

## MINUTES

### HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Monday, June 5, 2023 9:00 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Donalty, Leonard, Verno, Mettler and Eygnor, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Social Services Commissioner Lisa Graf, Veterans Service Officer David Phillips and Aging and Youth Department Director Amy Haskins. Supervisor Johnson was not present for the meeting.

Members approved minutes from the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

The monthly activities report for the Veterans Service Agency was distributed with the agenda. During April, the Office had contact with 376 Veterans and/or family members, the majority by telephone. One Veteran may make several contacts with the Office during the month. During April there were 11 Veterans transported to the Canandaigua Veterans Medical Center, one to the Rochester VAMC and one to another medical center. The Office was contacted regarding burial benefit information for 26 Veterans.

Mr. Phillips updated the Committee on the contract the Veterans Service Agency has with Clear Path for Veterans. They are now in the second month of their contract with the County and have yet to find a local counselor. Mr. Phillips noted the Veterans Service Officer in his Department has submitted her resignation; she has accepted a position with Clear Path and will work in Wayne County. He is very comfortable with this individual working with local Veterans.

With the vacancy in the Veterans Service Agency, there is now only one accredited Service Worker on staff. Mr. Phillips said he completed training for accreditation; however, the State American Legion lost the paperwork of everyone who attended the training earlier this year. The paperwork was re-submitted; Mr. Phillips is hopeful his certification will be made official in the very near future.

Mr. Phillips said he has not had an opportunity to speak to the County Treasurer regarding the left over funds for the purchase of an Agency van. It was agreed at the May Committee meeting that these funds would be used for another veteran service, as the Agency now contract for transportation services. He will update the Committee on this funding at the next meeting.

Mr. Phillips informed Supervisors the vacancy of Veterans Service Officer has been posted. Employees will be in a better position to represent the Agency at upcoming activities once they are fully staffed.

Monthly reports for the Department of Social Services were included with the agenda:

- Financials: Through the first four months of the year, the Department expended 26% of their County budget; this is down from last year at the same time. The cost of Medicaid Weekly Share, along with the cost of overtime and retirement payouts is higher than

expected. Child Welfare revenue is up. More residents are utilizing program funding through the Day Care Program to assist with childcare so they can continue to work. Foster Care expense are up, due to the increase in the number of children in the program.

- Child Protective Services: The unit is fully staffed; however, a majority are new to the Unit and in need of on the job experience. At the end of May, there were 250 County children listed as being allegedly maltreated or abused; staff oversee reporting on these children. During May, 117 child welfare service reports were received, 13 abuse reports filed and four petitions filed with Family Court. The Department has 60 days to complete their initial investigation on a child abuse/maltreatment case.
- Medicaid: At the end of May there were 3,800 County residents receiving medical assistance through DSS and 2,150 receiving medical assistance along with Social Security Supplemental Income payments. Mrs. Graf reported the State is taking back some Medicaid cases that are theirs. Staff are in the process of re-certifying all Medicaid recipients.
- Food Stamps: 4,418 County residents receive food stamps, 166 receive food stamps and public assistance and 83 residents receive food stamps with multiple DSS benefits. The Department receives approximately 250 food stamp applications a month; this is higher than prior to the pandemic, but lower than during the pandemic.
- Temporary Assistance: At the end of May there were 161 households receiving Family Assistance and 173 receiving Home Relief.

This month's Social Services spotlight is on the Summer Youth Employment Program. The County's Summer Youth Program was allocated \$200,860 from the State Office of Temporary and Disabilities Assistance. The program employee's youth ages 14-20. Each youth completes an application to determine if they are eligible for the program, if accepted, the youth is provide necessary orientation training. Program goals for this year are to serve approximately 65 youth at over 30 worksites. DSS staff have weekly contact with both the youth and the worksite to make sure the program is successful. Mrs. Graf noted WIB funding for the summer youth program will conclude this month; this year's funding is coming directly from the State.

