

## MINUTES

### HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, March 4, 2019 8:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Verno, Baldrige, Emmel, Robusto, Jacobs, Chatfield and Groat, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Veterans Service Director Jason Eldridge, Veterans Service Officer Renee Maybee, Aging and Youth Department Director Penny Shockley, Deputy Director of Youth Kathy McGonigal, Coordinator of Aging Services Amy Haskins, Commissioner of Social Services Josh McCrossen, Director of Social Services Shelly Bentley and Director of Administrative Services Abbey Shipley.

Minutes from the February 4<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting were approved as written.

The monthly activities report for the Veterans Service Agency was distributed with the minutes. During January the Office had contact with 283 Veterans and/or their family members. There were 71 units of transportation to or from the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and 16 to or from the Syracuse VA Medical Center.

The Annual Report for the Veterans Service Agency was received and filed. The Office operates with a full-time Director, full-time Veterans Service Officer, full-time Clerk and a part-time Driver; the report included a list of what each position performs in the Office. There were 6,878 Veterans living in Wayne County during 2018, nearly 4,000 Veterans and/or their families had contact with the local Office. There were 1,127 transportation units to or from the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and 232 to or from the Syracuse VA Medical Center; with over 15,000 miles traveled by the Veterans van. The report noted transportation services to medical centers decreased during the year. The Office assisted in the payment of 12 Veteran burials at a County cost of slightly over \$22,000. During 2018, Veterans in Wayne County received \$1.2 million in compensation, pension, medical and educational benefits. There are 1,163 Veterans in Wayne County receiving some form of VA benefits.

The following transmittals were presented for the Office of Aging and Youth:

--Authorization for the Director of the Department of Aging and Youth to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Newark Housing Authority to procure referral and application assistance services for a price not to exceed \$14,598. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract renewal with Genesee Region Home Care of Ontario County for the provision of non-medical, in-home services and non-institutional respite services for a price of \$245,000. Ms. Shockley stated there is a shortage of Aides, making it difficult to have these services performed for the elderly in our community. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract renewal with Self Direct for the provision of personal emergency response systems for a price of \$33,600. Each unit cost \$17.50 per month per participant. The majority of this expense is paid for with grant funds. Participants of this program must be over 60 and meet 'need' requirements. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract renewal with the Town of Ontario for the provision of a congregate meal site for a price of \$6,200. Approved 5-0.

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The Annual Report for the Department of Aging and Youth was received and filed. The Office of Aging is in place to promote the dignity of older adults by providing for services and support that enable seniors to remain independent and engaged within their communities. The report included many facts about Wayne County seniors and their living environment. Over 80% of seniors in Wayne County are homeowners and over 500 seniors in the County receive services through the Office of Aging and Youth. The report included details of programs offered by the Department: health insurance/long-term care information services, community/care giver services, and nutrition, health and wellness services. The cost is much lower for seniors to remain at home with case management services opposed to being institutionalized. Many programs offered through the Agency have a waiting list for participation. Mr. Groat questioned if there were statistics on the number of individuals in Wayne County that have Alzheimer's; Ms. Haskins said she would look into this.

The Youth Office is responsible for determining the need, planning, resource development, resourced allocation and monitoring of youth programs that are funded by the Office of Children and Family Services. The report noted efforts made during the year to enhance human services and educational services to youth living in Wayne County. The County's Run Away hotline received four calls in 2018, returning three of the youths to their homes and providing case management services to one youth. Sodus Point Park had 9,300 visitors during the 2018 summer season. The Youth Office also offers Youth Counseling, Pre-Trial Diversion and Safe Path Program Training. The Safe Path Program, newly established in 2018, was created to address how to help professionals, parents, youth and community members better understand human trafficking, child exploitation and evolving tactics used to recruit and exploit children. Ms. McGonigal said the Office is continually looking for ways to improve services.

Ms. Shockley updated members on the Home Delivered Meal Program. Home Meal Service was informed they will need to pay rent if staying at their current location in the Health Services Building; based on the County's formula for rental space their monthly cost would be \$673. This amount does not include the cost of internet service or telephone. A transmittal will go through the Public Works Committee later this week authorizing this rental agreement. Mr. Robusto questioned if there are other agencies that are allowed space in County buildings at no cost; he was informed there are none. The rent will begin to be charged to Home Meal Service in April.

