

MINUTES

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, June 1, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Jacobs, Groat, Kolczynski, Bender and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, Mental Health Director Jim Haitz, Nursing Home Administrator Jeffrey Stalker, Nursing Home Comptroller Barbara Keefe, Public Health Director Diane Devlin and Principal Account Clerk Heather Loucks. Supervisor Emmel was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the May 3rd Committee meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Haitz reviewed the financial position of the Mental Health Department. Through April, the Department had revenues of \$3.42 million and expenses of \$2.52 million. Both 2021 Building and Grounds maintenance and utility charges and IT charges have been paid in full.

A copy of the Press Release sent out by NYS Office of Mental Health and an article that appeared in *The Wayne Times* this past weekend, both noted Wayne Behavioral Health Network received a NYS Office of Mental Health Commissioner's Community Care Award for 2021. The Award acknowledged the services Wayne Behavioral Health provides and the ongoing services provided during the pandemic.

A letter of approval for Medicaid Managed Care reimbursement from the State Mental Health Office and Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services was presented highlighting that Wayne Behavioral Health Network has been officially approved to provide Mobile Crisis Response Services in Wayne County. The Department's mobile response team will be reimbursed for their services through Medicaid Managed Care when certain criteria are met. How services can be billed was stated in the document. The State approved Mental Health's Telephonic Triage and Response, Mobile Crisis Response, Telephonic Crisis Follow-up and Mobile Crisis Follow-up Programs for reimbursement.

Mr. Haitz distributed information on State Office of Mental Health Mobile Crisis Program Guidelines. He is making a request for 19 new position this month and another transmittal for 17 new positions in July to accommodate a 24/7 crisis program in the County along with other initiatives included in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant. The \$4 million grant will pay for the new positions through 2024. Mr. Kolczynski questioned language in the transmittal for a sunset clause, stating the language should be in line with other transmittals that fill positions with grant funds. Mr. Haitz said when this grant expires the County may want to keep the program in place as part of their response to the Police Reform and Reinvention Executive Order 203 Plan. He also noted any eligible direct services will be billed for, bringing revenue into the program and contributing to the sustainability of programs. Mr. Groat questioned if there are other funding sources in the Mental Health budget available to sustain

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the program when grant funding stops. Mr. Haitz noted several of the Behavioral Health Network programs generate sufficient funding to assist and offset other program areas. For the past several years the Department has had significant surplus funds at year-end, and if continued, they could be used to cover the additional expense of these programs beyond the grant period. Mr. Haitz also noted additional grant opportunities would continue to be explored and pursued as the Department moves forward. Mrs. Jacobs questioned how the additional staff members can be accommodated in Mental Health Offices in the Health Services Building. Mr. Haitz said the majority of those being hired will work in the field and in shared office space. Human Resource Director Chris Kalinski came into the meeting to discuss the request. The Mental Health Department eliminate nine positions going into 2021; Mr. Haitz said they were abolished because those positions could not be filled and he would come back to the Board when they were needed or opportunity to hire presented itself. He will keep the Committee updated on this program's activities and their financial status. Mr. Kolczynski said the County does not want to set a precedent and the request should include a definite sunset clause. The resolution was amended to reflect this change.

Mr. Haitz announced he has been in discussions with Emergency Management, E-911 and ALS about obtaining radios for the County's Mobile Crisis Team. He believes a form of communication with E-911 is necessary as a safety measure and when a Caseworker is at the scene. It is possible an additional new frequency may need to be found for this purpose depending on the volume of radio traffic; Emergency Management will determine this. The Committee will be kept up to date on this issue.

The Committee reviewed and approved the graphic design developed for Mobile Crisis Emergency Response vehicles.

