

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2020

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

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Chris DeBolt, County Administrator

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1) Call to Order

2) Accept Minutes – September 30, 2020

3) Department Reports/Requests:

A. Youth Bureau

1) STSJP Plan Update

B. OFA/ADRC

1) Request for Resolution – DSRIP Allocation

C. Department of Social Services

1) Implementations of family First Prevention Services Act Update

2) Backfill Requests:

Account Clerk; Caseworkers (2); Social Services Examiner

D. Public Health

1) COVID Update

2) Recognize Funding – DSRIP, NYSACHO COVID Project Funding

4) Other Business

5) Adjournment

Chairwoman Clary called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the October 28, 2020 meeting was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Ward, Skellie and Losaw and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/REQUESTS:

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

- STSJP (Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program) Plan Update – DSS and the Youth Bureau just completed the STSJP Plan for 2021. These are state dollars that are used locally to address youth that may be deemed at risk. The population served are generally PINS youth (persons in need of supervision) as well as JD, juvenile delinquents. This program has been effective in keeping kids out of detention. They are proposing to the State to expand services to pre-PINS youth – working with the youth and the family to lessen the probability of them going further in the system. They will work with the youth and identify risk factors and issues contributing to them and work with the family to keep the youth in the home. They will use this state funding to meet local needs. Currently in the last year of our Safe Harbour funding which addressed youth at risk for sexual exploitation and there has been no direction from the State on funding for next year. This funding allowed them to meet the state mandate and keep the program in service. The plan has been submitted to the State and once approved will bring it back to committee because none of the additional dollars requested are included in his tentative 2021 budget. This is an evidence based program that also might be eligible for federal reimbursement.

OFA/ADRC – Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell, addressed the following item with the committee:

- Amend Budget DSRIP Allocation – In receipt of additional DSRIP funds and requesting to amend the 2020 budget increasing the office supply line by \$409.97 to purchase more New York Connects printed brochures, and increase revenue \$409.97. This is 100% federal funding. A motion to approve budget amendment to recognize DSRIP funding in the amount of \$409.97 was Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Wilson and adopted.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – Commissioner DeLorme addressed the following items:

- Implementations of Family First Prevention Services Act Update – Signed into law in 2018 which made significant changes to the Title IV-E and IV-B of the Social Security Act with the intent to keep children safely at home with their families and when that wasn't possible to utilize the least restrictive form of placement appropriate for the needs of the child. The Title IV-E reimbursement was limited to foster care maintenance payments and administration and the act allows for the first time funds to be used for preventive services and programs. Contract services now between the DSS and the Youth Bureau/Alternative sentencing are split 68% state and 32% county and once this is implemented in a year there is a potential that these Title IV-E funds would be a 50% buy in by the federal government and the remaining 50% split between state and local. This will put time limits on how long a child can be in residential care therefore the need for preventive services. NYS had requested a delay in implementation and the start date is September 29, 2021. Still a need for more foster homes to allow child placed to get more individualized care and support while also working with the family to get the children out of foster care quicker. Received \$30,000 in funding to prepare for implementation of this program. Plans to look to the community for people interested in becoming registered foster parents to provide preventive respite care, limited to 21 days, and this ties in with the STSJP program previously mentioned. As it gets closer to implementation, policy/process changes include: Blind Removals – reduce racial disparity and disproportionality in child welfare removals and Kin First Firewall - ensuring that all steps have been taken to make the first foster placement a kinship placement that is safe, appropriate and in the child's best interests both policies promote racial and social equity and justice in child welfare. The Kin First Firewall is supposed to be in place by January 14, 2021 and no date yet on the Blind Removal process.
- Backfill Requests: Account Clerk, Caseworkers (2), Social Services Examiner
 - Account Clerk in Child Support – Last month requested a temporary backfill for this position due to a medical absence and since then the employee has resigned. A motion to approve backfill, Account Clerk in Child Support, and forward to the Personnel Committee was moved by Mr. Skellie, seconded by Messrs. Ward and Wilson and adopted.
 - Caseworker (2) Child Protective Services due to vacant position since August and an employee unsuccessful in completing probation period. A motion to approve two Caseworker backfills and forward to the Personnel Committee was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted.
 - Social Services Examiner – backfill due to an internal transfer to Accounting – A motion to approve backfill, Social Services Examiner, and forward to the Personnel

Committee was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Ward and Wilson and adopted.

- Computer Operations Coordinator Position – temporary backfill due to military duty. Relying on Information Technology Department for support. A motion to approve temporary backfill, Computer Operations Coordinator position, and forward to the Information Technology and Personnel committees was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Wilson and Ward and adopted.
- HEAP Information attached. Program is opening on November 2nd.

