

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 8:31AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
Mr. Jake Brown	Legislator {arrived 8:38 AM}
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. Heather Vroman	Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services (PH)

Guests: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Legislative Chair {Arrived 8:39 AM}
Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney
Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk
Ms. Erin Riddle	Legal Secretary

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial
 - Mr. Chris Korba noted that the 2023 budget expenses are 14% under budget due to vacancies & fringe savings. Revenues are exceeding by 5%. He expects to have a return of local share.
2. Old Business
 - Criminal Psych – Ms. Lori Morgan shared that they have not received any recent invoices for criminal psych services.
3. New Business
 - Waverly location – Ms. Morgan noted that there is nothing new to report.
4. Personnel
 - Jennifer Ferline, CSW, starting 10/10/23
 - Stacy Cannavino, Sr. CSW, resigned 9/1/23
5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolution to continue
 - Unfund and Create Position
6. Proclamations
 - None

Ms. Morgan shared that they will be receiving \$600,000 (\$75,000 a quarter) for two years. They are developing a plan for mobile crisis.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial

- Mr. Denis McCann reported that 2023 Public Health budget continues to track well, and he expects to have a return at the end of the year. On the preschool side of the budget, he stated there will be a resolution in October or November to add funds to Preschool in 2023. Mr. McCann reminded that the 2024 budget submittal included an increase in this area. The increased cost has been due to a combination of increased number of kids, the higher levels of service needed and higher transportation costs. PH continues to look for incentives beyond mileage reimbursement for parents to try to offset the transportation costs. Cars that were ordered in 2022 arrived last week.

2. Old Business

- None

3. New Business

- Agency Report for August 2023 forwarded to committee.
- Ms. Vroman reported that they recently had two quarters of internal audits across department programs as part of the resuming Quality Assurance. Minor deficiencies were found and are being corrected.
- A pharmacist has been contracted and has started reviewing vaccine policies and procedures (storage & handling).
- Working with United Health Services toward a contract for Laboratory and Imaging for potential TB patients.
- Ms. Vroman noted that the Online Animal Bite Report has gone live on the Public Health website.
- PH is running their first television commercial on immunizations for back to school.

4. Personnel

- Ms. Vroman shared that a sanitarian is resigning and going to Tompkins County because they are paying more. She encouraged the Legislature to consider increasing salaries for union employees.

5. Resolutions

- None

6. Proclamations

- Save A Life – Free Narcan Day

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the July 5, 2023 and August 8, 2023 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Brown. Seconded by Legislator Mullen. Motion Carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial

- Mr. Gary Grant reported that Day Care and Foster Care lines are up. He made a change to the 2024 budget based on information from his counterparts that the MA weekly shares may go down again in April 2024. He reduced the weekly share amount by \$413,000 for 2024. He noted that the OSC auditors are auditing contracts. Some improvements have been made since the last audit. Should have the initial findings by the end of September with the final report coming several months later.

2. Old Business

- None.

3. New Business

- Caseloads
During August, Cash Assistance increased 5 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 6 cases and Safety Net increasing 11 cases.
MA-Only decreased 11 cases.
MA-SSI decreased 6 cases.
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 8 cases to 3,544.
SNAP increased 41 cases.
Day Care decreased 5 cases.
See Caseload Summary
- Tioga Career Center report is attached. The unemployment rate in Tioga County continues to remain below the state & federal levels.

4. Personnel Changes

- Penelope Ward, reinstated as Social Welfare Examiner, effective 8/14/23
- Billie Jo Campbell, hired as Accounting Associate III, effective 8/14/23
- Debra Goodspeed, promoted to Principal Social Welfare Examiner, effective 8/28/23
- Anita Teed, SCU Coordinator, retired effective 8/31/23

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to continue

- Amend 2023 Budget (JD Foster Care)
- Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2023 Budget (Day Care)
- Authorize Contract with A New Hope Center
- Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2023 Budget (HEAP headsets)

- Authorize Appointment of Deputy Commissioner of Social Services; Grant Leave of Absence (Elizabeth Myers)

6. Proclamations

- None

Legislator Mullen thanked Mr. Gary Grant for all his hard work as he retires later this month

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services