

STEBEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

9:00 a.m.

*2nd Floor Conference Rooms, Annex Building
Bath, New York*

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE:	Carol A. Ferratella, Chair Steven P. Maio	Hilda T. Lando, Vice Chair Paul E. Van Caesele	K. Michael Hanna
STAFF:	Jack K. Wheeler Kathy Muller Jennifer Prossick Andy Morse Jennifer DeMonstoy	Christopher Brewer Hank Chapman Patty Baroody Bill Caudill Jessica Peaslee	Brenda Scotchmer Amy Dlugos Darlene Smith Nate Alderman
LEGISLATORS:	Scott J. Van Etten Robert V. Nichols	Kelly H. Fitzpatrick Frederick G. Potter	John V. Malter Gary B. Roush
OTHERS:	Colleen Banik, Steuben Prevention Coalition DFC Program Coordinator Connie Terry, Steuben Prevention Coalition Program Assistant, Opioid Committee Mary Perham		

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. PRESENTATION

A. **Opioid Committee Report** – Ms. Terry introduced herself as the Program Assistant for the Opioid Committee for the Steuben Prevention Coalition. The Opioid Committee now has a new logo and we also have a mission and vision statement. Our vision statement is the same as the Steuben Prevention Coalition. Our mission is to engage, educate, and support communities to reduce opioid abuse and stigma. Ms. Banik commented we are funded by Steuben County and Catholic Charities. She stated we have been doing video messaging and our Facebook presence has increased and we are on track for a goal increase of 20 percent for overall substance abuse awareness.

Ms. Terry stated we are always seeking grant opportunities and have received grants from the Walmart Community Grant and AmerisourceBergen to fund the DisposeRX and medication lock boxes. We are always looking for more members and have put together informational packets. In addition, we have also put together a variety of target specific elevator speeches. One key area is with the realtors to encourage the use of medication lock boxes during open houses.

Ms. Terry stated they conducted a community perception survey of 187 community members of whom the majority was over the age of 60. Through this survey we learned that we need to find a way to survey a younger population of community residents, ages 20 – 40. We will be looking to redo the survey in January and would like to target college campuses. Ms. Banik commented we did contact colleges in Steuben County and were denied the opportunity to distribute the surveys at this time. Ms. Terry stated we need to raise awareness with the county about the safe disposal of prescription medications and we also need to educate the community about the importance of securing their prescription

medication. She displayed two examples of a medication lock box. These are designed to slow someone down who may be looking for medications.

Ms. Terry stated due to COVID, a number of our events were cancelled including the Stand Up for Recovery Event scheduled in March, the Elmira-Corning Regional Realtors Association breakfast scheduled for April and the Health Fair scheduled for May. We have a number of upcoming events scheduled including International Overdose Awareness Day which is August 30, 2020. We will be distributing purple ribbons and education signs regarding recovery. We have a Recovery Walk Vigil which will be held in partnership with Steuben County Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services. This event is scheduled for September 19, 2020 and we believe it can happen, but we may need to do it virtually. We are looking to put together our Opioid Forum as soon as we can. Additionally, if possible, we will pursue a drug take back day during late fall in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office. Looking ahead to 2021, we will also be holding Black Balloon Day in March 2021.

Ms. Banik stated with regard to statistics and how we compare to the national averages, for all grades our numbers are lower, but we are very close and we need to get to children before they start using. Heroin is higher than the national average which is concerning. Students are still trying opioids and we have seen an increase in 8th grade use from 2017. 10th grade use has stayed the same and 12th grade use has decreased.

Mrs. Ferratella asked what is Black Balloon Day? Ms. Terry replied Black Balloon Day represents overdose deaths and purple stands for recovery. For Black Balloon Day we will reach out to area business to hang black balloons along with an explanation of what it represents in an effort to raise awareness. This is a national awareness day.

