

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, July 5, 2023 at 8:37 AM.

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

Guests: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Legislative Chair
Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney
Ms. Mickelle Andrews	Director of Administrative Services – DSS
Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk

MENTAL HYGIENE

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the June 6, 2023 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Brown. Seconded by Legislator Monell. Motion Carried.

1. Financial

- Mr. Chris Korba noted that regarding the 2023 budget, that due to vacancies, fee for service revenue and expenses (salary & fringe) are lower than the six-month budgeted target. Shortfall in fee for service revenue is offset by salary and fringe savings balancing the budget. Overall, the budget is tracking well.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – Ms. Lori Morgan shared that they have received an invoice for \$1,100 for just one (1) day. She does not know how long the person will be inpatient. County Attorney DeWind noted that it might be a good idea to speak with the judges regarding the competency determination placements. Ms. Morgan reported that the Mental Hygiene Regional Conference has been attempting to change policy so the local MH agencies are not 100% responsible for the costs.

3. New Business

- None

4. Personnel
 - None
5. Resolutions
 - None.
6. Proclamations
 - None.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
 - Mr. Denis McCann reported that 2023 continues to track well, with nothing unexpected. Preschool costs continue to increase due to more kids and higher rates from last year. Specifically, Preschool transportation is running ahead of budget and may need additional funding by year end. Some parents have switched to mileage reimbursement which helps with the transportation costs. El escrow – State's applied credit to escrow account funded by insurance companies has been used, and our payments have started again.
2. Old Business
 - None
3. New Business
 - Agency Report for June 2023 forwarded to committee.
 - Ms. Vroman stated that the department has been busy issuing messages to the public about air quality recently.
 - Two proposed bills are before the Governor: One is regarding Article 28. It would mean that Public Health wouldn't be held to the same restrictions & regulations as hospitals. The second bill would allow PH to continue with home visits without the requirement of licensing.
 - Ms. Vroman reported that they have hired a nurse who will start 7/31/23. Thursdays have been designated a regular clinic day. PH is working with schools to educate nurses & will assist parents in obtaining vaccines for back-to-school students who do not have a Primary Care Physician.
 - As part of the new mission: *Reset Renew Reimagine*, the quality assurance committee and Emergency Preparedness Team are reconvening and updating their plans/procedures. PH is also engaging with their BOH more regularly. Recently, Dan Scherrer presented on the water program report and Denis McCann on fiscal operations to the Board of Health. PH met with Rural Health Network to get connected with them again for education and programming.
 - There is also a plan to complete a COVID after-action report.
 - PH staff handed out water at the 5K for the Strawberry Festival.

- Dental Van only has one part-time dentist, and he is booking out into September & October at this time. One of the only other dentists in Tioga County that accepted Medicaid closed last week.
4. Personnel
 - None.
 5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to continue
 - Authorize Purchases for Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure & Workforce
 - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds (Community Foundation Grant) This is for car seats. There are currently 4 people trained in car seat installation in Public Health.
 - Update Public Health Chart of Accounts
 - Transfer Funds to Purchase Upgraded Security Cameras for Remaining Health & Human Services Building Camera Locations (ITCS Resolution)
 6. Proclamations
 - None

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial
 - Mr. Gary Grant reported Foster Care and Safety Net remain slightly under budget. Commissioner Yetter received a letter saying we will go back to paying the full weekly shares amount in 2024. He is awaiting clarification on the letter. If that happens, it will amount to \$824,000 in additional costs. There is \$1.4 million dollars budgeted towards administrative costs that we were reimbursed 62% after Federal reimbursement. The State says that category will no longer be eligible for reimbursement and that would amount to \$350,000 in additional costs. Mr. Grant will be bringing 2024 preliminary budget information to next month's meeting.
2. Old Business
 - Remote Work Update – A few more people have asked to work remotely. If approved, that will increase the total number of people to 17. The program is going well, and feedback is positive.
3. New Business
 - Caseloads
 - During June, Cash Assistance increased 7 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 1 case and Safety Net increasing 8 cases.
 - MA-Only decreased 50 cases.
 - MA-SSI increased 4 cases.
 - Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 80 cases to 3,577.
 - SNAP increased 9 cases.
 - Day Care increased 6 cases.
 - See Caseload Summary

- HHS Committee Chair Standinger asked Commissioner Yetter about any immigrant impact. Commissioner Yetter explained that if they were placed in Tioga County by, for instance, NYC, they would be responsible for their housing costs and Tioga County would be responsible for SNAP & Medicaid. If immigrants come to Tioga County on their own, we would be responsible for all shelter & public assistance costs. Tioga County continues to have very limited shelter available to TC residents. Due to staffing issues, even a small number of immigrants coming to Tioga County would have a huge impact administratively for DSS but also on all County services.

There was discussion regarding a homeless encampment (20-40 people). We have tried to work with them, but they are not around when DSS tries to visit.

- Tioga Career Center report is attached. Unemployment rates in Tioga County remain lower than State & National levels. The TCC budget allocation was reduced by \$31,000 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). Mr. Grant and Ms. Mickelle Andrews are working with TCC Director, Ms. Jackie Burdick, to ensure the Center can continue to maintain services without any local share. It could result in the reduction of certain services that TCC normally provides to the community and businesses. Mr. Grant will discuss further at the budget presentation.

4. Personnel Changes

- Andrea Rossi promoted to Principal Social Welfare Examiner effective 6/5/23
- Brandy Lunn promoted to SS Employment Specialist effective 6/5/23
- Megan Gilbert promoted to Social Welfare Examiner effective 6/5/23
- Kelly Dean promoted to Social Welfare Examiner effective 6/5/23
- Rebecca Fetherbay, Principal SWE, retired effective 6/16/23
- Amber Duke, SWE, last day effective 6/16/23
- Keenan Jensen, hired as SWE, effective 6/19/23
- Elaine Ellers, hired as OS1 in Services, effective 6/19/23
- Amber Phillips, SWE, last day effective 6/23/23

5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to continue

- Appropriation of Funds & Amend 2023 Budget (Title XX)
- Authorize Contract with Berkshire Farms
- Authorize Contract with Liberty Resources
- Authorize Contract with Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties
- Authorize Contract with Tioga Opportunities, Inc.
- Authorize Contract with Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties
- Appoint New Youth Board Member Term (Tara Hauptfleisch)

6. Proclamations

- None

Commissioner Yetter noted that DSS will be paying for a recruitment billboard that will be on Rt 96, just over the bridge.

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services