

## MINUTES

### HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022 11:30 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Robusto, Groat, Bender, Brady and Miller, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Director of Mental Health Jim Haitz, Deputy Director of Mental Health Ed Hunt, Nursing Home Administrator Jeffrey Stalker, Nursing Home Comptroller Barbara Keefe, Nursing Home Deputy Comptroller Heather Loucks, Public Health Director Diane Devlin and Deputy Director Kerry VanAuken.

Minutes from the August 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Committee meetings were approved as written.

The monthly report for the Mental Health Department was distributed with the agenda. Through July the Department had actual revenues of \$7.5 million and expenses of \$5.3 million. It is anticipated the Department will once again finish the year with revenue in excess of expense. Mr. Haitz noted a lot of vacation time was utilized by staff in July; this slightly reduced service numbers. Supervisor Brady questioned if there are bills in the Department that never get paid. Mr. Haitz said there are some, particularly the self-pay; however, there are not many and clients do make every effort to pay. The County Treasurer makes the decision when bills will be written off for non-payment.

The following transmittals were presented for Mental Health:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract amendment with Patricia McKinny to allow her to review and audit an additional number of independent medical records in the Mental Health Department during 2022. This will increase the existing contract by \$4,000. Mr. Haitz stated these services are a regulatory requirement. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to create the position of full-time Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner and abolish the part-time position of Nurse Practitioner and amend the budget. Mr. Haitz reviewed the need for the position to meet demands for service in the Department. This revenue generating positions will add no County cost to the budget. During 2022 three part-time Nurse Practitioner positions and one part-time Psychiatrist position were abolished. Other positions that are anticipated to be eliminated, or reduced, in the near future were reviewed. Mr. Haitz said the loss of medical staff has made it very difficult to meet the needs of clients. The Department continues its efforts to fill vacant positions. The position will be included in the 2023 budget, if approved today. Approved 5-0.

The following monthly reports were presented for the Nursing Home:

- Financial: Through July, the Facility had revenues of \$9.56 million and expenses of \$10.54 million. They have a cash balance of \$5.39 million and \$28.8 million in short term T-bills and other investments. The year-to-date occupancy rate at the Nursing Home is 84%;

there were five admissions made during July. Occupancy at the Facility remains low due to State staffing mandates. The State will impose a fine for nursing home facilities that do not comply with their staffing ratio mandate. As of this morning, 149 beds were filled in the County Nursing Home. Efforts are underway to figure out how to have an in-house Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. Supervisor Robusto question if the pay offered the County Nursing Home is competitive. He questioned if consideration has been given to putting a MOU in place with nursing staff in order to increase their salaries prior to Union negotiations. Supervisors questioned if the Facility would be more profitable if they had more staff and could take in more residents. Supervisor Miller stated he is aware of a Red Cross program to assist Veterans get jobs once they return home; questioning if they should be contacted about nursing positions. Ms. Keefe noted interest income is double of the amount earned last year and accounts receivable continue to decrease. Mr. Stalker informed Supervisors repair work to sidewalks is complete and painting is underway at the Nursing Home; it is hoped painting will conclude before the weather changes.

- Open Positions: As of August 29<sup>th</sup> there were 78 open positions at the Facility; the majority being full and part-time Certified Nursing Assistants. Mr. Stalker reported some staff member have signed up to work 12-hour shifts, the majority have not.

The following transmittals were presented for the Nursing Home:

--Authorization to set private room rates for the Nursing Home at \$375 for a semi-private room, \$405 for a private room and \$600 for a suite. This is a \$25 increase per room. A suite is a new offering that would double the size of a room and be set up to be utilized for this purpose. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the salary for Graduate Nurse positions within \$2 an hour of the hirer rate of Registered Nurses. These individuals have completed their schooling; however, do not yet have their RN credentials. Mr. Stalker said the last time the title had a rate increase was in 2011. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with Roberts Wesleyan College for the provision of allowing their occupational therapy students to train at the County's Nursing Home. Approved 4-0.

The monthly activities report for the Public Health Department was reviewed. Mrs. Devlin said she would make a presentation on the County's Early Intervention Program at the October meeting. The following activities occurred during August:

- Immunizations: 10 adults and 43 children received immunizations, seven received the COVID vaccination and two the Monkey Pox vaccination.
- Communicable Diseases: 52 reports required investigation during the month.
- Lead: Three children in the County were shown to have high levels of lead in their blood.

- TB Clinic: Two residents tested positive with latent infections.
- Rabies: A clinic was held on August 20<sup>th</sup> in Sodus that gave rabies vaccinations to 119 pets. Thirty-three animals were questioned as having rabies, five specimens were submitted for testing.
- Monkey Pox: A state of emergency was declared in New York. There have been no reported cases of the disease in Wayne county. Supervisors were informed health insurance companies are required to cover Monkey Pox virus immunizations, diagnostic testing and medical provider services.
- Polio: A case was found in Rockland County and the disease found in wastewater in that area. Wayne County has a polio vaccination rate of 84%; Mrs. Devlin noted there are many Amish families in the County that do not get vaccinated. Public schools adhere to immunization requirements; however, the same is not true of Amish schools. The Department has a small supply of the vaccine on hand that can be given to residents that have not been immunized.
- Education: A Public Health Educator position remains vacant. At this time a Fellow in the Department is performing some of the duties required of the vacant position. The Department distributed 37 bicycle helmets at National Night Out at Wegman's in Newark and an addition six at a Public Health Helmet Event. A child car seat program is planned for September 24<sup>th</sup>. Seven clients are participating in the Department's smoking cessation program and staff are working with area schools and the Council on Alcoholism to promote teen vaping intervention and cessation programs.
- COVID: The County's seven-day positivity rate is 6.2%; the County remains at a medium transmission rate. Mrs. Devlin said all cases are the Omicron variant, and the positivity rate in the County does not include home tests that are being done. There have been over 25,000 positive cases of COVID reported in Wayne County and 162 deaths. The vaccination rate for residents fell once youth were considered in the number; many parents are not having their children vaccinated. At this time the Public Health Department is only providing COVID vaccinations by appointment. Original boosters are no longer available, as a bivalent vaccine has taken their place. Original vaccinations are still available.

A lengthy discussion took place on cannabis and the legal growth and sale of it in New York State. The conditional processor application window for adult use cannabis closed August 31<sup>st</sup>. To date, the Cannabis Control Board has not approved a license in Wayne County. The local municipality will be made aware of any applications that are being considered to be dispensaries so they can provide feedback to the Office of Cannabis Management. Supervisors voiced concern about individuals in the County 'gifting' marijuana. Mrs. Devlin said it is illegal to sell or gift cannabis in exchange for another good, service or membership. Why this law is not being enforced was questioned. Marijuana is illegal to grow in your home. She suggested towns and villages review their zoning laws regarding the placement of dispensaries. If the entire Board should hear this discussion was questioned.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m.