

MINUTES

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, April 4, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Robusto, 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, Nursing Home Comptroller Barbara Keefe, Public Health Director Diane Devlin and Public Health Principal Account Clerk Heather Loucks.

Minutes from the February 28th Committee meeting were approved as written.

The monthly report for the Nursing Home was included with the agenda. Through February the Nursing Home had revenue of \$2.56 million and expenses of \$2.73 million. The cash balance of the Facility was \$25 million with \$16,194,574 in short term investments. Ms. Keefe noted the Facility received an IGT payment of \$1,534,354 on February 24th. The overall Facility occupancy rate was 87.5% for the first three months of the year. Mr. Stalker stated the Facility's Medicare 5-Star Overall Rating was at four stars at the end of 2021. There were 67 vacant position at the Nursing Home at the end of March, the majority being full-time CNS (Certified Nursing Assistant) positions.

Mr. Stalker updated the Committee on the State's staffing mandate that went into effect April 1st. The County will need to adjust their Nursing Home census depending on staffing, or be fined, according to the new mandate. Mr. Stalker said, with current staff levels, the Facility should be able to house around 150 residents. There is no plan to remove individuals from the Nursing Home; however, there will be no new admissions. If staffing increases, so can the census. The Facility has been successfully using the web platform Indeed for recruitment. Staff members continue to leave the County Nursing Home for higher rates of pay. Mr. Stalker stated some of those employees are now returning. He then reviewed various proposals under consideration to increase employment and retention of exiting staff. Mrs. Devlin noted the proposal for the State to pay up to 50% of fringe benefits for Public Health Workers.

Mr. Stalker reported the new nurse call system is almost complete.

The following transmittals were presented for the Nursing Home:

--Authorization to increase the salary for Graduate Practical Nurse positions by 20 cents an hour. Mr. Stalker noted there are four of these positions in the Nursing Home. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign the annual license and agreement with P&NP Computer Services, Inc. for the provision of billing software at a price of \$2,069. Approved 5-0.

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Mr. Haitz noted the Mental Health Department also has staffing requirements set by the State, and although there are no fines for being understaffed, the Department cannot provide the necessary services to the community when not fully staffed. The Department received approximately \$150,000 from the NYS Office of Mental Health and Office of Addiction Services and Support to assist with staff recruitment and retention. He noted the competition between the County and other health care facilities. He is providing various in-house employee incentive to retain and recruit staff now, i.e. flexible scheduling. Staff are also being allowed to work up to 40 hours a week; this is needed to provided services during this time of staff shortages.

The monthly financial performance report for Mental Health was reviewed. Through the end of February the Department received \$1.4 million in revenue and had \$1.28 million in expenses. The Department already paid their annual maintenance/utilities and IT/telephone costs for 2022. The report included a seven-year revenue in excess of expense report showing \$6.3 million; in 2021 alone the amount was \$1.3 million.

The following transmittals were presented for the Mental Health Department:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign renewal contracts of affiliation with area colleges and universities for student fieldwork internship education. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to support the continued operation of the in-patient Psychiatric Unit at Newark-Wayne Community Hospital. Mr. Haitz noted the Center was closed during the COVID pandemic to allow for additional bed space in the hospital. He read from a letter the State sent saying they were not considering the closure of any Office of Mental Health in-patient service. The request is for the hospital to re-open the in-patient psychiatric unit and to abandon any plans to repurpose the Unit. Prior to the pandemic this was a 16-bed Psychiatric Unit. Mr. House stated a meeting is scheduled later this month with representatives of the hospital. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Haitz noted the State Office of Mental Health is developing an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) plan. This is a form of community based mental health care for individuals experiencing serious mental illnesses that interferes with their ability to live in the community, attend appoints with professionals in clinics and hospitals and manage their mental health symptoms. Wayne County has offered this service to their adult population; however, the program will now be expanded to serve children. Wayne County Mental Health could also be receiving additional funding from the State to provide new mental health services to Veterans.

The Annual Report for the Department of Mental Health and Wayne Behavioral Health Network was received and filed. A copy of the report was electronically sent to all Supervisors prior to today's meeting. The report stated the vision of the Department is to provide a range of behavioral health services to the residents of Wayne County in order to promote emotional wellness and healing. The provision of accessible, affordable and confidential services are designated to address a broad range of behavioral health needs in a timely, professional,

competent and client centered manner. The Department offers mental health treatment and support services to residents of the County over three years old. The report detailed each program area. The Department has 32 licensed satellite mental health clinics located in the 11 County school districts. Through a \$4 million grant, the Department established an Open Access Center in 2018 designed to assist residents with treatment and recovery support for opioid addiction and/or other problems. In 2021 the Open Access Center responded to 2,713 encounters. The Department had an influx in caseloads during the COVID pandemic, along with in-person visits, Mental Health provided telehealth treatment services and expanded their mobile services. The report detailed crisis and emergency services offered, along with community programs and services. In 2021 the Department served 4,722 individuals with 66,192 units of service. Forty-eight percent of services were offered at Mental Health clinics and 22% at school clinics. Managed Care paid for 61% of billed services; they are the largest payer source for billed units of service. The Department earned revenue of \$9.9 million, had expenses of \$8.5 million, realizing net revenue over expenses of nearly \$1.4 million during the year.

Public Health's new Health Educator Adrean Lopez and New York State Public Health Corp Fellow Haley Mirarchi were introduced.

The Committee was updated on COVID-19 cases in the County. The Omicron variant is more transmissible; the County is currently in a low transmission status with a seven-day positivity rate of 3.9%. Since the beginning of the Pandemic the County has had 20,495 cases of COVID, resulting in 147 deaths. Vaccinations appear to be working well on keeping those infected out of the hospital and from death. Vaccinations are currently being offered at the County's Public Health Department by appointment every Thursday. The County is still providing in-home vaccinations for seniors and those that cannot leave their residence. Seventy percent of Wayne County residents who qualify for a COVID vaccination have received at least one shot.

