

## **HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**May 1, 2019**

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

**Others Present:** T. Boyde, W. Dibble, D. Fanton, K. Francisco, M. Gasdik, V. Grant, K. Graves, D. Healy, G. James, C. Knapp, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, T. Shaw, M. Washer

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Human Services Committee Chair Judith Hopkins at 2:31 p.m.

### **Community Services Reports**

Dr. Robert Anderson distributed quarterly reports to the committee for review. Committee Chair Hopkins noted that they can be reviewed at their leisure and any questions can be directed to Dr. Anderson.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Havey, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried to approve the April 3, 2019, minutes.

A motion was made by Legislator Havey, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried to approve the April 17, 2019, minutes.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Environmental Health Director Tyler Shaw attended the meeting and submitted their monthly report to the committee for review.

### **Department Highlights**

Mr. Shaw stated they do not have any numbers yet for animal vaccines; however, they just finished their first rabies clinic and will have numbers to report next month.

### **Rabid Horses**

Legislator Burdick stated she recently spoke with a local veterinarian regarding the horses with rabies, and they were unaware of the occurrence. Legislator Burdick suggested that in those situations, all local vets should be notified.

### **Retail Marijuana Webinar**

Mr. Shaw stated there will be a retail marijuana webinar held on Friday, May 10, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the conference room located on the third floor. Those who wish to attend should contact Ms. Ballengee.

### **Tick Kits**

Mr. Shaw distributed tick kits to those in attendance stating they will also be handed out at the County Fair and as other giveaways.

## **OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review.

### **Senior Forum**

Ms. Gasdik reminded the Board of the following dates for the Senior Forum:

- Friday, May 3, at the Wellsville American Legion
- Friday, May 10, at the Houghton Wesleyan Church

Ms. Gasdik thanked all who plan to attend the forums, stating there are approximately 60 attending the Wellsville forum, and they hope to get 30 at Houghton.

### **Tax Assistance Program**

Ms. Gasdik stated they had two IRS reviews; one at the Crossroads location, and one at the Bolivar Luncheon Center. They received a 100 percent score, and not one tax return was rejected. Production was up over 22 percent, and Ms. Gasdik commended Karen Chamberlain who does a wonderful job with the program. Committee Chair Hopkins noted what a valuable service our volunteers are providing to County residents.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review.

### **Office Highlights**

Ms. Grant briefly highlighted the following department successes:

- Social Services was asked by the Office of Temporary Disability Assistance to review a training regarding trauma informed care eligibility that will be rolled out to the State. Staff members Julie Tomasi, Angela Tinder, and Mindy Herman were selected to review the training.
- The department has been giving presentations at the Hope Center regarding child protective and trauma informed care.
- They have initiated an Allegany County Trauma Informed Care Committee that has had great attendance.
- The New York Public Welfare Association asked the department to present again on trauma informed care at the July conference.
- Ms. Grant was invited to be a part of the NYC Trauma Informed Care Legislative Coalition, and she as well as a member of the WNY Institute of Trauma Informed Care will present at their next meeting.
- The department received State recognition from the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) for their Child and Family Services Plan. The work between Social Services and Probation was also acknowledged as exemplary.

### **Ground Floor Renovation**

Committee Chair Hopkins asked if staff is preparing for the upcoming move once the Ground Floor Renovation is complete. Ms. Grant stated they have begun moving people in waves. Committee Chair Hopkins indicated that she has seen the floor plan for the new offices and thinks

it will be a great improvement in terms of accessibility. Ms. Grant stated it will significantly impact both the staff and clientele, and they are looking forward to how it will turn out.

### **Summer Youth Employment Program Contract**

Ms. Grant requested a resolution approving the 2019 contract with Allegany County Employment & Training Center for the Summer Youth Employment Program and for the Department of Social Services Commissioner to be authorized to execute the same. Ms. Grant noted that funds are allotted and reimbursed by the State, and there is no cost to the County. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Stockin, and carried.

### **Request to Fill Support Investigator Position**

Ms. Grant requested permission to fill one full-time Support Investigator (AFSCME, Grade 15, Step: Base – Step 7) contingent permanent due to a medical leave. This position is located in the Support Collection Unit and assists with paternity establishment, child support order establishment, enforcement, and collection. The annual salary of this position is estimated between \$38,360 and \$47,793 with benefits estimated at 42.75 percent. This position is funded 66 percent with Federal funds, and 34 percent with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Safety Net (SN) collections. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Havey, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

### **Allegany Cattaraugus Chautauqua County Regional CFRT Agreement**

The Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua Regional Child Fatality Review Team requested permission to continue participation from several Allegany County Departments, including, but not limited to, the Health Department, Social Services, County Attorney, and District Attorney's Office. Their mission is to promote child safety and prevent child fatalities. Their purpose is to prevent future deaths and promote child safety through thorough, comprehensive, multidisciplinary examination of the cause, manner, and circumstances of a child's death in Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties. Legislator Decker asked if each county has staff dedicated to investigating the deaths. Ms. Grant stated if it is a child protective case yes; however, there can be deaths not related to child protection cases, and it is a part of their regular job for those who investigate them. Legislator Decker then asked if our County staff is traveling for any of these investigations. Ms. Grant stated, no, they only travel for committee meetings and always try to meet half way. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried.

### **Municipal Opioid Cost Recovery and Public Nuisance Legislation**

County Attorney Carissa Knapp distributed a Local Law declaring the opioid epidemic and its effects on Allegany County a public nuisance and further establishing a cost recovery procedure for the County's expenditures incurred in providing services related to the opioid epidemic. Attorney Knapp stated that every county involved in the opioid litigation have passed this same local law, adding that it is necessary for us to pass it as well in order to pursue a financial recovery. Legislator Fanton stated there is a firm in Rochester, NY, that was involved with supplying these pills and asked if the settlement they are making will be a part of the same pot the County is going after. Attorney Knapp indicated it potentially could, and she continues to work with our outside counsel to ensure they are moving quickly to get us where we need to be to make sure we are a part of it. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Havey, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Washer  
Confidential Secretary to Clerk of the Board