

STEBEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

9:00 a.m.

Legislative Committee Room
Steuben County Office Building
Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE: Carol A. Ferratella, Chair Hilda T. Lando, Vice Chair Steven P. Maio
Randolph J. Weaver

STAFF: Jack K. Wheeler Mitchell Alger Jennifer Prossick
Hank Chapman Patty Baroody Kathy Muller
Darlene Smith Lise Reynolds

LEGISLATORS: Joseph J. Hauryski Robin K. Lattimer John V. Malter
Robert V. Nichols Thomas J. Ryan

ABSENT: K. Michael Hanna

OTHERS: James Post, *The Leader*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Ms. Muller to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2018, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. WEAVER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. (MR. MAIO ABSENT FOR VOTE)

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Department of Social Services
1. **Foster Parent Banquet** – Ms. Muller announced the Annual Foster Parent Banquet will be held on May 23, 2018, at the Bath VFW. She requested authorization to spend up to \$3,000 on this event.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO SPEND UP TO \$3,000 ON THE ANNUAL FOSTER PARENT BANQUET MADE BY MR. WEAVER. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

B. Office of Community Services
1. **ProAction Contract** – Dr. Chapman informed the committee that at the end of April, one of his Account Clerk-Typists will be retiring. He requested authorization to add \$56,000 to the existing contract with ProAction to contract for this service.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH PROACTION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT STAFF SERVICES AND INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT BY \$56,000 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. WEAVER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

C. Public Health

1. **Approval to Bid Pre-K Transportation** – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to solicit bids for Pre-K transportation.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR PRE-K TRANSPORTATION MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

2. **Mass Vaccination Clinic Exercise** – Mrs. Smith reminded the committee that they will be holding a Mass Vaccination Clinic at Bath Haverling High School on April 10, 2018, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. We are still looking for volunteers.

IV. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. *Smart Steuben Meeting*

1. *T-21* - Mrs. Ferratella reported that she attended the April 3rd Smart Steuben meeting. One of the topics they talked about was T-21. This proposal would change the age for legally purchasing cigarettes from 18 to 21. New York State has indicated that they are waiting for the counties to support this. Mrs. Ferratella stated one of the issues that came to light during the discussion was that people can use their benefit cards to purchase cigarettes. Is that true? Ms. Muller replied no.

Mrs. Ferratella stated that merchants are not happy with the T-21 proposal and instead would like to see a local law that if you are caught smoking under the age of 21 then they would be prosecuted.

Mr. Maio commented that he is opposed to there being a different law for purchasing alcohol than what there is for purchasing cigarettes. He does not think that anyone should be smoking period and he does not think that pharmacies should be allowed to sell cigarettes.

Mrs. Ferratella stated that all of the hospitals are writing letters of support for the T-21 movement.

2. *Hypertension* – Mrs. Ferratella stated Steuben County is not in bad shape with numbers. The new guidelines for hypertension are 140/90. Previously it was 160/100.

3. *Drug Addiction* – Mrs. Ferratella announced that Arnot Hospital now has a program, in conjunction with Trinity, that if a person is going through withdrawal, they can go to the Arnot Emergency Room and receive Suboxone. She stated recently the District Attorney made reference to Suboxone being addictive. Mr. Wheeler explained Suboxone is still an opiate, but at a lower level and some studies have shown that individuals taking Suboxone during withdrawal have a better outcome. The concern locally is the trafficking of Suboxone.

Dr. Chapman commented Suboxone is a mild form of opiate that helps people who are going through withdrawal. Vivitrol is a medication that is administered after an individual has gone through withdrawal. Mr. Maio asked for how long do they have to take Suboxone? Dr. Chapman replied it all depends on the individual. Mr. Maio asked how realistic is it to think that people will come every day to receive Suboxone? Dr. Chapman replied that many people who are going through withdrawal and taking Suboxone do continue to be consistent with that treatment. Mr. Maio asked are they weaned off it? Dr. Chapman replied yes, eventually.

Mrs. Ferratella commented St. James also has an addiction unit. Mr. Wheeler commented they do, but the unit at the Bath VA has closed. Dr. Chapman commented it is his understanding that Loyola will be moving 7 beds to the Hornell location. This will be in addition to the 6 beds that are at Ira Davenport.

Mrs. Ferratella stated the S2AY Rural Health Network has applied for funds through the Care Compass Network to supply peer recovery coaches to counties in our area. Dr. Chapman stated Care Compass Network and a couple of other agencies are offering peer coaches. We are involved in this and are hoping we can expand the program.

B. *Goals* – Mrs. Ferratella distributed a synopsis of the discussion that was held last month regarding ideas for goals. We can look at the 2018 goals for our departments. The Office for the Aging is looking at duplication of effort, specifically focused on technology. In particular, they are looking at the Full Circle America program to make sure they are not duplicating effort.

