

MINUTES

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, February 28, 2022 10:20 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Robusto, Groat, Bender, Eygnor, Brady and Miller, 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, Nursing Home Comptroller Barbara Keefe, Public Health Director Diane Devlin, Deputy Director Kerry VanAuken, Public Health Principal Account Clerk Heather Loucks and Registered Nurse/TB Coordinator Veronica Lafave.

Minutes from the January 31st Committee meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Haitz updated the Committee on the \$25,000 grant the Department received to expand or implement a Systems of Care Initiative with other cross-system partners to support children, adults and their families with emotional disturbances. At this time weekly meetings are taking place with a number of County Departments and outside agencies on this effort. The Mental Health Department is working with the State Office of Mental Health Services and Rochester Regional Hospital-Newark Wayne regarding the permanent closer of the in-patient psychiatric unit. Mr. Haitz said the hospital needs to receive permission from the Stated Health Department to finalize the action they have taken to repurpose this area. Members requested Mr. Haitz prepare a resolution objecting the hospital's action and present it at the next Committee meeting. Recruitment efforts continue to fill vacant positions; at this time there are 13 vacancies in the Department. Mr. Haitz voiced concern with the 19 suicides in Wayne County in 2021; this is a 60% increase from the prior year.

Mr. Haitz reviewed the financial status of the Mental Health Department. Through the end of 2021 the Department had revenues of \$9.9 million, expenses of \$8 million, resulting in a positive cash balance of over \$1.8 million. Through January 2022 the Department had revenues of \$612,350 and expenses of \$564,207.

The Annual Report for the Nursing Home was received and filed. All Supervisors were sent a copy of the document prior to today's meeting for their review. Some accomplishments of the Facility during 2021 include: instituted an online referral/admissions platform that networks with area hospitals, instituted Nursing Home Incident Command, created COVID-19 Emergency Plan, increased Facility communication through town hall meetings and successfully managed three State Department of Health infection prevention surveys. The Nursing Home also identified, treated and monitored legionella in the hot water system, navigated through multiple expiring contracts, established payroll based journaling procedures, established the Nursing Home as a clinical training site for RNs, LPNs and CNAs, and established an Employee of the Month Recognition Program. Ninety-eight percent of employees successfully completed compliance,

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sexual harassment and workplace violence trainings, and over 93% participated in HIPPA, computer system user, emergency preparedness and standards of conduct training. The number of full and part-time staff at the Facility has declined steadily in the past 10 years, ending 2021 with 185 full-time and 26 part-time positions.

Ms. Keefe updated the Committee on the financial status of the Nursing Home. During January the Facility had revenues of \$1.35 million, expenses of \$1.5 million, a cash balance of \$25.3 million and over \$15.5 million in short term T-bills. She is working with the County Treasurer to locate higher rates of interest for funds now in short term investments.

Mr. Miller left the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

The Nursing Home had an occupancy rate of 89.08% at the end of January. The lower occupancy rate continues due to COVID implications and staffing shortages. The Medicare 5-Star Overall Rating for the Nursing Home ended at 4-Stars, higher than the last two years. At this time there are 69 open positions, 20 nursing and 42 Aides. The State put a one-month hold on the deadline for nursing home staffing mandates. Mr. Stalker continues to work to increase the staff to resident ratio in the Facility.

Mr. Stalker updated the Committee on the following:

- On February 18th the Governor said workers in New York State health care facilities did not have to receive the COVID-19 booster in order to keep their jobs.
- As of this morning there were no residents in the Nursing Home with COVID; however, there was one employee who tested positive.
- Installation of the new nurse call system is underway; the project is ahead of schedule.
- Members of the National Guard continue to assist the facility in the kitchen, stocking materials and with temporary nurse aide work.

The following transmittals were presented for the Nursing Home:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a 90-day contract extension with Rehab Resources for the provision of rehabilitation services. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with HealthPro Heritage for the provision of rehabilitation services. Mr. Stalker noted rehabilitation services were put out to bid, after scoring, HealthPro was determined to be the best match for the Facility. Approved 5-0.

The Committee was updated on Wayne County's COVID status. Mrs. Devlin reported the seven-day positivity rate of in the County was 3.8% as of February 23rd; this number continues to drop throughout the Finger Lakes. The County's community transmission status dropped from high to moderate. Fifteen percent of new cases involve children. Since the pandemic began there have

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been 20,000 positive cases in Wayne County, resulting in the death of 142 residents. At least 69% of Wayne County residents have had at least one vaccination. Public Health's Wednesday walk-in clinic is not being well attended. Mrs. VanAuken said an effort is underway to have youth ages 5-11 get vaccinated at their physician offices. In the past month, 13 inmates were vaccinated at the County Jail. Efforts to vaccinate homebound individuals continue through Wayne County ALS.

