

STEBEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

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 K. Michael Hanna
 Steven P. Maio

STAFF: Jack K. Wheeler Andy Morse Jennifer Prossick
 Bill Caudill Kathy Muller Lise Reynolds
 Darlene Smith Hank Chapman Christine Towner

LEGISLATORS: Joseph J. Hauryski John V. Malter

OTHERS: Mary Perham
 Jeff Smith, *The Leader*

ABSENT: Randolph J. Weaver

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2017, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. (MRS. LANDO ABSENT FOR VOTE)

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Department of Social Services

1. **Content Management Solutions RFP** – Ms. Muller informed the committee that for 2017 she has budgeted for a management system software package for I-Pads for caseworkers. She requested authorization to put out an RFP.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTENT MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS SOFTWARE MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

2. **Recovery on Medicaid Inmates** – Ms. Muller informed the committee that the Sheriff had been paying hospital expenses on inmates in the Jail. Our department has assisted the Sheriff's Office with back billing for those expenses as Medicaid will cover those costs for inmates eligible for benefits. We are also working with them on billing going forward. To-date, they have recovered \$87,000 and there is \$142,000 in outstanding costs. We will continue to assist the Sheriff's Office until all of the providers are billing Medicaid directly.

3. **Mobile Work Program** – Chairman Hauryski asked Ms. Muller how she would rate the Mobile Work Program for 2016? Ms. Muller replied the work crews have been busy with many projects. We have

implemented a monthly training program for the Public Assistance clients. She does not think they need to add another crew, but we do need to look at how to increase participation numbers on the crews. We have seen a decline in numbers. Mr. Wheeler commented one of our crews is doing higher-level jobs such as electrical and plumbing.

B. Office of Community Services

1. **Compeer Contract** – Dr. Chapman requested authorization to renew the contract with Compeer, Inc. They recruit and train volunteers to provide supported friendships for individuals living with mental illness, as well as host numerous other social activities. The New York State Office of Mental Health provides us with \$18,000 for this program.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH COMPEER, INC. FOR AN ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$18,000 MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

C. Youth Bureau

1. **Update on Rural Homeless Youth Study** – Mr. Caudill distributed a summary of the Rural Homeless Youth Study. The purpose of the study was to conduct a broad analysis to assess the issues and needs of Steuben County youth who are homeless, to assess resources and services that are available, or lacking; to assess the prevalence of homelessness among youth and to assess the ability and effectiveness of the public and private service system to effectively serve youth. This study was originally done as the schools had complained about the number of homeless kids in their districts. We were able to use State funding to conduct the study.

Mr. Caudill stated one of the key findings was that there are conflicting definitions of what it means for youth to be homeless. This results in discrepancies in the reported number of youth. The NYSTEACHS annual report of thirteen school districts in Steuben County reported that there were 227 homeless youth. Of that, 167 were living with a friend, family member or other individual. Ms. Muller explained the Department of Social Services works off of NYS regulations and the school districts work off of the Federal regulations. Under our definitions, a youth living with a friend or family member is not considered homeless, even though they are not residing in their primary residence. However, under the Federal regulations, in that same situation, the schools are indicating that the youth is homeless.

Mr. Caudill stated each school district is required to have a homelessness liaison. Ms. Muller stated the districts are also supposed to provide a monthly report to the Department of Social Services of the number of homeless youth, and we do not receive those. Mr. Caudill stated we will need to work to improve communication between all of the stakeholders.

Mrs. Lando asked what are the next steps? Mr. Caudill replied he will provide a brief overview at the Youth Bureau Annual Dinner which will be held on March 6th at the Bath Country Club. The next step is to improve communication between the schools and other stakeholders.

D. Public Health

1. **Approval of Separate Contract with Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO)** – Mrs. Smith stated the County has a signed agreement with the Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO), which is part of DSRIP and this agreement covers Public Health, Mental Health and Social Services. As we have implemented, we are learning that we should have separate agreements for each of the departments so that we do not have access to one another's information. She requested authorization to enter into three separate agreements.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH THE REGIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION ORGANIZATION (RHIO) FOR THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS: PUBLIC HEALTH, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

2. **Correction to Minutes** – Mrs. Smith stated that the December and January minutes state that the rates for the Preschool contracts are set by the State. That is incorrect as each individual and each agency set their own rate, although they are largely standardized.

Secretary's Note: The minutes of the December and January meetings have been corrected.

3. **Steuben County Health Profile** – Mrs. Smith stated the Finger Lakes Health Service Agency gathered data for the counties within their network and she will forward copies to all Legislators. The profile shows health behavior, life expectancy by zip code, leading causes of death, population health measures, etc. Research shows the biggest driver of life expectancy is socio-economic status. Those who are poorer typically do not lead a very healthy lifestyle. The leading causes of death in Steuben County are heart disease and cancer. All of the information in this profile is for point of reference.

