

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HEALTH, HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS FRASIER
MCDEVITT
BRAYMER
LOEB
HYDE
MAGOWAN
SOKOL

OTHERS PRESENT:

CHRIS HUNSINGER, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES:

ROB YORK, DIRECTOR
CARRIE WRIGHT, PROGRAM ANALYST

DEANNA PARK, DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR THE AGING
REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

CHRISTIAN HANCHETT, COMMISSIONER
JULIE MONTERO, FISCAL MANAGER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS LEGGETT
DIAMOND

EDWARD CORCORAN, DIRECTOR, COUNTRYSIDE ADULT HOME

RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD

AMY LAVINE, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS BEATY

DRISCOLL

GERAGHTY

MERLINO

SIMPSON

WILD

SHAWN LAMOUREE, UNDERSHERIFF

MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER

ELIANA TAYLOR, WARREN COUNTY RESIDENT

LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the August 21, 2018 meeting of the Health, Human & Social Services Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2018/health>

Mrs. Frasier called the meeting of the Health, Human & Social Services Committee to order at 9:21 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Ms. Braymer 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 Chris Hunsinger, *Director, Employment & Training Administration (ETA)*, who distributed copies of his agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the ETA agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing his agenda review with the Action Agenda/New Business section, Mr. Hunsinger presented a request to authorize a new contract with Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services (*BOCES*) to provide youth educational program services for the Workforce Investment & Opportunity Fund (*WIOA*) youth employment program and prepare youth for the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (*TASC*) high school equivalency assessment for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mr. McDevitt opined the qualifications to obtain a GED (*General Equivalency Diploma*) had been made more difficult, essentially defeating the purpose of allowing an opportunity for individuals who did not graduate school to improve themselves. Mr. Hunsinger explained when New York State changed from

GED to TASC the success rate did fall, but it was now on an upward trend. He added the reason for the educational services was to better prepare individuals for a higher success rate. Ms. Braymer inquired how many youth attend the class per year and Mr. Hunsinger responded ten youth typically completed the class each year.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Sokol entered the meeting at 9:23 a.m.; Mr. Magowan entered the meeting at 9:24 a.m.; and Mr. Thomas entered the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Mr. Hunsinger thanked those who attended the Summer Youth Awards Ceremony Picnic last Friday, apprising he would provide the number of attendees at the next meeting.

This concluded the review of the ETA agenda; privilege of the floor was extended to Rob York, *Director, Office of Community Services*, who distributed copies of his agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the Mental Health/Community Services agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing his agenda review, Mr. York presented the following requests:

- 1) To amend the 2018 County Budget in the amount of \$4,482 to allow pass through of 100% State Aid funding from New York State Office of Mental Health for direct care staff wage enhancements.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mrs. Hyde entered the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

- 2) To extend the existing contract with Parsons Child and Family Center for provision of mental health home-based crisis intervention services for a term commencing November 29, 2018 and terminating December 31, 2018 in order to change it to a calendar year contract.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 3) To amend the contract with Northeast Parent and Child Society for children and youth mental health respite services to increase the "not to exceed" amount from \$16,044 to \$20,044 using funds already available within the existing budget.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt and seconded by Mr. Loeb to approve the request as presented.

Ms. Braymer referred to the County's Purchasing Policy, noting the increase requested would push the contract total over the \$20,000 limit for which an RFP (*Request for Proposals*) was required and she asked whether an RFP had been completed for these services; Mr. York responded in the negative, but said he believed these services may be exempt. A discussion ensued during which Amy Lavine, *First Assistant County Attorney*, acknowledged the possibility that these services could be exempt from the requirements of the Purchasing Policy, but suggested that because the increased amount was so close to the threshold, it may be a better option to decrease the amount below the \$20,000 amount; Mr. York was not objective to this suggestion.

Mr. Loeb asked Mr. York to explain what situations required respite services, who the services were for

and who the providers were. Mr. York advised children and youth who had been diagnosed with serious mental health illnesses received overnight services, as this was a low-cost alternative which de-escalated a crisis to help avoid emergency room visits and saved the County money. He stated the providers were Northeast Parent and Child Society, Wait House, Glens Falls Hospital and Capital District Respite. Mr. Driscoll commented this was his fifth year working to provide per diem respite care; he noted he did not always meet the maximum hours allotted for the service so he did not believe the amount of the contract would be met, regardless of the minimal reduction suggested to remain below the \$20,000 limit.

Mr. McDevitt amended his motion, and Mr. Loeb his second, to increase the amount included in the contract with Northeast Parent and Child Society for children and youth mental health respite services by \$3,955, to a total amount not to exceed \$19,999, using funds included in the existing budget, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the revised resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the Information/Discussion portion of the agenda, Mr. York informed despite their efforts to advocate with New York State for funding for jail based substance abuse disorders, State funding had been reduced from \$12.8 million to only \$4 million, resulting in no monies being awarded to Warren County. He said that regardless of the lack of funding, his Office was still trying to develop a program.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Carrie Wright, *Office of Community Services Program Analyst*, who apprised she had been working with Cliff Green, *representing the Association of Mental Health (AMH)*, to develop a proposal with Baywood and AMH using DSRIP (*Delivery Systems Reform Incentive Payment Program*) funds for the Warren and Washington County jails to help low level offenders when they were ready to be released back into the community. She added they were awaiting the funding award results to determine if the proposal would be possible.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Shawn Lamouree, *Warren County Undersheriff*, who spoke on behalf of Sheriff York who could not attend. He explained Mr. York and Ms. Wright had contacted him on the matter and he had information to share. Undersheriff Lamouree apprised that 104 of the 140 inmates at the Warren County jail received medication on a daily basis, and 67 of those were on psychiatric drugs; he added 75-80 inmates were being seen for mental health issues. He explained prisons and jails were “dumping grounds” for the mentally ill who committed low level crimes. Undersheriff Lamouree informed there was a popular misconception that those with mental health issues would receive help in jails, but this was not the case. A brief discussion ensued in regards to the reduced mental health funding attributing to higher jail populations.

