

## MINUTES

### HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Monday, May 2, 2022 10:05 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Robusto, Groat, Bender, Brady, Miller and Eygnor, 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, Public Health Educator Adramein Lopez, New York State Public Health Corp Fellow Haley Mirarchi, Economic Development Fiscal Officer Jamie Corteville and County Auditor Kristen Scott.

Minutes from the April 4<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting were approved as written.

Monthly reports for the Nursing Home were reviewed. Through March the Facility reported \$4.2 million in revenue and \$4.4 in expenses, a cash balance of \$16.2 million and short term investments of \$25.8 million. Ms. Keefe noted more funds are being placed into investment accounts. The Facility occupancy rate was 86.16% through the first three months of the year. There are 74 open positions at the Nursing Home, which include 25 nursing and 41 aide positions. Medicare rating remains at 4 stars, the 2022 rating has yet to be received. Ms. Keefe reported the State Department of Health reported the County Nursing Home is due over \$1.6 million from Medicaid for outstanding appeals from 2012 through 2020.

Mr. Stalker thanked those Supervisors present for the employee stipend that was passed in April by the Board; this has improved employee morale.

Under the State mandate, the County's Nursing Home can only house 155-157 residents with the current staffing level. Mr. Stalker said the Facility is not allowed to discharge or transfer residents to comply with minimum nursing home requirements set by the State. The State can fine the Facility \$2,000 for each day they are out of compliance. The Committee was informed the National Guard stationed in the Nursing Home will be leaving at the end of this month.

The following transmittals were presented for the Nursing Home:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with St. John Fisher College for the provision of an educational nursing program at no cost to the County. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to allow out of title pay to a Registered Professional Nurse while performing the duties of the Coordinator of Nurse Training. This would increase the individual's annual salary to \$72,594 retroactive to April 18<sup>th</sup> when she took on the new duties. Mr. Stalker stated the importance of having this position filled. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to expend Advanced Training Initiative Funds from the Department of Health in the amount of \$16,280 to train staff members. Approved 5-0.

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an affiliation agreement with Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES for student interns. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Haitz presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Aetena Services LLC for the provision of insurance reimbursements for behavioral health services offered to policy holders. Approved 5-0.

Mental Health's financial performance report was reviewed by Mr. Haitz. The Mental Health Department received actual revenue of \$2.45 million through March and had \$2 million in expenses. Mr. Haitz stated March was a strong revenue month. The Department was notified by the State the Department's complaints prevailed and they would be receiving approximately \$660,000 from Excellus for a shortfall in reimbursement payments.

Mr. Haitz reported on a meeting with administration from Newark-Wayne Community Hospital regarding the closure of their in-patient psychiatric unit. He reaffirmed the County's position on this matter; the hospital did not say at that time if they had any plans to re-open the unit for this purpose. Another meeting will take place this afternoon with representatives from the hospital, the State Department of Mental Health and local Mental Health Department to discuss the County's opposition to the closure of this 16-bed in-house psych unit.

The following transmittals were presented for the Public Health Department:

--Authorization to purchase N95 respirator fitting equipment for a cost of \$15,625. Mrs. Devlin said her Department has been requested several times to perform N95 respirator fit tests for other County Departments, facilities, outside agencies and schools. The new unit will better meet the needs of the Department and the existing unit will be transferred to the Wayne County Nursing Home. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a master services agreement with iClaim Systems for the provision of an electronic medical record and billing platform for the Early Intervention Program for a cost of \$15,000 annually. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Marion Central School District for the provision of special education and/or programs for the Preschool Children with Handicapping Conditions Program. Approved 5-0.

The April activities report for the Public Health Department was reviewed:

- COVID-19: The 7 day positivity rate in the County is 11.6%, making the community transmission rate high. Since March 2020 the County has had 22,847 positive COVID test; this number is most likely higher, as many positive home tests are not registered. The County has a total of 148 COVID related deaths. Seventy percent of the County's population has had at least one COVID vaccination; this is lower than the State's average of 76%. The Public Health Department is offering vaccines by appointment on Thursdays

for all ages. Supervisors were informed the COVID contact tracing program through the State has been phased out. Local health departments will be investigating clusters and outbreaks. Mrs. Devlin noted the new variant effecting many people in the Finger Lakes region. Although cases are up, fewer individuals are in need of hospital care and as of April 22<sup>nd</sup> no one is in the hospital on a respirator. The Department continues to encourage area pediatricians to give the vaccination to their adolescent patients. The Public Health Department is still receiving requests for vaccinations to the home bound; WC ALS continues to administers these COVID-19 vaccinations.

- Public Health Corps: The County currently has five Public Health Fellows. The following Departments/agencies each have one: Public Health, Social Services, Mental Health, FL Community Schools, and Pivotal (a non-profit affiliation of eight county public health departments in the Finger Lakes Region). Fellows are on staff to assist in the daily operation of the department/agency. Ms. Mirarchi, the Associate Fellow assigned to the Public Health Department, plans to continue her educational career to obtain a Master's Degree in Public Health.
- Preventive Health: Three children in the County were reported with high lead levels in their blood and the Department received notification of 31 diseases requiring investigation. A total of 163 animals were vaccinated at the Lyons Rabies Clinic held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The Department received 17 reports of animal bites, with one bat testing rabid.
- Community Health Assessment (CHA): The first priority of the CHA is to promote the well-being and prevent mental and substance abuse disorders of County residents. Mrs. Devlin stated the need to work with local Mental Health staff to review the objectives of this priority before identifying objectives and evidence based activities. The second priority is Prevent Chronic Disease with a focus on food security. She voiced concerns that cancer is the leading cause of death in Wayne County and thus a discussion will be made with Newark-Wayne Community Hospital about adding Tobacco (Nicotine) Prevention as another focus area as a Prevent Chronic Disease priority.
- Public Health Education: Mr. Lopez reviewed the Business Case Justification for Public Health to obtain a Twitter account and how it could be utilized by the Public Health Department. He established a microblogging platform that will share short messages with an online audience to improve engagement. The number of individuals that currently utilize Twitter over Face Book was noted; the Department would like to have both Social Media platforms. The Public Health Twitter Account will allow the Department to disburse emergency and non-emergency information to the public. The site can be used to dispel misinformation. The Committee approved the Public Health Department having a Twitter account.
- Recreational Cannabis: Through mid-April the State Cannabis Control Board approved 52 conditional cultivator licenses for hemp farmers; two are located in Wayne County. Mrs. Devlin noted the Department's Health Educator resigned; in the meantime Ms. Mirarchi is filling in this void. A demonstration was given on the Wayne Health Improvement Partnership (WHIP) App. Through this App individuals can contact the local Public Health Department regarding a number of public health issues. The site will continuously be updated regarding currently public health issues and community resources. The App also contains a list of all known events Public Health is participating in.

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- Financial: Ms. Loucks reported the Department received \$190,437 to date through the ELC COVID-19 contact tracing grant and \$888,369 through the ELC School Re-opening grant. Reimbursement payments through ELC grants are running nine months behind due to staff shortages at HRI. The \$1 million the County received from the State for 'mask' is eligible for use for the \$474,000 cost of home test kits that were purchased by the County.

Mrs. Devlin reminded new and former Supervisors following the May Board meeting there will be an orientation presentation for Supervisors at the Health Services Building. After review of programs and services, lunch will be provided.

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.