

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING** **Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Hubbard Auditorium, Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 8:40 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standing	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
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: Mr. Jackson Bailey	Budget Officer
Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney

### **MENTAL HYGIENE**

1. Budget Status
  - Mr. Chris Korba noted the 2021 budget is tracking well with one unexpected expense – Court Ordered Criminal Psychiatric services. There is a resolution to transfer funds from Full Time Salary to Criminal Psychiatric: Services Rendered. \$198,000 was budgeted in the criminal psychiatric line for 2022.
2. Personnel
  - Jessica Bennett, CSW started 9/27/21.
  - Patricia Zalewski-Gibson, Nurse Practitioner, starting 10/25/21.
3. Critical Issues/Topics
  - 730 Criminal Psych (discussed above).
4. Resolutions
  - Transfer of Funds and Budget Modification (Criminal Psychiatric Services)
  - Appropriation of Funds and Budget Modification (Catholic Charities & RSS contracts)
  - Appointing New Member (Larissa Pierce) to the Community Services Board
  - Appointment New Member (Shawn Nalepa) to the Community Services Board
5. Proclamations
  - None.

Legislator Standinger questioned if MH has seen a decrease in the demand for services. Ms. Morgan stated that they have not.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the September 7, 2021 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Sullivan. Seconded by Legislator Mullen. Motion Carried.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

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

### 1. Budget

- Mr. Gary Grant shared that the 2021 budget is running under in most program areas. Foster Care lines remain up but seem to have leveled off. Any extra funds will be used toward technology upgrades. Mr. Grant has met with Jeremy Loveland on the migration. There are still some issues that will need to be worked out with the state systems.

Legislator Standinger wanted to confirm if the foster care article in the Press & Sun Bulletin was correct. Commissioner Yetter stated that fewer people are willing to be foster parents, some due to COVID concerns. He noted that we are one of the few counties that continue with our own foster homes. Relative placements have increased.

### 2. Caseloads

- During September, Cash Assistance caseloads remained flat, with Family Assistance increasing 2 cases and Safety Net decreasing 2 cases. Cash Assistance is down 12% for the year.
- MA-Only increased 14 cases.
- MA-SSI decreased 4 cases.
- Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 24 cases to 3,781.
- SNAP cases decreased 4 cases.
- Day Care increased 2 cases.
- Services increased 1 case.
- See Caseload Summary.

Commissioner Yetter shared that 224 households in Tioga County have applied for rental assistance (ERAP) and 72 have applied for energy assistance (not HEAP). There is additional HEAP assistance for energy arrears.

### 3. Programmatic Highlights

- Tioga Career Center Report with attachments. Unemployment in Tioga County remains below the state and federal averages. Minimum wage increase takes effective as of 12/31/2021.

### 4. Personnel Changes

- Katherine Stevens, OSI, last day effective 9/24/21.
- Diane Cole, Seasonal SWE HEAP, started 9/27/21.
- Lindy Donovan, SWE, started 9/27/21.
- Julie Hildebrandt, Seasonal SWE HEAP, started 9/27/21.

DSS is still struggling with hiring as there is a lack of applicants.

American Recovery Fund – Catholic Charities has plans for the rectory at St. Margaret's church in Apalachin. It will be transitional housing with 4-5 units for single women and women with children. Currently, DSS pays for people to stay in hotels. Legislator Standinger asked Commissioner Yetter to forward the Catholic Charities plan and average cost of hotels for the year to the HHS Committee.

### 5. Resolutions

- None.

### 6. Proclamations

- None.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Ms. Lisa McCafferty presented highlights and resolutions.

1. Personnel
  - Stephen Mastro, Temporary Public Health Educator, new hire, effective 9/13/21.
2. Program Comments
  - Agency Report for September 2021 was forwarded to the Committee. The Dental Van is traveling to schools again.
  - Public Health is coordinating the testing for the school employees. They are working with Cayuga Medical Center for the lab services. There is a push by the Governor to vaccinate 12-year old's and up.
  - Ms. McCafferty recognized Dan Scherrer (Public Health Sanitarian) for his grant application.
3. Budget
  - Agency Financials for September 2021 were forwarded to the Committee. Mr. McCann noted that the budget is tracking well, without any surprises. There is a slight increase in EI Escrow invoices, resulting in the use of some of the savings reported in prior months, however still under budget at this time. The COVID funding remains complicated. Mr. McCann expects Public Health to have a return of local share at the end of the year.
4. Resolutions
  - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds – Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation.
5. Proclamations
  - Dental Hygiene Month (repeat)

### **ADJOURNED:**

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gail V. Perdue*

Executive Secretary, Social Services