

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 8:36 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
Ms. Mickelle Andrews	Director of Administrative Services (DSS)
Ms. Heather Vroman	Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services (PH)

Guests: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Legislative Chair
Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney
Ms. Liz Myers	Deputy Commissioner (DSS)
Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the October 3, 2023 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Monell. Seconded by Legislator Brown. Motion Carried.

**MENTAL HYGIENE**

1. Financial

- Mr. Chris Korba noted that the 2023 budget expenses are under budget due to vacancies & fringe savings. Both Expenses and Revenues are below target due to vacancies. At this time, MH has received one invoice for 2 individuals in Court Ordered Criminal Psychiatric Care for September of \$72,294. Mental Hygiene is preparing for these individuals to be inpatient through the end of this year. MH had budgeted \$198,000 for this line in 2023. Mental Hygiene has determined the amount of additional funding needed for these already incurred mandated expenses within its own budget. There is a resolution to transfer these funds.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – See above.

3. New Business

- Waverly location – Ms. Morgan noted that she & Gary Hammond have received an estimate that was higher than expected. Mr. Hammond wants to put out to bid.
- Mobile Crisis State Aid Funding – Ms. Morgan noted that \$150,000 has already been received for this program. This will be used to purchase one vehicle and

fund two staff members. Ms. Morgan will submit her plan to the state for approval. The plan will include possibly working with law enforcement.

- She noted also that MH now has 3 cars. They have received the two OASAS cars and Mr. Hammond approved them keeping the one car they already had.

#### 4. Personnel

- Laura Solomon, LCSW-R, starting 11/20/23
- Christine Robinson resigning effective 11/17/23

#### 5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to continue

- Authorize Appointment of Mental Hygiene Compliance Officer
- Authorize Contract with Fairview Recovery Services (Contractual Staffing)
- Authorize Contract with Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES to Administer Prevention Services
- Authorize Contract with AspireHopeNY, Inc to Administer Parent Support Services
- Authorize Contract with Trinity to Administer Prevention & Jail Services
- Authorize Contract with RSS, Inc. to Administer several programs
- Transfer of Funds, Budget Modification (Criminal Psych Services)
- Transfer of Fund, Budget Modification (OASAS State Aid)
- Authorize Application to the NYS Office of Mental Health Community Mental Health Loan Repayment Program (This is a student loan repayment program for qualified MH employees)

#### 6. Proclamations

- None

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

#### 1. Financial

- Mr. Denis McCann reported that the 2023 Public Health budget continues to track well, and he expects to have a return at the end of the year. On the preschool side of the budget, which is running over budget, he stated that the Public Health side will offset some costs of the preschool program and will have a resolution in December for the remaining needs from other County funds. They are still expecting two quarters of State Aid, as is typical with the reimbursement model. More money for the preschool program has been budgeted for 2024.

#### 2. Old Business

- None

#### 3. New Business

- Agency Report for October 2023 forwarded to committee.
- Remote Work Update: Ms. Vroman reported that 21 employees (all FT eligible staff) have been approved for remote work. Not all are working remote every week. The supervisors continue to monitor with the remote work logs (now electronic at Public Health). It is going very well, and she thanked the Legislature for extending the policy for another year.

- Ms. Vroman shared that staff from NYSDOH-Communicable Disease came for a meet & greet with our staff to build back relationships and provide valuable information.
  - Ms. Vroman noted that they celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tioga Smiles Program.
4. Personnel
    - Steven Mastro, resigned as Temporary Public Health Educator; hired as Public Health Fellow effective 10/2/23
  5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to continue
    - Amend Budget and Appropriation Funds (Wellhead Protection)
    - Amend Budget and Transfer Funds (Preschool)
    - Reappoint Member to the Tioga County Board of Health (T. Nytch, DVM)
    - Amend 2023 Budget and Transfer Funds (Capital Account)
    - Unfund (1) Full-Time Confidential Assistant, Create, Fill & Appoint (1) Full-Time Assistant Director of Administrative Services (J. Davis)
  6. Proclamations
    - None

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

1. Financial
  - Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that all programs are on track to meet budget for 2023. Day Care is running high, and she may have to appropriate funds. Foster Care and Safety Net are not over budget.
2. Old Business
  - None.
3. New Business
  - Caseloads
    - During October, Cash Assistance decreased 17 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 8 cases and Safety Net decreasing 9 cases.
    - MA-Only decreased 16 cases.
    - MA-SSI decreased 12 cases.
    - Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 56 cases to 3,427.
    - SNAP decreased 31 cases.
    - Day Care decreased 5 cases.
    - See Caseload Summary
  - There have been increases in Child Welfare reports & Foster Care. We are mandated to try to do a family FC placement.
  - Tioga Career Center report is attached. The unemployment rate in Tioga County continues to remain below the state & federal levels.

#### 4. Personnel Changes

- Elizabeth Myers promoted to Deputy Commissioner effective 10/2/23
- Penny Walker, hired as HEAP Seasonal OS1, effective 10/10/23
- Jason Stevens, hired as Support Investigator, effective 10/10/23
- Randi Brewer-Haskins, hired as Community Services Worker in Services, effective 10/10/23
- Ashton Lewis, hired as Caseworker, effective 10/10/23
- Stacy Bell, SWE (Services), resigned effective 10/20/23
- Emily Watkins, AAll at SCU, resigned effective 10/20/23
- Alycia Anthony, SWE, hired effective 10/23/23
- Shelby Frink, hired as HEAP Seasonal OS1, effective 10/23/23
- Samantha Allen, hired as HEAP Seasonal OS1, effective 10/23/23
- Kimberly Bailey Poreda promoted to Case Supervisor Grade B effective 10/23/23

#### 5. Resolutions

- None

#### 6. Proclamations

- Adoption Awareness Month (repeat)

Committee Chair Standinger asked about the homeless in Tioga County. Commissioner Yetter confirmed there are limited resources, but DSS usually uses the Deep Well and Quality Inn (former Treadway). Anyone that DSS finds temporary housing for must come into DSS the next day and fill out the 18-page application from the state. We are usually successful in moving them into permanent housing. Commissioner Yetter explained that Code Blue is a State mandate that when the temperatures hit 32 degrees or lower, DSS is required to find temporary housing.

#### **ADJOURNED:**

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gail V. Perdue*

Executive Secretary, Social Services