IV. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Community Services

1. **Request to Issue RFP for Electronic Health Record** – Dr. Chapman stated Cerner was purchased by Anasazzi who created a new millennial software. Our current version is no longer being supported. We will need to purchase a new product and have set aside \$250,000 in the budget. He requested authorization to work with Purchasing to issue an RFP to see who responds.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked is this just authorization for the RFP? Dr. Chapman replied yes. Mrs. Lando asked to purchase new software from the current company would cost \$250,000? Dr. Chapman replied yes.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **Request to Issue RFP for Account Collections** – Dr. Chapman stated we currently use Affiliated Group for our client account collection; however, they did not renew their contract. In any given year we send between \$15,000 - \$20,000 in accounts to collection. Affiliated Group was keeping 17.5 percent of what was collected. He requested authorization to issue an RFP to see what other agencies might be interested.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ACCOUNT COLLECTION MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Maio asked how much money are you getting back from collections? Dr. Chapman replied we have had this contract since 2011 and through last year we have sent \$663,000 to them for collection and in total we received back just under \$100,000. He explained we use collections for all of our programs; mental health, substance abuse, PROS, anywhere where there is a fee for services. Our business office does the best they can with sliding scales and payment plans and we do our best to work with the clients. We have been fairly successful in

eventually getting payment. The amount we send to collections is relatively small. At the same time, I am open to suggestions, but my mindset is that any money we can get, the better so that we can support our programs.

Mr. Maio commented the demographics are not people that have extra money to throw around. Mrs. Lando asked why is the contractor not renewing? Dr. Chapman replied they did not give a reason.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: MOTION CARRIES 4-1. (MR. MAIO OPPOSED)

B. Department of Social Services

1. **Accepting DSRIP Funds** – Ms. Muller informed the committee they are receiving \$289,545 for meeting our performance measures on the DSRIP project. There are no strings attached. She requested authorization to accept and appropriate this funding.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE \$289,545.00 IN DSRIP PROJECT FUNDS INTO A NEW CAPITAL PROJECT MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked what will you do with these funds? Ms. Muller replied we still need to figure that out. The homeless population has exploded over the last four to five months and we need to look at how to move forward and make modifications to reduce that cost. Mrs. Lando asked is there a time limit to spend these funds? Ms. Muller replied no.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked why has the homeless population increased? Ms. Muller replied part of the reason is the pandemic and our inability to meet with people. Our numbers are now back down. We have had housing and homelessness issues for years. This speaks to the workforce issues that we did not have control of.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **Personnel – Reclassification** – Ms. Muller requested approval of a reclassification which is needed in order to run the Child Advocacy Center. We lost the coordinator at the onset of the pandemic. This has been a challenge to manage and we need someone who has the expertise in child protection. She requested authorization to reclassify a Supervising Clerk, Grade XI to a Case Supervisor Grade B, Grade XVI. There is a lot that goes into running the Child Advocacy Center as we need to get certified and need to apply for funding and the center is starting to get very busy. The mobile unit has not been repurposed, but we have expanded its use during this time until the County Office Buildings reopen. She explained a Supervising Clerk, Grade XI makes \$41,505 and a Case Supervisor – Grade B, Grade XVI makes \$52,279 so there is an \$11,000 difference. This position is funded through the VOCA grant for this year, next year and six months into 2022. After that, we will continue to look for support from VOCA and other avenues. If we are not able to procure funding, then there would be a 30 percent county share. Ms. Muller stated I have someone with child protective experience who is coming up through the ranks. This supervisor comes with the knowledge and would have the dedication to the county and to the mission of the Child Advocacy Center.

Mr. Wheeler stated in talking about positions, we are holding back nearly all of the vacancies until we see what is happening in Washington, with a few exceptions. This position is critically important as the Supervisor is now doing double duty and is getting burned out. We support this on our end.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF A GRADE XI SUPERVISING CLERK TO A GRADE XVI CASE SUPERVISOR GRADE B IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Resolution Required.

Mr. Hanna asked have you seen an increase in child abuse cases since schools have been closed? Ms. Muller replied initially our cases went down and a month into the pandemic they were booming again and we are seeing

more of the physical and sexual abuse. Mr. Wheeler commented some of that is actually getting eyes on the children. Ms. Muller stated educational neglect will be a tough balancing act with work and doing what is needed at home for schooling. We have a great relationship with the schools to deal with that as we go forward.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked is the mobile child advocacy center unit being repurposed? Ms. Muller replied no. The use has been expanded to assist us for public services needs. Instead of coming to the building, they are able to come to the unit and we can get them the applications they need. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked are you moving it around the County? Ms. Muller replied no, it has remained stationary. Mrs. Lando asked how many are coming to the mobile unit? Ms. Muller replied we have seen consistent activity. Mrs. Lando asked do you have security for it? Ms. Muller replied no, however, there is a Deputy at the Annex Building and they do a walk around. Mr. Van Etten commented I am glad that it is being utilized.

