

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 8:30 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
Mr. Tracy Monell	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. Heather Vroman	Interim Public Health Director

Guests: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Legislative Chair
Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney {Arrived 8:35 am}
Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk
Ms. Mickelle Andrews	DSS Accounting Supervisor

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the February 7, 2023 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Mullen. Seconded by Legislator Brown. Motion Carried.

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial
 - Mr. Chris Korba noted that there are some additional transactions/adjustments by the Treasurer's office on the 2022 budget, however internal tracking is showing a return of \$572,000. Contributing to that amount was \$152,000 in COVID funding and only spending \$95,000 of the \$200,000 budgeted amount for Criminal Psychiatric expenses. 2023 is tracking well and regular revenue is steady.
2. Old Business
 - Criminal Psych – No new orders to report. There has been an increase in requests for competency evaluations. All have been deemed competent to stand trial so far this year.
 - Opiate Settlement Abatement – TCMH will receive \$150,000 for 2022 and \$150,000 for 2023. There are more lawsuits to come. A plan for the funding will be developed in the next few weeks.
3. New Business
 - None.

4. Personnel
 - Robin Carroll, LMSW, rescinded interest.
 - There are currently 4 vacancies in the department.
5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to continue.
 - Authorize Grant Application to Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Grant for \$125,000 per year.
 - Authorize Execution of Cooperative Agreements Between the Law Department, ITCS, Sheriff, DSS, Public Health, and Mental Hygiene.
6. Proclamations
 - None.

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial
 - Mr. Gary Grant shared that the Treasurer's office continues to work on closing out 2022. Internal tracking shows a return of \$1.5 million. Some of the savings from weekly shares, Safety Net \$338,000 under budget and payroll \$350,000 under budget. There is nothing unexpected so far in the 2023 budget. There are additional COVID reductions on Medicaid for the rest of the year but don't know when we will receive those reimbursements.
2. Old Business
 - None.
3. New Business
 - Caseloads
 - During February, Cash Assistance increased 4 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 3 cases and Safety Net decreasing 1 case.
 - MA-Only increased 33 cases.
 - MA-SSI increased 6 cases.
 - Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 38 cases to 3,851.
 - SNAP increased 40 cases.
 - Day Care increased 8 cases.
 - See Caseload Summary and Charts.
 - Tioga Career Center report is attached. Unemployment continues to remain below the state and national levels. A successful Job Fair was held at Waverly school. Over 200 attended with 105 employers.
4. Personnel Changes
 - Marley Norton, promoted to Sr. Caseworker effective 2/13/23.
 - Elios Pierre, Caseworker, last day effective 2/24/23.
 - Ashley Wright, OS1, last day effective 2/24/23.
 - Nancy Leonard, Seasonal HEAP OS1, last day effective 2/24/23.
 - Jennifer Park, Caseworker, hired effective 2/27/23.

- Lorine Heveland, AAll, hired effective 2/27/23.
 - Andrea Gleason, promoted to Sr. Caseworker effective 2/27/23.
 - There are 8 vacancies in the Child Welfare Division.
 - Commissioner Yetter reported that he received 16 requests for remote work. DSS is working with Jeremy, ITCS Director, on the requests.
5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to continue.
- Authorize Salary Above CSEA Base. (Jennifer Park)
 - Approve Funding – 2023 Youth Bureau Program Funding. (Additional sports funding)
 - Amend 2022 Budget and Transfer Funds for Employment Fund.
 - Authorize Execution of Cooperative Agreements Between the Law Department, ITCS, Sheriff, DSS, Public Health, and Mental Hygiene.
6. Proclamations
- None.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
- Ms. Heather Vroman noted that the Treasurer's office continues to make adjustments to 2022 in both expenses and revenues. The return is \$634,000 after \$450,000 was sent to the Treasurer's office for the Community College shortfall. There is nothing unexpected in the 2023 budget.
2. Old Business
- None.
3. New Business
- Agency Report for February 2023 forwarded to committee.
 - Annual Report was distributed. Contact Ms. Vroman for more reports.
 - There has been an increase in referrals to Early Intervention and Pre-school services. Due to the shortage of providers, the waiting list continues to grow. When parents complain about the lack of providers, they are referred to the Bureau of Early Intervention Health for NYS.
 - SPHWF Award – This award was \$531,000 for five years. PH will be developing a plan for this award and a future resolution will be coming to appropriate the funds.
4. Personnel
- None.
5. Resolutions
- Extension of ELC COVID Enhanced Detection Grant.
 - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds. (Creating Healthy Schools & Communities)

- Authorization to Abolish One Vacant Communication e-Services Coordinator Position, Create and Fill One Director of Patient Services Position. This will better serve the needs of the department for supervision and nursing recruiting.8
- Authorize Execution of Cooperative Agreements Between the Law Department, ITCS, Sheriff, DSS, Public Health, and Mental Hygiene.

6. Proclamations

- Public Health Week – April 3-9, 2023 (repeat). Ms. Vroman noted that Public Health will be doing a series of things to promote PH in April.

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 8:53 AM.

Legislator Standinger motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:54 AM, seconded by Legislator Monell to discuss an employment matter. Chair Sauerbrey, Legislative Clerk, County Attorney, and Interim Public Health Director remained in attendance.

Interim Public Health Director departed at 9:05 AM.

Legislator Monell motioned to adjourn Executive Session at 9:08 AM, seconded by Legislator Mullen.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services