots. COVID numbers are decreasing, which is a good sign, down to 85 positives. Starting a School Specialist tomorrow to help them integrate with the schools at no cost to the County. She will only be 25% in-house; at Public Health or schools and otherwise virtual.

- Rabies Clinic – Their grant year ends at the end of March and still have to get in one more rabies clinic, required to have at least three a year. Rabies clinic scheduled for Saturday March 27th at Washington County DPW, Municipal Center, Fort Edward. At the present time, rabies is not being funded in the State budget but hopes that changes.
- Flu numbers are still sporadic and has not risen very high this year. Protocol for dealing with COVID has helped.

OTHER BUSINESS:

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

- FCC Broadband Program – Through the Economic Development Director learned of the FCC Broadband Program which provides assistance to low income individuals for broadband service and a device and DSS is assisting in identifying individuals. Hudson Valley Wireless is working on a program to deliver these services to low income individuals.
- Office Temporary Disability Assistance advised that the Code Blue plan submitted was approved in the amount of \$62,340 and they can claim up to that amount. These funds are used to house people, who do not qualify for temporary housing, at the Open Door Mission or motels when the temperature is 32 degrees or colder.
- Received notification that an additional \$260,827 has been recommended to be forwarded to Washington County for use through the emergency solutions grant program through the CARES Act. This is something that they started to work on in the fall and received over \$259,000 at that time. There continues to be questions about how they can actually spend this out in the way it needs to be. She believes the majority will be used for people that have not been up to date with the rents and falling behind on utility payments.
- Twice a year within DSS and OFA try to intentionally target some sort of activity or training to celebrate the staff, employee appreciation, usually in April and October. Last year she was approved to spend up to \$600 for supplies but that event did not happen last spring. If they come up with something that requires a purchase, she will consult with the Purchasing Department and bring that request to the March meeting. No direct request right now.
- The upgrade to the department's internet connection has not happened yet and no information on the State paying for this.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors