

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 8:30 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
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
Guest: 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. The patient started treatment on 12/31/2020. There is a resolution to transfer funds from contingency to pay the March invoice for this county resident. Another county resident will be coming into this type of care shortly.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the June 8, 2021 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Sullivan. Seconded by Legislator Monell. Motion Carried.

2. Personnel

- Marcia Robson-Cromer, LCSW-R, retired 6/16/21.
- Brittany Santos, LMSW, resigning 7/9/21.
- Christina Wisnesky, MHC, resigning 7/21/21.

3. Critical Issues/Topics

- 730 Criminal Psych (discussed above).

4. Resolutions

- Appropriation of Funds and Budget Modification. Pass-through funding from the State.
- Transfer of Funds – Budget Modification. (Criminal Psychiatric services).

5. Proclamations

- None.

SOCIAL SERVICES

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

1. Budget

- Mr. Gary Grant shared that budget is at or below in all program areas. Budget is under on payroll; overtime is up. EAF FC is running high; may have to move money around later.

2. Caseloads

- During June, Cash Assistance caseloads decreased 11 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 6 cases and Safety Net decreasing 5 cases. Cases are down 12% for the year.
- MA-Only increased 11 cases.
- MA-SSI remained flat.
- Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 17 cases to 3,730.
- SNAP cases decreased 56 cases.
- Day Care increased 4 cases.
- Services increased 4 cases.
- See Caseload Summary.

3. Programmatic Highlights

- Tioga Career Center Report – Unemployment rates in Tioga County remain lower than the state and national average. The next in-person Job Fair is scheduled for August 25th.
- Rental Assistance Programs – We have around 200 applicants in Tioga County. No further information is received from the State.

4. Personnel Changes

- Teddi Card, Accounting Associate II, last day effective 6/3/21.
- Julie Whipple promoted from Principal SWE to Director of Employment & Transitional Supports effective 6/21/21.
- Heidi Hooker, Sr. Caseworker, last day effective 6/25/21.

5. Resolutions

- Transfer of Funds - TCC.
- Appropriation of Funds & Amend 2021 Budget – COVID-19 related funding for Adult Protective Services. Legislator Mullen expressed his appreciation for Senior Caseworker, Tina Lounsbury's work.
- Approve Funding 2021 Summer Youth Employment.
- Authorize Appointment: Secretary to Commissioner of Social Services. Commissioner Yetter noted that Bethany O'Rourke will be moving forward with the non-union salary schedule.

6. Proclamations

- None.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Lisa McCafferty presented highlights and resolutions.

1. Personnel
 - N/A
2. Program Comments
 - Agency Report for June 2021 was forwarded to the Committee.
3. Budget
 - Agency Financials for June 2021 were forwarded to the Committee. Mr. McCann noted that the budget is tracking well, without any surprises. They have received almost all revenues back from the 20% withhold. Preschool transportation efforts to control costs (parents driving their children) have resulted in \$100,000 of savings.
4. Resolutions
 - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds – Grant funding aimed at Obesity prevention through systems, policy, and environmental change. Intent is to integrate health behaviors in the community via worksites, childcare providers, schools, and municipalities.
 - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds – Funding from NYSDOH to target testing in schools in the fall. The requirements are unknown at this point. As with nearly all NYSDOH funding, TCPH will have to spend the money first and then be reimbursed.
 - Schedule Second Public Hearing for New York State Community Development Block Grant, as the grantor insists this be done. Note that project was done in 2019, with resolution for 2nd public hearing posting approved and submitted to newspapers on 2/11/2020 yet not published until 2/14/2020.
5. Proclamations
 - Healthy Vision Month in Tioga County (New).

Ms. McCafferty noted she feels it's important that the non-union salary schedule will begin moving forward.

ADJOURNED:

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services