

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING **Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Hubbard Auditorium, Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 8:30 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
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
Guests: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Chair of the Legislature
Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney (Arrived @ 9:00 AM)
Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk

Legislative Committee Chair Mr. Bill Standinger introduced new Legislator, Mr. Jake Brown.

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Budget Status
 - Mr. Chris Korba noted the 2021 budget is tracking well. There will be many more adjustments to the 2021 budget, but he expects to have a return. Four invoices for Criminal Psychiatric care were received in December. 2 are from the client they have been paying for in 2021 and 2 invoices were from a new client with dates from April and May 2021. It is unknown if this second client is still in care. If yes, worst case scenario, MH would be billed for June through December for an additional \$231,000. Regardless, MH will have a return of local share for its 2021 budget. Ms. Morgan will be following up at the MH Directors' Conference. There is more budgeted money in the 2022 budget for criminal psychiatric services.
2. Personnel
 - None.
 - Resolution to abolish 1 vacant, full time Clinical Social Worker and create 1 full time Supervising Clinical Social Worker to address staffing needs and workload.
3. Critical Issues/Topics
 - 730 Criminal Psych (discussed above).
4. Resolutions
 - Transfer of Funds Budget Modification.
 - Abolish and Create Position Amend 2022 Budget.
5. Proclamations
 - None.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the December 7, 2021 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Monell. Seconded by Legislator Mullen. Motion Carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES

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

1. Budget

- Mr. Gary Grant shared that the 2021 budget is running at or under in most program areas. Foster Care lines continue to remain high. The state increased Foster Care Rates. The 2022 budget reflects the higher costs. He expects to have a return to local share at the end of the year. The cars that were ordered in July have not come in and there is a resolution to re-appropriate the funding for 2022.

2. Caseloads

- During December, Cash Assistance decreased 15 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 5 cases and Safety Net decreasing 10 cases. Cash Assistance is down 18% for the year.
- MA-Only increased 23 cases. Increased 6% for the year.
- MA-SSI decreased 11 cases.
- Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 5 cases to 3,779.
- SNAP cases increased 53 cases. Increased 5% for the year.
- Day Care decreased 3 cases. Down 8% for the year.
- Services increased 4 cases. Hot line reports were the 2nd highest ever in 2021. Most reports remain substance abuse and inadequate guardianship. Child Advocacy Center located across from Agway opened in 2021 and has worked out well for interviewing children.
- See Caseload Summary.

3. Programmatic Highlights

- Tioga Career Center Report attached. Unemployment in Tioga County remains below the state and federal averages. TCC hopes to host an in-person Job Fair in the spring but it depends on COVID.

4. Personnel Changes

- Amanda Miller, Caseworker, hired effective 12/6/2021.
- Debra Bender, Employment Counselor, hired effective 12/6/2021 in TCC.

5. Resolutions

- Re-establish Prior Year 2021 Unspent Funds – JD Program.
- Re-establish Prior Year 2021 Unspent Funds – Capital Equipment.
- 2022 Staff Changes.

6. Proclamations

- Human Trafficking Awareness Month (New).

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Lisa McCafferty presented highlights, and resolutions.

1. Personnel

- None.

2. Program Comments

- Agency Report for December 2021 was forwarded to the Committee.

3. Budget

- Agency Financials for December 2021 were forwarded to the Committee. Mr. Denis McCann reported that he expects to have a sizable return for 2021. He is still expecting invoices throughout January and February. Revenues from non-COVID related services fared better than anticipated when considering COVID impacts. EI Escrow invoices have leveled off. There was discussion regarding the Fellowship program. Ms. McCafferty summarized there are a lot of strings attached and constant changes to the Fellows program. If we don't spend the money, we don't receive it.

4. Resolutions

- None.

5. Proclamations

- National Radon Action Month (Repeat).

There was a brief discussion on the Omicron variant. PH remains very busy tracking and issuing quarantine orders. NYS is very behind with case investigation & contact tracing. Isolation guidelines confusing due to CDC announcements and what NYS guidance contains. Over the Counter (OTC) test kits, their impact on operations. Committee Chair Standingier did a straw poll of Legislators regarding enforcement of state mask mandate and the associated funding. None of the legislators present were interested in enforcement. Chair Marte Sauerbrey shared that the county has been shipped 1 pallet of N90 masks for the public. They are available in the Legislative office during regular business hours.

ADJOURNED:

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services