

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**January 3, 2018****AMENDED**ALLEGANY COUNTY
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Members Present: J. Hopkins, J. Burdick, G. Barnes, D. Decker, S. Havey, D. Root, P. Stockin, C. Crandall

Others Present: R. Anderson, L. Ballengee, T. Boyde, B. Budinger, P. Curran, D. Fanton, M. Gasdik, V. Grant, K. Graves, B. Harris, D. Healy, L. Hennessy, K. Hollis, R. Hollis, C. Jones, C. Knapp, R. Lynch, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, T. Ross, M. Washer

Media Present: C. Potter – *Wellsville Daily Reporter*, K. Kellogg – *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Human Services Committee Chair Judith Hopkins at 2:27 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December 6, 2017, meeting were approved on a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried with the following amendment:

“Under the Citizens Advisory Board Appointments Robert Rider needs to be corrected to reflect Robert Riber.”

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report for review. Ms. Ballengee stated the permits processed under Environmental Health have decreased due to the winter months, adding there is no cause for concern. Ms. Ballengee stated the number of autopsies has significantly increased due to a coroner who did not submit any activity for April, May, and October. Committee Chair Hopkins asked Ms. Ballengee to explain what deliverables means. Ms. Ballengee stated it's just a term for miscellaneous activities performed in Environmental Health. Ms. Ballengee explained our Corporate Compliance Program and its requirements. The County has been required to have a program since 2009 due to the fact that both the Health Department and Community Services bill Medicaid for services. There is a committee in place that meets quarterly essentially looking for fraud, waste, abuse. Ms. Ballengee stated that there were no instances that need to be reported. Ms. Ballengee announced they have a new Corporate Compliance Officer Penny Chudy who will be working out of the Health Department. Ms. Ballengee stated this is an exceptionally early year for the flu to have started, and if you have not gotten your flu shot, you can receive yours at the Health Department. Ms. Ballengee shared with the committee an award she received from the Office of Secretary of Defense recognizing her as a patriotic employer for supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force. Environmental Health Director Tyler Shaw submitted Ms. Ballengee for this award, and Ms. Ballengee added they are very proud and supportive of Mr. Shaw and his services.

Temporary Director of Patient Services Position

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee requested permission to create and fill one temporary full-time Director of Patient Services (Non-union, Grade 9, Step: Base – Step 5) due to a retirement. This position will be in effect from March 5, 2018, to June 8, 2018, and will be abolished thereafter. Ms. Ballengee stated Lauri Hennessy will be retiring after 34 years with the County, and her position is critical in the Health Department, and she would like a temporary three-month position that will allow Ms. Hennessy to train and orient her predecessor. This position is responsible for the supervision of all medical/clinical services through our Licensed

Home Care Services Agency (LHCSA) and our Diagnostic and Treatment Center (D&TC). The annual salary of this temporary position is estimated between \$47,992 and \$55,634 with benefits estimated between \$21,452 and \$24,868. This position is 100 percent reimbursable under Article 6 funding. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution to create the position and refer to Ways & Means to fill**

Temporary Nurse Practitioner Position

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee requested permission to create and fill one temporary full-time Nurse Practitioner (Non-union, Grade NYSNA, Step: Base – Step 6) due to a retirement. This position will be in effect from May 1, 2018, to June 8, 2018, and will be abolished thereafter. Ms. Ballengee stated this position is also very crucial in the Health Department, and she would like a temporary two-month position that will allow the current Nurse Practitioner to train and orient her predecessor. This position is responsible for the diagnosis of diseases and prescriptions for medicines, physicals for new employees, as well as Social Services and Youth Employment employees. This position is a large source of revenue, and we could not bill services without this level practitioner. The annual salary of this temporary position is estimated between \$58,976 and \$76,682 with benefits estimated between \$26,362 and \$34,277. This position is 100 percent reimbursable under Article 6 funding. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried. **Prepare Resolution to create the position and refer to Ways & Means to fill**

OFFICE FOR THE AGING

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Gasdik explained some of the terms throughout her report to the new legislators. Ms. Gasdik stated the waiting list is still high but did not change from last month. Committee Chair Hopkins asked what can be done to help that number. Ms. Gasdik stated when someone is put on the waiting list, they are prioritized based on their needs, with the highest need placed at the top. They are always looking for different grants and ways to raise funds, adding their costs keep increasing but the money they receive for In-Home Care Programs has remained stagnant for several years which is a contributing factor to the waiting list growing. Ms. Gasdik stated they are very excited to announce they will be receiving their Alzheimer's Respite Grant for the next three years after thinking they might lose it altogether. Ms. Gasdik stated due to the inclement weather she may possibly cancel meals on Friday to ensure her elderly volunteers are not subjected to the cold temperatures. All clients are being made aware of the possible cancellation and will be provided blizzard bags if they will not have sufficient meals to get them through the weekend.

