

MINUTES

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, June 6, 2022 10:10 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Robusto, Groat, Bender, 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, Purchasing Agent Kaleigh Flynn and County Auditor Kristen Scott. Supervisor Brady was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the May 2nd Committee meeting were approved as written.

Ms. Keefe reviewed Nursing Home financial reports for April. The Facility had revenue of \$5.4 million and expenses of \$5.8 million. They have a cash balance of \$15.4 million and investments of \$25.8 million. Staff are working through billing issues with Medicaid that were reported last month. Mr. Stalker reached out to the State Department of Health about Medicaid claims from December 2021 and January 2022. Ms. Keefe reiterated Medicaid payment for these months was not received due to an error code in the claim that denied payments for both months. Corrections to the claims have been implemented. She is hopeful claims in excess of the 90-day requirement will be paid; they total over \$1.2 million; claims from February and March of this year will be paid.

Mr. Stalker reported the occupancy rate of the Nursing Home so far in 2022 is 87.7%. At the end of May there were 67 vacancies at the Nursing Home; the majority being full-time Certified Nursing Assistants. The Facility has a three-star overall Medicaid rating. New sidewalks are being put in place later this week around the building. There are no longer members of the National Guard working in the Facility. Mr. Stalker said he is dealing with State staffing mandates which will require the census be at 155 residents. At this time no one is being admitted to the Facility. A lawsuit has been filed against the State in regard to the mandate.

Mr. Stalker presented a transmittal requesting authorization abolish the position of part-time Finance Clerk and create and fill a full-time Deputy Comptroller position. He stated this would not result in any additional budget cost, as there are many vacancies where personnel funds can come from. Mr. Sams noted a budget adjustment is still needed. Approved 4-0.

Mr. Haitz reviewed Department performance. During April the Department had billed revenue of \$4.1 million and expense of \$3.46 million. Both Buildings and Grounds Maintenance expenses and IT and Phone expenses have been paid for the entire year. The Department ended the first four months of the year in a strong financial position.

The following transmittals were presented for the Mental Health Department:

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--Authorization to create and fill the position of one full-time Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, abolish the part-time positions of Nursing Practitioner and Psychiatrist and amend the budget. Mr. Haitz stated the need to bring on staff that can accommodate the high volume of children, adolescent and adult patients in need of psychiatric medical treatment. Services offered by this employee are reimbursable. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to create and fill the full-time position of Program Supervisor and abolish the full-time position of Staff Social Worker and part-time Staff Social Worker and amend the budget. Mr. Haitz again reviewed the need to appropriately staff the Department and the increased need for mental health services. This employee would be directly responsible to Mr. Haitz. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Unity House of Cayuga for the provision of mental hygiene related services for a cost of \$155,269. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a lease agreement with Unity House of Cayuga County. Mr. Haitz noted this Agency works most effectively if they are in close proximity to Wayne Behavioral Health Services. The request included a list of fees charged for utilization of space and services in the County's Health Services Building. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to award Requests for Proposals for Mental Health/Behavioral Health Financial Analyst-Fiscal Officer Services for a cost of \$26,000 annually. Ms. Scott said these services need to go through Request for Proposals per State Comptroller regulations. Mr. Haitz said this vendor has worked with the Department successfully in the past. The three-year contract has no price increase. Approved 4-0.

Mr. Haitz distributed a list of reported incidents at the Health Services Building between July 2016 and April 2022. He reviewed the continuous violence in the Department because of clientele they deal with. Several news articles were also distributed regarding shootings that have taken place in medical facilities. Mr. Haitz voiced concern about the lack of security in the Health Services Building. Staff have panic alarms at their desks; however, if they are not at their desks when assistance is needed they have no other way to request immediate assistance. He would like the County to make an investment to make the buildings safer for staff and clients. Mr. Haitz reviewed how school districts have Resource Officers they share the cost of with the County; and that a similar type of security would be beneficial in County offices. Mrs. Devlin stated her staff received on going threats during the pandemic. There is also the concern when clients from Wayne Behavioral Health wander into Public Health offices. Supervisor Groat questioned if an evaluation group should be formed to review these concerns and provide solutions to make County buildings more secure. He noted the possibility of additional equipment being purchased instead of additional personnel being hired. Mrs. VanAuken stated there is also concern with co-workers who could bring weapons into the office. Mr. House stated the difficulty in overly securing County buildings, as they are open to the public. He request the Chairman of the Board,

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if he wants, form a committee to review this concern. Ms. Scott voiced concern that there are many County policies that involve the safety of employees and County systems that are not being implemented. Chairman Eynor said he would bring up this issue at tomorrow's Public Safety Committee meeting.

The following transmittals were presented for the Public Health Department:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Health Research Inc. for the provision of performing public health emergency preparedness activities for a cost of \$81,835. The State Health Department requires the Public Health Office have Emergency Preparedness activities. The \$81,835 cost is reimbursable. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Oswego CiTi BOCES for the provision of vision therapy services for Children with Handicapping Conditions. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with the Sodus Central School District to provide related services to Preschool Children with Handicapping Conditions. Approved 4-0.

Mrs. Devlin reviewed activities in the Public Health Office since the last meeting. Currently there is low COVID transmission in the County with two residents in the hospital. There have been a total of 152 COVID-related deaths of County residents. Immunization clinics are still being held every Thursday; however, this will be reduced due to the number of persons attending.

Mrs. VanAuken stated there were 29 animal bites reported during May; no rabies was detected in the two specimens sent for testing. A drive-through rabies clinic was held on June 4th at the Palmyra Highway Barns that gave vaccinations to 158 animals. Donations are accepted at rabies clinics; they are utilized to off-set clinic expenses. The clinics are staffed with Public Health employees and a veterinarian. Currently veterinarians are paid \$50 an hour for working the clinics and any outside clerk/handler is paid \$15 an hour. The amount Wayne County pays for this service compared to surrounding counties was noted. Mrs. Devlin said she would like to see this amount increased to \$75 an hour for the veterinarian and \$25 for the clerk/handler. The Committee supported this action; a transmittal will be brought into next month's Committee.

Last month nine vaccinations were administered to children, 40 individuals were reported to have communicable diseases that required investigation and four children tested with high lead levels. One hundred and ten licenses have been approved by the State since the last Committee meeting for growing recreational cannabis in New York State; two of the licenses were given to Wayne County growers.

Wayne County currently has 18 Ukrainian refugees living here. Mrs. Devlin stated most Ukrainians have a high burden of drug resistant TB. All 18 of the new residents have been tested.

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Mrs. VanAuken noted vaccinations among Ukrainian children are very low; children will have to be up to date on their vaccinations if they are to enter school in the fall.

Supervisors were informed 21 cases of the virus Monkey Pox have been found in the United States and four in New York State. No cases have been found in Wayne County.

Mrs. VanAuken noted the number one priority in the County Health Assessment is promoting the wellbeing and prevent mental and substance use disorders in residents, the number two priority is the prevent of chronic disease.

Ms. Loucks updated the Committee on finances within the Public Health Department. The first large claim for the Public Health Fellowship Corps grant will be submitted later this month. ELC COVID reimbursements are 10 months behind due to HRI staffing. ELC School Re-Opening COVID grant expenditures have been extended for another year. Wayne County has expended 60% of their grant and does not anticipate additional time will be needed. The first grant reimbursement submission was made for the COVID VAX grant. Ms. Loucks stated about 42% of vaccinations provided through Public Health were billable. Through May, 61% of eligible COVID-19 vaccination claims submitted have been paid.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for [Tuesday, July 5th at 11:30 a.m.](#)