WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **HEALTH SERVICES**

DATE: **MARCH 22, 2013**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	**OTHERS PRESENT:**
SUPERVISORS SOKOL	REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH:
CONOVER	PAT AUER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES
FRASIER	SHARON SCHALDONE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOME CARE DIVISION
TAYLOR	GINELLE JONES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
MCDEVITT	TAMMIE DELORENZO, CLINICAL & FISCAL INFORMATICS COORDINATOR
	TAWN DRISCOLL, FISCAL MANAGER
	PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
	MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
	JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
	FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
	SUPERVISORS BENTLEY
	KENNY
	LOEB
	MASON
	MONTESI
	STRAINER
	WESTCOTT
	WOOD
	JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
	DEANNA PARK, DIRECTOR OF THE COUNTRYSIDE ADULT HOME
	MICHAEL R. SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
	ROBERT V. LYNCH II, DEPUTY COUNTY TREASURER
	DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
	THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
	CHARLENE DIRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Health Services Committee to order at 9:32 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Pat Auer, Director of Public Health/Patient Services, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Auer requested to amend the contract with Delta Health Technologies to provide remote host services for the Electronic Medical Records System for a five year term commencing June 1, 2013 and terminating March 31, 2018, at the rate of $2,575.00 per month, plus a one-time server and configuration fee of $1,200.00. She noted this had been discussed at a previous Committee meeting and reminded the Committee members that the system had been in place for five years and they were satisfied with the product and the technical support received. She said the increase in the cost of the contract had been anticipated and was budgeted.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mr. McDevitt to amend the contract with Delta Health Technologies as outlined above.

Mr. Taylor asked if this was a rate increase and Ms. Auer replied it was an added service. Tammie DeLorenzo, Fiscal and Informatics Coordinator, informed that remote hosting had not been an option under the previous contract; however, she continued, since the servers were due for replacement, this was a good time to switch to a remote hosting contract. She added the cost to replace the servers was more than the cost of a remote hosting service. She explained remote hosting was a viable option and Delta Health Technologies would cover a lot of the licensing fees and would ensure the updates were installed after hours. She noted the cost of remote hosting had been budgeted in 2012 but had not been implemented. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to amend the contract with Delta Health Technologies as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 19, 2013 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested to amend the Standard Ancillary Services Agreement with Fidelis Care New York to provide payment for immunization administration and vaccine fees for children and adults enrolled in various insurance programs administered by Fidelis Care New York at the approved contract rates. She explained they have had difficulties in receiving payments from Fidelis Care New York in the past and this amendment would correct the situation. She added some of the claims which were denied in the past would be received retroactively.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to amend the Standard Ancillary Services Agreement with Fidelis Care New York as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 19, 2013 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization to fill the vacant position of Community Health Nurse, annual base salary of $42,818, Grade 20, Employee No. 8656 due to resignation. She noted this was a Union position which was not mandated but was reimbursable and revenue generating. She said she had not intended to fill the vacant position but she had been informed that one of the Nurses would be going out on long term disability until September. She apprised she discussed the situation with the County Administrator and had received his approval. Mr. Conover asked if the position had been budgeted and Mr. Dusek replied affirmatively.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request to fill the vacant position as outlined above and to forward same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested to amend the current contracts with Glens Falls Rehabilitation Center, Adirondack Enrichment PLLC, Prospect Child and Family Center, New Meadow Preschool and Capital District Beginnings to provide EI Services to children in order to reflect that as of April 1, 2013, all billing must be submitted directly to NYS DOH (New York State Department of Health) via the NYEIS (New York State Early Intervention System) Program, or directly to Medicaid; and to state that the providers must have a signed agreement with the NYS DOH authorizing them as a provider of EI Services, in a form approved by the County Attorney. She noted this was a requirement for the changes to the EI Program discussed at a previous Committee meeting.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Frasier and carried unanimously to amend the current contracts as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 19, 2013 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested to renew the contractual agreement with the NYS DOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control for the five year term commencing April 1, 2012 and terminating March 31, 2017 in the amount of $89,265.65 to cover the cost of expenses associated with the Rabies Program and to allow the acceptance of any COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) funds that might be available during the contract period. She explained the NYS DOH was late in renewing the agreement but had made it retroactive so there would be no gaps in the reimbursements.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mr. Taylor to extend the agreement with the NYS DOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control as outlined above.

