

MINUTES

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, March 1, 2021 10:07 a.m.

Present: County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Via Zoom Supervisors Jacobs, Emmel, Groat, Kolczynski, Robusto, Chatfield, Bender and Miller, 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 Principal Account Clerk Heather Loucks.

Minutes from the February 1st Committee meeting were approved as written.

Monthly reports for the Mental Health Department were sent out prior to the meeting.

- Financials/Performance: Mr. Haitz noted, now that books are closed, it is evident the Department had a strong performance during 2020. At the end of January, the Department received revenue of \$657,139 and had expenses of \$619,979. The \$250,304 annual Building and Grounds maintenance/utility fee for 2021 was paid in full, as has the \$161,604 annual Information Technology bill. It is anticipated, for the first time, billings will total over \$1 million by the end of February.
- Forensic Hospitalizations: The two inmates hospitalized in 2020 were discharged prior to the end of the year. After the first of the year, the court ordered an inmate into a forensic hospital setting. There is \$100,000 in the 2021 budget for this expense, that amount will cover about three months of expenses. The amount of time the individual will remain in care is not known. The Committee will be kept up to date on these expenses.

Mr. Haitz presented a transmittal requesting authorization to abolish the position of full-time Staff Social Worker, create and fill a full-time Community Mental Health Professional and amend the budget. He reviewed the need for the requested licensed position. There are no additional funds being requested for the change. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Haitz noted the Mental Health Annual Report would be ready by the April 1st due date and sent out to members; he will review the document at the April Committee meeting.

Mr. Haitz noted \$100,000 in grant funding has been received to assist FLARCAs efforts with the 24/7 operation of the Open Access Center. Mental Health is already involved in this venture.

The Annual Report for the Nursing Home was received and filed. A copy of the report was sent out prior to the meeting. Group activities, volunteers and daily visitors have been restricted since March of 2020 due to COVID. Social work services continued with residents during the year via telemedicine. At the end of the year, the Facility participated in providing COVID vaccinations to their staff and residents. The Facility had a staff turnover rate in 2020 of 14%, lower than previous years. During the year, they received \$4.2 million in IGT funds. The cash balance of the Facility

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at the end of the year was \$12 million with \$27 million invested in short-term T-bills. The Wayne County Nursing Home Foundation received \$27,885 in donations in 2020; these funds are utilized to purchase goods or services for Nursing Home residents.

The monthly report for the Nursing Home showed the cash balance at the end of January to be \$13 million. The occupancy rate at the Facility was 83.17% in January with one admission. Ms. Keefe reported revenues were lower than expenses in January due to low occupancy. The Overall 5-Star rating at the Nursing Home increased to 4 Stars. There are 60 open positions, 26 nursing and 28 aide positions. An IGT payment is anticipated to be received at the end of this week.

Mr. Stalker presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract extension with Rehab Resources for the provision of rehabilitation services. Approved 5-0.

It was noted, in the past, the Sodexo contract with the Nursing Home was for three-years plus two one-year extensions. There is a great deal of detail that goes into this contract and Mr. Stalker would like to see the contract period extended to five years. The submission could include an annual increase in cost, if desired by the vendor. Mr. House noted a transmittal is not needed to put out requests for quotes for the many services SODEXO provides at the Nursing Home; however, a transmittal will be needed to accept the proposal for these services.

Following State guidelines and protocols, residents of the Nursing Home are now allowed to have in person visitations.

Mrs. Devlin stated, as of this morning, there were 4,089 positive COVID-19 cases in Wayne County, 64 active cases, 13 residents in the hospital and 42 deaths. The County's positivity rate of infection is decreasing along with the number of individuals hospitalized. The State is allowing for the resumption of some activities; following their set guidelines. All Wayne County School Districts have agreed participants in school sports must wear masks. In addition, some Districts are allowing visitors into their home games. The first clinic for individuals with co-morbidities is scheduled for this Thursday. The Public Health Department has held 18 COVID vaccination clinics. Vaccination clinics scheduled for February 18th and 19th were postponed due to weather conditions; both clinics were rescheduled. The Department is working with area school districts and BOCES to use their facilities for mass vaccination clinics. Mrs. Devlin and staff continue to participate in a number of meetings, both State and regional, regarding the pandemic. The Department received 3,000 test kits for distribution. Mr. Haitz noted a vaccination clinic scheduled in his Office for Wayne Behavioral Health clients over 65 and those with co-morbidities will be held this week.

Mrs. Devin thanked Mr. Haitz for allowing members of her staff to utilize space in his Department due to a waterline break that effected some offices. In addition, Mental Health staff are assisting in vaccination clinics. She also thanked Dr. Wayne and her staff for their contributions to the success of COVID vaccination clinics. As the County has freezers to accommodate the Pfizer

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vaccine, they are expecting receipt of some soon. This vaccination needs to be administered within one week of receipt. Mrs. Devlin stated the importance of remaining vigilant or another surge of the disease could occur. Even though many people have had their first shot, they have not had the second, and even those who have had vaccinated can pass the disease to others. Mrs. Devlin does not believe County crews will be able to handle the level of vaccinations needed for the vaccines that will be received; others places in the County where distribution can occur are being looked into. All State protocols on vaccination distribution are being followed. The Department sent their initial bill for administering vaccinations to the State; they have yet to reply if they will be reimbursed. Mrs. Devlin said if funds are received, they will be utilized to offset unanticipated personnel cost incurred due to the pandemic.

The State Department of Health notified the Public Health Office that rabies funding was eliminated in the State budget. The County receives nearly \$16,000 from this source that is used for testing specimens, clinics and treatment of uninsured individuals that have been exposed to rabies. Counties are mandated to provide prevention and rabies control and conduct four rabies clinics a year. Mrs. Devlin said this year's drive-thru clinics went extremely well and this may continue in the future. If any town has a site that could handle such an event, please contact the Public Health Office.

Mrs. Devlin presented the following transmittals for the Public Health Department:

--Authorization to amend the budget to rollover remaining 2020 funding for standalone flu/COVID funding for \$13,630. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget to rollover remaining 2020 State COVID funding for \$1,550. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with LEAP OT, PT and SLP for the provision of physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, group therapy and coordination of services to pre-school children with handicapping conditions. Mrs. Devlin said she would like to have all contracts for special services to physically handicapped children be made for five-years as the contracts are extremely detailed. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Devlin was requested to review the issue with the County Attorney. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget to rollover remaining 2020 COVID funding for \$202,837 to pay unanticipated staffing cost due to the COVID pandemic. Approved 5-0.

The 2020 Public Health Annual Report was received and e-mailed to Supervisors. It will be discussed at the April Committee meeting.

Mr. Groat questioned where persons can go to enroll for a COVID vaccination. Mrs. Devlin said there are vaccination sites for individuals over 65 or those meeting certain State criteria currently going on by registering online at one of the pharmacy sites. As soon as the Public Health Department has a link for new clinics to begin she will let Supervisors know.

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The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 5th at 10:00 a.m.