

MINUTES

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, July 6, 2021 9:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Jacobs, Emmel, Groat, Kolczynski and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Mental Health Director Jim Haitz, Deputy Director Ed Hunt, Nursing Home Administrator Jeffrey Stalker, Nursing Home Comptroller Barbara Keefe, Public Health Director Diane Devlin, Deputy Director Kerry VanAuken and Principal Account Clerk Heather Loucks.

Minutes from the June 1st Committee meeting were approved as written.

Bonadio Group Representatives Richard Leicht and Taylor Kavanagh made a presentation on the County Nursing Home's 2020 financial audit. The audit was conducted remotely due to ongoing COVID concerns. Mr. Leicht stated there were no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing the audit and the Facility received a clean audit. Cash increased from the prior year by nearly \$6 million. Capital assets decreased by \$13,000 due to the depreciation of the building and bonds were reduced due to debt repayment of the Facility. IGT payments in 2020 totaled \$4.1 million; lower than in 2019. The audit found the annual occupancy rate of the Facility to be 91.4%. Operating expenses totaled \$21.1 million in 2020. Mr. Leicht stated the cash position of the Home is very good. The auditors commended management on how they proceeded during the pandemic and did not lose the amount of funds many other facilities did. The audit showed total assets at \$47.2 million, total liabilities \$27.7 million. The net position at the end of 2020 was \$31 million, an increase from the prior year despite COVID. Supervisors were informed the Nursing Home structure became fully depreciated during 2019.

A brief review was provided on upcoming changes in the way funds are expended at nursing homes. It is believed the County's Nursing Home is in a good position to implement these changes.

Supervisor Bender arrived at the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Mr. Stalker informed the Committee, as of today, there were no residents or staff with COVID in the Facility. Unvaccinated employees are tested once a month using in-house rapid tests. The Facility's Compliance Officer resigned from his position. A new Director of Nursing is scheduled to begin next week. Mr. Stalker voiced concern regarding sidewalk conditions on the property and the need for immediate repair before someone is hurt. He will have a transmittal prepared for the August Committee meeting to make repairs to the sidewalks. Due to the inability to fill vacant positions, staff are mandated to work overtime; there are currently 68 open positions at the Facility. Seventy percent of employees at the Nursing Home have received a COVID vaccination.

Ms. Keefe reviewed the monthly statistical report for the Nursing Home. The Facility had a cash balance of \$13.5 million as of the end of May. The Facility had to pay principal and interest on their bonds in May. Operating loss at the facility continues to decrease, as expenses remain stable and revenues increase. The occupancy rate during the month was 95.06%, with 18 admissions; the Facility's occupancy rate continues to increase. Mr. Stalker and Ms. Keefe stated the need for the Nursing Home to utilize an electronic referral platform for resident placement. All nursing homes in the area utilize this platform that provides information about individuals seek nursing home care. The Wayne County Nursing Home currently receives their referrals via fax. Using this platform would speed-up the evaluation process. Access to the platform cost around \$2,000 a month; an amount Mr. Stalker said could be saved by the placement of additional rehab residents.

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Mr. Stalker presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a three-year agreement with RPA for the provision of fire safety training for a cost not to exceed \$16,476. The Facility is required to perform annual fire training to staff. Approved 5-0.

The Committee reviewed the financial report for Mental Health. At the end of May, the Department had revenues of \$4.28 million and expenses of \$3.18 million. Accounts receivable numbers reflect staff efforts to have old claims paid.

The following transmittals were presented for Mental Health:

--Authorization to create new positions for the Certified Behavioral Health Clinic and amend the budget. A similar request came before the Board last month and was rejected. After meeting with administration, Mr. Haitz said the number of positions was greatly reduced to 14. The Mental Health Department received a \$4 million Federal grant as part of a clinic expansion initiative. Funding would be used to expand clinic services, increase addiction treatment and support, expand the hours for immediate 24/7 access to Crisis Intervention Mobile Team Services, expand satellite school and college campus based treatment clinics, along with other programs and activities to help those in the community with behavioral health problems. The proposed request would have a cost of \$483,259 for the remainder of this year; all grant funded. Back-up information was included with the agenda on the existing budget, existing staff positions and those positions requested. Numbers included the salary for each position for the remainder of this year and for all of 2022, including the cost of fringe benefits. Grant funds will also pay for operational expenses. Mr. Haitz said, even with the changes in personnel, the required goals and initiatives outlined in the grant remain the same. The personnel reduction from 36 to 14 will only allow for one mobile team with a two person staff. Existing staff will be utilized to expand programs and services. The 14 positions include: 3-4 Staff Social Workers, 2-3 Substance Abuse Counselors, 2 Activity Aide CRPAs, 1-2 Assistance Social Worker Case Managers, 1 Nurse Practitioner, 1 Supervising Social Worker, 1 Program Supervisor and 1 Staff Development Coordinator. Existing staff that are in billable position will have their cost paid for with the grant for the new work they are doing for the initiative. Mrs. Jacobs stated her support for the original plan to hire 36 additional staff members to operate two 24/7 Mobile Crisis Teams. Mr. Haitz said today's request was reviewed by the County Administrator, Chairman of the Board and the County's Human Resource Officer. The new system will be monitored and the Committee kept up to date on the services they are providing. Mr. Haitz noted information he sent supervisors on Friday regarding a Community Mental Health Services Block Grant supplementary funding of State funds that will go into community mental health services. These funds will be for many of the same issues this \$4 million is working to address. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Haitz informed the Committee, in response to a lawsuit that alleged opioid manufacturers caused the opioid crisis through deceptive market practices, misrepresenting that opioids had a low risk of addiction and did not disclose the medication's risk; the State has received a settlement. Settlement funds will be distributed to counties. Mrs. Devlin said the Public Health Office is working on a plan to address opioid and marijuana problems; once complete, she will give to Mr. Haitz for his review and input. The tentative plan should be ready for Committee review in August.

