

MINUTES**HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE****Monday, January 31, 2022 10:00 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Groat, Bender, Eygnor and Brady, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Director of Mental Health Jim Haitz, Deputy Director of Mental Health Ed Hunt, Nursing Home Administrator Jeffrey Stalker, Public Health Director Diane Devlin and Public Health Principal Account Clerk Heather Loucks. Supervisor Robusto was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the December 5th Committee meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Haitz reviewed the monthly financial/performance report for the Mental Health Department. Numbers are nearly finalized for 2021. Through December the Department had actual revenues of \$9.8 million and expenses of \$8.5 million. This number does not include all retirement costs, as final bills have yet to be entered into MUNIS. The Department had several vacancies during the year that resulted in financial savings. At this time, the budget shows an excess of revenue over expense of \$1.3 million. Demand for mental health services is high and the Department has not been able to fill needed professional positions, which is making caseloads high. Mr. Haitz stated the Department has not received any complaints about last month's pause for new clients into Children's Clinics. It appears the same will be happening in the very near future to the Adult Clinic. The pause action cannot take place without State Office of Mental Health approval. The Department would still take in hospital emergency room and in-patient discharges, jail and prison referrals, along with higher level of care step-down referrals. Mr. Haitz said clinicians in the Department are overloaded due to the excessively high caseloads combined with the vacant positions due to the workforce shortage. The Department is not receiving applications for position openings.

Mr. Groat referred to a discussion from last month's Committee meeting regarding the County forming a task force to address the local workforce shortage, asking if anything had been done since that meeting. He questioned what became of the workforce and why people not interested in working, or do they not have the qualifications needed for openings at the County. Mr. House said he had a discussion with the Chairman on this topic. He also spoke on the issue before the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board at their last meeting. This is not just a Wayne County problem, but in the private sector as well. It is becoming more difficult to recruit and retain staff. Mr. Brady questioned if guaranteed pay increments could be put in place for new employees who stay with the County. If the County could offer sign-up bonuses was questioned. Mr. House said he does not believe this is an appropriate use of municipal funds. If internships in County Departments could be paid for was discussed. Mrs. Devlin said the pay scale at the County and retirement program are no longer attractive to potential candidates. She questioned if consideration has been given to increasing County employee benefits. It was noted Civil Service places restrictions with their qualifications to hold a title. Various reasons why individuals do not want to work for the County were noted. Mr. Groat said he would rather the discussion be on

getting individuals to work for the County. Mr. Stalker noted the State's staffing mandate is scheduled to go in place April 1st for health care facilities. With current staffing, the County's Nursing Home would only be allowed to have 160 residents; if more than this number with current staffing, the Nursing Home would be fined \$2,000 a day by the State. All vacant positions at the Nursing Home remain in the budget and the Facility will hire as soon as eligible candidates apply. Mr. Stalker believes if more staff are hired more staff will be retained, as jobs are very demanding with current staff shortages. Mr. Groat said this is a critical matter that needs immediate attention and the County needs to work through the obstacles that have been placed before them.

The following transmittals were presented for the Mental Health Department:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign renewal contracts with the following community providers for 2022 services: Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes, Catholic Family Center, and DePaul for a total amount of \$1,032,126. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with Independent Living for Seniors, Inc. for the provision of health care and other services. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement and contract with the University of Rochester for the provision of participation in a psychiatric fellows program. The \$70,000 cost of this program is reimbursed through grant funding. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to appoint Frank Robusto to the Community Services Board through December 31st 2025. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to purchase a new clinical health care electronic medical records system from Ten-Eleven Group, LLC for a cost of \$1,250 per unit. Mr. Haitz noted the County has an existing contract with Ten-Eleven Group; however, needs to purchase more units than were approved in the original contract. There are funds within the budget to pay for this unanticipated expense. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to pay Ten-Eleven Group, LLC \$36 for a license fee for current procedural terminology billing codes. The current contract the County has with Ten-Eleven Group does not include this cost. Approved 4-0.

