

Present: Legislators Maha, Klotzbach, Torrey, Deleo, Also Present: Legislators Yunker, Stein, Legislature Clerk Pamela LaGrou, County Manager Matt Landers, Asst. County Manager Tammi Ferringer, County Attorney Kevin Earl, Mental Health Director Lynda Battaglia, Public Health Director Paul Pettit, DSS Commissioner Dave Rumsey, Veterans Director Bill Joyce, Mike Petinella-The Batavian, Brain Quinn-The Daily News

Chair Gary Maha called the meeting to order at 4:30pm in the Legislative Chambers at the Old Courthouse.

A motion was made to amend the agenda to add *By-Laws Revision Community Services Board* by Legislator Deleo, seconded by Legislator Klotzbach, carried unanimously.

Minutes of the August 31, 2020 meeting were approved upon motion of Legislator Torrey seconded by Legislator Deleo, carried unanimously.

Mental Health Director Lynda Battaglia requested approval of a new contract for Nurse Practitioner services since the previous NP resigned. The new contract is with Jessica Kurzdorfer of Scottsville, NY at a rate of \$95 per hour for a maximum of 300 hours for the period October 19, 2020-December 31, 2020. This was referred to Ways & Means with a recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator Torrey, carried unanimously.

Ms. Battaglia requested approval of a contract with Spectrum Health & Human Services for after-hours crisis services at a cost not to exceed \$12,534 for the period November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. This was referred to Ways & Means with a recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Klotzbach seconded by Legislator Torrey, carried unanimously.

Ms. Battaglia explained how the Mental Health Department has successfully used a Locum Tenens service for the provision of psychiatry services. She requested approval of a contract renewal with Consilium staffing out of Irving Texas. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator Klotzbach, carried unanimously.

Ms. Battaglia identified that the Community Services Board recently revised their by-laws after obtaining by-laws from other counties across New York State. They have adopted the revised by-laws which are more in alignment with mental hygiene law and are looking to the County Legislature for approval and adoption. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Klotzbach seconded by Legislator Torrey, carried unanimously.

Public Health Director Paul Pettit requested a budget transfer to cover personnel services for Coroners. He requested a total of \$6,000 be transferred from personal travel and contracted medical to personal services. This was referred to Ways & Means with a recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator Torrey, carried unanimously.

Mr. Pettit explained that the County Health Department is requesting an agreement with FairBridge Inn & Suites in Batavia for temporary lodging for COVID isolation and quarantine. The term of the agreement is August 26, 2020 – August 26, 2021 at a rate of \$40 per night if the stay is 7 days or longer and \$50 per night if the stay is less than 7 days. Expenses will be offset with COVID-19 funding. This was referred to Ways & Means with a recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Torrey seconded by Legislator Deleo, carried unanimously.

Mr. Pettit requested approval of a grant acceptance and contract from NYS Department of Health for a \$23,130 grant for Children and Youth with Special Health Care needs program. Funds have been appropriated in the 2020 and 2021 budgets. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator Klotzbach, carried unanimously.

Mr. Pettit requested approval of a contract for the provision of services to eligible children in the Preschool Supportive Health Services Program. This is a new provider, Melissa Caputi, with a contract period of August 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Services qualify for 59.5% state reimbursement minus Medicaid for any Medicaid eligible children. This was referred to Ways & Means with a recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Klotzbach seconded by Legislator Torrey, carried unanimously.

Mr. Pettit requested approval of an agreement with Lamar for billboards. The Opioid Crisis Grant will cover the cost of the billboards. Cost of the outdoor billboards is \$12,040.04 for the promotion of the police assisted addiction and recovery initiative. A motion to amend the resolution to add the terms of the agreement was made by Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator Klotzbach, carried. This was referred to Ways & Means with a recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Torrey seconded by Legislator Deleo, carried unanimously.

Department of Social Services Commissioner Dave Rumsey reviewed his department report. The DSS budget remains on-track for 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic. They are waiting to see what the financial impact will be from the State withholding 20% of reimbursements. The DSS administration and accounting teams monitor expenditures and revenues closely through the end of the year to insure they stay within our allocated budget. Personnel expenses are as budgeted. Staff turnover rate is moderate. The Medicaid administrative cap has not been reduced and the State take-over of administration of the Medicaid program has not progressed in any substantial manner. Currently, there are 11 youth in some form of residential care, and the costs of these placements continue to rise. The events of the COVID-19 pandemic reduced the ability to reunite families and perform court ordered visitations. The reasons for children entering care have not changed during the last year. The most prevalent reasons are still substance abuse and/or mental health issues of the caretakers or children or the extreme acting out by children that compromises the safety of the family members or community. The cost of residential placements for very high need and hard to place youth impacts current expenditures and proposed budget appropriations the most. Placements in residential treatment centers (RTC) have board and tuition costs currently ranging from \$145,000 to \$230,000 annually each for the 11 current placements. There

are currently 161 Adult Preventive and Protective Services for Adults (PSA) cases. Adults, on average, are living longer and there is a general desire to keep aging adults in the community and at home instead of in an institution. Despite 8 furloughs, for 3 months, during COVID-19, and the County hiring freeze DSS workforce is stable for the time being and getting the required work done. DSS employees work diligently every day to serve the residents of Genesee County.

Veterans Director Bill Joyce provided his department review and indicated due to COVID-19 pandemic no report of the number of claims, appeals and pensions can be provided. The new VA Rapid Appeals Modernization Program has not proved to be rapid, coupled with the Pandemic appeals have been moved from the regional office to the county veterans service office. He continues to serve all veterans including non-county residents. He continues to support the National Cemetery and assists veterans with the application process (for burial). He has drone fly-over images of the cemetery. He attends service officer training offered by the national association of veteran service officers.

County Manager Matt Landers commented on the plane that crashed in Corfu and the fine job Genesee County Coroner Jeff McIntire has done. The crash site is considered his scene and he has put together a team who is working diligently.

The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is Monday, October 5, 2020 at 4:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm upon motion of Legislator Torrey seconded by Legislator Deleo, carried unanimously.

Gary Maha approved 11-2-2020

Gary Maha, Chair
Human Services Committee
Submitted 10/6/20 phl