

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 8:30 AM.

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| Present: Mr. William Standinger | Chair of the Committee |
| Mr. Dennis Mullen | Legislator |
| Mr. Jake Brown | 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 |

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| Guests: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey | Chair of the Legislature {arrived 8:43 AM} |
| Ms. Cathy Haskell | Legislative Clerk |

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial

- Mr. Chris Korba noted that they received the February invoice of \$39,000 for court ordered criminal psych charges. The total paid for this client will be about \$95,000 for 2022. The criminal psych total amount budgeted for 2022 is \$198,000. The other budget lines are tracking as expected.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – There was one client in court ordered psych services. The January and February invoices were received. Client discharged on March 8, 2022. Still awaiting the March invoice. This facility charges \$1,400/day.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the April 5, 2022 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Mullen. Seconded by Legislator Brown. Motion Carried.

3. New Business

- OMH & OASAS Workforce Grant Funding – A Memorandum of Agreement between Tioga County and the CSEA Union was negotiated to distribute \$1,000 to each Union member of Mental Hygiene. TCMH has determined the allowable retention incentives for non-union staff based on a percentage of salary.

4. Personnel

- Danielle Fabregas, Supervising Clinical Social Worker starting 5/9/2022.
- Betty Chilson, Accounting Associate 1, retiring effective 6/30/2022.
- Jodi Sampey, LCSW, retiring effective 7/30/2022.

5. Resolutions – Resolutions were voted to continue.
 - Appropriation of Funds, Transfer of Funds and Budget Modification (Incentives)
 - Reappointment of Member Shawn Nelepa to the Community Services Board.
 - Reappointment of Member John Bezirgianian to the Community Services Board.
 - Recognizing Betty Chilson's 24 Years of Dedicated Service to the Tioga County Department of Mental Hygiene.
6. Proclamations
 - Mental Health Awareness Month & Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial
 - Mr. Gary Grant shared that we had a high-cost youth age out of specialized foster care that was \$20,000/month. The net savings for the rest of the year is \$140,000. There may be more movement within the foster care lines. The rest of the programs are at or below budget for 2022.
2. Old Business
 - None.
3. New Business
 - Caseloads
During April, Cash Assistance decreased 6 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 7 cases and Safety Net increasing 1 case. Cash Assistance is down 7% for the year.
MA-Only decreased 2 cases.
MA-SSI decreased 10 cases.
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 24 cases to 3,755.
SNAP cases decreased 40 cases.
Day Care increased 2 cases.
Services decreased 8 cases.
See Caseload Summary and Charts.
 - Tioga Career Center report attached. With Sheri McCall's' retirement, Jackie Burdick has been transitioning well to the Employment Center Supervisor. She is hosting an on-site job fair for Lopke and Elderwood and has also been doing outreach to local employers and schools for summer employment opportunities. Unemployment numbers in Tioga increased slightly in February to 4.1%.
4. Personnel Changes
 - Kelly Kelley promoted to Principal Social Welfare Examiner effective 4/11/22.
 - Julie Hildebrandt, (former Seasonal HEAP SWE), hired as SWE effective 4/11/22.
 - Laurette Potter, Social Welfare Examiner, retired effective 4/23/22.
 - Elios Pierre, Caseworker, hired effective 4/25/22.

- Commissioner Yetter noted that there are currently 5 Caseworker vacancies, and it has been difficult trying to fill these positions. Two people signed up recently to take the CW test but no showed.

There was discussion regarding retention and incentive options such as the County offering some type of capped student loan relief after so many years of employment. There was also discussion regarding work from home options to be more competitive with private employers. Committee Chair Standinger suggested departments provide statistics to support some retention options. Ms. McCafferty asked that the County reconsider the work from home policy as a more immediate response for retention.

5. Resolutions – Resolution was approved to continue.
 - Amend 2022 Budget (Day Care).
6. Proclamations
 - Foster Care Recognition Month (repeat).
 - Elder Abuse Prevention Month (repeat).

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
 - Mr. Denis McCann shared that there are no surprises in the 2022 budget. Preschool tuition continues down, driving down expenditures. This may be returning to normal in the summer/fall. There are planned changes to El Escrow where the insurance companies would take over funding the escrow account. Budget is “tracking well”.
2. Old Business
 - None.
3. New Business
 - Agency Report for April 2022 forwarded to committee.
 - Ms. McCafferty shared that the CDC is reporting that most of NYS is now in “high transmission” for COVID. Flu is also high in NYS. As Public Health Director, she reminded about precautions, including distancing and ventilation.
4. Personnel
 - None.
 - Still having difficulty filling the vacant Nursing positions.
5. Resolutions – All resolutions were approved to continue.
 - Amend 2022 Budget & Appropriate Funds (NYSACHO).
 - Carry Forward 2021 Budget & Amend 2022 Budget (New Vehicle). Due to COVID complications in the auto industry, PH was unable to order or purchase their budgeted vehicle in 2021. With recent bid, able to catch up with the Capital

Vehicle plan with 36% reimbursement. Commissioner of Public Works Gary Hammond is in support, as it benefits the entire County vehicle fleet.

6. Proclamations

- American Stroke Month (repeat, planned to be read – Katie Wait to receive)
- End Food Waste Month (new – Laura Bennett to receive)

ADJOURNED:

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services