

## MINUTES

### HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Monday, May 3, 2021 9:35 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Jacobs, Emmel, Groat, Kolczynski, Bender and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, 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.

At 9:35 a.m. members of the Human Services Committee joined the meeting to be updated on the need for additional supportive/crisis housing in the County. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are available to develop such a facility. Mr. Haitz voiced concern with the lack of emergency housing in the County and the struggle it has been to find placements for individuals in need of housing in a safe and supportive environment. The State had a group home in the Town of Macedon for over 20 years that could house 14 residents. DePaul Mental Health Services operated the facility before it was purchased by Lakeview Health Services. The facility was closed about five years when Woodland Commons Apartments, just down the road, was constructed and mental health services were offered there. Mr. Haitz said the community residential program suggested for the vacated building would have on-site staffing and mental health services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each resident would have a private bedroom with a common living room, kitchen, den and bathrooms. The renovation of the proposed building and staffing will be covered with CDBG funding. The facility would be under the auspice of the Mental Health Department but operated by DePaul Mental Health Services or another local community provider agency. CDBG funds would be used to purchase the property and give it to the Wayne County Land Bank, who would be the owners and oversee maintenance of the property; renting it back to a community provider agency for their use. Currently individuals in need of emergency housing are placed in area hotel/motels, this is costing the County hundreds of thousands of dollars a year and, individuals in these situations do not receive needed mental health/counseling services. The proposed facility would offer long-term stability. Mr. Haitz said discussions have occurred with the Town of Macedon Code Enforcement Officer about the property. Mrs. Leonard noted Lakeview operates Woodland Commons Apartments, which houses individuals with mental health issues, and the Town Board has had concerns with Lakeview's operations at times. She said the Town Planning Board needs to give approval for a "special use permit" for this project. Dr. Wayne noted situations involving individuals with mental health issues and housing will continue to increase if there is no treatment provided. Mr. Haitz said if the property is owned by the Land Bank, it will be put back on the tax rolls under a special code for such projects. Individuals would be housed in this facility up to 60 days; it is not a permanent home. Because of the commercial district this building is located in, Mr. Haitz does not see it being disruptive to the residents of Macedon. Dr. Wayne noted this is an opportunity to assist this incredible vulnerable population and the action will save the County money.

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In regular Committee business, minutes from the April 5<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Haitz presented a transmittal requesting authorization to amend the care management agency provider agreement contract with New York Coordination Program, Inc. to allow for a revised compensation and billing procedures. Approved 5-0.

The monthly activities report showed the Mental Health Department had revenues of \$2.4 million and expenses of \$1.88 million through March. Revenues are over budget projections for the first quarter of the year and expenses are lower. Earned revenues have eliminated the projected Department deficit. The budget includes some grant funds; however, no funds from the recently awarded \$4 million grant.

Mr. Haitz updated the Committee on Mental Health Crisis Intervention Team Emergency Services. In the first quarter of 2021, there were over 1,400 police service responses made to individuals with mental health issues. He believes there are certain calls, like welfare checks, that perhaps could be performed by members of his staff or assisted by clinical staff members. The number of after hour calls that come to the Mental Health Crisis Intervention Team were reviewed. Some of these responses require a Mental Health staff member at the scene; others were resolved through telephone or electronic response. Not all calls for mental health assistance are made by police that are at the scene of the incident. Mr. Haitz reviewed a situation he attended after police left the scene and the potential safety related issues; noting he did not have any way to communicate to police, if communication was needed. The possibility of mental health crisis responders being provided hand radios, for safety reasons, was mentioned. The number of mental health issues police respond to increased during the pandemic. Mr. Haitz presented a staffing schedule that would be needed in order to provide two 24/7 Crisis Intervention Teams, one stationed on each side of the County, that would require 25 staff members to operate. The Mental Health Department has grant funds that will cover this additional mental health response. Some of the positions needed for the 24/7 operation are already filled within the Department. Mr. Haitz stated all mental health clinics are very busy at this time; receiving over 300 new referrals monthly. He said he wanted to take the opportunity to make Supervisors aware of the increasing need for mental health services. Mrs. Jacobs questioned how this program would be funded after the two-year grant expires. Mr. Haitz stated Wayne County Mental Health Department is the only service provider in the County and they need to provide good quality services and meet the demands of the population and that all the professional positions needed would be revenue generating. The Department has been operating at a surplus for the past few years and Mr. Haitz remains mindful that when adding positions they are also generating revenue.

The monthly activities report for the Nursing Home was reviewed. As of April 26<sup>th</sup> there were 58 unfilled positions at the Facility; the majority being Certified Nursing Assistants, RNs and LPNs. The Facility is looking to fill the Director of Nursing position. COVID expenses to the Nursing Home so far in 2021 have exceeded \$146,000. The cash fund balance is \$14 million at the end of

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March, with \$27 million in short-term investments. Ms. Keefe stated the overall occupancy rate for the Nursing Home through March was nearly 84%; lower than last year at the same time. Expenses exceeded revenues during the first quarter of operation because of the lower occupancy rate due to the pandemic. The Facility received \$1.6 million in IGT funds since the last meeting; they have not received any additional COVID relief funds.

