

MINUTES

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, September 27, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Jacobs, Groat and Bender, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, Mental Health Director Jim Haitz, Deputy Director Ed Hunt, Nursing Home Administrator Jeffrey Stalker, Nursing Home Comptroller Barbara Keefe, Public Health Director Diane Devlin, Deputy Director Kerry VanAuken and Public Health Principal Account Clerk Heather Loucks. Supervisors Emmel and Kolczynski were not present for the meeting.

Mr. Sams stated the overall preliminary 2022 County budget reflects an increase in both revenue and appropriations from this year, along with a \$7 million increase in sales tax revenue and an increase in the property tax levy driven by an 8% increase in property assessments. The budget reflects managerial pay increases for both 2021 and 2022; as 2021 increases were not available at the formation of the 2021 budget. The budget reflects a decrease in the tax rate from \$7.52 in 2021 to \$7.17, without the use of any money from the General Fund. Mrs. Jacobs noted the 2022 County budget shows the revenue of ARPA (American Rescue Plan) funds. Mr. House informed members the State retains sales tax revenue from municipalities for Distressed Hospitals; the NYSAC Board is inquiring where funds are being appropriated. County administration will continue to look at position control. Approximately 45% of the County's budget is for personnel expenses. Mr. House stated the importance of not keeping grant-funded positions once funding is depleted. All new positions in the 2022 budget required prior approval through standing committee and full Board.

An overview of the budgets falling under the Health and Medical Services Committee was given. Revenue in the three Departments is proposed to exceed \$44 million and appropriation \$49.6 million, making the County cost at \$5.4 million. Both revenue and expense projections are up from this year. The three Departments have 377 employees: Public Health with 38, Mental Health with 106 and the Nursing Home with 233. Budgets presented today reflect 25 additional positions from the 2021 original budget with Public Health adding 11 and Behavioral Health 14. The majority of position are grant funded. Mr. Sams noted lease payments for space in the Health Services Building were reduced substantially; the County was only recently made aware of the reduction in cost.

The following budgets were reviewed (all were distributed to Supervisors electronically prior to the meeting):

- Nursing Home Combined: Revenues \$23,513,343, personal services \$9,199,242, equipment \$1,294,050, contractual expenses \$8,824,653, interest expense \$221,975, fringe benefits \$4,317,724. Ms. Keefe estimating the daily rate for service at \$217 for Medicaid, with the Medicare rate at \$520 daily. The Facility charges \$350 for a semi-private room and \$380 for private room. Through August the Nursing Home had over a

90% occupancy rate. Ms. Keefe said she is hopeful this number will improve in 2022. This is a conservative budget with interest income down and the anticipation of receiving IGT payments in 2022. Ms. Keefe stated the normal 50% local share for facilities may be reduced; she will keep the Committee updated. There are no new positions in the budget. Food, medical equipment rental and janitorial costs are increased. Ms. Keefe said, due to the age of the Facility, it is time to start reinvesting in the building to upgrade systems. System upgrades include a wireless nurse call system, sidewalk replacement and the buildings boilers. Funds from the Facility's cash reserve will be used to reinvest into the building. The budget includes normal equipment for operation. The budget includes funding for projects listed in the 2022 County's Capital Plan.

- Behavioral Health: Revenues \$10,742,068, personal services \$6,580,393, equipment \$109,000, contractual expenses \$1,506,644, fringe benefits \$2,546,031, County cost \$0. Mr. Haitz stated Federal grant funds the Department received are allocated in both revenue and expenses lines of the budget. The budget does not include the receipt of IGT funds; although they could be unexpectedly awarded, like the \$350,000 received this year. The Department could see additional Opioid prevention/education grant funding; however, with an unknown amount no additional revenues were placed in the budget. All new positions in the 2022 budget are being paid for with grant funds and have been approved through the Board. The budget includes funds for the purchase of computers and two vehicles.
- Community Providers: Revenue \$3,260,533, contractual expenses \$3,417,181, County cost down 8.6% to \$156,648. The State eliminated some program funding for Wayne ARC; making that organization change some of their programming so it is reimbursable. The budget reflects known State Aid award amounts; if additional funding is received during the year the budget will be amended.
- Forensic Hospitalization: County cost doubled to \$200,000. Mr. Haitz said the requested amount is based on this year's high costs for the program; which is approximately \$500,000. There is legislation proposed to have State Mental Hygiene Laws changed in relation to who is responsibility for the payment of this expense. At this time counties in the State are responsible for 100% of forensic hospitalization costs. The number of competency reports the Mental Health Department is asked to perform for the Court System has risen greatly in the past few years.
- 1990 Contingent Funds: The same as in 2021 at \$100,000.