Mrs. Graf informed the Committee she participated in meetings held by the State's Public Welfare Association regarding asylum seekers transferred from the southern border to New York City. At this time there are approximately 47,000 asylum seekers living in New York City; there are no plans, at this time, for any to come to Wayne County. New York City has contracted with 300 facilities, mostly in downstate New York, to assist with housing migrants. When they are bused to other areas in the State, the City of New York is responsible for all their expenses for a four-month period. Mrs. Graf said administration requested the County's Humanitarian Response Team be re-activated. A meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday with County Administration and strategic team members from both County and non-County Departments and Agencies so the County is prepared in case an emergency develops regarding asylum seekers. A similar group was organized when an emergency housing situation occurred in the Town of Arcadia last year. Mr. House said he, Chairman Eynor and Mrs. Graf were involved with a ZOOM meeting the Governor's Office held last Thursday regarding this issue. New York City is only

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contracting for housing sites, they are not dropping off busloads of individuals to unaware counties. There is no indication a large number of asylum seekers will be sent to Wayne County. Mr. House said the County has in the past, and will if this issue occurs, put their emergency plan in place to deal with any unexpected or overwhelming situation. He stated the need for Wayne County to do everything they are legally, morally and ethically responsible to do.

Mrs. Graf noted temporary part-time staff will be completing their time in June; they have been a great assistance for training new staff members and making sure the workflow in the Department meets State requirements. She will take the next few months to re-evaluate staff, overtime use, and if part-time staff may be needed again this fall.

Supervisors were informed the Foster Care picnic held at Perkins Park for foster care families was a great success.

The following transmittals were presented for the Department of Social Services:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an affiliation agreement with the State University of New York at Plattsburg for a student intern. This individual worked previously in the Department through a fellowship program. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Commissioner of Social Services and the Director of Aging and Youth to sign an agreement on behalf of the County for area school districts to participate in the Families and Communities Together Program for a cost of \$40,000. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to approve a three-month extension of the contract between the County and Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes for the provision of early crisis intervention services. Mrs. Graf said the Department is in the process of re-evaluating the scope of services provided through this program, which could change the request for proposals process. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an application with the United States Food and Drug Administration for the provision of SNAP funding to make local process and technology improvements. Mrs. Graf said up to \$500,000 could be received. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an amendment to Board Resolution No. 247-23 in regarding to the contract for booth space at the Wayne County Fair. Mrs. Graf said she would like her Department to rent one booth during the event for a cost of \$220. Approved 4-0.

The monthly activities report for the Department of Aging and Youth was distributed with the agenda. Through April, the Office provided NY Connect services to 399 seniors, 240 seniors with counseling services, 147 with Home Delivered Meals, 114 with case management and 77 with aide services. There were 122 seniors attending Lunch Club 60 during May and the Department oversees 273 seniors that have PERS units. The new case management position has been filled. Farmer's Market Coupons will be arriving in July. Mrs. Haskins noted she was appointed to a Statewide Committee to assist in developing a Master Plan on Aging.

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There are 61 seniors on the waiting list for Home Delivered Meals. As requested, Mrs. Haskins prepared data on home delivered meals services in surrounding counties.

Mrs. Haskins reported supervised swimming started at Sodus Point Park Memorial Day Weekend. The Department only received one response to a Request for Proposals for Youth Sports Development. There will be additional funding for this program in the fall and Requests for Proposals will be issued at that time.

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

--Authorization to hire an additional Lifeguard for Sodus Point Beach Park. Mrs. Haskins said there is no longer a need for this request. Pulled.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Wayne County Action Program for the provision of paying mileage reimbursement for Retired Senior Volunteer Program drivers and recruitment of additional drivers for a cost not to exceed \$11,581. The additional funding will allow Wayne CAP to pay the full IRS mileage reimbursement rate. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Sodus Bay Junior Sailing Association, Inc. for the provision of youth sports development programming for a cost of \$13,685. Mrs. Haskins stated the New York State Office for Children and Family Services issued funding to the County to provide youth development programs. This is the only group that filled out an application for funding. Mrs. Haskins noted only not-for-profit agencies can apply for these funds. Approved 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.