Mr. Stalker presented a transmittal requesting authorization to award the bid for food and nutrition, housekeeping and maintenance services to Sodexo Operations for \$2.2 million for July 2021 – June 2022. This contract is for a five-year period with price increases each year. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Stalker reported a Nursing Home resident tested positive for COVID-19, after outbreak testing was performed, three staff members tested positive. Visitation to the Nursing Home is shut down at this time. If there are no new cases, the Facility will reopen on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Stalker reviewed the County's 2022-2026 Capital Plan as it pertains to the Nursing Home. The Facility has costs in the plan totaling \$1.4 million. Expenses in the coming year include: replacement of the nurse call light system—the current system is obsolete; replacement of three boilers for the heating system—original building equipment in need of constant repair; replacement of domestic hot water boilers, carpeting, tile and linoleum flooring—all items are aging and infection control practices recommend all carpet be removed from healthcare facilities; and paving for additional visitor and staff parking. Expenses for 2022 total \$960,000, proposed revenues \$720,000.

The following transmittals were presented for the Public Health Department:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign contracts with providers of approved special education services or programs for the Pre-School Age Children with Handicapping Conditions Program. These are three-year contracts. The request includes authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign future contract amendments during this three-year contract period. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign contracts with providers of related services for Pre-School Children with Handicapping Conditions. The request included a list of all contractors. These are three-year contracts. The request includes authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign future contract amendments during the three-year contract period. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign this and future amendments to extend the contract end date with Health Research Inc. through December 2021. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an ancillary provider agreement with MVP to allow for billing of COVID-19 vaccines administered by the local Public Health Office. This contract will be in place from January 1, 2021. Approved 5-0.

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with ISALUS Healthcare for the electronic transfer of medical records for a cost of \$400 a month. Most local health departments use this system. This three-year contract is partially paid for by State Aid. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with ICentral for the provision of electronic record keeping services at a price of \$14,214. This contract will 'piggyback' off a contract from another county and has been determined appropriate by the County's Purchasing Officer. Approved 5-0.

Mrs. Devlin questioned if the Committee supported mosquito trapping this year in Wayne County. The State Representative out of Buffalo that identified trapped mosquitoes for Wayne County retired and the position has not been filled; the State's Central Region has an employee who offered to train Public Health staff to identify the trapped mosquitoes and how to ship to the Wadsworth Lab. Mrs. Devlin stated the County does have traps; however, trapped samples need to be placed with dry ice for transportation to a testing site. Trappings were not done in 2020. Mrs. Devlin stated the West Nile Virus has been found across the State, Eastern Equine Encephalitis is more limited and more fatal. She noted how busy staff members have been with COVID-19 issues and vaccination clinics. Supervisors agreed trapping of mosquitos would not be performed this year; however, the advertising campaign would continue.

Mrs. Devlin reviewed COVID-19 cases in Wayne County. Between April 1<sup>st</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> there were 572 new cases in the County; there is a higher positivity rate now in younger age groups. The County's positivity rate was 2.13% as of April 29<sup>th</sup>. Since COVID was first diagnosed in March 2020 Wayne County has had 4,999 positive cases and 46 deaths. Public Health staff have, and will continue, to operate vaccination clinics utilizing all three approved vaccines. Over 10,000 County residents have received at least one of their vaccination shots. Homebound vaccinations have been provided to 136 resident through the County's ALS system; this service continues. WATS buses are providing free transportation services to vaccination clinics as requested. Other County Departments have been providing staff to assist in COVID vaccination clinic operations, along with volunteers. Ms. Loucks stated the Public Health Department incurred \$98,000 in COVID related expenses so far in 2021; this number includes overtime expenses. As of April 27<sup>th</sup> the Department received \$28,600 from insurance claims for vaccinations they administered in January and February. Ms. Loucks said she has been taking the time to bill for vaccinations; this is the only way FEMA funding can be obtained for the expense for individuals without insurance. If an individual does not have insurance they are not charged for the vaccination; however, if they have insurance it is charged an administration fee. No individual will be billed.

The Committee was made aware of a bomb scare that occurred at the Health Services Building last Wednesday. The building was evacuated and appropriately trained personnel called to the site to determine the safety of a box that was delivered by UPS. After a few hours it was determined the box was not a threat. Mrs. Devlin stated there will be a review this afternoon with appropriate personnel on building evacuation procedures.

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There was a water leak on the second floor of the Health Services Building during this weekend's COVID vaccination clinic. Mrs. Devlin voiced concern with aging water pipes in the building and various problems that have occurred. On Saturday morning a drinking fountain on the second floor began to spray water, by the time staff were aware of the incident water was coming down the stairs to the entrance area for the vaccination clinic. Water was shut off in the building for a very short period so the water leak could be stopped. Mrs. VanAuken commended the work done by Public Works staff to resolve this issue. Those entering the clinic were redirected and vaccinations continued to be given.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.