

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING****May 2, 2018**ALLEGANY COUNTY  
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

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

**Others Present:** R. Anderson, L. Ballengee, T. Boyde, B. Budinger, P. Curran, W. Dibble, D. Fanton, M. Gasdik, V. Grant, K. Graves, B. Harris, D. Healy, C. Jones, C. Kelley, C. Knapp, W. Penman, T. Power, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, T. Ross, T. Shaw, J. Tomasi, 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 2:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the April 4, 2018, meeting were approved on a motion by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Stockin, and carried.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Ballengee gave a brief overview of her monthly report stating that Emergency Preparedness is doing great with getting deliverables done, and the Alfred Clinic has gotten so busy that a lot of people are coming to the Wellsville and Belmont clinics. Legislator Burdick asked if the colleges provide anything for their students. Director of Patient Services Laurie Hennessy stated every college handles it differently, and they have a good partnership with Alfred State because they can see the students that the college can't as well as see some of the general population. Legislator Healy asked if all SUNY colleges are different. Mrs. Hennessy stated she is unsure as she has only had experience with the SUNY college in our County. Legislator Decker asked if the increase seen at the clinics is due to drugs. Ms. Ballengee stated there have been several deaths in the last few months that were under the age of 30; however, they are unaware of what drugs were overdosed on. Ms. Ballengee stated they received notification that they will no longer be receiving Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) funds for their programs. Currently there are nine programs that receive COLA funds, and she anticipates a hit of \$55,000. Ms. Ballengee noted that fortunately, COLA funds were never included in her budget so they will be okay; however, they have been a nice addition to the programs. Ms. Ballengee stated their mandated drill by the State of Emergency Preparedness went very well. The drill was for a Hepatitis A outbreak which is typically food borne. Ms. Ballengee recognized her staff stating, because of them, they were successful in meeting their thresholds. Ms. Ballengee thanked all of the County employees who came through as patients, noting they only needed 94 but had 103. Ms. Ballengee also recognized Chairman Crandall, Legislator Stockin, County Administrator Timothy Boyde, Sheriff Whitney, Public Works Deputy Superintendent Dean Scholes, Emergency Services Clerk Bonnie VanHousen, as well as Emergency Management and Fire Director Jeff Luckey thanking them for attending, and the help they contributed to the drill. Chairman Crandall stated the "hot wash" after the drill provided good feedback and constructive remarks. Legislator Stockin stated it was very well done, and he was very impressed.

**Cattaraugus Community Action Program Sublease**

Ms. Ballengee requested a resolution approving the sublease of office space for the Cattaraugus Community Action Program (CCAP) at the Allegany County Department of Health Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) Office effective June 1, 2018, through September 30, 2020. It is approximately 137 square feet of the 4,000 square feet of space at 112 Park Avenue in

downtown Wellsville. The rent amount is \$350 per month that the Cattaraugus Community Action Program will pay WIC for the term of the lease. This lease has been reviewed and approved by the County Administrator, the Acting County Attorney, and Cattaraugus Community Action Program's legal division. The landlord's attorney has also approved the lease and has agreed to allow the Allegany County Department of Health WIC Program to retain all proceeds from this agreement, as it will help save money in an already tight budget for WIC. Legislator Harris asked what the Cattaraugus Community Action Program does. Ms. Ballengee stated they are a nonprofit program that provides health services in Allegany County. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **The ACME Building of Western NY, LLC Building Lease**

Ms. Ballengee requested a resolution accepting a new building lease between The Acme Building of Western New York, LLC and the Allegany County Department of Health for the Cancer Services Program of Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties (CSPACC) office located at 24 Water Street, Suite 201, Cuba, NY 14727. The new lease beginning June 1, 2018, and running through September 30, 2018 (the last four months of the Cancer Services Program grant) increases the monthly rent by 3 percent from \$541.50 to \$557.75 from the previous lease which ends May 31, 2018. The four month rent amount will total \$2231. This is a monthly amount of \$557.75 with all electrical, gas, and cleaning charges included in the monthly payment. Legislator Decker noted that even though we are getting out of the lease in September, they still want the increased rate. Legislator Hopkins asked if there is any choice in the matter. Ms. Ballengee stated, no, she has no choice because she has nowhere else to move them. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **NMS Labs Agreement**