Mr. Haitz updated Supervisors on psychiatric services offered at Newark-Wayne Community Hospital. When the pandemic began the hospital was approved by the State Department of Health to relocate their psychiatric in-patient unit to another facility and replace it with a medical COVID unit. Some psychiatric services were shifted to Clifton Springs Hospital. Mr. Haitz was recently made aware of how the former psychiatric unit has been repurposed including remodeling work done at Newark-Wayne Hospital to the area former psychiatric in-patient unit

for out-patient ambulatory services without notifying the Wayne County LGU (Local Government Unit) of Mental Health. Apparently the hospital made these changes several months ago and never informed the State or County. In addition, they had no authorization from the State Office of Mental Health Services or the State Department of Health to take this action that Mr. Haitz is aware of.

The monthly financial report for the Nursing Home was distributed with the agenda. As of December 31st 2021 the Nursing Home has an operating margin of 13.6% with IGT funds, with 411 days of cash on hand. The overall occupancy rate of the Facility was 89.8%, slightly lower than the previous year. In December the Nursing Home had 15 new admissions. The Medicare 5-Star Overall Rating is four, with two stars for staffing. At the end of 2021 there were 71 open positions at the Facility. The two-year retention rate at the Nursing Home is 64%. Mr. Stalker noted the State is requiring all health care workers receive their booster vaccination when they are eligible for it; he believes this may cause additional staff to resign.

Mr. Stalker presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a proposal for Daikin Applied to rebuild and upgrade the chiller as budgeted, and for Daikin Applied to utilize subcontractors for work required to complete the project at the Nursing Home for a cost of \$57,845. Approved 4-0.

The following transmittals were presented for the Public Health Department:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to certify and the Public Health Director to submit the 2022 Public Health State Aid application. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to submit the Pre-K Annual Administrative Cost Incurred Report and for the Chairman of the Board to sign the document. Approved 4-0.

The Committee was updated on COVID activity since the last meeting. The 7-day positivity rate in Wayne County is over 16%. The Finger Lakes Region has a higher 7-day positivity rate than the overall State. Through the end of 2021 Wayne County had 19,016 positive cases of COVID and 131 COVID related deaths. The Finger Lakes Regional has about 700 individuals in the hospital; the number is down slightly from last month. With participation in the Wednesday walk-in clinics at Public Health declining, the hours have been reduced to 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The clinic offers immune compromised persons an additional dose of the vaccination and boosters and vaccinations for anyone eligible over the age of 18. The Department is promoting vaccinations for children 5-11. Wayne County has an adult complete vaccination rate of 63%.

Ms. Loucks presented a financial update. Final overtime for 2021 was \$176,614; the majority of overtime costs are grant funded. Overtime was increased in the 2022 budget. The status for COVID-19 grant funding in the Department was reviewed. 100% of both COVID-19 emergency funds and COVID/FLU response funds have been expended. The Public Health Department was notified their COVID-19 ELC funding that allows for additional staff and many COVID costs has had its maximum reimbursable amount increased by \$1 million, allowing the contract to be

claimed in full. This contract is usable through March 2023. Mrs. Devlin said she is going to inquire if the Department could purchase a van to be used to disburse vaccinations at schools with these funds. The Department's Article 6 State Aid Application was revised with an increase of \$77,500 so additional personnel costs could be paid. The Public Health Department has contracts with 11 school district and Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES for expenditure of ELC COVID-19 funds. Schools are required to detail vouchering for their State reimbursements. There has been controversy regarding how different State Offices are responding to reimbursement of COVID expenses. Ms. Loucks is spending about 20% of her time processing school ELC reimbursements; the Department receives in-direct funding for administrative work they do for this program.

The County has not received the contract back from the State for the \$1 million reimbursement program for mask cost/education.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, February 28th at 10:00 a.m.