Other areas updated include:

- Lead: Two reports were addressed during March of children with high lead levels from the same household.
- Communicable Diseases: There were 36 reports of communicable diseases during the month.
- Rabies: The Department received 19 reports of animal bites during the month and one animal was tested for rabies, the test was negative. The Department's first Rabies Clinic for 2022 is scheduled for April 16th at the Lyons School District Bus Garage. Appointments are required for this drive-thru clinic.
- Flu Vaccinations: In the past the Public Health Department offered both public and employee flu clinics. As flu shots are offered at almost all drug stores at this time, along with doctor offices, public flu shot clinics were stopped. Last year the Department ordered 400 flu vaccination doses for employee clinics, only utilizing 160 of them. Mrs.

Devlin questioned if the County should continue their in-house employee flu clinics. After a short discussion, it was agreed these clinic would no longer be held. There will remain a limited stock of flu vaccine in the Office for use on necessary cases.

- Community Health Assessment: The assessment determined the first priority of residents is promoting wellbeing and preventing mental and substance use and the second is prevention of chronic disease.
- Education: How the County's Public Health Office is, and will continue, to be available to municipalities regarding recreational marijuana use and store fronts was discussed. Ms. Mirarchi sent emails to obtain information on how many CBD retail stores are currently operating and ifs Town/Villages had opted out or if they will be allowing retail and/or consumption stores in their jurisdictions. She also informed these offices a Public Health Representative is available to meet with their Boards if requested. Municipalities could opt out of allowing store fronts in their communities to sell marijuana, but they cannot stop individuals from smoking it. Mrs. Devlin said municipalities may want to review their zoning plans to make sure they are appropriate and update for changes in the marijuana law, if needed. A license through the State will be needed to grow the plants, another to harvest and prepare the distribution, another for the sale and another to operate a consumption front. The State has an Office of Cannabis Management website that has a great deal of information on it. The Public Health Department will also work with individuals who plan to sell marijuana to make sure they are following all State and local regulations.
- Financials: Ms. Loucks noted ELC COVID payment reimbursements are six months behind. The State will pay for the home test kits the County purchased earlier in the year. The Public Health Department has had \$1.39 million in COVID costs to date and \$1.43 million in revenue. Ms. Loucks informed members the Department's State Aid application was submitted in February and approved in March for up to \$738,868; this is over \$75,000 less than last year's appropriation. The cost of Pre-K related services has increased, there are currently 263 youngsters enrolled in this program. The last time there was an increase in rates was for the 2017-18 school year; the increase is substantial. Discussion was held on establishing new Related Service rates as the Pre-K program is receiving more Medicaid revenue than what is currently being paid to Providers, thus creating a negative Cost Report. The State could require the County to pay back the difference between what is paid to providers and what is received by the County from Medicaid. For the past two years, this amount is ~\$300,000 each year. A resolution is on the agenda to increase the Related Service Rates from \$70/.5 hour to \$80/.5 hour and to increase Service Coordination from \$20/hour to \$50/hour.

Mrs. Devlin noted the current cost for in-county transportation services offered to Pre-K and Physically Handicapped Education Programs is low. She questioned if the County sales tax revenue funding currently provided to school districts is discontinued, it may affect how in-county transportation is provided and could see a significant increase in cost.

The following transmittals were presented for the Public Health Department:

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a three-year contract with the New York State Department of Health for the provision of rabies control activities for a payment of \$47,322 to the County. The State proposed hospital costs for post exposure to rabies not exceed Medicaid rates. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign amended related service contracts with providers of services for Preschool Age Children with Handicapping Conditions to allow for an increase in rates paid to contractors. Mrs. Devlin said Medicaid reimbursement rates are higher than what the County pays many of their providers. She also noted the difficulty in obtaining needed vendors to provide related services; hoping the increase in rates will attract additional people to work for Public Health. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES for the transportation of youth in Early Intervention and Pre-K Programs for a cost not to exceed \$1,340,000. Approved 5-0.

The Annual Report for the Public Health Department was received and filed. A copy of the report was electronically sent to all Supervisors prior to today's meeting. During 2021 the main focus of Wayne County Public Health remained on COVID pandemic response activities. The Wayne County Public Health Department operated on a \$10 million budget, with a \$1.7 million County cost. The highest cost in the Department is the Pre-K Program at 68%. The Department received national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board for their efforts to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and transforming the quality and performance of governmental public health. A list of services offered directly at the Public Health Office and those contracted for were included in the report. During 2021 the County had 9,228 new cases of COVID-19, with the largest upswing occurring at the end of the year. At the end of 2021 Wayne County had 111 reported COVID-19 deaths, which is under 1% of those who tested positive for the virus. Efforts the Public Health Department made with the general public, the farming community, and schools for COVID education and vaccination was detailed in the report. Besides COVID, the Department was also responsible for investigating many communicable diseases. During 2021, nine animals in the County tested positive for rabies, the majority being raccoons. The Department held four drive-thru rabies clinics, sent 30 specimens to the NYS Wadsworth Laboratory for rabies testing, completed 274 animal investigations, and were involved in the health care of 48 people for post exposure rabies prophylaxis. The local Public Health Office offers several family health programs. Thirty-seven percent of children ages one and two that were eligible for lead testing did not have the test performed. Educational work done by the Department was hi-lighted in the report, as were emergency preparedness actions. There were 340 children/infants enrolled in the Public Health's Early Intervention Program in 2021. There were 415 Pre-K students, with services provide through school districts, agencies, and independent providers.

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The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, May 2nd at 10 a.m.