

**REQUEST TO CALL SPECIAL MEETING**

To the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors:

You are hereby directed to call a Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Wayne County, New York, to be held in the Supervisors' Chambers in the Court House in the Town of Lyons, New York, on **Friday, June 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.** for the following purposes:

FIRST: The Board will meet then convene as a **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** to discuss the creation of 19 new positions at the Mental Health Department.

SECOND: To hear, consider and act upon any other matter which may be brought to the Board in the same manner and to the same effect as if the Board were convened in regular session.

Dated at Lyons, New York  
June 8, 2021

Kenneth F. Miller, Chairman  
Wayne County Board of Supervisors

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

State of New York  
Wayne County  
Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Upon direction of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Wayne, I do hereby call a Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Wayne County, New York, to be held in the Supervisors' Chambers in the Court House in the Town of Lyons, New York, on Friday, June 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., for the following purposes:

FIRST: The Board will meet then convene as a **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** to discuss the creation of 19 new positions at the Mental Health Department.

SECOND: To hear, consider and act upon any other matter which may be brought to the Board in the same manner and to the same effect as if the Board were convened in regular session.

Dated at Lyons, New York  
June 8, 2021

Kelley P. Loveless, Clerk  
Wayne County Board of Supervisors

9<sup>th</sup> Day  
Friday, June 11, 2021  
1:00 p.m.

Pursuant to call, a Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held in their chambers in the Court House, Chairman Miller presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Spickerman.

Upon roll call, all Supervisors were present except Supervisors Verkey, Emmel, Bender, Robusto, Kolczynski and Chatfield who were absent this afternoon.

County Administrator Rick House and County Attorney Daniel Connors were also in attendance for this special board session called to order.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Board motioned out of their regular session to discuss a transmittal that would be presented at next week's Board meeting regarding the creation and filling of 19 positions in the Mental Health Department. Chairman Miller said he believes it is important the entire Board hear the request paid for with a two-year grant. He acknowledged the need for the Board to take action regarding mental health issues in the County, especially those addressed in the recently submitted EO 203 Plan. Mr. Miller stated if this request is placed before the Board for a vote and rejected, it cannot come back to the Board without substantial changes in the language, according to Board Rules. Health and Medical Services Committee Chairperson Susie Jacobs stated the request was approved through the standing committee and the Finance Committee; it was at the Government Operations Committee the request was denied where there was no one to explain details of the proposal. She questioned what would qualify as a substantial change. Mrs. Jacobs noted creation of a 24/7 behavioral crisis team was discussed frequently during the past few years at Health and Medical Services Committee meetings and in depth at EO 203 meetings.

Mental Health Director Jim Haitz addressed the Board. The transmittal that will go before the Board next week for 19 new positions is only for half the staff needed for the operation of a 24/7 County Crisis Intervention Team. He plans to present an additional transmittal in July requesting 17 additional positions. All Supervisors received a copy of a Business and Marketing Plan for the Wayne County Crisis Intervention Team prior to this meeting (the document is on file with the Clerk of the Board). A power point presentation was given to explain the need for services and funding.

In February, the Wayne County Mental Health Department was named the recipient of a \$4 million Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant for the further development of the existing Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion Initiative. Goals of the Crisis Intervention Program are:

- To increase connection to community crisis services and provide the appropriate level of care.
- Divert mental health and substance use disorder crisis calls coming into 911 and direct to the most appropriate response option.
- Strengthen support post-crisis services to address the full range of needs to stabilize and prevent future crisis.
- Provide a crisis response service in the most cost effective way and with the least restrictive and lowest level of care that is necessary and appropriate.

Mr. Haitz believes the program will be sustainable with the additional revenue generated from billable services and other funding sources. The Department currently operates an Open Access Center; however, that is not open after hours, nighttime calls are being responded to directly by Mr. Haitz. He reviewed the cost effectiveness for the County to offer a Crisis Intervention Team to respond to mental illness crisis calls. The number of behavioral health issues has been on the increase since the COVID pandemic began. In the first 10 weeks of 2021, the County's 911 Dispatch Center received 345 behavioral health related calls. The Mental Health Department receives between 350-400 referrals for new clients each month.

The \$4 million expansion grant would be utilized not only to establish 24/7 crisis services and a mobile team, but to establish Narcan and Mental Health First Aid Training, clinic expansion in schools and community colleges, expand the existing Open Access Center and Center of Treatment and Intervention, expand the collaboration with law enforcement and expand medication assisted treatment to address opioid overdoses.