Joseph P. Miller Contract

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik requested permission to enter into a contract with Joseph P. Miller, Attorney at Law, to provide legal services to residents of Allegany County who are sixty years of age or older. These services are in the form of legal advice, representation, assisted referral, on-site training, public education, and the preparation of legal services for news articles of elderly residents in Allegany County who have a need for such services, and whose needs cannot be met by other appropriate resources in the community. Services will be paid at the rate of \$75 per unit of service up to a maximum amount of \$3,500. This is the same rate as was paid in 2017, and has been included in the 2018 Budget. Committee Chair Hopkins asked if Attorney Miller reached his maximum last year. Ms. Gasdik stated, yes,

he went over the limit slightly, but we approved it. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Total Senior Care Contract

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik requested permission to enter into a contract with Total Senior Care, Olean, NY, for social day services for clients through the Alzheimer's Caregiver Respite grant. These services include socialization and recreational programs, supervision and monitoring, personal care services, and nutritional services, including a hot mid-day meal and snacks. The rate will be \$32 per half day (less than 3 ½ hours) and \$54 per full day. There is also an additional charge of \$20 for each Personal Care Aide assisted shower. These rates are the same as 2017 and have been included in the 2018 Budget. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Havey, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

AIM Independent Living Contract

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik requested permission to enter into a contract with AIM Independent Living Center in Corning, NY, for Consumer Directed Care for home care aides for the EISEP and III-E grants. AIM will act as Fiscal Intermediary, and Allegany County Office for the Aging will pay AIM \$15.84/hour for aide service. This amount is up from \$15.33/hour that was paid in 2017 and has been included in the 2018 Budget. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

Prepare Resolution

Jan & Bev's Home Care Contract

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik requested permission to enter into a contract with Jan & Bev's Home Care, Inc. for home care services for the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP) and Title III - E grants. Payments for services will be \$23/hour which reflects an increase from \$22/hour that was paid in 2017. This amount has been included in the 2018 Budget. Ms. Gasdik stated Bryan Karl is great to work with but he has to give his staff pay raises this year which is why the contract price is increasing. Committee Chair Hopkins asked if this increase was anticipated and how will it affect the budget. Ms. Gasdik stated they always factor in an increase, and anticipated a \$.75 increase; therefore, the additional \$.25 will not impact it. County Administrator Timothy Boyde stated this is a subsidized amount and is not 100 percent County dollars. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Havey, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Elder Law & Justice Contract

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik requested permission to enter into a contract with the Center for Elder Law & Justice in Buffalo, NY, to provide legal services to residents of Allegany County who are sixty years of age or older. These services are in the form of legal advice, representation, assisted referral, on-site training, public education, and the preparation of legal service for news articles for the elderly residents of Allegany County who have need for such services and whose needs cannot be met by other appropriate resources in the community. Services will be paid at the rate of \$55 per unit of service up to a maximum amount of \$4,000. This is the same rate as was paid in 2017 and has been included in the 2018 Budget. Legislator Decker asked how much of the \$4,000 we used in 2017. Ms. Gasdik stated we used almost of all of it. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Havey, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Highland Park Rehabilitation Contract

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik requested permission to enter into a contract with Highland Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Center for skilled nursing respite care. The daily rate (24 hour stay) will be \$285 for a private room and \$275 for a semi-private room. This is a new contract and has been included in the 2018 Budget. Legislator Root asked if this is our first contract with Highland. Ms. Gasdik stated, yes, we have never had a contract like this before. Legislator Decker asked where the funding is coming from. Ms. Gasdik stated it is a grant from the NYS Department of Health. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Elderwood at Hornell, LLC Contract