Mr. Wheeler stated one of the issues has been with drug screening. Ms. Muller stated originally we were not doing drug screens because the State had said no. Now we are doing them in Corning and Hornell and have been working with Probation and Buildings and Grounds to clean and disinfect. We are not doing drug screens in Bath yet. She stated with regard to the mobile unit, if we have a need to do a child interview, then we will take it out.

C. Public Health

1. **Preschool Contract Approval** – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a contract for preschool related services with Theresa Brayman an Occupational Therapist. The rate is \$70.00 per session and \$35.00 for a group session.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR PRESCHOOL RELATED SERVICES WITH THERESA BRAYMAN, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AT A RATE OF \$70.00 PER SESSION AND \$35.00 PER GROUP SESSION MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked do the schools being closed affect these services? Mrs. Smith replied yes. During the pandemic the providers were only providing services virtually if the parents wanted it. They can go back out now to provide one-to-one services. There is still reluctance on the part of the parents to have someone coming into their home. It has been a slow go.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **Healthbot Lease (Blood Pressure Machine)** – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a lease agreement with NYBP, Inc. for an interactive wellness station which includes blood pressure, weight, body mass index and blood oxygen. We have had a blood pressure machine for employees to use for a couple of years and it has been utilized. The Wellness Committee researched and found this machine. The cost of the lease is \$159.00 per month for three years.

Mr. Wheeler commented there are funds set aside in the budget for the Wellness Committee. This was one of their initiatives and the committee includes management and union staff. Ms. Prossick stated I am a member of the committee and they track the usage of the machine and it has been used pretty regularly.

Mr. Maio asked what was the price of the old machine? Mrs. Smith replied that was \$99.00 per month. Mr. Van Etten asked why not purchase instead of lease? Mrs. Smith replied that is a good question. Was that discussed at the Wellness Committee? Ms. Prossick stated I don't think so. Mr. Van Etten asked do they have to come and do maintenance and calibrate? Ms. Prossick replied they would have to come in and do maintenance.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NYBP, INC. FOR AN INTERACTIVE HEALTH STATION FOR A COST OF \$159.00 PER MONTH FOR THREE YEARS MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. **Accept Funding from Health Research, Inc. for COVID-19 Enhanced Detection** – Mrs. Smith informed the committee that all counties in New York State will be receiving funding, based on population and other metrics, from Health Research, Inc. The amount we are receiving is \$310,840.00 and it will be used for two distinct purposes. The first for enhanced COVID-19 detection and contact tracing. The second is to strengthen flu vaccine rates ahead of flu season. These funds will pay for us to increase staff. Mr. Wheeler commented that Mrs. Smith does have some vacancies that were not filled. Mrs. Lando asked what positions are you looking to fill? Mrs. Smith replied they would like to fill some RN positions and hopefully they will not have trouble recruiting them.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ACCEPT \$310,840.00 IN FUNDING FROM HEALTH RESEARCH, INC. FOR COVID-19 ENHANCED DETECTION MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

4. **COVID-19 Update** – Ms. Lattimer asked can you give us a quick overview of the testing opportunities? Mrs. Smith replied there are multiple sites within the County including Arnot, Bath, URMC, Rite Aid. Mr. Wheeler stated we did put those site locations on social media and the County website. We have seen a better turnaround time from Arnot and St. James. Ms. Lattimer asked what is the average turnaround time? Mrs. Smith replied two to four days. We are starting to see some cases with health care workers. The nursing homes are mandated to test once a week.

