

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2021

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

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Losaw

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 – February 24, 2021

3) Department Reports/Requests:

A. Youth Bureau

1) Request for Budget Amendment – 2021 Budget Amendment for Increase due to Program Specialist Position

2) Department Update

B. Social Services

1) Family First Transition Fund RFP Waiver Request

2) Reappointment of Commissioner (5 year term)-current term expires 5/31/21

3) Employee Related Purchase Request

C. OFA/ADRC

1) Backfill Position – Nutrition Services Coordinator

D. Community Service/Mental Health

1) Community Service Board Appointments

a) Lisa Meade – Hudson Falls (Term 1/1/20-12/31/23)

b) Adele Potter – Fort Ann (Term 1/1/21-12/31/24)

2) Restoration of 20% State Aid Withholds

3) 2021-22 NYS Executive Budget Proposal-Potential Impacts

4) 2021 Departmental Goals

E. Public Health

1) Permission to Apply for Grant – Child Safety Passenger Grant

2) Staffing – Backfill – Resignation – WIC Nutritionist

3) Unused Vacation Time – COVID Related

4) Request for Budget Amendment – Carry-over 2020 COVID Grant Monies

5) Miscellaneous

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 February 24, 2021 meeting was moved by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Ward, and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/REQUESTS:

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

- 2021 Budget Amendment for Increase due to Program Specialist Position – Budget amendment is the result of working with DSS on increased revenue through STSJP (Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program). A motion to amend 2021 budget for cost of Program Specialist by increasing A.7310.121 by \$32,900, increase A.7310.8 by \$13,604 and increase revenue A.7310.2801.01 by \$46,504 was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Ward and Ferguson, and adopted.
- Department Update:

- April 5- 9, 2021 Red Cross Lifeguard training and recertification at the Hudson Falls Middle School.
- Meeting with Granville youth at the middle school to get Youth Court program up and running.
- Youth employment starts next week with picking up trash on Shine Hill in Hartford and then moving to the pull off areas on Rt. 22. Park clean ups for Huletts and Lauderdale are scheduled for May 12th.
- Working with Sheriff and DSS to identify 17 youth to attend Sheriff's camp the last week in July at Caroga Lake.

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

- Family First Transition Fund RFP Waiver Request – The award had been for \$30,000 to implement the Family First Act which the Commissioner plans on using to recruit more family foster homes. The funding was awarded in 2019 and set to expire today. She does not need an RFP waiver. Purchased brochures and flyers that have been printed for this purpose specifically, lawn signs and banners and five billboards with advertising starting April 5th, for twelve weeks/three months. The balance of the funds is \$18,434 and will use in an MOU with Berkshire Farms to support ongoing recruitment, certification, and support of current foster parents as well as those that will be coming through their training. Berkshire Farms will not deduct anything for administrative costs. No waiver required.
- Reappointment of Commissioner (5 year term) – current term expires 5/31/21 – A motion to reappoint Tammy DeLorme Commissioner of the Department of Social Services for a five-year term was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Ward, Skellie, Ferguson and adopted.
- Employee Related Purchase Request – The Managers will be contributing funds for staff appreciation; no department funds will be used.
- BAN width issue on the State network – Commissioner felt the County should not have to pay for this upgrade and reached out to the State. She has received verbal approval that the State will bear this cost and also through a power point saying that the network upgrades needed to support the State applications that we use to provide the work for the State here locally will be funded by the State.
- OFA and DSS are working on the annual report for 2020 and plan to do a presentation to the committee in April.

OFA/ADRC – In the absence of Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell, Director, Commissioner DeLorme addressed the following items:

- Backfill Position – Nutrition Services Coordinator – A motion to approve backfill, Nutrition Services Coordinator, and forward to the Personnel Committee was moved by Mr. Campbell seconded by Messrs. Ward and Wilson and adopted.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/MENTAL HEALTH – Rob York, Director, addressed the following items:

- Community Service Board Appoints:
 - Lisa Meade – Hudson Falls (Term 1/1/20-12/31/23)

○ Adele Potter – Fort Ann (Term 1/1/21-12/31/24)

A motion to approve Community Service Board appointments, Lisa Meade, Hudson Falls for the term 1/1/20-12/31/23 and Adele Potter, Fort Ann for a term 1/1/21-12/31/24 was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Ferguson and Wilson, and adopted.

- Restoration of 20% State Aid Withholds – State Aid for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020 and the 1st quarter of 2021 had a 20% withhold on it and that 20% has now been restored. The funding has been received and they are getting that funding out to their agencies.
- 2021-22 NYS Executive Budget Proposal-Potential Impacts – Two things they are keeping an eye on are the Governor's proposed 5% permanent cut to State Aid and 50% reduction in some jail based addiction treatment service funding that Washington County receives in the amount of \$60,000 that is currently contracted out to Behavioral Health Services North who operates the Center for Recovery. With the receipt of the stimulus funding, these proposed reductions will probably not go through as part of the enacted budget.
- 2021 Departmental Goals – Presented a review of the Office of Community Services for 2020 and goals for 2021, handout attached.

