

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, August 1, 2022 9:00 a.m.

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

Minutes from the July 5th Committee meeting were approved as written.

The monthly activities report for the Veterans Department was included with the agenda. During June the Office had contact with 530 Veterans and/or their dependents, 93 of these contacts were in person. Mrs. Maybee noted the number of in-person visits to the Office continues to increase. During the month there were 28 Veterans transported to the Canandaigua VA Medical Center, four to the Rochester VA Medical Center, 22 to the Syracuse VA and 12 transported to other related medical facilities. The Office was contacted regarding 25 Veteran burials, paying for one indigent burial during June for a cost of \$3,400.

Mrs. Maybee informed Supervisors Veterans Service Officer John Nadig obtained his State Accreditation. This will allow him access to the VA website and helping Veterans with their claims.

Mrs. Maybee informed Supervisors the County's Mental Health Department received \$100,000 in State funding to establish a Veterans' Peer Support Program. They will contract with the Veterans Service Agency to administer the grant. How this program can assist local Veterans was reviewed. Mrs. Maybee said she will work with administration at the County's Mental Health Department to structure the new program.

Paul Walters, Interim Deputy Social Services Commissioner, was introduced to members.

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

- Child Welfare: The Department received 285 child welfare reports during June, received seven abuse reports and filed eight petitions with Family Court. Mrs. Graf noted this Unit has 16 Caseworkers; however, several are new to the Unit and do not have the experience needed to carry a full caseload. The Department recently hired a temporary part-time Attorney; however, the Department remains down two full-time Attorney positions.
- Medical Assistance: There were 3,879 County residents receiving Medicaid at the end of June and 2,154 receiving Medicaid along with SSI benefits.
- Food Stamps: There are 4,493 County residents receiving SNAP benefits only, 174 receiving SNAP benefits and a mix of public assistance benefits and 91 receiving SNAP benefits along with their Public Assistance benefit.

- Temporary Assistance: Aid to Dependent Children cases rose slightly to 172 during June, while Home Relief benefits dropped slightly to 166.
- Financial: Through the first six months of the year the Department expended 42.5% of their County budget. All back to work and training programs through the Department are going well and expending their budgets; however, many of the other programs in the Department are not. Salary expenses are up from last year, reflecting additional payout funds to employees leaving employment, and an increase in the number of vacancies being filled from last year. The 2022 budget also includes an additional Medicaid weekly share payment over 2021.

Mrs. Graf reviewed with Supervisors the information reviewed at a recent New York State Public Welfare Association Conference she attended:

- Permanent affordable housing is a concern around the State.
- The number of applications for emergency services is up across the State.
- Applications relating to homelessness are not decreasing in the warmer weather as they usually do.
- Staffing is an issue around the State. During the conference Mrs. Graf said she obtain some ideas on recruitment and retention.
- Application time for Temporary Assistance and SNAP (food stamp) benefits will be reduced to 30 days.
- Some income disregards are disappearing.
- Some qualification resource levels are increasing, which could make more residents eligible for benefits.
- The State has established a child welfare services hot line.

Mrs. Graf informed Supervisors, effective today, daycare eligibility is up to 300% of the poverty level. The Department's single-room occupancy site has been in operation for the past six weeks. Implementation of the program is still being worked out. The Department now has control of the building access control, not the building owner.

This month's program spotlight is on Child Support. Benefits child support enforcement bring to families and the County were noted. Due to shortages of legal staff, the Child Support Unit has been unable to proceed with their regular filing of petitions. The new part-time temporary legal position will assist with filings. Mrs. Graf noted in person training is back, as of August, so additional staff members can be trained.

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

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with Wayne County Action Program for the provision of shelter services, rapid re-housing and case management services to eligible individuals and families for a cost of \$378,400. The cost is fully reimbursable.
Approved 4-0

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with Finger Lakes Area Counseling and Recovery Agency, Inc. for the provision of outreach, rapid housing, and prevention services to eligible individuals and families for a cost of \$383,957. The cost is fully reimbursable. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Commissioner of Social Services to sign an agreement with Wayne Behavioral Health Network for the provision of drug/alcohol assessments for individuals applying for cash assistance. The cost of each assessment is \$40 and reimbursable. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal contract with Catholic Charities for the provision of emergency rental assistance to eligible households. This action will allow the expenditure of funds through September 2023. Approved 3-0, Supervisor Donalty abstained from the vote, as he is a safety and security consultant for Catholic Charities.

--Authorization to amend Board Resolution No. 303-22 to correctly identify the funding source of the Summer Youth Employment Program. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to adjust the Foster Care and Adoption Subsidy payment rates as the result of State reimbursement increases. New rates were included in the transmittal; they will be effective July 1st. Mrs. Graf said she anticipates there will be adequate funds in the 2022 budget to cover the additional expense. Approved 4-0.

An out of State travel request was presented for a Child Protective Caseworker to travel to New Jersey on August 22nd and 23rd and on November 7th and 8th to meet the requirements of Article 81 Services to an incapacitated adult. The cost of travel is \$596. Approved.

The monthly activities report for the Department of Aging and Youth was included with the agenda. The Department has seven seniors waiting for legal services, two for case management and 24 for aide services. During June 23,071 meals were delivered to senior's homes. The number of contacts made to the Office are up from last year, and cases are more complex. Staff duties are being moved around as needed to serve the Department most effectively. Mrs. Haskins noted ARC of Wayne, through their New York State Industry for the Disabled contract, has yet to bill the Department for meals they prepared for senior programs during the first two quarters of the year. She thanked the Committee for their support in hiring an additional Caseworker; the position was filled and has greatly reduced the number of seniors on the case management waiting list.

Supervisors were informed all but one Farmers' Market Coupon booklet was distributed; the Department received 100 booklets less than last year.

Mrs. Haskins presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Wayne County school districts for the Family and Communities Together Program (FACT). The program assists families that have children in grades K through 8 who are exhibiting emotional and/or behavioral issues by providing intensive case management services

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and thereby preventing an out of home placement. School districts are charged \$1,000 per family for case management services and \$500 per family for parent education. Mrs. Haskins noted not all school districts have yet to respond if they want this contract for the upcoming school year. Approved 4-0.

Supervisor Donalty asked if any Committee member would be interested in filling the vacant seat on the County's Senior Advisory Board. The group meets every other month at the Department of Aging and Youth on Nye Road. Supervisor Leonard agreed to fill the position.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5th at 10:30 a.m. Due to the Labor Day Holiday.