

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 1, 2021 8:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisor Verno, Robusto, Jacobs, Groat and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, Social Services Commissioner Dr. Ellen Wayne, Director of Veterans Services Renee Maybee and Department of Aging and Youth Director Amy Haskins. Supervisors Leonard and Johnson were not present for the meeting.

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

The monthly activities report for the Veterans Service Office was included with the agenda. During April, 340 Veterans and/or family members made contact with the local Office for pension, compensation, education, vocational rehab, burial, insurance, legal and other issues. The majority of these were Vietnam era veterans. As COVID restrictions reduce, more services will be provided in-office. During April there were six units of transportation to the Canandaigua Veterans Administration Hospital and the Office was contacted regarding 26 Veteran burial related issues, paying \$5,070 toward two indigent burials. It is hoped programs at VA Medical Centers will resume in the near future.

Mrs. Maybee presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Veterans Service Office to utilize social media (Facebook). She stated this source would be helpful in increasing community awareness of programs and services. The County's Information Technology Department will oversee the site. Mrs. Maybee believes this is a good source to provide information to veterans that utilize social media. Approved 3-0.

Mrs. Haskins reviewed Department activities during May. There are 97 clients in the NY Connects Program, 117 in Case Management, 204 receiving Home Delivered Meals, 104 participating in Lunch Club Programs, 258 seniors with PERS units, 86 receiving Aide services and 73 who requested insurance counseling. There is currently a short waiting list for Home Delivered Meals due to insufficient staff to keep up with the demand for service. There is a 27-page assessment needed for each senior that request participation in the Home Delivered Meal Program; at this time applications are being done over the phone. Volunteers for Home Meal Service have declined and the number of individuals requesting the service increases. Mrs. Haskins said younger seniors are not as healthy as older seniors and are requesting more assistance from programs. The Department has two Case Managers that have a caseload limit of 40 each.

Mrs. Haskins reported the Office of Aging and Youth continues to support Public Health in-home vaccination efforts. Lifeguards at Sodus Point Park have been hired; supervised swimming will begin at the Park on June 29th through end the of August from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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Mrs. Haskins reviewed where the Office is spending Stimulus funding: \$345,097 will be expended on senior assistance programs through September 2022, while \$336,704 will be expended between September 2022 and September 2024. Aging Services will receive a total of \$690,801 in Stimulus funding, most has designated usage.

The following transmittals were presented for the Department of Aging and Youth:

--Authorization to accept Stimulus funds from the State Office for Aging for \$351,842 and amend the budget. Funds will go towards support services for senior citizens during the pandemic. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Jobs Done Right for cleaning services for senior citizens discharged home from a hospital or nursing home for a cost not to exceed \$12,000. Mrs. Haskins said Stimulus funds will pay for this program to assist seniors during their transition. This is not a long-term service, just a service to prepare seniors' homes for their re-entry. Mrs. Jacobs questioned if a similar service was available to individuals under 65. Mrs. Haskins said these requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to see what funding is available. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Wayne Arc for cleaning services for seniors discharged to their home from a hospital or nursing home for a cost not to exceed \$12,000. Stimulus funds will pay this expense. Mrs. Haskins said the additional contract is requested to make sure the demand for service are met. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Trualta Inc. for a three-year subscription to a web-based family caregiver training program at a cost of \$56,862. The contract is paid for with Stimulus funds. Mrs. Haskins reviewed the need to provide training to support family caregivers. Trualta Inc., a sole source provider of this service, gave a presentation to the Committee last month. Mrs. Jacobs questioned how individuals participate in this program if they do not have an electronic device. Mrs. Haskins said program information in hard copy can be sent to individuals. There is a possibility Stimulus funds could be available to purchase tablets for those in need; however, Mrs. Haskins is concerned the County would then need to pay for internet subscriptions. Mrs. Jacobs voiced concern with the three-year contract, questioning if it being pursued because Stimulus funds are available. Mr. Verno said if the program keeps two or three residents out of a nursing home it would pay for itself. If in-person classes for caregivers could be provided was questioned. Mrs. Haskins said in-office trainings do not have good attendance. Approved 3-0, with the stipulation the contract be for one-year with a review at that time for an extension.

Department of Social Services reports were included with the agenda:

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- Financials: Through April, the Department expended 28.5% of their budget; this is lower than last year at the same time. Reimbursements are coming to the Department slower this year than in the past. Less money is being spent from the Purchase of Services budget line, as County staff are providing more services in-house. On May 12th the Department was notified by the State their Medicaid weekly share was increased to \$234,337. The new rate will go into effect for the first payment in June. It is likely the State will recalculate this figure again before the end of the year.
- Temporary Assistance: The Public Assistance caseload at the end of April was 192 individuals receiving Aide for Dependent Children, 178 receiving Home Relief, 4,599 receiving Food Stamps, 3,504 receiving Medical Assistance and 2,227 receiving Medical Assistance through SSI. Increased unemployment benefits limit the number of individuals who qualify for these programs. The State continues to issue the maximum food stamp benefit to all recipients. Dr. Wayne is not sure if the State will require a look-back at all current benefit recipients or only require verified eligibility going forward once pandemic programs cease.
- Child Welfare: The number of cases is slightly lower; however, the severity of the cases is taking a lot of staff time and resources.

Distributed with the agenda was a Program Spotlight on the Adult Protective Services Program. This division is responsible to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation. Referrals to the program generally come from concerned friends, family and home care agencies. In 2020 there were 31 domestic violence referrals, 27 adult protective referrals, 4 adult preventive referrals and 167 calls for people who needed to be screened for adult protect services/eligibility. The Unit also provides services to assist in prevention of Elder Abuse.

Dr. Wayne announced the NYS Emergency Rental Assistance Program begins today. Efforts are underway for immediate education and outreach to have applications completed and submitted to the State for rental assistance to landlords during the 30-day window.

Dr. Wayne presented the following transmittals:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a modification agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services in relation to Childcare Development Block Grant Funds in the amount of \$123,662. Funds will be used to inspect and register daycare centers in the County. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with St. Anne Institute for the provision of childcare services for a price not to exceed \$1,095,000. This agreement is in place so if a youth needs placement it can occur immediately. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization for the Commissioner of Social Services to sign an agreement with the Terrace at Newark Assisted Living Community to allow for reimbursement for services provided to Medicaid-eligible residents of the Facility. Approved 3-0.

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act contract for receipt of \$135,574 for use in the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act contract for \$105,743 to administer youth programs. The County received a 20% reduction in program funding for the fiscal year. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with Finger Lakes Community College for staff training at a cost of \$67,762. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with Cayuga Home for Children for child caring services at a cost not to exceed \$2,190,000. Approved 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, July 6th at 8:30 a.m.