

STEBEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 6, 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 Jennifer Prossick Kathy Muller Bill Caudill	Christopher Brewer Hank Chapman Patty Barody Darlene Smith	Brenda K. Mori Eric Rose Andy Morse
LEGISLATORS:	Scott J. Van Etten Jeffrey P. Horton Gary D. Swackhamer Thomas J. Ryan	Robin K. Lattimer John V. Malter Robert Nichols	Kelly H. Fitzpatrick Frederick G. Potter Aaron Mullen
OTHER:	Mary Perham	Media	

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Community Services

1. **Authorizing Acceptance of NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports COLA** – Dr. Chapman informed the committee they have received \$14,643 in COLA (Cost of Living Allocation) funding from the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports. He requested authorization to accept this funding. This funding is to be used to support salary and fringe benefits increases.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ACCEPT \$14,643 IN COST OF LIVING ALLOCATION FUNDING FROM THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF ADDICTION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Contracts** – Mrs. Lando asked did you postpone the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner contracts from last month to this month? Dr. Chapman replied, yes, that was taken off the agenda last month and is not being presented at this time.

B. Office for the Aging

1. **Increase IHS Balanced Incentive Payment Program Contract** – Mrs. Barody informed the committee that early in June she anticipates two vacancies in our contracted workers; one through the Steuben Senior Services Fund and one through Institute for Human Services. She would like to blend the roles of those two positions to make one full-time position. This will allow us to more completely cover the two programs. The NYCONNECTS health insurance counseling program is very complex and it is difficult to find someone with that

type of expertise. We will also use this position to conduct the assessments on the home-delivered meals and that will allow for more comprehensive coverage. The contract with the Institute for Human Services is already in place and she is requesting authorization to increase that contract by \$20,637 for this full-time contract position. There is money available in the budget.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE BALANCED INCENTIVE PAYMENT PROGRAM BY \$20,637 FOR ONE FULL-TIME CONTRACT POSITION TO PERFORM HOME-DELIVERED MEALS ASSESSMENTS AND THE NYCONNECTS HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING SERVICES MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked do you think you will be able to find an individual to do both? Mrs. Baroody replied I do. We typically like them to have some experience in human services, but we will train them in whatever they need. This position would be located in the Corning area, but would cover the county as needed. Their role with the health insurance will be secondary; the primary goal is to stay compliant on the home-delivered meals assessments.

Mrs. Lando asked will you be saving money? Mrs. Baroody replied in terms of efficiencies we would be. We will not be paying someone from the other part of the county to do the assessments. In terms of one full-time versus two part-time positions, there will be an increase in the benefits package, but by being able to retain workers we actually save money and it will be in a more stable position.

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

2. **Amend Steuben Senior Services Fund Contract** – Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to amend the Steuben Senior Services Fund contract to eliminate the scope of work relative to the home-delivered meals assessor.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE AGING TO AMEND THE STEUBEN SENIOR SERVICES FUND CONTRACT TO REMOVE THE SCOPE OF WORK RELATIVE TO THE HOME-DELIVERED MEALS ASSESSOR MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. **Accept and Appropriate Families First Covid Response Act Funds** – Mrs. Baroody stated she was notified that they are getting Covid relief funds. This is Federal funding that is passed through the State. We are scheduled to receive \$70,275. These are funds that can be used in any way to bring relief for efforts that have taken place since Covid started. She stated she has contacted the agencies to determine what extra work they have been doing as a result of Covid. Mrs. Baroody stated that she would like to reserve \$8,000 of this funding for her office to cover anything that we have not already anticipated. With the remaining funds, she would like to increase the contracts with Institute for Human Services for transportation, with Faith in Action, ProAction, Steuben Senior Services Fund and Corning Meals on Wheels. The reason for increasing the transportation contract with the Institute for Human Services is that transportation is the number one need and the volunteers that the transportation program utilizes are seniors and they have not been able to go out because of the stay at home order. We have authorized taxi tokens to get people to urgent medical appointments. For ProAction she would like to allocate \$40,000 to go toward their effort of putting more meals into their pantries. They are doing this because if anyone at the ProAction kitchen gets Covid, that operation will likely shut down and they are working to shore up food for their clients. These funds can be used through September 2021.

Mrs. Baroody stated she is asking the contractors to attest that any funds given are not being duplicated by other funds they are receiving. She stated Corning Meals on Wheels does not get a lot of support from the County, but they too have worked to fill their pantries in case of a shut down and she is recommending appropriating \$5,000 to them. The appropriation for the Steuben Senior Services Fund is for the home-delivered meals assessor and to help with the extra time that individual had to use for the uptick during Covid.

