

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, July 5, 2022 10:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Donalty, Leonard, Verno and Metler, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Director of Veterans Services Renee Maybee, Interim Commissioner of Social Services Lisa Graf, Deputy Social Services Commissioner Alyssa Rittenhouse and Aging and Youth Department Director Amy Haskins. Supervisor Johnson was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the June 6th Committee meeting were approved as written.

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

- Child Welfare Services: During June the Department received 185 reports concerning child welfare, of this number eight were abuse reports.
- SNAP (Food Stamps): There are 4,488 families in Wayne County receiving SNAP benefits. This is the program most Social Service recipients receive benefits from. Ms. Graf said the number of applications received for assistance continues to grow; however the caseload remains fairly constant.
- Medicaid: There were 3,842 County residents receiving Medicaid benefits at the end of June and 2,172 receiving Medicaid and SSI benefits. Ms. Graf noted the upward trend of Medicaid cases. She will be attending the New York State Public Assistance Conference in a few weeks and is hopeful the State will take the opportunity to announce when COVID waivers for program acceptance will no longer be accepted.
- Temporary Caseload: As of the end of June there were 168 residents receiving Aid to Dependent Child/Family Assistance and 173 receiving Home Relief/SNAP Benefits.

This month's Program Spotlight was on the Summer Youth Employment Program; the \$200,848 program began today. Workforce Development administers this program and has already made early outreach to youth who previously participated in the program as well as has had conversations with community partners about youth who might be eligible. Income eligible program participants are between the ages of 14 and 20 and will work from the beginning of July through September. Goals for the program this year are to serve 65 youth at over 20 worksites

- Finance: Through May the Department expended 33% of their County budget; this is lower than last year at the same time. The budget reflects a child welfare settlement that was paid since the last meeting. The 2022 Social Services budget includes over \$19 million in projected revenue. Ms. Graf noted Day Care expenses are down for the first half of the year. Eligibility requirements for the program are being increased so it is anticipated additional people will take advantage of the program.

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

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--Authorization to create the position of Secretary 1 and abolish the position of Senior Typist. Ms. Graf noted there are two Deputy Commissioners in the Department of Social Services, each with their own clerical assistant. Both perform the same functions; however, they have two separate titles. Funds are available within the budget for the additional cost. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign contracts of affiliation for the provision of intern placements. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an affiliation agreement with the State University of New York at Brockport for the provision of student internships. Approved 4-0.

Supervisors were informed a site review was performed at the Child Advocacy Center in Lyons. The site has proven to be a very good resource for the County. Mr. House questioned the status of the parking lot that accommodates the Facility; Ms. Graf said she would check to see if the condition of the lot has been improved.

Ms. Graf and Department administration are working on a succession plan in light of recent position turnovers.

The monthly activities report for the Department of Aging and Youth was included with the agenda. Through May, 506 senior citizens in the County received information and/or services through the NY Connects Program. Mrs. Haskins stated participants in this program generally have more complicated/complex cases. A new Case Manager started in June; this will be very helpful to the NY Connects Program. A total of 200 seniors contacted the local Office for assistance through the Insurance Counseling Program, 75 for Aide Services and 90 for Case Management. A total of 244 seniors received Home Delivered Meals during the and 145 participated in the Lunch Club 60 Program. Mrs. Haskins said the Lunch Club Program continues to offer meals-to-go; it is not known how long this COVID protocol will continue. Mrs. Haskins noted a new Senior Caseworker began in the Department today, with the level of activity in the Office the position is badly needed.

The local Department of Aging and Youth will be receiving fewer Farmer's Market Coupon books this year; however, the amount of coupons in each book increased from \$20 to \$25.

Supervisors were informed Sodus Point Park opened full-time for the season on June 28th.

Mrs. Haskins presented a transmittal requesting authorization to sign a three-year contract with Mon Ani, Inc. for the provision of case management database platform support for an annual cost of \$7,500. The new system will allow staff to have access to not only view, but to add records, to the data base. Approved 4-0.

The monthly activities report for the Veterans Service Agency was included with the agenda. During May 491 Veterans had contact with the local office, the majority by telephone. Mrs.

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Maybee noted the recent increase in deaths of Vietnam veterans. During the month there were 14 Veterans transported to the Canandaigua Veterans Administration Medical Center, four to the Rochester VAMC, 18 to Syracuse and four to other medical facilities. The Office was contacted regarding 30 Veteran burials; paying for one indigent burial.

Mrs. Maybee presented a cost benefit analysis for veteran transportation services. The report showed the cost of salary, benefits and vehicle maintenance for a County operated transportation system versus the RTS flat rate of \$58.79 per hour for transportation services. After review of the information, Mrs. Maybee recommended the County not provide in-house transportation services and utilize a contract with RTS. Having the service performed through contract would eliminate any County liability during transportation and the need for the Department to have a vehicle. She stated RTS would have back-up ability if a driver is out sick; the County would have to stop the route for a day or utilize in-office staff for this purpose. Mrs. Maybee noted the Department has slightly over \$14,000 in a vehicle donation account from the last van the Department purchased. Donations were being accepted for the current van; however, at the last minute a \$25,000 grant was received from the State, so the unused donated funds were placed in an earmarked account. Mrs. Maybee will discuss with the County Attorney how these funds can be utilized.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, August 1st at 9:00 a.m.