A staffing plan for the new program was presented. Two full teams are requested to provide 24/7 service on a countywide basis. The request would 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 Workers for a cost of \$620,148.

Mr. Haitz stated Police Reform brought many issues to the attention of these services. The Board of Supervisors authorized acceptance of the funds last year at which time development of a 24/7 Crisis Intervention Team was discussed at length. Grant funding is contingent upon meeting the expectations of the application submitted for funding. The transmittal includes a statement that positions created will be eliminated once grant funding is not available or other funding available to pay their expense. Mr. Haitz reviewed program revenues, the Department's continued effort to solicit grants and the annual surplus the Department returns to the County each year from fiscal efforts to keep expenses low and revenues high.

Supervisor Verno questioned the need for a two-team 24/7 Crisis Intervention Program in Wayne County, noting it is difficult to approved 36 new positions without any analytical information. Mr. Haitz said the County's Open Access Center serves 200-225 individuals each month. Supervisor Spickerman questioned if there are enough professionals in the community to fill these positions. Mr. Haitz said this is a good time of year to be hiring with new graduates in the field. Mr. Spickerman questioned if staff would be deployed outside of Wayne County. Mr. Haitz said they would not. Mr. Spickerman voiced concern that once positions are added in the County they are not abolished. Mr. Haitz stated the State Department of Health requires each County to have a Crisis Plan; the Crisis Intervention Team is part of this plan. Supervisor Leonard noted her nay vote at Finance Committee earlier in the week; however, since then she has had the opportunity to review the business plan and supports the request. She questioned if each county received these funds. Mr. Haitz said this is a Federal grant and only Wayne County received funding in New York. Supervisor Jacobs noted the sunset clause that was added to the original transmittal. She requested County Attorney Connors review the wording of this clause prior to the Board meeting. Mrs. Jacobs noted the full Board approved the grant application for the grant. Mr. Haitz said he would need to know very soon if the County does not want to accept these funds. County Administrator House voiced concern that if grant funding did not continue past two years the County would be laying off a number of people. Supervisor Groat noted the importance and need for this program, adding it would only be continued if approved by the full Board. He believes the issue failed at the Government Operations Committee because no presentation was made to Supervisors at that meeting. Supervisor Miller questioned if the Certified Community Behavior Health Plan could be revised to request only one crisis response team as opposed to two. Mr. Haitz reiterated the grant proposal does need to be fulfilled to receive funding.

Supervisor Miller reviewed Board Resolution 269-20 regarding the need for internal review and approval before creating any new position. The resolution states all request need review and approval by the County Administrator, Human Resource Director and the Committee Chairperson. Mr. House said this action was taken as a response to the COVID situation, when the Board decided only mandated services would be authorized. He believes Mr. Haitz should sit down with the Human Resource Director, the Sheriff, Dispatch and himself to have a collaborative understanding of the request. Mr. Haitz noted the County's 911 Center already receives behavioral health calls; establishing a Crisis Intervention Team would not change this service. Next year the Federal Communications Commission will establish a specific number for individuals to utilize if they are considering suicide. Mr. Groat asked if the County Administrator reviewed this transmittal prior to it going to Committee and if additional material was needed to accompany the request, it should have been made then. He questioned if a delay in starting the program would interfere with the timeline of the grant. Mr. Haitz said the program must be operating by the end of August. If authorization to start

filling the position is not done in June he will not have time to get staff onboard.

Mr. Connors stated the need for the full Board to address amending Resolution No. 269-20 at their next meeting if this transmittal is to go through. Mr. House said the resolution should not be changed to accommodate one request. After additional discussion, it was agreed Mr. Connors would write an amendment to Resolution 269-20 to direct the County Administrator to restrict the creation of new or the filling of any vacant County workforce position, unless such position is deemed critical to the performance of a mandated service provided by the department and there are no reasonable alternative to filling the position. The amendment will also state any request to create a new, or fill any vacant, position shall be reviewed by the County Administrator, Chairperson of the Department Head/elected officials standing committee and the Human Resource Director, unless the new position to be created or vacant position to be filled is fully funded by and with other than County funds.

Mr. Connors said he would have the amended resolution prepared for the June 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting.

#### **REGULAR SESSION**

Supervisor Egnor made a motion for the Board come out of the Meeting of the Whole at 2:49 p.m., Supervisor Leonard second.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Board will continue on **Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 9:00 am.**  
Supervisor Johnson moved, seconded by Supervisor Leonard, that the board adjourn at 2:51 p.m. Carried.

Kelley P. Loveless, Clerk, Wayne County Board of Supervisors