Mr. Hanna asked will you lose a lot of your volunteers when things recover? Mrs. Baroody replied I like to think that the dedication of the volunteers will prompt them to resume. I suspect that people are going stir-crazy and have been hearing that they are anxious to help in any way they can.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE A TOTAL OF \$70,275 IN FAMILIES FIRST COVID RESPONSE ACT FUNDS AS FOLLOWS: OFFICE FOR THE AGING - \$8,000; INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES – TRANSPORTATION - \$11,000; FAITH IN ACTION - \$5,000; PROACTION - \$40,000; CORNING MEALS ON WHEELS - \$5,000 AND STEUBEN SENIOR SERVICES FUND - \$1,275 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked do these agencies know that this money is coming? Mrs. Baroody replied I put an email out to the executive directors of the agencies asking them what they need and what that would look like. I have gotten good feedback and that is how I made the decisions on how to allocate the funding. She stated she has been having discussions with these agencies over the last ten days or so. A lot of the agencies have really mobilized and scrambled to find emergency funding. It took time to figure out what would not duplicate what they had already been funded.

Ms. Prossick stated there should be two motions; the first to accept and appropriate the funding and the second to amend the contracts to reflect the increase in funding

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

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO AMEND THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS TO REFLECT APPROPRIATION OF FAMILIES FIRST COVID RESPONSE ACT FUNDS: INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES – TRANSPORTATION - \$11,000; FAITH IN ACTION - \$5,000; PROACTION - \$40,000; CORNING MEALS ON WHEELS - \$5,000; AND STEUBEN SENIOR SERVICES FUND - \$1,275 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELE. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

C. Public Health

1. **Preschool Contract Renewals** – Mrs. Smith presented the list of preschool contracts for renewal. Mrs. Lando asked what happens if schools don't open in the fall? Mrs. Smith replied we will only pay for services that are rendered. Mrs. Lando asked if there is summer school, will these contracts kick in when school starts? Mrs. Smith replied there will be no lapse in the contracts.

Ms. Prossick explained we have looked at the school contracts and these terms run from July 1st through June 30th. We included additional language with regard to the pandemic that the County will only pay for when services are provided.

Mrs. Ferratella stated she would like to thank Mrs. Smith for all of her hard work. Mrs. Smith stated thank you. We have a great team out here at the EOC and there has been so much going on.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO RENEW ALL EXISTING PRESCHOOL CONTRACTS AS PRESENTED MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **Testing for Covid** – Mr. Maio asked where do we stand on testing now and what are our prospects on meeting the testing goals? Mrs. Smith stated I feel we are in pretty good shape on that. We participated on a call with Guthrie and others. Guthrie has a very large capacity to test and meet the requirement of the Governor for reopening. We still have Arnot and U of R that will contribute to that. We need to work out the process, but we do have the capacity. In addition we received a call over the weekend from the Department of Health, and they realize it might be a good idea to do universal swabs at nursing homes across the state. We have

three more nursing homes that we haven't already done. If all goes well, by the end of next week, all of the nursing homes in the county will have been swabbed. This will result in 750 – 800 samples which will include both staff and residents.

Mr. Maio asked when do you expect to have things worked out on general testing? Mr. Wheeler replied it appears that County Executive Chris Moss is the lead for our economic development region. All of the county managers and executives in our economic development region will be on a call this morning at 11:30 a.m. to discuss twelve points that we need to meet in order to reopen. Logistically, what is the expectation for testing? Is it testing capacity or do we actually have to test 700 people daily in our region? It will not be easy logistically, but we are actively working on it. I think we have a good plan.

Mrs. Lando asked how many nursing homes do we have and who will do the testing? Mrs. Smith replied we have six nursing homes within the county, not counting the VA. On the three more that we have to complete, we will model that testing after the way we did the other facilities. We have a team of six nurses; five are school nurses and one is a retired nurse who helps us out with our biometric screenings in the fall. That team will go in and go through the entire facility and do the swabbing and then the samples will go to URMC (University of Rochester Medical Center).

Mr. Hanna asked is this just to determine whether or not they have the virus? Mrs. Smith replied this is not the antibody test. This is the Covid test to determine if they have it. Thankfully we have a significantly decreased positive rate in the community. A lot of the positives you are seeing are nursing home related. We need to find out which residents and staff have the virus and keep them isolated so they don't continue spreading the virus.

Mrs. Lando stated former Governor George Pataki talked about a lawsuit against the State; do we have any responsibility with this or are we caught up in that? Mr. Wheeler replied I don't believe we have any liability. I think especially for any rural counties, we have been more aggressive than just about any other county. Ms. Prossick stated I would agree. Mr. Wheeler, Mrs. Smith and the team have been working on the nursing homes well before the State was. We pushed the Department of Health through the entire process.

Mr. Potter asked how frequently will you have to do the testing? You could do the testing now and next week someone could test positive. Mrs. Smith replied you are right. Someone could be negative this week and next week they could be positive. Universal swabbing now gives us a baseline and then a week or two from now if someone tests positive, they get isolated as well as their contacts. If a cluster develops, then it would be appropriate to do the testing all over again. Mr. Wheeler stated it has been three weeks since we have tested the other facilities and the numbers have stabilized. There might be an issue that pops up, but we are in pretty good shape.

Mr. Van Etten stated more of this will be covered at tomorrow's ad hoc meeting and they will also be on a call today regarding the testing requirements. We will know more tomorrow.

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

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

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, June 3, 2020**

**Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, May 27, 2020**