

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING **Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 8:30 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator (arrived 8:45 AM)
Ms. Loretta Sullivan	Legislator
Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services - MH
Mr. Shawn Yetter	Commissioner of Social Services
Mr. Gary Grant	Deputy Commissioner of Social Services
Ms. Lisa McCafferty	Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services – PH
Guests: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Chair of the Legislature
Ms. Mickelle Andrews	Accounting Supervisor – DSS
Mr. Jackson Bailey	Budget Officer
Mr. Kevin Millar	

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Budget Status

- Mr. Chris Korba noted the 2021 budget is tracking well with one unexpected expense – Court Ordered Criminal Psychiatric services. The patient started treatment on 12/31/2020. There have been no new invoices since the March invoice was paid.
- 2022 Proposed Budget: Care Compass grant is over. There is a new five-year grant, CARA. (See resolution). Criminal Psychiatric services proposal: The last 3-year average is \$181,000 per year. Services are \$33,000 per month. MH is proposing to budget \$198,000. This will be in a separate line as per Mr. Bailey. If the money is not spent, it will go back to the county.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the July 6, 2021 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Sullivan. Seconded by Legislator Monell. Motion Carried.

2. Personnel

- Alycia Palmer, CASAC, resigned 7/7/2021.
- Deena Schwartz, NP, resigning 8/16/2021. Ms. Morgan noted that it may take a while to fill this position and it may slow down appointments.

3. Critical Issues/Topics

- 730 Criminal Psych (discussed above).

4. Resolutions

- Authorize Grant Application – Appropriation of Funds Mental Hygiene and Amend 2021 Budget.
- Appoint Bob Williams to a Four-Year Term on the Community Services Board. (Backdated to March 2021).

5. Proclamations

- None.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Lisa McCafferty presented highlights and resolutions.

1. Personnel
 - N/A
2. Program Comments
 - Agency Report for July 2021 was forwarded to the Committee.
 - Ms. McCafferty noted that there are increased COVID cases.
3. Budget
 - Agency Financials for June 2021 were forwarded to the Committee. Mr. McCann noted that the budget is tracking well, without any surprises. Mr. McCann has had discussions with Jackson & Gary Hammond on upgrading the cars this year and speeding up the five-year plan. Preschool transportation efforts to control costs (parents driving their children) have resulted in \$100,000 of savings. There has been a slight uptick in the EI escrow.
 - 2022 Proposed Budget: Mr. McCann noted that the budget is coming in \$200,000 under county share. He distributed a handout outlining the proposed budget. No fringe costs are included. The temporary PH educators salaries will end in June 2022. The state covers 38.9% of their fringe coverage. There is \$2.7 million in COVID related funding that is separate and outside of the budget, per directions. EI is restored to the 2020 level. An additional \$4,000 was added to the Rabies line as there has been increased exposure and more treatment costs. The Pre-School line will be decreasing due to the savings in transportation costs. The Healthy Neighborhood grant has ended, awaiting notification of grant extension. There are 4 positions in Environmental Health that are currently under a desk review; upgrades have been budgeted. Discussed new PH Fellows Program that is tied to Cornell University. The grant is for a 2-year period and allows for the hiring of a Coordinator and up to 4 fellows. The program is designed to mentor and teach PH professionals. Ms. McCafferty will be working with Personnel on this. This is not included in the 2022 budget initial submittal.
4. Resolutions
 - None.
5. Proclamations
 - National Water Quality Month (New – Dan Scherrer to accept).

Public Health, in absence of declared state of emergency, recommends the protocols for social distancing, vaccinations, et.al.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Commissioner Yetter discussed caseloads, programmatic highlights, and personnel changes.

1. Budget

- Mr. Gary Grant shared that the 2021 budget is at or below in all program areas. Foster Care lines are up. There has been a total reduction of MA of \$100,000 for 2021.
- 2022 Proposed Budget: Handout was distributed. Staffing – 3 new positions added (due to State mandates) and 1 position (AAI @ SCU) being eliminated; there is an increase in the head count of 2. Decreasing the part time & temporary lines. Contracts are not changing other than the software expense for Traverse and an increase in annual subscriptions. The caseworker phones have all been upgraded to iPhones for Traverse. Under the program lines:
 - MA weekly shares are going up (COVID reductions are ending)
 - Detention costs have been increased by \$45,000
 - Replacement of 4 vehicles.
 - No changes to Employment or Youth Bureau budgets.
- Mr. Denis McCann shared that under the Capital Plan, we are getting quotes to replace the security metal detector and x-ray equipment at HHS. It will be in the Public Works' budget line for the HHS Building, and then be funded through the Shared Services lines of the HHS Building departments.

2. Caseloads

- During July, Cash Assistance caseloads decreased 2 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 1 case and Safety Net decreasing 1 case. Cases are down 12% for the year.
- MA-Only remained flat.
- MA-SSI increased 2 cases.
- Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 3 cases to 3,733.
- SNAP cases decreased 26 cases.
- Day Care decreased 3 cases.
- Services decreased 13 cases.
- See Caseload Summary.

3. Programmatic Highlights

- Tioga Career Center Report with attachments. The Job Fair is 8/25 at the Terra-Cotta in Owego. Employers continue to sign up.

4. Personnel Changes

- Kelsey Chandler, Office Specialist I, last day effective 7/2/2021.
- Jade Relyea, Accounting Associate II, hired effective 7/6/21.
- Brenda Holt was promoted and appointed Secretary to the Commissioner effective 7/14/2021.

5. Resolutions

- Approve Funding 2021 Youth Bureau Program.
- Create & Fill Seasonal Social Welfare Examiner Position and Seasonal Office Specialist I Positions for the HEAP Program. This is reduced by 1 position from last year.

6. Proclamations

- None.

ADJOURNED:

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services