

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, May 6, 2019 8:30 a.m.

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

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

The monthly report for the Veterans' Office was presented. During March the Office had contact with 314 Veterans and/or their family members. There were 84 units of transportation provided to or from the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and 25 to or from the Syracuse VA Medical Center. A total of 47 Veterans passed away in Wayne County during the month; with one indigent burial paid for through the Veterans Service Office. Mrs. Jacobs questioned the amount paid for indigent burials; she was informed the amount can vary slightly depended on the funeral home used.

Mr. Robusto made a motion the Committee enter into executive session at 8:33 a.m. with Mr. Eldridge and Mrs. Maybee to discuss a personnel matter, Mrs. Jacobs second. The regular meeting resumed at 8:45 a.m.

Supervisor Groat arrived at the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

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

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with Finger Lakes Community College for employee training during 2019 for a price not to exceed \$50,000. Mrs. Crane questioned how this funding is reimbursed by staff members who choose to advance their education. Mr. McCrossen said this contract allows for staff members to sign up for special two-year training courses that do not require any reimbursement from the employee, along with other staff training programs. The State reimburses the cost of this contract. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Commissioner of Social Services to sign an agreement with Wayne Behavioral Health Network for drug/alcohol assessments at a cost of \$40 per assessment. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Catholic Family Center for drug/alcohol assessment at a cost of \$40 an assessment. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Youth Advocacy Program for the provision of preventive services at a cost not to exceed \$1,308,000 during the three-year contract. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes for a co-located Behavioral Health Specialist. Grant funding will be utilized to pay for the Behavior Health Specialist hired by Family Counseling and to be co-located with DSS staff. There is no County cost for this program. Approved 5-0.

PAGE 2

--Authorization for the County to establish a background check policy for applicants whose job duties require access to Federal tax information. This action is required by Internal Revenue Code. Mr. McCrossen noted employees who have been providing these functions at the Department will be grandfathered in and not required to pass the background check that all new hires will have to pass. A copy of the policy will be forwarded electronically to all Committee members prior to this month's Board meeting. Approved 5-0.

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

- Caseload: At the end of March there were 779 Wayne County residents receiving Temporary Assistance, 5,641 receiving Medical Assistance and 8,248 receiving Food Stamps. Mr. McCrossen noted numbers have been consistently reduced over the past few years; he does not anticipate further reductions in Medical Assistance cases, as the County has reached limits under the State's take-over plan. The overwhelming majority of individuals receiving Food Stamps do not receive any other benefit from the Department.
- Financial: In the first three months of the year Social Services expended 25.5% of their County budget, this is 4% less than last year at the same time. Revenues were also over budget in the first quarter.

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

--Authorization of the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal rental agreement with the Clyde Methodist Church in the amount of \$3,900 to house the senior congregate meal program. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to accept the Oaks Legislative Mentoring Award and amend the County budget for receipt of \$25,000. Half of this amount will be utilize to promote, coordinate and expand mentoring services for youth in the County during 2019, the other half of the grant will be utilized in 2020. Ms. Shockley noted State funding cuts the Office is undergoing or is anticipating in the coming year for youth programs. Approved 5-0.

Ms. Shockley brought to Supervisors' attention the difficulty in hiring lifeguards for Sodus Point Beach Park. The current salary of \$12 an hour is not competitive with other lifeguard positions and qualified candidates are working at other locations where lifeguarding is easier than in the open water. At this time there are eight individuals who have committed to being lifeguards this summer; Ms. Shockley said a minimum of 13 are needed if the beach is to be open the same hours as in the past. Ms. Shockley said options include increasing the hourly wage paid lifeguards, or reducing the number of days the beach is open for swimming. At this time swimming is not allowed on the bay side of the beach. She has worked the numbers if all lifeguard positions were increased by \$2 an hour for the 2019 season; there are funds within the budget to do this, as the number of lifeguards being paid is down. Supervisors said they would prefer not to close the beach to swimming; however, said if there are not adequate lifeguards to man the positions it would have to be. The cost to increase the hourly rate by \$3 was questioned. Supervisors agreed a transmittal would be prepared, increasing the hourly wage by \$3 for all positions working at Sodus Point, if budgeted funds allow, and presented as a Rule 14 at the May Board meeting. Mr. Robusto questioned where advertising of the positions is done; recommending electronic media.

A power point presentation was made on personal care assistants. Public Health Director, Diane Devlin, came in for this portion of the meeting. Personal care assistants provide light cleaning,

cooking and do laundry, as well as assist clients with bathing, showering, grooming, and other personal hygiene tasks. Taking care of the elderly in their home has proven to be much less expensive than the cost of being in a skilled nursing facility and the State is encouraging in-home programs. Ms. Shockley said the waiting list for personal response units (medical alert) have been eliminated, along with the waiting list for Home Delivered Meals and case management services; however, the need for personal care aides continues to grow. The problem is not with funding, but the shortage of workers. The average time on a waiting list for a personal care assistance is six months, and then it is not guaranteed the assistance provided will be to the level needed by the client. At this time Lifetime Care is the only provider of Level II personal aid services in the County. Level II services are those requiring additional personal care of the client. Ms. Shockley said these services could be provided if personal care assistants are hired through the County; she presented a scenario where individuals were hired on a part-time basis at \$15 an hour to perform these tasks. Supervisors noted these employees would need to be trained and possibly full-time positions would be more attractive to them. Ms. Shockley said she is aware of the County's hiring freeze; however, this is a service that must be offered to seniors or it will end up costing more to place them in nursing homes where they can be properly taken care of. Regulations the Department of Health has over the position of personal care assistant were reviewed. It was noted the Public Health Department is already a licensed health care provider in the County. However, per Public Health Law Title 10, Section 3610, Offices of Aging are not required to have the Home Health Care Licensure because the service is a non-medical model, as such, there would be less administrative overhead. Members requested Ms. Shockley bring a transmittals into the next Committee meeting showing the cost for creating part-time and full-time personal care assistant positions at a rate of \$15 an hour.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 3rd at 8:30 a.m.