Mr. York apprised \$185,000 was awarded to Warren and Washington Counties for the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans’ Peer to Peer Services program in 2019, and \$92,500 would be received for half of 2018. He noted he was awaiting information on what the guidelines were in order to engage the program. A brief discussion ensued.

Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, inquired why the restoration to competency in the Governors Budget Bills (*Article 7 Bills*) kept being removed the last two or three years and why it did not make it to the full State Budget. Mr. York explained when someone was declared incompetent to stand trial for felony charges they were sent to a State hospital resulting in a significant chargeback to counties which made it a large budget item. He added the reason the bill kept getting rejected was because local jails were not set up to do the intensive process mainly because they were not allowed to perform treatment over objection.

Mr. Loeb inquired how involved Mr. York was with the Veterans’ Services in the County for the Joseph P. Dwyer program for implementing the services. Mr. York replied both the Warren County Veterans’ Services Coordinator and Washington County Veterans’ Service Coordinator had created a preliminary advisory committee which included input from Veterans and their families, but as he mentioned, they

were awaiting the guidelines to implement the program.

This concluded the review of the Mental Health agenda; privilege of the floor was extended to Deanna Park, *Director, Office for the Aging*, who distributed copies of the OFA agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the OFA agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing her agenda review, Ms. Park presented a request to authorize the submission of New York State Office for the Aging NY Connects grant application in the amount of \$195,398 for the program year April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the Information for Discussion/Review portion of her agenda, Ms. Park extended an invitation to the upcoming Warren/Hamilton Senior Picnic which would be held on September 12, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Warren County Fish Hatchery; she noted tickets for the event could be purchased through her office for \$5 each.

This concluded the review of the OFA agenda; privilege of the floor was extended to Christian Hanchett, *Commissioner, Department of Social Services (DSS)*, who distributed copies of the DSS agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the DSS agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing his agenda review, Mr. Hanchett presented the following requests:

- 1) To authorize renewal of agreement with Michael Gray dba KMG Monitoring Services in the minimum monthly amount of \$1,450 to provide electronic monitoring services for juveniles over the period commencing July 1, 2018 and terminating December 31, 2018, as well as to authorize transfer of contract oversight to the Director of Probation effective January 1, 2019.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 2) To fill the position of Caseworker #9 in the Foster Care Unit, *Grade 16, Annual Salary \$42,290*, due to resignation.

Motion was made by Mr. Loeb, seconded by Mr. Magowan and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Personnel & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

- 3) To authorize a transfer of funds between various budget codes in the total amount of \$46,000 to cover overtime, part-time salaries and health insurance costs for the remainder of 2018.

Ms. Braymer inquired why money needed to be transferred and Ms. Montero replied there had been open full-time positions so she was moving money from that account to the temporary position account in order to pay the HEAP temporary positions that were changed to year-round.

Motion was made by Mr. Loeb seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the Information/Discussion portion of the agenda, Mr. Hanchett reported on his activities for the previous month, following which Ms. Montero provided an overview of the Budget Analysis and Overtime Reports. She informed they were trying to keep overtime down; however, she said, with the

new positions training would be required, resulting in overtime use for at least a couple of months. Ms. Montero remarked the budget was on target and she did not foresee any issues.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Edward Corcoran, *Director, Countryside Adult Home*, who distributed copies of the Countryside Adult Home agenda to Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing his agenda review Mr. Corcoran requested to reclassify the position of Account Clerk #2, Part-Time, *Grade 4, Annual Salary \$33,529*, to Sr. Account Clerk, Part-Time, *Grade 7, Annual Salary \$38,328.*

Motion was made by Mr. Loeb, seconded by Mr. Magowan and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the Information/Discussion portion of the agenda, Mr. Corcoran informed consideration was being given to a possible increase in room rates for private rooms. He explained the public room rate had been increased from \$101 per day to \$105 per day and due to the increase in costs it was an opportunity to also increase the private room rate of \$125 per day to \$130 per day. A lengthy discussion ensued in regards to the resident census.

Mr. Corcoran proceeded to review the Census and Overtime Reports, copies of which are on file with the minutes. Chairman Conover inquired where Mr. Corcoran saw the budget with expenditures and revenues. Mr. Corcoran replied his plan was to build up the census to bring in revenue. He said he expected to see a savings with laundry services being done in-house without the need to hire additional staff and when the wastewater project was complete he anticipated this would also result in savings. Chairman Conover requested Ms. Montero and Mr. Corcoran submit the budget to Frank Thomas, *Budget Officer*, and inquired how the 2018 budget looked. Ms. Montero replied the 2018 budget was on target and she had included a 2% increase for 2019, but the County share would be reduced if the census increased.

Mr. Beaty asked if the overtime issue related to after-hour emergencies had been addressed and Mr. Hanchett explained a plan had been created so that during an emergency Mr. Corcoran would receive a call and make the determination if he could take care of the issue himself to reduce overtime, or if he needed to call in staff.

There being no further business to come before the Health, Human & Social Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. McDevitt and seconded by Mr. Loeb, Mrs. Frasier adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board