

## MINUTES

### HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Monday, July 6, 2020 8:30 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Verno, Leonard, Jacobs and Groat, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Director of Veterans Services Renee Maybee, Deputy Director of Youth Services Kathy McGonigal, Department of Aging and Youth Director Amy Haskins and Social Services Commissioner Dr. Ellen Wayne. Supervisors Robusto and Johnson were not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the June 1<sup>st</sup> Committee meeting were approved as written.

The monthly report for the Veterans Service Office was distributed with the agenda. During May the Office had contact by phone, mail or in person with 221 Veterans; staff was on furlough during a portion of the month. One trip was provided to the Canandaigua Veterans Medical Facility during the month. The Office had 33 Veteran burial related contacts.

Transportation services to the Syracuse Veterans Medical Facility are being reviewed. Mrs. Maybee has been in contact with the Director of Social Services who said that Department has a Driver that could provide services to the Veterans Office twice a week. The individual recently spent time reviewing the routes and Veterans bus, as it is handicapped accessible. Mrs. Maybee noted the Syracuse Veterans Medical Facility is only partially opened at this time. She will continue to seek a means to meet the transportation needs of Veterans in the County.

Mrs. Maybee reviewed HIPPA Compliance Regulations with the Committee and efforts the Office continues to make to protect Veteran's medical records. During the COVID situation Veterans have not been coming into the Office and the majority of contact is made through mail and telephone. The mailed information to Veterans often times contains sensitive information. The Office is taking every effort to reduce the amount of mail that has private information by either having a staff member bring the paperwork to the Veterans home or have the Veteran come into the Office.

There remains a full-time vacant position of Veterans Service Officer and Mrs. Maybee would like to see the position filled so the needs of Veterans can be met. At this time there is a part time person in the position; the position was not intended to be full-time. Once the full-time position is filled and the new hire receives Accreditation, the part-time position will be eliminated. The individual in the part-time position is not interested in full-time employment. Mrs. Maybee will be interviewing candidates for the Veterans Service Officer position in the very near future.

The monthly report for the Department of Aging and Youth was distributed with the agenda. In the first six months of the year the Department provided case management to 234 elderly clients over 1,112 hours. They had 17,123 home delivered meals go to 301 clients and 146 individuals participated in local lunch programs; the Lunch Club 60 Program opened for takeout services in mid-May.

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Participation in various youth programs is down due to the closure of schools and the court system. At this time there are 37 youth and 21 families participating in the FACT program, 18 families are working with Finger Lakes Counseling Service, two youth are in the Pre-Trial Diversion Program and one youth in the Homeless Youth Program. Mrs. McGonigal said FACT Program (Families and Communities Together) commitments from schools are coming in for the 2020-21 school year.

The Committee was informed the State Office of Aging announced the local Office would be receiving an additional \$27,000 in Stimulus funding. Medicare 101 classes will be conducted both through ZOOM and in person in July and Famers' Market coupon distribution will begin mid-month.

Mrs. Haskins asked for Supervisors input on the re-opening of Lunch Club 60 meal sites. Some counties are opening their programs with limitations and stipulations. She will be discussing this matter with the Aging Advisory Counsel at their next meeting. Of the existing meal sites it is thought there is only one that would have appropriate space to offer their program with social distancing. Mr. Verno said any recommendation from the Counsel should also have the approval of the County Attorney. Mrs. Jacob said this is a time for seniors to stay at home; however, would support whatever recommendation is endorsed by this Committee.

Ms. McGonigal questioned if the County was considering any change in the status of operation at Sodus Point Beach Park. Supervisors said the beach would remain closed and swimming not allowed. The high number of individuals that are utilizing the beach and swimming was noted.

Graphs showing Social Service Temporary Assistance Caseloads were distributed with the agenda. The number of County residents on medical assistance has been on the increase since March. Child welfare cases have leveled off after the decline that began in November 2019. Foster Care reduced due to the number of placements. Dr. Wayne said she is concerned Foster Care services will increase greatly once the referral agencies are back in place—schools and the court system. Safety Net cases are up slightly. The State Pause is slowly being lifted and more people are returning to work. The overall case load in the Social Services Department is up by 120 cases since the beginning of the year.

The financial report for the Department of Social Services was presented. As of the end of May the Department expended 45.2% of their County budget; this is higher than last year.

Although the future of this year's Summer Youth Employment Program is not known due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; staff continue to seek out employment opportunities for eligible youth ages 14-20 should the program be allowed to begin. Last year 87 youth participated in this work paying program. Dr. Wayne said the State allocation to the program is not currently known. Staff are prepared to do a smaller on-line orientation process if the program should start-up. Some work sites have been identified.

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

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an administrative agreement with the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board; this document defines the working relationship between the counties involved in the program. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Genesee Region Home Care for personal cares services. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization to appoint Michelle Juggermann to the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes for the provision of domestic violence residential services at a cost not to exceed \$70,000. Dr. Wayne noted State regulations require the Department have a contract for these services. Approved 3-0.

The Committee was informed of an out of state travel request that will be needed for a staff member to check on the wellbeing and condition of a Court ordered guardian of the Department of Social Services. State regulations require at least one face to face meeting and review a year. A discussion took place on how the County was named guardian of this individual. The person is in a facility in New Hersey. Mr. Verno questioned if a member of the Social Services Department in New Jersey could perform this review, Dr. Wayne said she did not know, but would inquire. She believes there would be a cost associated with this service. The review needs to take place face to face, not via telehealth. There are funds in the Social Service budget to pay this travel expense.

Mr. Verno made a motion the Committee enter into executive session with Dr. Wayne at 9:24 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter, Mrs. Jacobs second. The meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m.