

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 8:29 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
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 {Arrived 8:36}
Ms. Mickelle Andrews	Director of Administrative Services – DSS
Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk
Ms. Katie Chandler	Deputy Treasurer
Ms. Stephanie Jerzak	Chief Accountant
Ms. Laura Schurter	Treasurer's Office

There were not enough Legislators of the HHS Committee present for a quorum therefore July minutes could not be approved.

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial

- Ms. Lori Morgan noted that the 2023 budget is tracking well.
- Ms. Morgan shared that the 2024 proposed budget came in \$252,747 under without added fringe or salary raises. Contracts were reduced by \$180,000 due to 4 contracted Helio positions being converted to county positions. Only nurse practitioner and psychiatrist positions will be contracted.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – Ms. Lori Morgan shared that they have not received a invoice for criminal psych services.

3. New Business

- Waverly location – Ms. Morgan noted that the Waverly office will be moving back to HHS next week. Negotiations continue for a new site.

4. Personnel
 - MH currently has 12 vacancies
5. Resolutions
 - Create and Fill Permanent (3) Full-Time Senior Clinical Social Worker Positions and (1) Full-Time Clinical Social Worker Position
 - Authorize Grant Application, Appropriation of Funds and Amend Mental Hygiene 2023 Budget
 - Amend Budget and Appropriate Funds
 - Purchase 2 New Vehicles (no local share)-Reso not in packet
6. Proclamations
 - National Recovery Month in Tioga County (repeat)
 - National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Tioga County (repeat)

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
 - Mr. Denis McCann reported that 2023 continues to track well and he expects to have a return at the end of the year.
 - 2024 – Increase of \$276,550 made in the mandated Handicapped Education portion of the budget due to increases in services needed and the increased cost of transportation. PH continues to look for incentives beyond mileage reimbursement for parents to try to offset the transportation costs. Ms. Vroman shared that NYSACHO (represents PH Directors) has put in two resolutions 1) ask that pre-school transportation coordination be put back to school districts and 2) an 11% increase to EI providers.
Decrease in the Public Health portion of the budget of \$52,000. While there were many budget lines that went up or down, some of the budget decreases include salary lines (\$58,000), elimination of 2 vehicles (\$60,000), EI escrow (\$52,000). Some increases were: clinic costs (\$11,000), medical labs (\$14,000), printing/paper for education/awareness (\$11,000) and a focus on staff training (\$11,000). PH will be funding a previously unfunded Environmental Health Technician position. Using a vacant position to upgrade to a new position to better meet the needs of the department.
2. Old Business
 - None
3. New Business
 - Agency Report for July 2023 forwarded to committee.
 - Ms. Vroman stated that the Board of Health hosted guests from the Amish community in Berkshire to offer services to their community and work on building a relationship with them.
 - Remote Work Update – Ms. Vroman shared that they have 19 employees approved for remote work. It's going very well. She noted that she hopes the county continues the program as it's a good incentive for recruitment and retention.

4. Personnel

- Meagan Mertson, Early Intervention Service Coordinator, resigned effective 7/21/23
- Nicholas Conklin, Public Health Fellow, new hire effective 7/24/23 (Funded through NYS)
- Louise Dorsey, Public Health Nurse, new hire effective 7/31/23

5. Resolutions

- Reclassify Vacant Position and Fill

6. Proclamations

- None

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial

- Mr. Gary Grant reported that for 2023, the JD Foster Care line will be over due to 2 youth being placed. Cost is \$280,000/yr. He has budgeted \$560,000 for 2024. He will have to transfer money to cover through the end of 2023.
- 2024 – Effective January 1st 2024, the Medicaid weekly shares will go back to the full share of \$160,000/week resulting in an increase of \$1.2 million dollars in local share. There is a Medicaid spreadsheet in the packet showing the weekly shares costs through 2052. Mr. Grant also had to budget an extra \$200,000 to cover OCFS charge backs from 2022. DSS will be replacing 4 vehicles in 2024. Not requesting any new positions for 2024. He did increase the overtime line due to the number of vacancies. The Block Grant allocation increased \$200,000. The iPads the Caseworkers currently use in the field are 7 years old and per Jeremy Loveland they pose a security risk. Mr. Grant has been working with IT to determine the cost of 33 new iPads. He increased the computers line \$35,000. Also made increases in the advertising line for recruitment, the postage line, and the training line. Mr. Grant was able to decrease the training line the last couple of years due to COVID but now out of town trainings have increased along with the per diem change. The net result of the 2024 budget is an increase of \$1,221,701.

2. Old Business

- None.

3. New Business

- Caseloads
During July, Cash Assistance decreased 4 cases, with Family Assistance increasing 4 cases and Safety Net decreasing 8 cases.
MA-Only decreased 14 cases.
MA-SSI increased 4 cases.
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 25 cases to 3,552.
SNAP decreased 2 cases.
Day Care increased 7 cases.
See Caseload Summary

- Tioga Career Center report is attached. The Career Center has been working with Spencer VanEtten and Waverly School districts on providing one Employment and Training Counselor, one day a week at their schools. They will be meeting with students to provide career assessments, vocational explorations, and immediate job opportunities for those students who do not wish to continue their education. TCC will also provide information on apprenticeships, internships, and entrepreneurialships within Tioga County. This is a pilot program with hopes that the four other Tioga County schools will also want to participate next school year. TCC will be generating a revenue of \$35,000 per school for this service. Mr. Grant noted that he has not finalized TCC 2024 budget. With their allocation being cut by \$31,000, TCC has had to make significant cuts in programs. He expects the 2023 budget to come in over by about \$22,000 for 2023.
- Binghamton University Intern will be working at the CAC (Child Advocacy Center).

4. Personnel Changes

- Latricia Ayers, hired as OS 1 in Employment Center, effective 7/3/23
- Katrina Blinn, hired as Social Welfare Examiner, effective 7/17/23
- Crystal Wagstaff, hired as OS 1, effective 7/17/23
- Penny Ward, Social Welfare Examiner, last day effective 7/28/23
- Debbie Cooper, promoted to Sr. Caseworker, effective 7/31/23
- Phillip Wolfe, hired as Caseworker, effective 7/31/23
- Stephen Herbert, (returning employee) hired as Sr. Caseworker, effective 7/31/23

5. Resolutions

- Recognize Anita T. Teed for 34 Years of Dedicated Service
- Reclassify & Fill Vacant Position
- Execute Lease Extension with MCP Enterprises, Inc. for Child Advocacy Center
- Create & Fill Seasonal Social Welfare Examiner Positions and Seasonal Office Specialist 1 Positions for the HEAP Program
- Amend 2023 Budget (CAC)

6. Proclamations

- None

Legislative Chair Sauerbrey noted that she will not have Department Heads come back to present their resolutions. She expressed her appreciation for the hard work that went into preparing the 2024 budgets. Mr. McCann noted that unlike previous years when the budgets were due the first week in September, that the departments would have had another month of data to base their budgets on. Also, Mr. Grant shared that when the salary and fringe data pulls in on the budget spreadsheet, that the figures are way off, and the departments must calculate their own individual salary and fringe data. There is also not a way to change the wrong amounts that come into the spreadsheet making the calculations skewed. Chair Sauerbrey stated this issue needs to be discussed with Tyler and the Budget Officer (Jackson Bailey).

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services