Mr. Van Etten stated we are in a lull right now and there is some anticipation that as fall starts the cases will ramp back up. Is there any planning taking place to be ready to fire up the EOC again? Mr. Wheeler replied this weighs on all of us. We still have our daily calls and there has been a lot of work on that front. Mrs. Smith stated Matt Marmor and Ken Forenz on a daily basis are still accessing and distributing PPE to various groups and entities that ask for it. This money we just received will help us to ramp up a little and get positions filled. We have always been able to meet the metrics. The Department of Health has expected a follow-up on a positive case within twenty-four hours and we have managed to do that. This funding will help us to refine some things and shift responsibility.

Mr. Wheeler commented Mr. Marmor did a survey with the user groups and stakeholders about what we did well and where the gaps were and the results of that survey will help us. We keep up with the masking and non-pharmaceutical interventions to affect the infection rate.

Mrs. Lando asked do we have any active cases? Mrs. Smith replied we have eight active cases right now. Mr. Wheeler commented the regional rates are concerning. Broome County is seeing a spike and Tompkins was as well. Those numbers impact our regional numbers. At one point our region was just behind New York City on the number of new daily cases. The regional hospitalization rates are back up to early June levels. We are keeping an eye on that. He stated Broome County puts out a daily report and we are constantly monitoring that. With not knowing what the Governor will do, the regional view does have an impact.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated she received a call from a constituent yesterday that got the test, but they didn't get their results for 13 days. The real issue now is that the people that were in contact with that person have to quarantine, but the original person does not have to quarantine now and that does not make any sense. Mrs. Smith stated I agree. Under the Department of Health guidelines, it goes from the date of the last contact. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated the CDC guidelines are only 10 days. Mrs. Smith replied for the general public, but not for health care workers. Mr. Wheeler explained nursing home staff is 14 days quarantine and any individual in that setting is tested weekly. When that comes back and the test is positive, that may trigger an additional quarantine.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked what about the talk about once you test positive that it stays in your system but you don't necessarily have it anymore? Mrs. Smith stated there is a lot of discussion about that. We have had multiple individuals that test positive multiple times. Does it mean they still have it or did they get reinfected? The school of thought right now is they are still considered positive. Mr. Wheeler stated we have not heard a definition from

the State on what the viral load needs to be to not be contagious. Mrs. Smith stated the consensus is that you do not continue to shed the virus after nine days.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked is there any truth to the rumor that if someone ever tests positive that they are denied their ability to join the military? Mrs. Smith replied I have not heard that. Mr. Wheeler stated we can ask.

Mrs. Smith stated there has not been a lull in the number of PAUSE complaints regarding people not wearing masks and travelers being tattled on by others. We have many, many complaints per day. Mr. Wheeler stated we have at least five per day and the weekends have been the busiest times and then we could get a couple dozen per day. If we reach a point where we get multiple; five or more complaints, on an establishment, then Mrs. Smith, the Sheriff and I go out and visit them. When we have done that, the conversations have gone well and have been pretty well received. We are also saying and hearing weekly that when the Department of Health is conducting inspections, they are also doing PAUSE violations at the same time. We are trying to educate businesses to be on the alert as the Department of Health and the Liquor Authority are being very active. Mrs. Ferratella asked what is the fine? Mr. Wheeler stated it can be a warning. Ms. Prossick stated it can be up to \$10,000 for failure to wear a mask. Mr. Wheeler stated Mrs. Smith has done a great job of helping to promote education. Mr. Maio asked where do people go to find the complaint form? Mr. Wheeler replied the form is on the New York State Department of Health website.

Mrs. Lando stated she would like to thank Mrs. Smith, Mr. Wheeler and Ms. Prossick for helping with issues with the Corning City Council on trying to disband the Board of Health.

D. Personnel

1. **Tuition Aid Request – Sheriff’s Office** – Mr. Alderman informed the committee they have received a tuition aid request from Donald Strittmatter who is a Corrections’ Officer in the Sheriff’s Office. He is requesting aid for four courses that he is taking towards an Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice. These courses are job related and he would recommend approval. The reimbursement is \$150.00 per credit hour upon successful completion of the courses.

MOTION: APPROVING A TUITION AID REQUEST FOR DONALD STRITTMATTER, AN EMPLOYEE IN THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE, TO TAKE FOUR CLASSES TOWARDS AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELEE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, August 26, 2020**