Mr. Maio stated the opioid problem is the biggest crisis at the moment and this is where we need to focus our attention. Mr. Wheeler commented under that, you are looking for objectives. Your overarching goal is how to respond to the opioid problem. There are certain aspects that we are unable to control. In his personal opinion, he would focus on those things you can control. A good example is the drug forums.

Mr. Hauryski stated this committee and the PS&C Committee have overlapping responsibility in this. He would be interested in tracking the performance of the COPE Program as we move along. He is pleased that Steuben County is out in front of this issue and that we have COPE and the drug forums. Your goal setting would be in line with tracking that portion of the plan and how we are doing.

Mrs. Ferratella stated her suggestion is to look at each department that is involved and track it through the departments. Everyone is tracking COPE. Mr. Maio commented at some point we could have a joint meeting because they are so intertwined. On our end, we are keeping track of the jail treatment program and once it is up and running, it may be beneficial to have a joint meeting. Mrs. Ferratella asked the committee members to put together their ideas around tracking the COPE Program and we will discuss it next month.

C. *Raise the Age* – Mr. Hauryski stated he is still trying to learn what this is and what the departments' involvement will be. The Department of Social Services has some involvement and he asked Ms. Muller to talk about what she knows so far.

Ms. Muller stated last month the committee approved a contract with John Treahy to put together the plan for the county. This will involve her department, Law, District Attorney, Courts and Probation. Mr. Treahy will come in and meet with each department starting next week. Each department is eligible for funding and that can be claimed through our department.

Mr. Wheeler explained there are two pieces to this. The first is the operational plan. Each county has to develop a plan and this will be our blueprint of how much additional staff time and money will be required to meet these new requirements. The plan can be submitted after April 1st. Our plan is to submit in May. The State has made available \$100 million to counties for capital and operational costs in this year's budget; however, it will not be enough. In looking at developing a plan, we added a Probation Assistant so we will be able to get reimbursement for that. Also, we added a Paralegal Assistant in the Law Department who will be dedicating a good portion of their time to Raise the Age, and that cost will be reimbursable. The second piece is detention. We have been meeting with the ten-county region and Mr. Treahy is looking to contract separately with us to develop a plan for a facility. Monroe, Erie and Onondaga have indicated they will be expanding their facilities, however will not commit to holding beds for other counties in the ten-county region. Hopefully next month we will have a cost proposal to bring to you. We are looking at \$10,000 - \$15,000 to participate in a facility plan with the 10-county region to evaluate the need for specialized secure and secure detention. Mr. Wheeler stated we are looking at what is happening in Monroe County. If they will not have the capacity to hold beds, then we will look at developing a plan for a regional facility.

Mr. Maio asked are Chemung and Schuyler counties part of this group? Mr. Wheeler replied yes. Ms. Muller commented this legislation will drive the need to have more secure beds and non-secure beds. Dr. Chapman stated his department will be evaluating all of those kids.

Mr. Hauryski stated assuming we have a facility and it is operational to accept 16 year olds effective October 1st, where does the Department of Social Services fit into this process? Ms. Muller replied the kids potentially could come into the custody of the department and we would have to find residential placement. Ms. Prossick stated we are talking about 85 new people coming through Family Court. If the District Attorney waives criminal court or AO (Adolescent Offender) status and they come to Family Court, our office will prosecute. Then it would be determined whether they are appropriate for Probation or if they go to DSS. When they go to DSS, that is when they get placed and then DSS has to take care of those kids. At a minimum, there are 45 JD's per year and about 10 of those are placed with DSS. Ms. Muller stated when they are placed with us, we have to find a treatment facility for those individuals. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has required placement in secure facilities for those kids who really need treatment.

Mr. Hauryski asked will this require extra staff? Ms. Muller replied potentially. Mr. Wheeler stated we will propose that in our plan. Ms. Muller stated the cost of placement allegedly will be reimbursed. Mr. Hauryski asked if the new legislation goes into effect October 1st and we are not ready, are we in violation? Mr. Wheeler replied every county would be in violation and we are being told OCFS will determine how to handle this.

Ms. Prossick commented the least restrictive sentence would be Probation. They have procured more ankle bracelets and we are hoping to use that component more. Mr. Wheeler stated if we get a lot of AO's, we might be looking at placement in out of State facilities for the time being. Mr. Maio stated if you send kids out of State that will be problematic in many areas.

Mr. Ryan asked are the homes evaluated? Ms. Prossick replied that is the Probation piece. The kids only go to the DSS level if they are placed outside of the home. Mr. Maio asked theoretically they could end up in foster care? Ms. Prossick replied yes.

Mr. Wheeler stated the new legislation is effective October 1, 2018, with 16 year olds and then full implementation is October 1, 2019, with the 17 year olds as well. Mrs. Ferratella commented InterCounty sent a letter to the Governor requesting more guidance.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, May 2, 2018
Legislative Committee Room
9:00 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, April 25, 2018.**