

Present: Legislators Stein, Young, DeJaneiro, Deleo. Also Present: Legislators Cianfrini, Bausch, Torrey, Clattenburg, Clerk LaGrou, County Manager Jay Gsell, Asst. County Manager Matt Landers, Youth Bureau Director Jocelyn Sikorski, Health Director Paul Pettit, Mental Health Director Ellery Reaves, County Attorney Kevin Earl, Daily News Reporter Jim Krencik, and Howard Owens from The Batavian.

Chair Stein called the meeting to order at 4:27 PM at the Old Courthouse. The minutes of the May 1, 2017 meeting were approved upon motion of Legislator DeJaneiro seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

Public Health Director Paul Pettit explained his request for a service agreement for the provision of medical waste services. The County still provides some services that generate medical waste which warrants the request for this agreement with Biosan Disposal of Buffalo. Cost is \$49 per box. Mr. Pettit explained that the county attorney is working to get out of the present contract due to more favorable pricing. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator Young carried unanimously.

Mr. Pettit described how the Health Department earned a score of 100 during their performance period and had been awarded \$12,000 to support local costs associated with Article 6 eligible services. The Department will allocate funds to personnel training and program expenses. A budget amendment is needed because the funds were not anticipated or included in the 2017 budget. This was referred to the Ways and Means Committee with recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator DeJaneiro seconded by Legislator Deleo carried unanimously.

Mr. Pettit explained the next request to accept NYS Department of Health funding for the County's Children with Special Health Care Needs Program. This is an annual grant award in the amount of \$19,064 remaining unchanged from last year. The contract period is October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator DeJaneiro seconded by Legislator Deleo carried unanimously.

Mr. Pettit next requested approval of a contract for the provision of services to eligible children in the Preschool Supportive Health Services Program. The contracts are with multiple agencies and individuals for special education itinerant teacher services, classroom services and evaluator services. Mr. Pettit stated that all will have signed off on the required corporate compliance policy. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator DeJaneiro seconded by Legislator Young carried unanimously.

Next, Mr. Pettit requested approval of multiple contracts for related services in the Preschool Supportive Health Services Program. Contracts will be with both individuals and agencies to provide related services such as speech and occupational therapy. At present, there is a wait list for speech services. Lower reimbursement rates result in

fewer providers who are signing on with the County. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator DeJaneiro seconded by Legislator Deleo carried unanimously.

Lastly, Mr. Pettit presented a request for an amendment to the 2017 Salary Schedule to better utilize personnel in the Health Department. He explained that a full-time Community Health Nurse is retiring and he is recommending eliminating that position and creating an Epidemiology Coordinator. Now that County Health Departments are providing fewer direct services, many are utilizing this position in their local departments. The incumbent is not expected to be a certified Epidemiologist however Mr. Pettit does expect many qualified candidates will apply. No change in salary or fringes is expected with abolishing the Community Health Nurse and creating the Epidemiology Coordinator. This was referred to the Ways and Means Committee with recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator DeJaneiro seconded by Legislator Young carried unanimously.

Mental Health Director Ellery Reaves reviewed highlights of his written department report. He described the shift to Managed Care and the value-based model that is being developed. Clear-cut pre-determined milestones, indicators or matrixes have yet to be designed. They are working in a fluid environment and doing their best to navigate while providing quality services. More patients have been seen in 2017 than previous years. Mr. Reaves explained that he is taking the lead with a 6 county coalition all of the 6 provide community based mental health services, to work on defining the value-based system to be used. He also expressed that the state announced grant money will be available to counties who desire to study consolidation. Discussion ensued with regard to services in the jail; Mr. Reaves stated that Mental Health Services provide certified counselors to the jail population in need of mental health treatment. He explained the premise behind community mental health services which is to treat inmates when warranted and prepare them for when they re-enter the community. He cautioned that if the county mental health services had office space in a new jail facility they could be moving away from the community services model. Jail populations are seeing an increase in prisoners with mental health and/or substance abuse diagnosis which requires a continued presence in the jail. They will treat the inmate while incarcerated to help prepare them for their return to the community. Mr. Reaves spoke about the increase in youth being treated for anxiety disorder which is likely being caused by the constant use of social media and electronic devices.

Youth Bureau Director Jocelyn Sikorski reviewed her written department report. She received an updated version of the resource allocation plan from New York State with the passage of the budget. She stated the final year for the current AmeriCorps grant is upon us. No concrete information is available from the Feds regarding the next round of funding. Some program highlights include the Halloween costume kit project where 225 children from 5 schools received a costume. They served 29 youth with the back to school supplies program and planned their annual Youth Conference for 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> graders which had to be cancelled due to weather. One of the biggest challenges is the potential

loss of the AmeriCorps program. 1 FTE would be lost from her department if the AmeriCorps program does not continue in its current form. The community and agencies providing services will be affected as well since AmeriCorps members are placed right here in our community. She described how she is always looking for funding opportunities and ways to bring in money for needed programs and services. She stated the Youth Bureau will be conducting a needs assessment and will utilize the results for planning purposes and determine which evidence-based programs should be supported and used locally. She stated the raise the age initiative will impact how Youth Court reviews and assigns cases. Currently, they review specific offenses for youth under age 16. Not all cases are heard by Youth Court due to the nature of the offense. Mr. Sikorski confirmed the challenges facing county departments who work with youth. She agreed with Mental Health Director Reaves that smart phones and social media can adversely affect youth and that parents play a vital role in monitoring what youth are doing on-line.

Ms. Sikorski presented a request to accept grant monies from the US Tennis Association in the amount of \$2,500. She has applied for and been awarded this grant for several years. This year, the amount exceeded what was budgeted therefore a budget amendment is required. An AmeriCorps member is working with the Tennis Program and has established 8 locations for the Tennis Program. This was referred to the Ways and Means Committee with recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator Young carried unanimously.

The Clerk reported the next meeting of the Human Services Committee is Monday, June 26, 2017. And, the Lighting Ceremony for the Cupola is tonight at 8:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 PM upon motion of Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator DeJaneiro, carried unanimously.



Rochelle Stein, Chair  
Human Services Committee  
Submitted 6-7-17 phl