

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 10:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Donalty, Leonard, Johnson, Verno, Metler, Groat, Chatfield and Eygnor, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Director of Veterans Services Renee Maybee, Interim Commissioner of Social Services Lisa Graf and Aging and Youth Department Director Amy Haskins.

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

The monthly report for the Aging and Youth Department was submitted with the agenda. At the beginning of September there was one senior citizen on the waiting list for a PERS unit, 11 waiting legal services, six case management services and 26 on the waiting list for Aide services. Mrs. Haskins reported additional requests are being made for PERS units; however, the number of individuals requesting home delivered meals is remaining steady. Three staff vacancies have been filled and will come on board over the next month, a Deputy Director and two Service Assistants; all are provisional appointments subject to Civil Service testing. The to-go option will no longer be available at Senior Meal Sites after October 1st. Mrs. Haskins noted once involvement is determined on the use of in-person sites and activities, various options will be looked into. The NYS Association of Aging is teaming up with Caring Majority to continue to push for increased wages for in-home workers in an effort to attract more people to the profession and curb the workforce crisis. The Department was contacted by Home Instead requesting a change in the terms of their existing County contract. As of October 1st the State approved a \$2 an hour wage increase for in-home workers. Mrs. Haskins said she is reviewing this request with the County Attorney, as it would add expense to the County contract and change the information provided in their accepted proposal.

The Committee was informed Requests for Proposals were issued for home health aide services. Mrs. Haskins is not certain that Lifetime Care/Rochester Regional will submit a proposal and is very concerned about what will occur if no proposals are received.

Sodus Point Beach closed on August 24th. The season went well and water conditions were good. Common Ground Health is conducting a survey of people's health experiences that will be used by various agencies seeking funding opportunities or determining priorities. Mrs. Haskins requested anyone receiving this survey complete it. She noted information generated from this report is very useful for establishing new local activities and grant applications. Two additional schools have signed on with the Families and Communities Together (FACT) Program for the current school year.

Mrs. Haskins presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with the Gananda and Palmyra-Macedon Central School District for participation

PAGE 2

in the FACT Program for the 2022-23 school year. Schools pay the County \$1,000 for each youth that receives case management. These two contracts total \$15,000. Approved 5-0.

Mrs. Maybee reviewed the monthly activities report for the Veterans Agency. During July the Office had contact with 544 Veterans, their dependents, widows or others in the community; the majority being Vietnam Veterans. The number of individuals coming into the Office increased slightly; however, the Department has a good computer system to offer all applications and paperwork on line. The County transported 16 Veterans to the Canandaigua Veterans Medical Center during the month, two to the Rochester VA Medical Center and 32 to the Syracuse VA Medical Center. The Agency was contacted regarding 20 Veteran burials during the month; the Agency did not pay for any indigent burials in July.

The following transmittals were presented for the Veterans Services Agency:

--Authorization to accept \$100,000 in State funds from the Wayne County Office of Mental Health, amend the budget, and for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract between the Wayne County Veterans Service Agency and the Wayne County Office of Mental Health for establishment of a Veterans Peer Support Program. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to issue Requests for Proposals for implementation of a Pfc. Joseph Dwyer Peer Support Program. Mrs. Maybee reviewed the \$100,000 in funding the Agency received to establish a Veteran's Peer Support Program. The Veterans' Agency is working in collaboration with the County's Mental Health Department on this Program. Mrs. Maybee noted she does not have staff to be dedicated to establish the program. Approved 5-0.

Mrs. Maybee informed Supervisors the American Legion Riders rolled out food boxes on August 27th to 29 needy Veterans. The boxes also included some school supplies, if they were needed. The organization distributes food boxes five times a year.

Mrs. Maybee updated members on recently passed Federal PACT Act Legislation. This new law expands Veteran health care and benefits for those exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. It provides generations of Veterans, and their survivors, with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. The PACT Act also adds more than 20 burn pit and toxic exposure presumptive conditions to the list of conditions that the Veterans Administration considers automatically related to service and expands the areas of service for exposure. The local Office is fielding many calls on these issues. Mrs. Maybee said staff are doing their best to keep up to date on new legislation.

Mrs. Graf reviewed the following monthly reports:

- Financials: Through July the Department expended nearly 50% of their County budget; this is 8% more than last year at the same time. The annual budget for the Department of Social Services is \$21.5 million. Mailers were sent out to potential County residents in

need of assistance with daycare expenses, as the Department has funding to offset this expense to qualified families. The Department was informed the Medicaid weekly share will be reduced by \$30,000; this was a surprise announcement.

- Temporary Assistance: As of July 22nd there were 173 Aide to Dependent Children/Public Assistance cases and 162 active Home Relief cases being administered by the Department. There has not been any significant program cost increases. Many applications continue to be received for Temporary Assistance.
- Food Stamps (SNAP): There are 4,456 County residents receiving just SNAP benefits, 170 receiving public assistance along with their SNAP benefits and 99 residents receiving SNAP and multiple public assistance benefits. SNAP caseloads are remaining fairly steady.
- Medicaid Caseload: There are 3,890 residents receiving Medicaid benefits at this time and 2,167 receiving Medicaid and SSI benefits. There are a high number of applications being received by the Department, and as of the date of this meeting, the State has not implemented any determination of eligibility requirements for applicants.
- Child Welfare Services: The Department received 16 reports of child abuse since the last meeting and filed 16 petitions with the Court System. Reports received are always lower in the summer; Mrs. Graf anticipates numbers to increase once school is in session.

This month's Social Service spotlight is on hunger awareness. So far in 2022, the Department of Social Services received 2,231 SNAP applications; this number is approximately 700 higher than last year at the same time. The eight Examiners in the Undercare Unit of Income Maintenance are handling 4,732 cases; this is also an increase from prior years. SNAP benefits to individuals and households have been increased; the maximum SNAP benefit continues to be received by participants. Mrs. Graf noted there are benefits for school age children that are anticipated to be continued into the current school year. Households with school age children do not need to be in receipt of assistance from the Department of Social Services in order to qualify for these benefits.

Mrs. Graf presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a three-year agreement with the child caring institution Mercy First for the placement of children to promote their health and safety for an amount not to exceed \$275,000. Approved 5-0.

Supervisors were informed the State passed legislation that would lower the age for delinquency arrests and Family Court prosecution to 12. The legislation recognizes that criminalizing children runs contrary to scientific research. Each county will be required to develop a differential response on how they will handle their youth; there are no longer mandated services for them. Services currently offered to youth by outside agencies will now have to be performed at the Department of Social Services. The County average five children that fall into this age group with a criminal offense.

Mrs. Graf invited all Supervisors to a staff recognition event planned for Wednesday, September 21st beginning at 11 a.m. Food trucks will be in the area.

PAGE 4

Supervisor Groat asked Mrs. Maybee if the Veterans Service Agency would be overseeing the new Veterans' Peer Program. Mrs. Maybee said she is aware of what reporting is needed for the program and will do that; however, she will not be overseeing the professionals that work in the program.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th at 1:00 p.m. for budget review.