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik requested permission to enter into a contract with Elderwood at Hornell, LLC for skilled nursing respite care. The daily rate for a 24-hour stay will be \$325 for a private room and \$265 for a semi-private room. These rates are an increase from the 2017 contract, which were \$255 and \$260 and have been included in the 2018 Budget. Legislator Decker commented that the private room rate increased significantly. Ms. Gasdik stated yes, and unless there is a behavioral issue, they do not place people in private rooms. Committee Chair Hopkins asked how often we use Elderwood and what kind of effect this will have on the budget. Ms. Gasdik stated they didn't use them a lot last year, but she would like to have the contract in place so their clients have options. Legislator Curran asked if there is a reason they haven't contracted with Manor Hills. Ms. Gasdik stated they do not want to contract with us because they feel if they promise a respite bed, they have to keep it open 24/7. Ms. Gasdik continued that she has tried to explain to them that if they do not have space available, Office for the Aging will move on and look elsewhere; however, they are still not willing to contract with us. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Stockin, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Grant explained the terms listed on her monthly report to the new legislators. Ms. Grant stated December 6 through December 8 they had a Trauma Assistance Therapy Train the Trainer Program come in. Their staff worked with Dr. Brown from NYU who stated Angela Tinder, who became a train the trainer, was one of the best he's ever seen. December 9 the staff was honored with a 25-year plaque for their assistance with the Shop-with-a-Cop Program. December 17 they hosted a Christmas party for the Highland Nursing Home that was very well attended and appreciated. On December 21, they had a Child Protective Ongoing Monitoring and Assessment and passed several areas at 100 percent. Ms. Grant congratulated her child protective staff for a job well done. Committee Chair Hopkins encouraged all members of the Legislature to spend time in each department to learn about what is happening in the County. Legislator Root asked if "Code Blue" is a program still in effect. Ms. Grant stated, yes, it is in effect year round. Any time temperatures drop to 32 degrees or colder, they must house anyone who does not have a place to go. Ms. Grant continued they have already paid for 140 nights for individuals who are ineligible, adding they keep track of those costs and will go back to the state for reimbursement. Committee Chair Hopkins asked where they house these individuals. Ms. Grant stated they send them to a hotel or motel. Legislator Root asked if these individuals seek us out. Ms. Grant stated most come to them for help; however, they do reach out to those they know are homeless and make sure they are okay. Legislator Decker asked if they receive any special rates with the hotels/motels. Ms. Grant stated, no, they do not contract and receive the regular rates.

Social Welfare Examiner

Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant requested permission to fill one full-time Social Welfare Examiner (AFSCME, Grade 11, Step: Base – Step 7) due to a promotion. This position is responsible for interviewing clients and determining eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits. The annual salary of this position is estimated between \$33,858 and \$41,152 with benefits estimated at 48 percent. This position is funded 21 percent with State funds, 52 percent with Federal funds, and 27 percent with County funds. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Board of Health Appointment

Chairman of the Board Curtis W. Crandall recommends that Legislator Judith D. Hopkins be appointed to fill the remainder of Kevin LaForge's six-year term, expiring July 7, 2019, as the Legislative Representative on the Board of Health. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Havey, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Community Services Board Appointments

The Community Services Board recommends that Janice L. Burdick be appointed to a four-year term commencing January 1, 2018, and expiring December 31, 2021. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Stockin, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Heroin & Opioid Ad Hoc Committee Update

Committee Chair Hopkins stated the next regular Ad Hoc meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers. They recently held the second of three events at Cuba-Rushford school that bring awareness to the community about the problems of heroin and opioid addiction in the County. These events feature *Voices of Allegany County* that was produced by BOCES in Allegany County as well as a panel discussion. They hope the third event will be held in the northern end of the County. Committee Chair Hopkins continued that the need continues to be great as we know two young women died in recent months due to overdose and encouraged any new legislators who would like to be involved join their sub-committees.

Good of the Order

Chairman Crandall recognized the members of the Human Services Committee, stating each member requested to be on the committee and commended them for wanting to be a part of a committee that deals with an extremely large portion of our budget as well as the many state mandates. Committee Chair Hopkins stated she has been a member of this committee for a couple of years, and all three departments that report have a lot to do with the quality of life and well-being of our residents, adding they work hard to comply with the mandates while also assisting in the quality of life so our residents can be contributing citizens.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Washer
Confidential Secretary to Clerk of the Board