Mrs. Devlin reported there have been 104 positive COVID cases in the County since last Friday; 27% of this number were children. One school age child is currently in the hospital. There is a lot of school transmission going on. The Delta variant is highly contagious. Wearing an approved mask is very important in now spreading the virus can be reduced, as well as spacing yourself from others. Those individuals who are getting sick when they contract COVID are generally

those who have yet to be vaccinated. More individuals are participating in the Wednesday walk-in clinic. Mrs. Devlin said once booster shots are made available, the Department will schedule a clinic at the Lyons Community Center; future clinics will be scheduled as needed. Most physicians and pharmacies offer the COVID vaccination at this time and should be offering the booster, once available. Boosters will not be administered until six months after vaccinations are complete.

Mrs. Devlin said flu shots will be administered to County employees in the near future. She needs to discuss how this will be done with Mr. House.

- Public Health: Revenues \$382,603, personal services \$446,253, contractual expenses \$190,872, fringe benefits \$207,405, County cost up 10% to \$461,927. A new Registered Nurse position is included in the budget, along with carry-over COVID response staff.
- Public Health Services: Revenues up over 100% to \$1,070,622, personal services \$715,266, contractual expenses \$330,878, fringe benefits \$218,236, County cost down 12.8% to \$193,758. There are additional temporary COVID positions, increased overtime and building and utility costs in the budget. The budget reflects COVID vaccine revenue and other COVID grant funding.
- Early Intervention 0-1: Revenue \$684,901, personal services \$352,867, contractual expenses \$1,155,831, fringe benefits \$150,399, County cost up 1% to \$974,196.
- Children with Special Needs 3-5: Revenue \$4,336,375, personal services \$39,948, contractual expenses \$7,273,920, fringe benefits \$19,848, County cost down 1.5% to \$2,997,341. This is the largest budget in the Department. Mrs. VanAuken stated in county transportation of youth in this program is provided by area school districts, contractors perform transportation for youth receiving services outside of the County.
- Public Health Education: Revenues \$142,172, personal services \$104,042, contractual expenses \$26,584, fringe benefits \$50,387, County cost up 436% to \$38,841. The budget includes the new position of Public Health Educator. The position is partially funded by State Aid. The individual in the position will oversee recreational marijuana and opioid education programs.

Mrs. Devin reported there is COVID-19 funding of \$698,052 for contact tracing, case investigations, vaccination clinics, over time and temporary staff expenses. There is separate grant funding available for clinics, advertising, staff overtime and to pay for the new RN position.

The County received \$2.4 million in State ELC School Reopening funds. Eight-five percent of the award must be allocated to supporting COVID prevention efforts in school districts. Wayne County elected to give the funds directly to each school district to support screening, testing and the purchase of personal protective equipment to allow for the safe reopening of schools. Each

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school district needs to appoint an individual as their COVID Mitigation Specialist to develop their school testing plan. The Public Health budget does not include \$1.3 million for the New York State Public Health Corps Fellow Program, as this contract has yet to be received. Individuals in these positions will assist with local COVID response efforts and provide school district support, communication support, and outreach and partnership development. SA2Y Network will be responsible for hiring individuals for the positions. Mrs. Devlin said she will put a transmittal before the Committee once a contract is received from the State to make this budget amendment.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m.