

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, February 1, 2021 8:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisor Verno, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Via Zoom Supervisors Leonard, Robusto, Jacobs, Johnson and Miller, Social Services Commissioner Dr. Ellen Wayne, Veterans Services Director Renee Maybee and Director of Aging and Youth Amy Haskins.

Minutes from the January Committee meeting were approved as written.

The agenda included a copy of the Veterans monthly activities report for December. During the month, 389 Veterans and/or family members made contact with the local Office, the overwhelming majority by phone and mail; 37 were in person visits. There were nine Veterans transported to the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and 56 contacts to the Office regarding Veteran burial services.

The Director of Grant Services for the Newark Central School District approached Mrs. Maybee about the Office's participation in a mental health first aid training. Mrs. Maybee noted mental health conditions of Veterans affect their children. The school district is officering this six-hour training through this collaborative effort to assist children in the community. (Mrs. Maybee e-mailed additional information about the training to Committee members following the meeting.)

Mrs. Maybee reported Veterans 75 and older, enrolled in the VA network, are being schedule to get their COVID vaccinations.

The following monthly reports for the Department of Social Services were included with the agenda:

- Medical Assistance Caseload: As of December 20th there were 3,385 County residents receiving Medical Assistant and 233 receiving Social Security Disability Medical Assistance. Medicaid assistance changes tied to eligibility were scheduled to occur in April; however, the Federal government will not allow changes to benefits while still in the state of emergency.
- Food Stamps: As of December 20th there were 4,202 County residents receiving food stamps that were not receiving public assistance, 95 receiving Food Stamps along with one form of public assistance and 206 receiving Food Stamps while receiving more than one form of public assistance. Food Stamp application numbers are about 50% higher than last year.
- Temporary Assistance: Cases have declined from the year high in April and May to 401 recipients at the end of December.
- Child Welfare Services: The number of child welfare reports in 2020 fluctuated during the year, ending December with 269 reports that month.

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- Financial: The Department expended 85.5% of their budget through December; this is down 10% from last year. Both expenses and revenues were down for 2020. Dr. Wayne reviewed budgeted areas that represent the largest changes. She is concerned future funding will be reduced if it is based on 2020 lower participation rates. The State is holding back their 'claw-back' 20%, which has amounted to about \$129,000.

The agenda included a program spotlight on the Department's Angel Tree Program. The program provides gifts during the holiday seasons for families and children in need; this year's requests were higher than in the past. There was a decrease in the number of agencies that assisted with the program. Through donations, the Department was able to provide gifts for 201 children, along with some entire families. The Toys for Tots Program assisted with toys, books and crafts for children.

The Department of Aging and Youth presented the following transmittals:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with the Clyde United Methodist Church for \$3,900 for the provision of space for a Senior Congregate Meal Site. Approved 5-0.

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

Mrs. Haskins reviewed aging services provided in 2020: 1,127 clients participated in the NY Connects Program, 372 received case management services, 415 participated in the Home Delivered Meals Program, 208 in Lunch Club 60, 289 PERS (Personal Care Units), 142 aide services and 659 insurance counseling. There are 38 individuals currently on a waiting list for aide services. Mrs. Haskin reported there are no longer an aide on staff with the Department; she is hopeful the position will be filled in the very near future.

Youth services received in 2020: 53 children and 31 families participated in the FACT (Family And Children Together) Program, 271 youth under the age of 21 received services through Family Counseling Center, five homeless youth were assisted through the Office and 14 youth participated in the Pre-Trial Diversion Program.

Mrs. Haskins stated the Office of Aging and Youth does not provide COVID vaccination scheduling.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 1st at 8:30 a.m.