

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:39 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Donalty, Leonard, Verno, Mettler and Eygnor, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Social Services Commissioner Lisa Graf, Veterans Service Officer Veronica Ciaramella and Aging and Youth Department Director Amy Haskins. Supervisor Johnson was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the July 31st Committee meeting were approved as written.

The monthly activities report for the Veterans Service Agency was included with the agenda. During July, the Office had 207 contacts with Veterans; 49 were in person contacts. There were 11 Veterans transported to the Canandaigua Veterans Medical Facility and three to the Syracuse Veterans Medical Facility during the month. The Office was contacted regarding burial benefits for 19 Veterans, paying for one indigent burial. Ms. Ciaramella said she received her NYS accreditation; however, both she and Mr. Philips are waiting to receive their American Legion Accreditations.

Ms. Ciaramella reported the excess van funds are being distributed to local American Legions and VFWs and the contract between the County and Clear Path for Veterans is going well.

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

- Financial: Through July, the Department expended 58% of their County budget. Both revenues and expenses are higher than last year at this time. Qualifications for Day Care eligibility increased during the pandemic and has not been reduced; this is causing a much larger use of these funds. Only certified day care providers can be reimbursed through the Social Service Day Care Program. Existing funding should last for the next 15 to 16 months, after that time the County will have to make a decision if they will put in funds to keep the program going at its current level.
- Child Welfare: At the end of July there were 188 children listed as being allegedly maltreated or abused in the County, 13 Family Court petitions were filed during the month, three abuse reports filed and three subsequent reports filed. The number of reports is slowly increasing; this is anticipated to increase as schools are back in session.
- Medicaid: At the end of July, there were 3,618 County residents receiving Medicaid; down slightly from the previous month. There were 2,142 residents receiving Medicaid along with SSI benefits.
- Food Stamps: There were 4,447 County residents receiving Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, 180 receiving SNAP and Public Assistance benefits and 84 receiving SNAP and more than one other Public Assistance benefit.
- Temporary Assistance: The number of cases that included Aid to Dependent Children grew to 197 and the number of cases including Home Relief/Safety Net reduced to 161.

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This month's spotlight was on Domestic Violence. Through the first seven months of 2023, Adult Services completed 47 domestic violence screenings involving 22 clients. Each client met with a Social Services Domestic Violence Liaison and 23 waivers were completed for child support, employment and/or spousal support. During the seven-month period, 14 individuals have been placed in domestic violence shelters; there are currently four individuals in these shelters.

Mrs. Graf presented a transmittal requesting authorization to retain a part-time Temporary Social Welfare Examiner position due to the need to train new staff. The high staff turnover was noted and the need for experienced staff to assist with training. It's difficult for new Social Welfare Examiners to meet service timeframes without working overtime. This request would allow an employee to remain part-time with the Department for an additional 26 weeks. Mrs. Graf said this should assist in reducing the waiting list and overtime worked by current full-time staff. Approved 4-0.

Mrs. Graf updated the Committee on the following:

- The single room emergency housing unit in Lyons has saved the County over \$130,000 since it opened. This takes into account the monthly lease cost.
- The only Social Services Staff Nurse resigned and has taken a job with Wayne County Public Health. The Director of Public Health has said the staff member can be utilized at Social Services when needed.
- The County's Child Advocacy Center in Lyons is working on some promotional events and has requested authorization to utilize the County's logo; a formal request will be made at this week's Government Operations Committee meeting.
- Workforce Development staff currently located in the Health Services Building will be relocated to the Social Service Building in downtown Lyons. Mrs. Graf believes this will provide better service to clients. These staff members are County employees.
- An Employee Appreciation Event is planned for September 20th, with another function is being planned for October.

Mrs. Haskins reported there is a waiting list of 40 for PERS units, 1 for legal services, 3 for case management, 9 aide services and 69 seniors on the home delivered meals waiting list. Through July, there have been 165 seniors in the County served 21,792 home delivered meals. Mrs. Haskins said every effort is being made to reduce the number of seniors on the home delivered meals waiting list. This program also has a volunteer component.

Mrs. Haskins updated the Committee on the following:

- The Wayne Youth for Wellness Program had 26 participants this summer; this new program was mentioned in the State's Youth Services Newsletter.
- The Department has two vacant Service Assistant positions as of the end of this week.
- The lifeguard season at Sodus Point Park has closed out; attendance numbers will be presented at the October meeting.

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- The State Aging Services fiscal team was on site to review local services; they found no major concerns.
- Final Aging/Youth Service allocations were announced; this resulted in over \$201,000 in State and Federal funding for the Department.
- The Department successfully distributed 800 Farmers' Market Coupon books this year.
- The Department's Deputy Director, Kelly Beaudette, will be co-chairing the local Community Schools Committee.
- A Medicare Insurance Fair is scheduled for October 12th at the Lyons Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, October 2nd at 9:00 a.m.