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

- COVID Update – Since the last committee meeting it has been a month of reports and plans. She detailed how many times Public Health is asked to commit their staff to different activities:
 - Plan relating to Antigen Testing - point of care/rapid testing. The State is heavily invested in this. Problems with reliability but Health Departments have been advised a positive is a positive. Their plan is to share the testing with a current stand up site at Warren County. They have been a godsend to Public Health and it is their primary way that they have been able to send people who are symptomatic and don't have a primary care provider or have issues with co-pays/finance with an infectious disease requisition to this drive through site for testing. A lot of complexity to starting a stand up testing site – test reporting, staffing, legal, testing equipment that needs to be climate controlled, safety and security. Antigen test have to be reported to the State clinical laboratory within three hours.
 - Increased workload with Schools – Answering questions, finding places for the children to be tested and the extreme constraints that have been put on the schools who are doing an unbelievable job. Any schools in yellow zones have to test 20% of their staff and students and in the process of working through the details and discussing possibilities.
 - Enrollment application through Health Department to CDC in preparation for potential or maybe inevitable COVID vaccination. Required to indicate storage capacity for vaccine and look at points of distribution for vaccination administration. A typical point of distribution would take their entire staff. VA centers, federal medical places and pharmacies may be the first points of distribution. Public Health has submitted the enrollment form and what we have for resources for federal vaccine roll out and then there will be a New York approval process. A lot of unknowns.
 - Flu Vaccination and Monitoring Plan for the regular seasonal flu. Required to do a drill and this afternoon will do a modified drill in the county building. Public Health will do the flu vaccinations for the under insured and uninsured.
 - Contact tracing and investigations – Contact investigation is for people who we believe are positive or who have tested positive and the nurses at Public Health do those initial investigations. They have to walk people back 48 hours to determine where they were to collect information on who might be exposed.

Contact tracing is what happens once they identify contacts. These are people who are typically not sick and have been exposed and they are fully maximizing the use of the State vaccine contact tracing system, VCC. Typically, between nine and fourteen FTEs assigned to Washington County from the State run contact tracing system which require daily calls or texts and if they develop an issue are popped back to Public Health for follow-up. Another group is travelers who may never hear from Public Health. Over the summer 60% of the contacts were travelers who are being followed up through the state system and that was a tremendous help to the staff. Every morning the nurses are checking positive cases, transferred cases, new contacts in addition to fielding calls.

- Daily call volume has nearly doubled. For example, on day in September had 123 calls for questions.
- School Liaison – The Assistant Director of Public Health has taken the lead on this and is busy pretty much all day every day with Superintendents, school nurses and parents. They do have a school liaison they are taking advantage of hired through NYS Contact Tracing Initiative PCG – Public Consulting Group at the state level, frontline triage with the schools and that will be their only focus and that person will be onboarded this week. Liaison between school and county regarding schools.
- Currently have nine positive cases, one hundred nine under monitoring and two people under investigation – symptomatic but not diagnosed. About 50% of our contacts are travelers.
- Four RNs are working and one is on sick leave. They have had to put on additional support staff over the course of the last month because of the number of calls and isolation contacts.
- Their other programs have continued to run on a on a limited basis – rabies, lead, immunizations, communicable disease.

The County Administrator proposed time and a half pay for all non-union Public Health employees who work holidays and or weekends, the creation of a contact tracer title at a grade 13 \$21.63 per hour and the thirteen trained contact tracers from other departments when they work for Public Health would be in the contact tracing title on the weekend. Also authorize Public Health to rely on those contact tracers as much as they need with the approval of the home department. Public Health was authorized to hire three per diem RNs and the Administrator is requesting the addition of three additional per diem RNs. This is the short term staffing fix that he is asking the Board to consider today. A motion to move forward with proposed staffing requests was moved by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Wilson. Discussion. If an employee works 40 hours in their respective department and then works the weekend as a Contact Tracer they would be on overtime. The Administrator is unsure at what title the overtime would be paid on and will get better clarification. Mr. Hogan asked what we are not doing now that we were doing six months ago. The Public Health Director stated they are doing very little other duties such as community work, community education, bare bones when it comes to lead poisoning prevention, no home visits for newborns or new moms, family education work, immunizations only for those that have no other way to get an immunization, have done only two of the three required rabies

clinics and no health education/car seat work. They are doing only the basics. Every day they have to prioritize. The Public Health Director thinks we are going to see adverse consequences over time due to the lack of screening and outreach. It is all day every day COVID. A motion to move forward with proposed staffing request was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Wilson and adopted.