Mrs. Ferratella commented that smoking is a big issue, however, we cannot get people to sign up for the smoking cessation program. Mrs. Smith stated that program does not work unless the individual wants to quit. Mrs. Ferratella stated that now there are about 50 percent of the counties in the State in favor of T21 which is a proposal that individuals must be 21 or older to purchase tobacco. Mr. Wheeler commented the State will be looking at that this year and it has already been passed by the Assembly.

E. County Manager

1. **Yoga Program** – Mr. Wheeler informed the committee that the County has been offering a yoga program for employees, and if space allows, for family members. The instructor is Nicole Stumpf. She charges \$60 per six or eight week session. The participants pay \$30 per session and a minimum of 15 individuals need to sign up. In the rare case when there are not the minimal number of participants, the County makes up the difference using wellness funds. Over the past year we have paid Ms. Stumpf \$5,600, however, the only cost to the County has been \$610 as the remainder is paid by the participants. We are looking to change the methodology of this system and have the participants directly pay Ms. Stumpf. Until we put that new methodology into practice, he requested authorization to contract with Ms. Stumpf to provide yoga instruction at a cost of \$60 per session, not to exceed \$5,600 annually. The next session will begin in two weeks. Essentially the committee is ratifying what is already being done and formalizing with a contract and waiving the procurement policy for this. Once we change our methodology, we will no longer need the contract. Mr. Wheeler commented that all employees who participate in this program sign a liability waiver.

MOTION: WAIVING THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH NICOLE STUMPF TO PROVIDE YOGA INSTRUCTION TO COUNTY EMPLOYEES AT A RATE OF \$60.00 PER SESSION, NOT TO EXCEED \$5,600 ANNUALLY MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

2. **Drug Forum** – Mr. Wheeler reminded the committee that the Drug Forum will be held tomorrow evening, February 9th at the Bath Haverling Auditorium. We will begin with an informational session at 5:30 pm with the actual forum taking place from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Mrs. Lando stated she read in a recent newsletter that Erie County has 50 confirmed opioid deaths in January.

IV. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. *2017 Goals* – Mrs. Ferratella stated that Mrs. Lando recommended the following ideas:

- Work with Public Health on their Comprehensive Plan
- Work with County Manager, Department Heads and Legislature to address Opioid issues
- Affordable Care Act
- Spend more time learning about the departments under this committee
- Work with County Manager and Department Heads to determine what services could be shared and/or consolidated

Mrs. Ferratella stated Mr. Wheeler has done a good job of communicating utilizing Mary Perham and Facebook. One of her thoughts is that we almost need to go out and touch people as it doesn't seem that we get a lot of participation in various programs that are going on. The committee needs to think about ways to do that.

Mr. Maio commented his two thoughts were similar to what Mrs. Lando proposed. We will need to keep the Affordable Care Act on the radar as that may pose some challenges going forward, depending on what changes are made. His other thought is that we need to make it easier for people to find what programs they are looking for as similar programs fall under the same umbrella. We also need to encourage more participation and interest in programs.

Mrs. Ferratella commented she thinks it is helpful when the Sheriff and the District Attorney have taken the time to attend some of the Town Board meetings and present programs. Maybe that is something we could look at having the departments under this committee do. She stated that she would also like to look into the voids in the reporting from the schools and come up with a mechanism to make that better. Mr. Wheeler commented the schools are working on that.

B. *2016 Goals* – Mr. Wheeler stated that he will be sending out the 2016 Annual Report later this month. Mrs. Ferratella reviewed the committee's 2016 goals which were attending more department functions, working with the Nutrition Task Force, continue to work with Public Health on their Strategic Plan, working with Public Health to raise awareness of the drug issue, focus on reducing wait times in Mental Health and monitoring the Veterans Service Agency VIMS software package.

Mr. Hanna stated that he would like to hear from the departments heads on how the committee is doing. Mr. Wheeler stated the department heads do a great job of identifying needs and the committee has done a great job supporting them.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. *Nutrition Task Force* – Mrs. Ferratella reported there is no new information. The cook-chill program is going well. Corning Meals on Wheels is now in the black. Mrs. Lando stated there was a discussion regarding the Compass forms at NYSAC. She reminded the committee these are the 30-page forms that are very intrusive. Corning Meals on Wheels believes it is against their non-profit status to ask these questions. Mrs. Lando stated that she will continue to pursue this.

B. *S2AY Rural Network* – Mrs. Ferratella stated they have received a \$2.5 million grant for community-based organizations that do not use Medicaid, that have a budget of \$5 million or less, and provide human services programs.

C. *Tall Cop Forum* – Mrs. Ferratella announced that a Tall Cop Forum will be held on March 29th at the Bath Haverling School. This forum will also be discussing drug use.

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

Respectfully Submitted by Amanda L. Chapman, Deputy Clerk, Steuben County Legislature

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR****

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

9:00 a.m.

Please send your agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office

NO LATER THAN NOON

Wednesday, February 22, 2017.