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

- Permission to Apply for Grant – Child Safety Passenger Grant – A motion to approve applying for Child Safety Passenger grant in the amount of \$15,000 due May 1, 2021 was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Ward and Ferguson, and adopted.
- Staffing – Backfill due to resignation of WIC Nutritionist – A motion to approve backfill, WIC Nutritionist, and forward to the Personnel Committee was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, and adopted.
- Unused Vacation Time Related to COVID Response – They have several employees in the agency that she is unsure how to fit in their vacation time by their anniversary dates. The Interim Director's anniversary date is June 1st, another at the end of May and one at the beginning of July. The employees with the May and July anniversary dates are orienting new employees from vacancies that they have had and hard to have them off. Need permission to roll this time over to the next anniversary year but noted that it is excessive time, i.e. one employee has 26 days. She is looking for direction on how to proceed. The County Administrator recommended the Board approve the rollover of the time and then see where it goes from there. Mr. O'Brien suggested looking at this issue now rather than waiting until the next anniversary date. He suggested the County Administrator, Interim Public Health Director, Public Health Fiscal Officer, Personnel Director meet prior to the Personnel Committee to come up with some suggestions to discuss. A motion to have the County Administrator meet with the Interim Director of Public Health, Personnel Director and PH Fiscal Officer and forward a proposal to address Public Health employees unused vacation time related to the COVID response to the Personnel Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Skellie, seconded by Mr. Ward, and adopted.
- Request for Budget Amendment – Carry-over COVID Grant Monies – A motion to approve carrying forward unspent Crisis COVID funding in the amount of \$19,621 and forward to the Finance Committee was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, and adopted.
- Miscellaneous:

- Started vaccinating the homebound. Hope to get more J&J vaccine. Next week the vaccination guidelines open to everyone. Out in the community hoping to get the agricultural workers done once the homebound are done. Because of the construction at Burgoyne Ave, the pod this weekend will be held at the Hudson Falls High School. 26.3% of population in county vaccinated.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Veteran Services: Ken Winchell, Director, addressed the following items:

- Peer to Peer Program – A candidate for the Peer-to-Peer Program Coordinator position has been agreed upon and accepted the position. Excited to keep the program moving.
- Proposal for resolution designation the County of Washington as a purple heart community. Recognizing that many veterans of our county have earned the purple heart medal as a result of being wounded while engaging in combat with an enemy force. Designate a day to be determined to recognize the recipients of the purple heart medal. A motion to approve resolution designating the County of Washington as a purple heart community was moved by Mr. Skellie, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, and adopted.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Ward, and adopted. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors

What went right in 2020?

- Transitioned outpatient mental health, addiction, and family support services from Glens Falls Hospital to Behavioral Health Services North, Inc.
- Assisted the local provider system with management of COVID-19 issues, while maintaining the availability of appropriate mental health, addiction and intellectual/developmental disability services for the community.
- Updated departmental County website pages, including development of a COVID-19 Grief Resources page for grieving families.
- Developed jail-based addiction treatment and support services for releasing inmates. Behavioral Health Services North is the contracted provider for Washington County.
- Increased access to outpatient mental health services for youth through development of school-based mental health services in the Warrensburg, North Warren, Greenwich and Salem School Districts. Behavioral Health Services North is the provider.
- Assisted local provider system to advance tele-mental health capacity.
- Arranged for virtual presentations of Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings through various local provider agencies.
- Continued to convene regular Criminal Justice/Community Services Task Force meetings to identify and implement criminal justice diversion and service improvement projects for individuals with serious mental illness and/or addiction.
- Provided necessary assistance and support to the Warren-Washington Association for Mental Health to begin construction of a 28-unit specialized housing project in Glens Falls.
- Expanded the number of potential providers for CPL §730 court-ordered examinations by one, adding an additional local psychologist to the provider list.
- Advanced community and provider education and awareness regarding addiction through active participation in the Hometown vs. Heroin and Addiction Coalition, which has merged with the Criminal Justice/Community Services Task Force.
- Continued active involvement and support of the Suicide Prevention Coalition facilitated by the Council for Prevention.
- Assisted the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team, operated by Northern Rivers, to reach full capacity, to ensure maximization of the resource and fiscal sustainability. The program serves Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties.
- OCS staff members were able to work remotely, when needed, due to COVID-19 precautions.

What could have gone better in 2020?

- The initial agency chosen to take over the Glens Falls Hospital outpatient services backed out of the process after considerable time and energy had been expended.
- Our department has six staff members, but only two laptops. This inhibited the ability of some staff to be fully functional when working remotely. We were able to obtain approval to utilize DSRIP funds for the purchase of new laptops in December, but due to manufacturing delays, the laptops still have not been delivered as of March 1, 2021.
- Twenty percent withholds on State Aid were implemented for three consecutive quarters, impacting local service system providers.
- Our office has struggled with obtaining timely, accurate data on drug overdoses and death by suicide, which would be useful for planning and implementing prevention strategies.

Departmental Goals for 2021

- Advance development of residential addiction stabilization and rehabilitation services for men in the community through our contract with the Addictions Care Center of Albany by assisting them in securing appropriate funding, facilities and necessary approvals to become operational.
- Develop school-based mental health services in at least two new school districts, through expansion of clinical services provided by Behavioral Health Services North.
- Develop data collection processes for obtaining timely, accurate data on drug overdoses and death by suicide, and utilize this data for planning and implementation of prevention strategies.
- Continue to advance and expand local provider tele-mental health capabilities.
- Enable all staff members to be fully functional in remote working capabilities by equipping them with laptops connected to the Warren County network.
- Develop local Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) capacity through participation in the CIT Train-the-Trainer course.
- Implement the Law Enforcement Addiction and Mental Health Referral System (LEAMHRS), to include purchase and development of an on-line referral format for officers to quickly make a referral for addiction and mental health follow-up/outreach.
- Support local law enforcement agencies exploring development of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs, and similar pre-arrest diversion programs.
- Explore 911 diversion of non-emergency mental health-related calls to the Northern Rivers/Parsons Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team.
- Assist the County Veteran's Services Offices in further development of the bi-county Joseph P. Dwyer veteran's peer-to-peer support program.
- Continue to convene regular Criminal Justice/Community Services Task Force meetings to identify and implement criminal justice diversion and service improvement projects.