

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 30, 2020

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

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Ward

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

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – November 24, 2020
- 3) Department Reports/Requests:
  - A. OFA/ADRC
    - 1) Resolution Request – Recognition of DSRIP Funds
    - 2) Program Updates
  - B. Department of Social Services
    - 1) Backfill Request – (2) Caseworkers
    - 2) Program Updates
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

Chairwoman Clary called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 24, 2020 meeting was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Skellie and adopted.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

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

- Budget Amendment – Recognize DSRIP Funds – A motion to amend the 2021 budget to increase federal aid revenue, DSRIP 100% federal aid, and increase computer equipment for the purchase of iPads to promote more remote learning for staff and forward to the Finance Committee was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Skellie and adopted.
- Program Updates:
  - NYSOFA had previously advised the office of the reduction of certain funding by 20% and notified on December 11<sup>th</sup> that the funding was restored back to the original allocation.

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

- Personnel – Requesting permission to backfill two (2) Caseworkers, one retirement from the ADRC unit and one resignation in the Foster Care unit. A motion to approve backfills, two Caseworkers, and forward to the Personnel Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Campbell, by Mr. Ferguson and adopted.
- Department Updates:
  - HEAP emergency benefit component will begin on January 4<sup>th</sup>. This is an additional grant that extends beyond the regular grant. HEAP contact number 518-746-2236.
  - Raise the Age came into effect October 1, 2018 for a 16 year old who commits an act that results in the youth being at risk of becoming or resulting in the youth being an alleged or adjudicated juvenile delinquent and on October 1, 2019 for a 17 year

old and the diversionary efforts created change that impacted several of our county departments. Required to submit a plan in order to have the expenses associated with the additional services reimbursed. The initial plan from October 2018 – October 2019 received final approval so now need to confirm eligible expenses that were realized throughout the county departments and submit for reimbursement; approved for up to \$303,951. The full amount will not be claimed but all eligible expenses will be submitted for reimbursement. The next plan for April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 is due on January 6<sup>th</sup> and in the process of working on that. Mr. Campbell asked the District Attorney at yesterday's Public Safety Committee to work with us on raise the age and other costs that come down from the court system.

- Medicaid – The required weekly payment that the County makes to the State has been reduced a second time during this State fiscal year due to the extension of the public health emergency. The current weekly payment is \$182,534 and reduced to \$158,913; a savings of \$23,621 per week for ten weeks. The cost avoidance in the Medicaid line within the DSS budget for 2021 is \$236,210 from what was originally budgeted.
- On December 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress passed funding for additional pandemic relief including emergency funding through the elder justice act and some of that funding directed to New York State for adult protective services programs for pandemic related expenditures that will probably have to be spent by the end of the federal fiscal year. Unsure how much funding will be allocated but would be applied in the areas of adult protective services in consultation with the Office for the Aging Director probably towards home delivered meals, medication, emergency shelter and housing, technology and other needs.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

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

- New VA Program - Caregiver Support Program – A caregiver, in-home aid or spouse would be provided with a stipend each month for providing that care. There are key eligibility criteria – veteran has to have one or multiple service-connected disabilities rated at 70% or higher.
- GF Clinic has been closed for the last week probability due to COVID and will open on Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Kathy McIntyre, Assistant Director of Public Health, addressed the following items with the committee:

- See the need to shift resources from case investigation and contact tracing to pod preparation for the vaccine. Due to not enough bodies to go around and not enough volunteers, requested from the State their assistance for case investigators and a school specialist. The State has been doing the contact tracing. Busy working and planning on setting up vaccination pods for when vaccination is received; points of distribution. They have brought on a couple of nurses. There is a call everyday with Albany Med on the vaccine; regional hub. Expecting vaccine very soon and will be sending over an MOU for the Chairman to sign regarding our responsibilities when the vaccine arrives which has to

be submitted by January 4<sup>th</sup>. Made the committee aware of a media campaign through Serve New York seeking extra volunteers.

- Quarantines changed from fourteen to ten days if you have no symptoms.
- Expanded into the space formerly occupied by Code Enforcement.

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

- Winter Fest cancelled due to pandemic.
- Collaborating with DSS on the preparation of the STSJP program – Supervision Treatment Services of Juvenile Program

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Skellie and adopted. The meeting adjourned at 10:27 A.M.

*Debra Prehoda, Clerk*  
*Washington County Board of Supervisors*