

STEUBEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Via Teleconference

****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 Bill Caudill Kathy Muller Patty Barody	Christopher Brewer Jennifer Prossick Andy Morse Tammy Hurd-Harvey	Brenda Mori Hank Chapman Darlene Smith
LEGISLATORS:	Scott J. Van Etten Jeffrey P. Horton Aaron I. Mullen Robert V. Nichols	Robin K. Lattimer Hilda T. Lando Frederick G. Potter	Kelly H. Fitzpatrick John V. Malter Gary D. Swackhamer
OTHERS:	Mary Perham		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Office for the Aging

1. **Contract** – Mrs. Barody requested authorization to reassign the contract with St. James for the personal emergency response system to Doyle Security. St. James is no longer offering this service and they have requested that we transfer the contract to Doyle Security. Doyle has actually been providing the services in the homes and this reassignment will essentially eliminate the middle man. Doyle thinks they can do the installations a little quicker. This reassignment would go through the end of 2020 and then we would have to put the contract out to bid.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE REASSIGNMENT OF THE PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM CONTRACT FROM ST. JAMES TO DOYLE SECURITY THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Community Services

1. **Distance Learning Grant Proposal** – Dr. Chapman stated he has been working with Mr. Caudill on a grant proposal to provide distance substance abuse counseling. This would also include medical treatment via telemedicine. We are looking at three PCP (primary care physician) providers in Hornell (Canisteo Valley), Woodhull and Addison. This service would also be available at all three of our office locations in Bath, Corning and Hornell. Dr. Chapman stated we are pursuing this grant and he is looking for authorization to continue that process as there will be a 15 percent County match if awarded. Right now it looks like we will be requesting \$150,000. This will cover the cost of new computers for my department and the technology for the PCP offices.

If we receive the \$150,000, the County share would be \$22,500. Since we already partner with Canisteo Valley and pay \$12,000 annually, that would count toward the match and would leave \$10,500. The deadline for the submission of the grant is mid-July.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A \$150,000 DISTANCE LEARNING GRANT TO PROVIDE SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING AND MEDICAL TREATMENT VIA TELEMEDICINE MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked if you receive this grant, what will it do? Dr. Chapman replied we will be able to offer off-site counseling. Staff will not physically be in the PCP office, but will be able to meet with clients through video conferencing. The \$150,000 would allow us to update the computers in my department as the majority of them are eight to nine years old and need to be replaced. The whole premise behind this grant is to provide telemedicine to more rural areas where there is not easy access. Our public transportation has significantly improved, but there are still many areas where individuals cannot access public transportation.

Mrs. Ferratella asked under the list of eligible applicants there are a multitude of entities that can apply. What are your chances of getting this? Dr. Chapman replied he would like to think that since we are highlighting the need for medication assistance with opioid addiction that it will help, along with the rural nature of the County in general. Mr. Caudill explained the scoring of the evaluation is broken down into a few areas. One is how rural and in that category we scored 30 out of 40 points. Another area is economically depressed and in that area we did not score as well; 10 out of 30 points. One of the emphases is opioids and we got an extra 10 points if we focus on opioids and other substance abuse areas. Mr. Caudill stated I think we will be competitive. With regard to the match, there is a possibility that we can work with Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Brewer about funds for the broadband. We can also use ARA funds for a match. The actual cost to the County may end up being zero.

Mrs. Ferratella asked when will the grant be awarded? Mr. Caudill replied he doesn't know the timeframe off the top of his head, but he would anticipate by fall for sure.

Mr. Maio asked is this an addition to our services or in addition to what we already offer? What do we know about the efficacy of remote sessions? Dr. Chapman replied this will be in addition to what we provide. With regard to efficacy, tele-psychiatry has been around for many years and research shows that patients benefit from it. Studies support it. Covid-19 has forced all of us to change what we do and from service delivery, we are doing that by phone and video conferencing. For some folks, depending on their location, they seem to prefer this as it saves them travel time and the expense of getting to an appointment. This is a way to offer psychiatric services to folks that would not normally get them. This will not require our prescribers to travel and they will be more efficient as well. Dr. Chapman stated we have been fortunate, in my opinion, that we have had prescribers local with us out of our office. So many others don't have that and they have to contract for agencies to provide telemedicine. This would be our first go around with this to continue with telemedicine after things reopen. This is a positive thing to add to our community.

Mrs. Lando stated I agree this is a positive step, but what about people without a computer or internet access? Dr. Chapman replied if it is closer for an individual to go to their PCP, they could do that and those three PCP offices will have the technology installed to enable them to do a telemedicine visit with our office. We will also have the same thing available at all three of our office locations. Many folks don't get reception or have the equipment. If we receive this grant, those individuals will be able to come to our office and sit in front of a computer and have sessions with one of our prescribers.

Mrs. Ferratella stated telemedicine is the wave of the future. Will you ever do one-on-one visits occasionally to have better communication with people? Dr. Chapman replied yes. We are not discontinuing one-on-one sessions. This would be in addition or a supplement to those one-on-one visits.