Ms. Ballengee requested a resolution to enter into agreement with NMS Labs out of Willow Grove, PA. Ms. Ballengee stated she received a letter from the Monroe County Medical Examiner (MCME) Office indicating that due to "extremely high volumes of cases for both forensic pathology and toxicology services," MCME will no longer be bundling the lab/toxicology fees and are requiring the County to contract directly with the lab as of May 1, 2018. The Monroe County Medical Examiner Office did indicate that the fee they charge for an autopsy will decrease by \$375. Legislator Decker asked if we will get billed separately or is payment required at the time of service. Ms. Ballengee stated they will pay one fee to Monroe County to cover the autopsy and will receive an additional bill from NMS to pay for lab fees if the body requires toxicology. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Request to Create Water Lab**

Ms. Ballengee requested permission to create a Water Lab (Allegany County Community Environmental Laboratory or ACCEL) once the department moves to the fourth floor. The need for this has been apparent for the last several years. The Health Department would begin by testing sanitary survey samples for bacteria that need to be done when any property transfers ownership and is not on a public water supply. Currently, these samples can take weeks before results are produced, and the Health Department projects that they can provide results in two to three days. Ms. Ballengee indicated that their office fields several calls, sometimes daily, from realtors, attorneys, and property owners because they are waiting for these results in order to move forward with the sale and/or transfer of property. These services will not require any additional staff, and Ms. Ballengee has included the minimal equipment needed in her 2018 Budget. The space for the lab has already been created on the fourth floor, and they have the necessary qualified staff and will be able to meet all other mandates to become a Certified Lab. Ms. Ballengee continued that while the revenue stream, estimated at \$6,000 per year, will not be

significant for the sanitary survey samples, it will produce a very short turnaround time for the results which does provide a very valuable service to County residents. Once successful, the Health Department hopes to branch out to other types of water testing for different groups of the County population. Legislator Decker asked if there is room for expansion on the fourth floor. Ms. Ballengee stated the space they have designated for the water lab is more than what they need. Legislator Decker asked if there is an estimate on cost to fund another employee. Ms. Ballengee stated if they just keep the lab to sanitary loan surveys, they will not need to hire an additional employee; however, should they expand, she will come back to the committee first to discuss it. Legislator Root noted the only other two water labs are located in Cattaraugus County and Wayland, so there is no competition within Allegany County. Legislator Healy stated he disagrees that water testing is what holds up property transfers, adding its typically lawyers holding things up. Legislator Healy does not see a need for this service and has concerns with the liability it could potentially bring to the County. Legislator Stockin stated he is in favor of this, and if we were to expand in the future, it will save substantial amounts of money for municipal water systems. Legislator Healy noted that if the intention is to eventually handle all municipal water, then he agrees with Legislator Stockin. Legislator Harris asked what the cost will be for equipment. Ms. Ballengee stated they anticipate \$5,000 which has been included in the budget. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Stockin, and carried.

#### **Prepare Resolution**

#### **Cattaraugus County Department of Health Nurse Practitioner Contract**

Ms. Ballengee stated that the Health Department Nurse Practitioner has indicated that she plans to move from a full-time to part-time employee in mid-June. She will continue to perform all of the Employment & Training summer youth employment, Jobtrak, new employee and Department of Transportation physicals, as well as assist with sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment when needed. She will work no more than five days per month, and the work she performs will bring in revenue for the department while offering a significant savings to Employment & Training as well as Workers' Compensation as we charge significantly less for physicals than a physician's office does. Ms. Ballengee continued that they have not been successful in recruiting a full-time Nurse Practitioner; however, they need to continue providing reproductive health services, some of which are mandated. Ms. Ballengee requested approval to contract with Cattaraugus County Department of Health one day per week for a Nurse Practitioner to work in our Reproductive Health Program. This contract has been reviewed by the Allegany and Cattaraugus County Attorneys and has also been approved through committee in Cattaraugus County. Ms. Ballengee would like the contract to commence June 1, 2018, to allow the contracted Nurse Practitioner to have two days to orient with our current Nurse Practitioner. This contracted employee will also perform billable services that will generate revenue for the department, and these duties are also 100 percent Article 6 reimbursable. Legislator Decker asked where the funds are coming from to pay this contract. Ms. Ballengee stated she is using funds out of the salary that is not currently being used due to the unfilled Nurse Practitioner position. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

#### **Preschool Contracts**

Ms. Ballengee requested approval of agreements with approved providers of programs for the Center Based Special Education and Special Education Itinerant Services (SEIS) of preschool children as deemed necessary by their home school district's committee on Preschool Special Education for a period of September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2019. These services are also reflected in the child's Individualized Education Plan and provided through contracts with New York State Department of Education approved providers.

<b><u>Center based Contracts</u></b>	<b><u>SEIS Contracts</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES</li> <li>• Pathways</li> <li>• Kid Start</li> </ul>	Friendship Central School District

Allegany County is required to provide these preschool special education services, and New York State sets the rate paid for these services which can vary per provider. Allegany County bills Medicaid, and any unfunded expense is then reimbursed by the state at a rate of 59.5 percent of the cost of service. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Medical/Clinical Services Overview**

Director of Patient Services Laurie Hennessy gave an overview of the medical and clinical services that are offered through the Health Department. Mrs. Hennessy stated she always enjoys talking about their programs and what they have to offer to our County residents, adding that all programs are direct care with a component of outreach and education as well as environmental health. Mrs. Hennessy briefly discussed the following programs:

#### **Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**

This program is offered for children ages 0 to 6, pregnant women, immigrants, as well as anyone interested in knowing more about lead.

#### **Sexual Health Program**

The Sexual Health Program includes family planning and offers the following:

- Cancer Services
- Contraception
- Education
- Emergency Contraception/Plan B
- HIV/HCV Testing
- Immunizations
- Pap Clinics
- Physicals
- Pregnancy Testing
- STD Testing and Treatment
- Women's Wellness (Annual) Exams

#### **Immunization Program**

The immunization program is offered for ages birth to anyone who wishes to continue being immunized. Mrs. Hennessy noted their Perinatal Hepatitis B Program where they work with hospitals to make sure babies get their birth dose of Hepatitis B which helps prevent transmission from the mom to the baby.

## **Clinical Disease Surveillance**

Mrs. Hennessy noted that this is an important program that takes up a significant amount of time. There are 77 reportable diseases in New York State, and when anything hits the reportable level, an electronic notification is sent to the County. They will then begin investigating to see if it's something they need to worry about or just begin collecting data on.

## **Tuberculosis (TB) Program**

Mrs. Hennessy stated they see people with latent TB infections, which means they have been exposed but are not actively ill and cannot transmit it. While not often, they also see active TB patients which requires them to follow a number of public health laws and regulations to make sure they cannot infect anyone else.

Anyone who would like more information on programs offered can call 585-268-9250 or visit <https://www.alleganyco.com/departments/health>. Mrs. Hennessy introduced new Director of Patient Services Chris Kelley, stating she is doing great and is thankful to have had this training period to allow for a smooth transition. Committee Chairman Hopkins thanked Mrs. Hennessy for her many years of service, expertise, and effort given to the County.

## **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 acknowledged the 24 new Home Delivered Meal clients on her report, noting they are keeping an eye on the number to make sure they remain within funding. Ms. Gasdik stated the Tax Counseling Program had a very successful year, and she will have final numbers at next month's meeting. Ms. Gasdik reminded the committee of the upcoming Public Hearing and Senior Forum that will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2018, at the Houghton Wesleyan Church and Thursday, May 24, 2018, at the Wellsville American Legion. Attendance is down, which is to be expected when a location is changed, and Ms. Gasdik would appreciate anyone that can attend.

## **Eden Heights of Olean Contract**

Ms. Gasdik requested permission to enter into a contract with Eden Heights of Olean for skilled nursing respite care for the EISEP, III-E, and ADCSI grants. The daily rate for a 24-hour stay will be \$241 for a memory room, and \$175 for a wellness room, and this expense has been included in the 2018 Budget. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

## **Total Senior Care of Olean Contract**

Ms. Gasdik requested permission to enter into contract with Total Senior Care of Olean to offer home delivered meals and congregate meals to their clients at the following rates:

- Total Senior Care will be billed \$8 per meal for home delivered meals
- Total Senior Care will be billed \$10 per meal for congregate meals

This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Request to Fill (2) Aging Services Technician Positions**

Ms. Gasdik requested permission to fill a full-time Aging Services Technician (AFSCME, Grade 13, Step: 2) position. This position is responsible for direct client contact that provides assistance accessing information and programs to assist the elderly and their families, including HEAP, housing assistance, home repairs, meals-on-wheels, and insurance counseling. This position also performs in-home assessments to determine needs and eligibility for various programs, maintains case records, and speaks to groups concerning aging issues and programs that assist the elderly and their families. The annual salary for this position is \$36,378, with benefits estimated at \$17,270. This position is funded 100 percent with State funds. Ms. Gasdik noted the importance of these positions to allow her department to stay within the 10-day requirement of performing in-home assessments for new clients. Legislator Decker asked if we receive a penalty if we exceed the 10 days. Ms. Gasdik stated they would get a mark on their annual audit which is not horrible; however, if they continue to be late, there is potential that the state could withhold funding. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Ms. Gasdik requested permission to fill a second full-time Aging Services Technician (AFSCME, Grade 13, Step: 1) position. This position is responsible for direct client contact that provides assistance accessing information and programs to assist the elderly and their families, including HEAP, housing assistance, home repairs, meals-on-wheels, and insurance counseling. This position also performs in-home assessments to determine needs and eligibility for various programs, maintains case records, and speaks to groups concerning aging issues and programs that assist the elderly and their families. The annual salary for this position is \$35,320 with benefits estimated at \$16,766. This position is funded 26 percent with County funds, 43 percent with State funds, 15 percent with Federal funds, and 16 percent with participant contributions and other donations. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

### **Request to Create and Fill Accountant Position**

Ms. Gasdik requested permission to create and fill one full-time Accountant (PEF, Grade 7, Step: Base – Step 4) position effective June 18, 2018, through July 27, 2018. This position is to allow overlap for training for this crucial position as the current Accountant has given an unofficial retirement at the end of July. This position is an essential part of the Office for the Aging and is responsible for all financial aspects of the department which includes 17 grants with five different fiscal years, budgeting, projecting, vouchering, payroll, accounts payable, and the Annual Implementation Plan. The annual salary of this position is \$42,816 with benefits estimated at \$20,324. This position is funded 40 percent with County funds, 45 percent with State funds, 13 percent with Federal funds, and 2 percent “other.” This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution to create the position and refer to Ways and Means to fill**

### **Treahy Consultation Services Agreement**

County Administrator Timothy Boyde requested a resolution to enter into agreement with Treahy Consultation Services, LLC, effective May 1, 2018, for an amount not to exceed \$100,000. Mr. Boyde stated a number of counties have come together to collectively and collaboratively establish a residential treatment facility or housing unit for youth offenders. Treahy Consultation Services, LLC, will develop the framework of how this will be delivered as well as siting for housing options. Mr. Boyde noted that this service is to be covered 100 percent under the Raise the Age legislation. Legislator Harris asked if they will also investigate the benefits of a consolidated facility versus an individual facility. Mr. Boyde stated the expectations that have been outlined will require a facility that can house a number of individuals as opposed to one or two. If the County were to

do this ourselves, we could be looking at a substantial cost per offender. Committee Chair Hopkins asked if the age of offenders will require a separate housing unit within our Jail. Mr. Boyde stated that youthful offenders will no longer be allowed in our Jail or on the grounds of the facility. Mr. Boyde continued that there are placement options in Monroe and Erie counties; however, they anticipate their numbers will exceed what they can handle themselves. Legislator Decker asked if there is any way to project how many people we might have based on incidences that have occurred. Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant stated the State has given each county approximate numbers; however, a lot of counties are disagreeing with them. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Decker, 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 stated TANF numbers continue to be down, and she hopes it means people are working. Ms. Grant noted that during the month of March, her staff participated in child abuse prevention activities. Ms. Grant recognized Child Protective Services Senior Case Worker Andrew Fancher for receiving the District Attorney's Crime Victim Advocacy Award has been renamed the Lori Borden Child Protective Services Award in honor of Ms. Borden who passed away last year. Ms. Grant invited the Human Services Committee to attend a Safety and Security Training put on by Sandy King that will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on Thursday, May 17, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Request to Fill Social Welfare Examiner Position**

Ms. Grant requested permission to fill one full-time Social Welfare Examiner (AFSCME, Grade 11, Step: Base – Step 7) and all subsequent positions that may become vacant as a result of filling from within. This position is responsible for interviewing clients and determining eligibility for 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 38 percent with County funds, 10 percent with State funds, and 52 percent with Federal funds. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

### **Presentation of Unit Information**

Adoption Services Director Tom Power attended the meeting to provide a brief overview of the Foster Care Unit. Mr. Power stated May is Foster Care Awareness Month, and compared to last year, we are down 5 percent in number of children that are in foster care. Ninety percent of children in foster care are due to neglect by the parents, and there has been an uptick in Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS). Mr. Power continued that there is a lot of complexity when it comes to the cases they deal with, specifically substance abuse, noting that heroin and opioids are the underlying factor when they deal with substance abuse cases. Other major issues they see is the mental health of the parents (i.e. mood disorders, bipolar, depression) that affects their ability to care for their children. Mr. Power continued that making sure these parents get the appropriate treatment is vital, and in a rural county our resources are limited. Mr. Power noted the Access Allegany System allows a lot of individuals to reach resources that otherwise may not be available to them. Mr. Power stated a big part of foster care awareness is recognizing the foster care parents and what they are stepping up and doing for these children. Currently, there are 23 sets of foster parents, 10 of which are relative foster parents. Mr. Power continued that while caseworkers are the ones who on a daily basis work with court systems, the logistics of visits, etc., foster parents are the ones on the frontlines, and they don't receive nearly what they should to be caring for the children. Mr. Power noted the common phrase "people are in it for the money" stating it couldn't be further from the truth as foster parents are in it for the welfare of the children,

not the money. Mr. Power acknowledged his eight caseworkers who do an excellent job and always make sure the needs of the kids are met. Committee Chair Hopkins stated this field of work is one with many unsung heroes, including the foster parents, and the committee appreciates their work.

### **Mental Health Month**

Dr. Robert Anderson announced that May is Mental Health Month stating it is difficult to find child psychologists in metropolitan areas let alone an area as rural as Allegany County, so we are fortunate for the individuals we do have in our agencies focusing on mental health. Dr. Anderson will have privilege of the floor at the May 14 Board meeting where he will discuss Mental Health Month in more detail.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried to enter into Executive Session at 3:18 p.m. to discuss a potential contract. Immediately following discussion at 3:42 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried to end the discussion and return to the regular meeting.

### **Heroin & Opioid Ad Hoc Transition Plan**

A motion was made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Burdick, and carried to approve the Allegany County Heroin & Opioid Ad Hoc Transition Implementation Plan as outlined.

### **Refer to Ways and Means**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Washer  
Confidential Secretary to Clerk of the Board