Ms. Shockley informed members the Director of Home Meal Service, Karen Breen, has resigned from her position. She made all volunteer deliverers aware of her decision. Ms. Breen said she will work with Home Meal Service during their transition period. Home Meal Service still has two staff members. At this time Home Meal Services receives about \$70,000 annually to deliver meals for the Home Delivered Meal Program; \$2.10 a meal. Mr. Verno questioned how Wayne County's participation and cost of this program compare to area counties. Ms. Shockley said she would obtain this information.

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

--Authorization to appoint Eric Biletzky to the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with FLACRA for the provision of alcohol and other drug related services for a cost of \$75,848. Approved 5-0.

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a modification agreement with the Office of Children and Family Services in relation to a Child Care Development Block Grant in the amount of \$123,662. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Commissioner of Social Services to sign an agreement with the Center for Disability Rights for the provision of consumer directed personal assistance program from 2019-2021. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Victims Resource Center of the Finger Lakes for non-residential domestic violence services for a price of \$22,715. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Victims Resource Center of the Finger Lakes for the provision of domestic violence residential services for a price of \$70,000. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with the Children's Home of Jefferson County for the provision of child caring services at a price not to exceed \$275,000. Funds are only expended if there is a placement to this facility. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an amended agreement with Cayuga Home for Children to reflect modifications requested in the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to declare chairs surplus and have the chairs disposed of. Approved 5-0.

Ms. Shipley updated members on a complaint that was voiced at the last meeting by Howard Greenfield, a Social Services vendor for rental property. At the conclusion of last month's discussion, it was agreed Mr. Greenfield would provide names of Social Service recipients that rented emergency housing space in his property on Water Street in Lyons and dates of their stay. The lists containing 53 names was reviewed in detail by Social Service staff. Three of the names on the list rented back in 2016 and are being looked into, four names were not known to Social Services, one name was a woman's that was from a separate residence and had been paid, and the remaining names were looked into and have all been paid up to date. Social Services also found rent expenses for seven additional clients that were paid to Mr. Greenfield, however, not included on the list he submitted. It was agreed a letter would be sent to Mr. Greenfield from the Department of Social Services stating all the names he submitted and payments owed him by the Department for emergency housing have been validated and there are no outstanding payments to be made.

In other business, Mr. McCrossen discussed with members a one-year award received from the State Office of Children and Family Services in the amount of \$70,000. The money could be utilized to hire or contract with a full-time Behavioral Health Specialist to work with parents of babies born with prenatal substance abuse issues. The State will allow municipalities to contract for these services. In our area Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes provides such services. Mr. McCrossen said the State is paying counties to make certain parents with prenatal substance abuse issues are contacted and have a plan developed for the future of their child and any more children that are to follow. The goal of this program is to get the child, and their family, into needed services as quickly as possible. Funding for this program will be provided by the State beginning in October 2019. Mr. McCrossen said he could not guarantee State funds to continue for this

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program; however, would like to be able to start-up the program and have his Office take it over if funding is removed. He is not certain how much additional work this will be; however, once a contractor is in place this can be better determined. A transmittal was presented requesting authorization for the Department of Social Services to accept a one-year award from the State Office of Children and Family Services in the amount of \$70,000 to be used to hire a full-time Behavioral Health Specialist in Wayne County for the Wayne County Department of Social Services. Mr. Baldrige requested all references to full-time be removed from the request, as the position will be contracted. Approved 5-0.

The annual report for Social Services was received and filed. Mr. McCrossen said he would review the report in detail at the April Committee meeting due to time restraints of this meeting.

Committee members were presented with a written administrative succession plan for the Department of Social Services. Mr. McCrossen noted there are currently four vacancies in his Department.

The following monthly reports were distributed with the agenda for the Department of Social Services:

- Caseload: There were 841 Wayne County residents receiving temporary assistant at the end of January, 5,836 medical assistance and 8,375 receiving food stamps.
- Financials: Through the first month of the year, the Department expended 10.7% of their County budget, this is slightly less than last year at this same time

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 a.m.