--Authorization to create one part-time Psychiatrist Nurse Practitioner position, set the hourly rate at \$120 and amend the budget. Mr. Haitz noted a full-time Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner resigned and there is someone available to fill the position on a part-time basis. Human Resource Director Chris Kalinski questioned the rate of pay. The hourly rate is more than some physicians working for the County earn.

Mr. Haitz stated Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners at Mental Health are in a specialized field and receive more than \$120 an hour. Mr. Haitz compared the pay rate to surrounding counties. Mrs. Kalinski said she has reviewed the proposal with the County's Pay Plan Committee who said they would support \$112 an hour for the position. Mr. Haitz said he was not aware the County had such a committee and it was not utilized when salary of other position changed. He also noted other physicians in the County function as off-site consultants and are general practitioners, and are not specialized psychiatrist. Supervisors Spickerman, Eygnor and Leonard are part of the Pay Plan Committee. It was agreed, this request would not be voted upon today, but presented as a Rule 14 to the full Board after additional review by the Pay Plan Committee. (Later in the day, a meeting with Mr. Haitz and the Pay Plan Committee was scheduled for July 8th.)

Mrs. Devlin presented Public Health's monthly activities report. Between June 1st and July 2nd only 47 new COVID cases were reported in the County; the seven-day positivity rate is .3%. To date there have been 52 COVID related deaths; the majority of individuals had underlying conditions. 67.5% of County residents eligible for the vaccine have received it. Efforts are underway to increase the number of those vaccinated in the eastern section of the County. A walk-in clinic for vaccinations is available at Public Health every Wednesday from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Devlin thanked County staff, the Lyons Community Center and all that assisted making the many vaccination clinics a success. She also thanked all the members of the community that have been vaccinated and those who were not and continue to wear their masks. To date, 202 homebound vaccinations have been given by members of the Wayne County ALS Community Para-medicine Program. Mrs. Devlin said she is in the process of obtaining pricing for a tent that could be utilized during drive-thru clinics; it needs to be a large tent. Mr. Kolczynski questioned if it would be less expensive to rent a tent.

Ms. Loucks reported Public Health spent a little over \$100,000 through June on overtime related to COVID; this amount has been submitted for reimbursement. The total of all related COVID expenses in the first six months of 2020 are \$136,000. Vaccination billing remains backlogged. March and April were exceptionally busy months for vaccination clinics. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Public Health Office has submitted reimbursement claims totaling \$327,711 and received \$143,500. Additional funding is anticipated to be received in the near future to assist with the re-opening of schools. The majority of these funds will be channeled from the County to school districts.

Mrs. VanAuken reported Public Health Programs have resumed. A drive-thru Rabies Vaccination Clinic was held in Walworth on June 26th resulting in the vaccination of 128 animals. Other clinics will be scheduled around the County. The Department's Injury Prevention/Health Promotion Program has resumed. The Public Health Educator is once again attending farmers' markets, conducting bike helmet fittings and assist at bike rodeos for youth. Both children and adult immunization clinics are being held and immunizations to homebound Amish resumed in June. The Community Health Improvement Plan CHIP app was launched last month. The website will promote clinics and other health initiatives.

Mrs. Devlin stated there has been recent interest in the future of the Sandhill Trailer Park in the Town of Arcadia. Three families still have trailers at the Park. The owner of the Park did not pay his property taxes and the property will transfer, through tax foreclosure, to the Land Bank. The former owner had said he was going to make improvements at the park; these did not occur. The three occupants at the park will be receiving a letter on July 26th stating the park is permanently closing and they have six months to relocate. Two days later an in-person meeting will take place with the residence regarding their relocation. The Department of Social Services said they have funds to assist with the relocation of these families, if needed. This is a very large parcel of property in need of cleaning up.

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The following transmittals were presented for the Public Health Department:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES for transportation for the Early Intervention and Pre-K Programs at a cost not to exceed \$1,340,000. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a service agreement with Common Ground Health for the provision of development of regional collaborations for a cost of \$7,725. A list of services provided by Common Ground were included in the transmittal. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Health Research Inc. for the provision of assisting with COVID-19 re-opening schools programming at a cost not to exceed \$2,414,949. Expenses are reimbursed with COVID funding. The work plan for use of this funding went to the State. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Health Research, Inc. to allow for additional COVID-19 funding of \$88,156 to the Public Health Department. Staff are required to participate in activities and training. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Theresa Lehman for the provision of related services for Pre-School Children with Handicapping Conditions. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Heath Research, Inc. for the provision of public health emergency preparedness activities for a cost of \$393,200. The funds are available for reimbursement through March 2023. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to rescind Board Resolution No. 78-21 and authorize the acceptance of Performance Incentive Award funds for \$21,838. Mrs. Devlin noted these funds are available for the purchase of office equipment and furniture. The Department received these funds in late November, at which time they were requested to wait until after the new year to accept them. One of the purchases made with these funds was specialized desks for employees that was made prior to this transmittal being approved. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with ARC of Yates to provide special education services or programming for an additional student of the Pre-School Children with Handicapping Conditions Program. Approved 5-0.

Mrs. Devlin informed Supervisors the Public Health Department would provide educational materials and/or provide COVID vaccinations at any community event they have.

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, August 2nd at 10:00 a.m.