

MINUTES

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, October 4, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Jacobs, Groat, Kolczynski, Bender and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, 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 Public Health Principal Account Clerk Heather Loucks. Supervisor Emmel was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the September 7th and 27th Committee meetings were approved as written.

The Nursing Home's statistical report was distributed with the agenda. At the end of August, the Facility had a cash balance of \$14 million and cash on hand of \$27.9 million. Ms. Keefe reported the cash balance at the Nursing Home remains strong. The Facility's occupancy rate through the first eight months of the year is 90.2%. Ms. Keefe said the occupancy rate at the Nursing Home is slowly increasing. The Overall 5-Star Medicare Rating remains at four. There are 70 open positions at the Nursing Home, 27 nurses and 40 aides. Due to the COVID vaccination mandate, 13 employees resigned.

Mr. Kolczynski questioned what action the Facility was taking against Sodexo since they were not fulfilling their contract. Mr. House said he would review this concern with the County Attorney.

The following transmittals were presented for the Nursing Home:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with P&NP Computer Services for the annual historical license agreement at a cost of \$2,038. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Northeast Medical repair for the provision of oxygen services. Approved 4-0.

Mrs. Jacobs made a motion the Committee enter into executive session with Mr. Stalker and Ms. Keefe to discuss a personnel matter at 10:07 a.m., Mr. Kolczynski second. The regular meeting resumed at 10:18 a.m.

The monthly financial report for the Mental Health Department was reviewed. Through August, the Department had total revenues of \$6.6 million and expenses of \$5.45 million. This resulted in a budget surplus of \$1.16 million; the Department had a planned budget deficit. Mr. Haitz report during summer months caseloads goes down some, but are already increasing in September.

The monthly activities report for Mental Health was distributed. The Office held First Aid Training for both youth and adults, along with law enforcement. The report listed meetings Mr. Haitz and

staff members attended during the month. Staff participated in a discussion with Yates County System of Care regarding the collaboration of numerous organizations aimed at improving the overall system of mental health care. The amount being paid to Licensed Clinical Social Workers is being looked into, as it is becoming more and more difficult to hire qualified individuals for this position. Mr. Haitz said a wage comparison will be done and information reviewed with this Committee next month. He reports to the County's Human Resource Department monthly with a staffing chart so it is clear which positions in the Department are filled and which positions remain vacant. The Mental Health Department is making good progress in filling new positions; with the exception of Clinical Social Workers. There are 13 vacant positions in the Department. The Department received additional grant funds from the Office of Alcohol And Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to be utilized for COVID related issues, financially stabilize programs and train staff.

Mrs. Devlin updated members on COVID activity in the County. During September there were 1,000 positive COVID test in the County, bringing the total number of positive COVID tested individuals to 7,000. The seven-day positivity rate in Wayne County is 7.2%. Community transmissions is high, especially in schools. 63.7% of Wayne County residents have are vaccinated. To date, 61 County residents have died from COVID. At this time, there are 13 individuals in the hospital including one child. The Public Health Department continues to offer their Wednesday afternoon walk-in COVID vaccination clinic. Extra efforts are being made to have eligible school children vaccinated. The Public Health Department is working with the Community Schools program to offer vaccinations in schools. Vaccinations are also available at most pharmacies and at physician offices. Immune compromised individuals can receive their COVID booster shot at this time. The Department continues to work with Wayne County ALS to vaccinate homebound individuals.

Mrs. Devlin updated the group on ELC School Based COVID Testing. ELC funding was given to the County, who in turn, distributed 85% of the funds to the 11 school districts and BOCES in the County for COVID related testing, personal protective equipment, hygiene and cleaning supplies, the purchase of filtration systems and expenses associated with outreach and assistance. The County provided free test kits to schools; now schools and BOCES are to work directly with the State to obtain Binax NOW Rapid Antigen Test Kits. Efforts are being made to get children back to school sooner when they are determined symptomatic and not exposed to a positive COVID individual. Mrs. Devlin said pediatric physician offices are receiving a high number of calls requesting COVID tests; she is working on establishing a centralized testing site for school children who are symptomatic but not exposed. There is a new website available that allows individuals to report positive COVID home test results.

Mrs. Devlin is participating in 'Control Room' meetings that involve State and county representative updates on COVID. Efforts continue to encourage citizens to be vaccinated. There is a need to increase vaccinations of middle and high school students. PH is working on conducting Student Focus Groups with middle and high school students to understand their knowledge of COVID, identify myths, identify educational needs and how messaging to promote

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vaccinations and protective measures can be created and released. Their responses may help the Public Health Department address their issues regarding vaccination.

In other health related business, Mrs. VanAuken stated STDs continue to increase in the County. Department RNs are working to get children back on track with their required school entry vaccinations. Two children in Wayne County were found to have elevated lead levels; the appropriate medical treatment is taking place. A total of 143 animals were vaccinated during a rabies clinics held in Wolcott in September.

Ms. Loucks stated the Public Health Department had \$169,830 in COVID expenses through September. Billings are complete through April; many individuals receiving the vaccination do not have insurance. Ms. Loucks stated nearly 93% of vaccination administration fees have been billed for. Public Health received \$393,700 for their COVID vaccination efforts so far.

Mrs. Devlin said the Department has yet to receive Public Health Corps Fellowship contracts from the State. If received prior to the Board meeting she will request a Rule 14 or Other Business be placed on the agenda so the contracts can be signed as soon as possible.

The Committee approved Mrs. Devlin to re-credential the Department's Medical Director Dr. Arun Nagpaul and to credential Dr. Alexandra Yamshchikov as the TB Medical Consultant providing them with practice privileges for the next two years.

Mrs. Devin presented a transmittal requesting authorization to award a contract to Laney Johnson to perform school COVID 19 testing coordination services at a cost of \$30 an hour. Approved 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m. The next meeting of the Health and Medical Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, November 1st at 10:00 a.m.