Mrs. VanAuken announced many regular services offered through Public Health are resuming. Immunization of the Amish community is underway and in-home lead poison prevention visits. The Department restarted Automated External Defibrillator (AED) inspections in all County office buildings. Mrs. Devlin reported the interview process is underway for the NYS Public Health Corps Fellowship Program through the Health Research Institute. Fellows in the program will be hired through the S2AY Rural Health Network.

Ms. Lafave informed Supervisors a County TB clinic was held earlier in the month. Two pregnant County residents have latent TB infection showing lead levels in their systems; both have opted to receive treatment following the birth of their babies. TB is spread through air from one person to another when the disease is located in the lungs, some people will become infected when they breathe in the bacteria while others are not sick and have what is called a latent TB infection.

Ms. Lafave informed members she was contacted regarding suspected rabies in a steer in the Town of Galen. The same day the animal died it was confirmed the animal had rabies. Prior to that announcement the owner had another ill steer, with similar symptoms die a month earlier. This steer was euthanized, butchered and meat was being consumed by another family. An effort was made to make contact with anyone who had contact with the animal and might have been exposed to the disease. Ms. Lafave was in contact with the owner of the animal and his family regarding their exposure and the butcher who cut up the animal. The State Health Department stated individuals should not eat meat from a rabid animal. The owner of the steer and his wife agreed to receive the two vaccinations they need; the butcher of the animal has not returned requests from the local Public Health Office about vaccinations.

Ms. Loucks stated the Department was reimbursed \$483,000 for immunizations they have performed. She is concerned with discussions at the State to raise the Pre-K School Age Children with Handicapping Conditions (3-5) tuition rates by up to 15%. At this time there are 128 Wayne County children in center-based learning classrooms. The projected increase could result in an additional County cost to the program in excess of \$200,000. Ms. Loucks also informed Supervisors the Department's transportation bid for pre-school programs is up this year. Due to the increase in fuel costs during the past year, she anticipates an additional \$100,000 County cost for this expense. Ms. Loucks is also concerned with the ongoing bus driver shortage. Transportation services to these programs is mandated by the State.

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The Public Health Department is the reimbursement source for County expenditures through ELC COVID funding of \$1.6 million. Ms. Loucks believes the \$474,000 the County spent to purchase over the counter home test kits is reimbursable through the program. Funds can be used for the purchase of masks and staff time involved in the distribution of PPE items. Ms. Loucks is looking into all expenditures reimbursable through this program.

Ms. Loucks filed the Department's State Aid application on Friday; projections show the County will receive almost \$50,000 in additional State Aid in 2022 if the State's proposed budget passes. The State is discussing whether or not to allow fringe benefits as a reimbursable cost under State Aid.

The following transmittals were presented for the Public Health Department:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with the NYS Department of Health for operation of a local Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. The State will pay the County \$199,500 to operate the program. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the County budget and transfer remaining 2021 balance of COVID-19 ELC funding in the amount of \$222,083 into the 2022 budget. Funds will be utilized for staffing of COVID-19 response efforts, contact tracing, case investigation, testing and vaccination efforts. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the County budget and transfer remaining ELC Reopening Funds in to the County's 2022 budget to be expended to support school districts in meeting work plan objectives. The amount being carried over is \$35,465. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the County budget and transfer remaining 2021 NYS Department of Health COVID-19 vaccination response funding totaling \$99,621 into the 2022 budget. Funds will be utilized for vaccination promotion, education and outreach through June 2024. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a three-year renewal contract with Jack Venesky CPA & Associates for ambulatory health care facility cost reporting for a price of \$25,500. This professional service was bid. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Public Health Department to accept a \$4,000 Performance Incentive Award from the NYS Department of Health. Funding will be used to improve and/or enhance core public health services. Approved 5-0.

Mrs. Devlin noted the Governor's decision to rescind mask wearing as of March 2nd for school children. The CDC has yet to update the country on this issue.

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Mr. Robusto commended the work the County, in particular the Public Health Department, has done during the pandemic, hoping for the end of this challenging situation in the very near future.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 4th at 10:00 a.m.