Mrs. Lando asked if we receive the grant in October, when would this be implemented? Dr. Chapman replied I think with the purchasing and installation of the equipment, hopefully we would be able to start prior to the first of next year; December or January at the latest.

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

C. Social Services

1. **Summer Learning Experience** – Ms. Muller stated we have operated the summer learning experience program and historically have contracted with BOCES to facilitate it. We have been operating the program for 18 years now and this year, because of Covid, they are unable to facilitate it. Our sites are in Corning-Painted Post, Woodhull, Bath, Avoca and Hornell. These are onsite programs with activities and are targeted to high risk kids. This has been a very successful program over the years and there is a food component built-in. She requested authorization to change the contract for this year to ProAction for a total cost of \$225,000. We are currently working on modifications. The program would be off-site and I think what we want to do is go out to the kids with the counselors and do activities with them. She stated she would like to coordinate with ProAction and share the administrative burden.

Mrs. Lando asked will ProAction be able to handle this? Ms. Muller replied yes. Many of the counselors contracted with BOCES and are very interested in coming on board. The biggest challenge is how we will execute things. This program is a huge benefit. Our office is anticipating a high volume of child protective calls at some point and this is a way to prevent some of that activity because we will already be out there.

Mr. Swackhamer asked what age group does this serve? Ms. Muller replied this is for kids age 8 to 17. Over the previous years we have served 180 – 200 kids.

Mr. Mullen stated I was a summer learning experience counselor and noticed that this program was a big help to kids and was very beneficial. You could see that it was very helpful. This is a great program.

Mr. Maio asked are we looking at this as hopefully just for this year and then going back to how it was before? Ms. Muller replied yes. I think the group experience is very beneficial to the youth. This is a way to get our eyes on these kids and engage them in positive activities.

Mr. Maio stated it was announced that summer camps open on June 29th. Will there be a problem with transportation? Ms. Muller stated transportation will be a problem as well as social distancing rules.

Mr. Wheeler stated we were surprised about the summer camp announcement. GST BOCES was under the assumption that summer programs would not be permitted. This contract with ProAction is a measure to fill the gap.

Mr. Maio asked do you think BOCES will change their minds? Ms. Muller replied no. We will do this for this year and resume our contract with BOCES next year.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PROACTION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SUMMER LEARNING EXPERIENCE PROGRAM FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$225,000 MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

D. Public Health

1. **Mutual Aid Agreement** – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to renew the Finger Lakes' Counties Mutual Aid Agreement. This is done every five years. During times of crisis, we can utilize other counties within the S2AY network to assist and support one another.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO REWEAVE THE FINGER LAKES' COUNTIES MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR FIVE YEARS MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELEE. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Preschool Transportation Bid** – Mrs. Smith informed the committee they received two bids from Durham and Birnie. She recommended awarding the three contracts based on the low bid.

MOTION: AWARDING THE PRESCHOOL TRANSPORTATION BID AS FOLLOWS: CONTRACT B – BIRNIE FOR \$99.99 PER CHILD PER DAY FOR 10-MONTH PROGRAM; CONTRACT C – DURHAM FOR \$135.00 PER CHILD PER DAY FOR 10-MONTH AND SUMMER PROGRAM AND CONTRACT D – DURHAM FOR \$149.86 PER CHILD PER DAY FOR 10-MONTH AND SUMMER PROGRAM MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELEE. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. *Corning City Manager* – Mrs. Lando stated she forwarded a letter from the Corning City Manager thanking the County for all of their help; especially thanking Mr. Wheeler, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Marshall, Sheriff Allard and Mr. Baker. They could not say enough about Mrs. Smith and Mr. Marshall. Thank you so much for all your help.

B. *ProAction* - Mrs. Lando stated ProAction had been approved for a \$750,000 PPP loan. They will not need all of it, but these funds will help carry them forward with their payroll. The board approved and received it and this will be a big help.

C. *Hunger Coalition* – Mrs. Lando stated the Hunger Coalition had a meeting a couple of weeks ago and Steuben County is more than 20 percent higher for food distribution. The Food Bank of the Southern Tier is 50 percent higher for food distribution to households. She stated they now have our RSVP volunteers and Public Works for big distributions. Teachers are also volunteering and Corning Inc. employees are as well. They are working to get food out to people that need it.

D. *Prevention Coalition* – Mrs. Lando stated she recently spoke on Frankly Speaking to talk about the Prevention Coalition. They recently did a survey of kids and parents and marijuana use by 8th graders ranked higher than the national average while seniors reported less use of alcohol, marijuana and opioids. However, binge drinking increased among sophomores. Vaping is still a huge issue. Another issue is energy drinks. Kids are using energy drinks and there has been a huge increase. These are scary things.

Mr. Van Etten asked why would ProAction qualify for the PPP loan? Mrs. Lando replied they qualify because of the nature of their business. She stated she was also surprised when they applied. Mr. Wheeler commented CSS Workforce Development also applied for those funds and received it. Being a non-profit agency was not prohibitive. Mrs. Lando stated they probably won't use it all and what they don't I guess they will give back. This will help them.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MRS. LANDO. 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, July 1, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, June 24, 2020**