Mr. Sokol asked if there was a benefit to a multi-year contract and Ms. Auer replied in the negative. Mr. Conover asked if there was an increase or decrease from the previous contract and Ms. Auer explained the amount was based on expenses. Tawn Driscoll, Fiscal Manager, explained the Rabies Program contract was broken down into three portions: human, animal and clinic. She added there used to be a limit of $5,000 for the clinics but now the award amount was combined into one amount. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to extend the agreement with the NYS DOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 19, 2013 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested to update the charges to insurance companies or individuals to reflect current costs of pharmaceuticals, clinic costs and nursing time for immunizations administered, as outlined in the resolution request form, in a form approved by the County Attorney. She explained this was done periodically as prices needed to be adjusted. She said this service was provided to the public with the goal of recovering revenues to cover the entire cost. She requested authorization to adjust the prices as needed, commensurate with vaccine costs without the need for Committee approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to update the charges to insurance companies or individuals; and authorize the Director of Public Health/Patient Services to update charges as needed in the future, as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 19, 2013 Board meeting.*

Referring to the pending items, Ms. Auer informed the Supervising Public Health Nurse #3 position had been posted with a salary range of $60,000 to $64,050 depending on the amount and type of nursing experience. She informed they had requested resumes be submitted by April 15, 2013 and she hoped to interview and select a candidate before the current employee retired on May 24, 2013. She added she would return to the Committee to inform of the selected candidate and to set the salary. Pertaining to the pending item concerning Certificates of Need for new CHHA's (Certified Home Health Agencies), Ms. Auer said there was no new information to report at this time.

Ms. Auer pointed out a Monthly Report on Emergency Response and Preparedness Activities was included in the agenda packet.

Pertaining to the Report on Expenditures, Revenues, Overtime and Per Diem Use, Ms. Driscoll reported the books for 2012 had not yet been closed. She said they were awaiting payments for the Preschool Program and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Food Vouchers and she anticipated an additional $1.5 million in revenue for 2012 which should be received by the end of March. She stated she anticipated the impact to the County from the 2012 budget to be approximately $250,000 less than the amount budgeted. Regarding 2013 revenues and expenditures, Ms. Driscoll stated that January billing had been closed and they were in the process of closing February billing for the CHHA, LTC (Long Term Care) and MCH (Maternal Child Health) Programs. She noted the slight increase in 2013 salaries compared to 2012 salaries was attributed to being short staffed in the CHHA Program.

Ms. Auer informed of a notification from BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) that they would cease operation of the Preschool Special Education Program as of September 2013. She said they would continue operations through the summer months but would most likely only enroll children who would commence Kindergarten in the fall. She stated the Health Services Department would try to place the remaining Preschool children in programs as close to their homes as possible.

Ms. Auer announced she had traveled to Albany in order to see a senior staff Nurse receive an award for immunizations. Due to the short staffing in the CHHA Program, Ms. Auer informed that Sharon Schaldone, Assistant Director of Home Care Division, had spent some time working in the field on home visits.

This concluded the Health Services portion of the Committee meeting and the Westmount Health Services portion of the meeting commenced at 9:49 a.m.

Mr. Dusek advised of an issue at Westmount Health Facility with physician coverage. He reported the recent NYS DOH Survey had resulted in a citation for documentation not being completed in a timely manner. He said he had reviewed the issue and some of the problem stemmed from a need for more physician time in the Facility. Mr. Dusek explained in reviewing the resolutions and contracts pertaining to the Medical Director and Part-Time Physician, discrepancies had been found. He said Resolution No. 616 of 2011 indicated 14 hours every other week of physician time at a cost of $28,044 per year; however, he added, the contract had indicated 2.5 hours every week. He said discussions with the doctor at Hudson Headwaters Health Network had revealed that she was completing 8 to 12 hours every other week, as opposed to 14 hours.

Mr. Dusek requested authorization to amend the current agreement with Hudson Headwaters Health Network to set the Medical Director hours at 12 per month at a rate of $92 per hour for a total amount not to exceed $13,248; the Part-Time Physician hours to 14 hours every other week at $92 per hour for a total amount not to exceed $33,488; and to add Nurse Practitioner services at 4 hours every other week at $65 per hour for a total amount not to exceed $6,760 with payment for each service being made as they were rendered, according to the above rates.

Mr. Dusek advised the total cost of the contract would be less as the intent was to pay for the actual hours of service. He noted the physician reacted to the current situation in the Facility and would only offer services for as long as needed. He noted the total cost at the end of the year would vary based on the number of hours of service provided; however, he said he felt there would be an overall savings.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to amend the current contract with Hudson Headwaters Health Network as outlined above. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the April 19, 2013 Board meeting.*

Mr. Sokol advised the Committee would need to enter into an executive session to discuss matters pertaining to collective bargaining negotiations and the proposed sale of Westmount Health Facility due to the fact that publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105 (e) and (h) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 9:58 a.m. to 10:33 a.m.

The Committee reconvened and Mr. Sokol noted that no action was necessary pursuant to the executive session.

As there was no further business to come before the Health Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist