

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING **Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 8:35 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standing	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator (arrived 8:45 AM)
Ms. Loretta Sullivan	Legislator
Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services - MH
Mr. Shawn Yetter	Commissioner of Social Services
Mr. Gary Grant	Deputy Commissioner of Social Services
Ms. Lisa McCafferty	Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services – PH
Guests: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Chair of the Legislature

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Budget Status
 - Mr. Chris Korba noted the 2021 budget is tracking well with one unexpected expense – Court Ordered Criminal Psychiatric services. There is a resolution to transfer funds from contingency to Mental Hygiene’s appropriation account. \$198,000 was budgeted in the criminal psychiatric line for 2022.
2. Personnel
 - Monica Leljedal, CSW resigned effective 9/3/2021.
3. Critical Issues/Topics
 - 730 Criminal Psych (discussed above).
 - Suicide Prevention Events
 - 4th Annual Race Dedication Night at Tioga Downs was 9/4/2021.
 - Chalk the Walk
 - Veteran’s Coffee Talk in the Park – Waverly
 - Continued efforts to recruit NP as well as 3 other open positions.
4. Resolutions
 - Contingency Fund Request and Transfer of Funds
5. Proclamations
 - National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
 - National Recovery Month

Ms. Morgan shared that she met with Gary Hammond regarding space needs for the MH office in Waverly.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Commissioner Yetter discussed caseloads, programmatic highlights, and personnel changes.

1. Budget

- Mr. Gary Grant shared that the 2021 budget is at or below in all program areas. Foster Care lines remain up. The 2022 budget is reflective of the increase.

2. Caseloads

- During August, Cash Assistance caseloads remained flat, with Family Assistance decreasing 7 cases and Safety Net increasing 7 cases.
- MA-Only increased 21 cases.
- MA-SSI increased 1 case.
- Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 24 cases to 3,757.
- SNAP cases decreased 5 cases.
- Day Care decreased 6 cases.
- Services cases remained flat.
- See Caseload Summary.

3. Programmatic Highlights

- Tioga Career Center Report with attachments. Commissioner Yetter noted that the unemployment extended benefits expire today. There are 1,400 individuals in Tioga County who are receiving extended benefits.

4. Personnel Changes

- Briana Ward was promoted to Senior Caseworker effective 8/30/2021.

5. Resolutions

- None.

6. Proclamations

- None.

Legislator Standinger asked about the ERAP (Emergency Renters Assistance Program). This is run by the state. We get weekly updates. Approximately 185 individuals have applied to date, with 90 individuals applying for utility assistance. To date, \$80,000 has been paid out in Tioga County. The eviction moratorium was extended until January 2022. DSS can assist with the application process and any questions.

Legislator Sullivan asked for a motion to approve the August 3, 2021 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Sullivan. Seconded by Legislator Monell. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Lisa McCafferty presented highlights and resolutions.

1. Personnel
 - Angelica Bostwick, Temporary Public Health Educator, new hire, effective 8/23/2021. There is another vacant PH Educator position open.
2. Program Comments
 - Agency Report for August 2021 was forwarded to the Committee.
 - Ms. McCafferty noted that PH is seeing an uptick in COVID cases. PH has been working with the schools on mask guidance and testing. The guidance from the state was issued at the last moment. Ms. McCafferty explained that the state's expectation of Public Health also keeps expanding; from contact tracing/investigation, isolation & quarantine orders, enforcement, to vaccine boosters, testing. Public Health continues exploring options, ex. a mobile unit. There was discussion on the diverse perspectives of individuals. Legislator Mullen expressed the need for the Legislature to stress personal responsibility and to provide COVID information (testing, vaccine availability, etc.).
3. Budget
 - Agency Financials for August 2021 were forwarded to the Committee. Mr. McCann noted that the budget is tracking well, without any surprises. The COVID funding streams are numerous, complicated, and eligible expenses change frequently. Mr. McCann noted that the 2022 budget submittal contained several revisions after the August HHS meeting: yet still well below the zero-based local share directive. The submittal is an almost \$170,000 decrease in local share compared to the 2020 budget.
4. Resolutions
 - Authorize Salary Reallocation Within CSEA Salary Schedule for Supervising Public Health Sanitarian and Public Health Sanitarian.
 - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds – Public Health
5. Proclamations
 - National Preparedness Month (repeat)

Legislator Standinger made a motion to move into Executive Session regarding a Personnel matter.

ADJOURNED:

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services