

## MINUTES

### HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

**Monday, January 3, 2022 10:00 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Verno, Leonard, Johnson, Donalty, Mettler, Groat and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, Veterans Service Officer Renee Maybee, Commissioner of Social Services Dr. Ellen Wayne and Aging and Youth Department Director Amy Haskins.

Minutes from the December 6<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting were approved as written.

Introductions of Supervisors/Department Heads were made.

The monthly Veterans Service activities report was attached to the agenda. During November the Office had contact with 452 Veterans and or family members, a single Veteran may make several contacts with the Office in one month. WATS made three transports to the Canandaigua VA Medical Facility and the County Driver made four transports to the Syracuse VA Medical Facility. The Office was contacted 51 times regarding Veteran burials, paying for three indigent burials in November.

The following transmittals were presented for the Veterans Service Agency:

--Authorization to create a full-time Motor Vehicle Operator position, abolish a part-time Motor Vehicle Operator position and amend the 2022 budget. The part-time Driver in the Veterans Service Office will move into the full-time position. Due to increased costs, services formerly provided by RTS to the Canandaigua VA Medical Facility will now be done by the County Driver. No additional funds are needed in the budget to expand the in-house service, which will include transportation services to any VA Medical Facility within a 100 miles radius. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Wayne Area Transportation Services for 2022 Veterans transportation services to the Canandaigua VA Medical Center at a cost of \$58.79 an hour for each rider. Mrs. Maybee said it is not the Office's intention to use this service often, but for a backup when needed. If the Agency Driver is not available, other staff could perform transportation services for Veterans. Approved 5-0.

The following monthly reports were presented for the Department of Social Services:

- Financials: Through November, the Department expended 67.6% of their County budget; this is substantially lower than last year at the same time, with both revenues and expenditures down. Dr. Wayne the Department's Medicaid Weekly Share has been reduced as a reflection of COVID-19; she anticipates this amount will increase back to previous rates, or higher.

- Temporary Assistance: Participation was up slightly in November for both Aide to Dependent Children and Home Relief cases. Dr. Wayne noted the increase is most likely due to recent reductions in COVID benefits.
- SNAP (food stamp) Caseload: The number of new applications increased as other program benefits are being reduced and/or eliminated.
- Medical Assistance Caseload: Participation continued to increase in November. Dr. Wayne reviewed pandemic elevated eligibility rules that are allowing for a high number of individuals to qualify for this program. She remains concerned the Weekly Medicaid Share will have to increase due to the high number of individuals receiving medical benefits through this program.
- Child Welfare Services: The Department received 151 reports involving 229 children between October 21<sup>st</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup>. Eighteen of this number were child abuse reports.

This month's program spotlight was on homeless/housing. In 2021 the Department of Social Services received more than 370 calls requesting emergency assistance related to housing. With COVID funding, the Department of Social Services entered into a contract with community partners to increase emergency response, long-term prevention and permanent housing response. The Department has contracted to provide emergency rental assistance, outreach, and application assistance activities. Social Services continues to work with the New York State Welfare Association and Association of Counties to identify and advocate for system changes that will ease the growing concern for the homeless.

Supervisor Miller left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Dr. Wayne noted overtime expenses in the Intake Unit are high; this is due to the need to process requests in a timely manner with limited staff and mandatory overtime.

The State issued a directive regarding the allocation of Supplemental Rental Assistance Funds, with a limited period of time available for the local Social Services Department to respond and start implementation. Dr. Wayne said the Department is working to turn around a local plan to the State in the very near future.

The following transmittals were presented for the Department of Social Services:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Finger Lakes Area Counseling and Recovery Agency (FLACRA) for co-located alcohol and other drug services for a cost not to exceed \$61,017. The individual hired through this contract works directly within the Social Service Department. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes for the provision of trauma and general counseling services for youth for a cost not to exceed \$75,000. Approved 5-0.

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes for the provision of sexual abuse assessment and treatment services for youth at a cost not to exceed \$115,293. The number of children that are referred to this program increased greatly in 2021. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with the child caring institution Children Awaiting Patents, Inc. for the provision of child placement for a cost not to exceed \$75,000. This would allow for placement of children in a home located in Wayne County. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to establish a long-term housing project with \$360,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds and enter into a lease agreement with Lucas Dobbins. The proposed 12-unit facility will begin to address emergency housing and homeless needs in the County, when completed it will create emergency, after-hours, temporary housing. Funds will pay for a three-year lease for the building and furnishing the units. Mr. House stated a meeting was held with representatives of the Town of Lyons due to the placement of this facility in their Town, the project will need approval by the Town's Planning Board. Approved 5-0.

The Committee was updated on Aging and Youth Department activities since the last meeting. Year-to-date, the Department was contacted by 1,079 individuals regarding the NY Connects Program, 565 seniors received health insurance counseling, and 317 received home delivered meals. There were 193 seniors who participated in the Lunch Club 60 Program, 312 with personal response units, 110 received aide services, and 144 seniors received case management services. Mrs. Haskins noted case management services are more complex than they have been in the past. A new part-time Home Health Aide started this morning; the Department is now up to full staff for Home Health Aides.

The following transmittals were presented for the Department of Aging and Youth:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal agreement with the Clyde United Methodist Church for the provision of serving as a senior congregate meal site for a cost of \$3,900. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal agreement with the Town of Ontario for the provision of serving as a senior congregate nutrition site for a price of \$6,200. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with Newark Emmanuel United Methodist Church for the provision of serving as a senior congregate meal site for a cost of \$5,000. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with Genesee Region Home Care of Ontario County for the provision of personal care services to seniors for a cost not to exceed \$130,454. Approved 5-0.

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with Trusted Choice Homecare for the provision of senior citizen consumer directed services for a price of \$5,000. Mrs. Haskins noted this service is mandated by the State, although was not utilized in 2021. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with Legal Assistance of Western New York for the provision of legal services to seniors for a price not to exceed \$20,000. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with Wayne County Action Program for the provision of senior transportation services for a cost not to exceed \$11,581. Wayne CAP can provide transportation services both inside and outside of the County. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to pay K&L Transportation for emergency services provided to seniors in need of dialysis treatment transportation outside of the County. Mrs. Haskin noted the local dialysis center in Newark closed suddenly and treatment in many cases is only available outside of the County. Seniors are not comfortable driving this distance and K&L provided immediate transportation to Geneva for dialysis treatment at a cost of \$100 for each one-way trip. K&L could not meet the County's insurance requirements for contractors and does not wish to continue offering services; however, will need to be paid for their emergency response services. Approved 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m.