- Recognize Funding:
 - Public Health Crisis COVID-19 Funding – This funding will cover some of the cost of their additional hires and time and a half but only for the hires directly related to COVID and can supplant their current Infection Control Nurse A motion to recognize Crisis COVID-19 funding in the amount of \$95,373 and increase Other Public Health regular earnings A.4189.121 \$77,181, PH COVID A.4189.189 \$9,642, Public Health A.4004.4260 Mileage Expense/Car Pool \$4,000 and Contingency fund \$4,550 was moved by Mr. Skellie, seconded by Messrs. Losaw, Ward and Wilson and adopted.
 - Public Health Preparedness Grant funds equipment used for drills, Infection Control Nurse staffing hours and phones. A motion to recognize Public Health Preparedness grant funding in the amount of \$49,625 and increase appropriations: Public Health grants other \$10,2020 and contingency \$39,423 was moved by Mr. Losaw, seconded by Mr. Ward and adopted.
 - NYSACHO COVID-19 Emergency Response Funding – Had to reserve additional flu vaccine this year and working with their association they were able to secure funding to help offset this additional cost and also fund a project to provide some no touch thermal scan thermometers to the schools. A motion to recognize \$6,785 in NYSACHO COVID-19 Emergency Response funding and increase appropriation Disease Control Article IV funding \$6,785 was moved by Mr. Ward, seconded by Messrs. Losaw and Wilson and adopted.
 - DSRIP – A motion to recognize \$409.97 in DSRIP funding the 2020 budget and increase the consultant line \$409.97 was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Losaw and Wilson and adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS:

VETERAN SERVICES – Ken Winchell, addressed the following item with the committee:

- Resolution request to appoint Ken Winchell, County Veteran Services Director as the Veteran Indigent Burial Designee for Washington County. This will allow him to coordinate getting discharges and apply for their federal benefits and stipends to help cover those costs. A motion to appoint Ken Winchell County Veterans Services Director as the Veteran Indigent Burial Designee for Washington County was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Wilson and Ward and adopted.

Mr. Hicks passed along to Ken a compliment he received from a constituent who stated that ever since Ken took over the VA things have gone great and everything is working smooth with his paperwork. Everything is working like clockwork and he's very happy and very satisfied.

The meeting adjourned at 11:31A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Washington County Board of Supervisors

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Guidelines 2020-2021 Season

The income eligibility guidelines for the HEAP Program are adjusted annually based on State Median Income and/or OMB Poverty Guideline data. These are the Monthly Income Eligibility Guidelines that apply for the **2020-2021 HEAP Season**. HEAP opens November 2, 2020.

2020-2021 HEAP MONTHLY INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Household Size	TIER I	TIER II
1	0 - 1,382	1,383 - 2,610
2	0 - 1,868	1,869 - 3,413
3	0 - 2,353	2,354 – 4,216
4	0 - 2,838	2,839 – 5,019
5	0 - 3,324	3,325 - 5,822
6	0 - 3,809	3,810 - 6,625
7	0 - 4,294	4,295 - 6,775
8	0 - 4,780	4,781 - 6,926
9	0 - 5,265	5,266 – 7,077
10	0 - 5,750	5,751 – 7,227
11	0 - 6,236	6,237 - 7,378
Each Additional Household Member:	+ 485	+ 560

Basis for Eligibility

Note: Amounts above are dollar values, i.e. '1,275' equals '\$1,275.00'.

Households with primary heating sources will continue to have their Regular Benefit Amounts determined based on a **BASE AMOUNT** associated with their household's **FUEL TYPE** (see the table below) plus a **\$35.00** add on amount for households with **Vulnerable Individual(s)** and a **\$31.00** add on amount for **Tier I** households.

FUEL TYPE	BASE AMOUNT (Plus)
Natural Gas & Public Service Commission Regulated Electric	\$350 Plus possible \$31 to \$66 add on
Oil, Kerosene and Propane	\$675 plus possible \$31 to \$66 add on
Pellets, Coal, Wood and others	\$525 plus possible \$31 to \$66 add on

Grant Amount

Non Heaters Benefit TIER I - \$45.00 TIER II - \$40.00 Heat and Eat - \$21.00

Emergency HEAP opens January 4th, 2021. Regular and Emergency HEAP season ends March 15, 2021 unless further funding becomes available.

EMERGENCY TYPE	2020-2021 BENEFIT AMOUNT
HEAT RELATED DOMESTIC	\$140
NATURAL GAS –HEAT ONLY	\$350
NATURAL GAS – HEAT AND HEAT RELATED DOMESTIC and PSC ELECTRIC HEAT	\$490
NON UTILITY FUEL: With Fuel Types Oil, Kerosene and Propane	\$675
With Fuel Types Coal, Wood and Other	\$525
NON UTILITY FUEL AND HEAT RELATED DOMESTIC: With Fuel Types Oil, Kerosene and Propane	\$675 + \$140 \$525 + \$140

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Guidelines 2020-2021 Season

With Fuel Types Pellets, Coal, Wood and Other	
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Emergency Grant Amount