The following transmittals were presented for the Mental Health Department:

--Authorization to create and fill five Staff Social Worker positions, two Community Health Professionals, two Substance Abuse Counselors, two Activity Aides, one Assistant Social Worker, one Licensed Practical Nurse, one Staff Development Coordinator, one Quality Assurance Coordinator, two Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners and two part-time Staff Social Worker positions. The new positions, costing \$620,148, will be funded with Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration funds. Approved 4-0, with a change in wording to state the Board will review the newly created positions when grant funding stops and the continuation of the positions will be determined based on other funding sources being available, or reimbursements for positions determined to cover their costs.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract renewal with Wayne County Action Program for the provision of mental hygiene services for a cost not to exceed \$44,240. The contract is paid for with State funds. Approved 4-0.

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--Authorization to transfer \$200,000 from the County's Unassigned Fund Balance to pay for unanticipated forensic hospitalization costs. Currently there are two individuals in this type of hospitalization. Approved 4-0.

The Nursing Home had an occupancy rate in April of 90.7%, 89% of residents are vaccinated and 65% of staff. A new Director of Nursing will begin on July 12th. In the first four months of the year, the Nursing Home had expenses of \$6.3 million and revenues of \$5.56 million. The cash balance as of 4/30/21 was \$14.57 million with \$27 million in short-term bills. The Overall Medicare 5-Star rating for the County Nursing Home remains at 4 stars. Accounts receivable numbers are decreasing. Revenue from Jail food service have increased, due to higher population there.

Ms. Keefe reported Rochester area nursing homes, pre-pandemic, had year-to-date occupancy rates of 95% and at this time have occupancy rates of 79%. The Wayne County Nursing Home currently has a year-to-date occupancy rate of 86%.

The Purchasing Clerk at the Nursing Home will be leaving to work as the County's Purchasing Clerk. Ms. Keefe said this individual not only orders supplies for the Nursing Home but stocks them as well. She is hopeful to fill the vacated position soon. The former Nursing Home Purchasing Clerk will be allowed to train the new staff member once they are on staff.

Mr. Stalker presented the following transmittals for the Nursing Home:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with the Veterans Service Administration for nursing home care services for beneficiaries of the VA. This is a five-year contract with rates negotiated every year. There is no County cost for the contract. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to write-off uncollectable accounts totaling \$116,083. This involves 25 accounts. Approved 4-0.

The facility will open back-up fully on June 3rd after closing for a positive COVID case.

Monthly COVID activities were reviewed. The number of new cases is slowing down substantially. An additional death in the County has been attributed to COVID; the individual had other underlying health conditions. Between April 30th and May 27th there were 296 new COVID cases diagnosed in Wayne County, this bring the total number of positive diagnosis in the County to 5,295. A total of 10,790 individuals in the County were fully vaccinated by WC Public Health. Homebound vaccinations have been provided to 184 residents. The Department is reaching out to those areas of the County with low vaccination rates. Mrs. Devlin noted there is no longer a high demand for vaccinations, so clinics are not being scheduled as often as they were during the

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past few months. A request was made to the CDC to have smaller dose vials to accommodate medical practices administering vaccines to patients. At this time any resident at least 12 years old can get the vaccination.

Ms. Loucks updated the group on COVID related expenses. As of 5/27/21, \$88,960 was expended on overtime and an additional \$32,600 in COVID related expenses. Ms. Loucks continues to bill insurance companies for plan holders who have received their vaccinations through Public Health. She has been successful in billing Medicaid. Vaccine revenue so far this year is \$62,900.

If vaccinations will be offered in schools was discussed. Mrs. Devlin said school would need to obtain Vaccination Consents from parents for their children, 12 and older, to be vaccinated. The Public Health Department will provide this service to schools. The State has yet to issue COVID protocol guidelines for schools that are expected to fully open this fall. CARES funding is available for in-school testing; the need for this School Testing funding was at the beginning of the 20-21 school year. By the time schools reopen for the 2021-22 school year, school testing may not be needed. If funds are received prior to this month's Board meeting a transmittal will be requested as Other Business to accept funding.

The State issued COVID guidelines for fairs and festivals; it is not very clear.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for [Tuesday, July 6th at 10:00 a.m.](#)