

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

September 2, 2015

NOT APPROVED

Committee Members Present: K. LaForge, D. Pullen, S. Burt, D. Decker, C. Jessup, T. O'Grady, C. Crandall

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, B. Budinger, D. Fanton, M. Gasdik, V. Grant, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Miner, B. Riehle, R. Scott

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Human Services Committee Chairman Kevin LaForge.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Decker seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried to approve the Human Services Committee minutes of August 5, 2015.

Health Department

Director Lori Ballengee stated to save the date for the Board of Health holiday meeting on December 16, 2015. The menu with prices will be distributed at a future meeting.

Chairman Crandall asked about the Emergency Preparedness Drill held on August 14, 2015. Ms. Ballengee stated 167 people attended. She also reported it was a successful event. There were a few minor suggestions such as improving the technology. The netbooks could not handle the volume and Ms. Ballengee will work with the IT Department to work on that issue.

WIC Lease Renewal

Ms. Ballengee stated The WIC/Cancer Services Programs building lease is up for renewal on October 10, 2015. The rent amount is the same as the previous year at \$2,100 per month, plus utilities. The only change to the lease is the addition of a 90-day out written notification by either party clause, listed at #10 in the lease.

Legislator Pullen asked about the unexplained increase in utilities at the building. Ms. Ballengee stated it is only the electric that has increased. She also stated it is still unclear why the electric is significantly higher than previous years. The landlord, National Grid, and staff from the County, have all investigated and can't figure out the cause. Legislator O'Grady asked if the 90-day out written notification goes both ways. Ms. Ballengee stated yes. Legislator Jessup asked if this is also the building that has had issues with water running down the walls. Ms. Ballengee stated yes, but the installation of the heaters on roof has helped and it doesn't seem to be a problem anymore. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator O'Grady, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Flu Clinic Schedule

Ms. Ballengee shared the dates for the influenza clinics for the 2015-2016 season. Ms. Ballengee stated they recommend people call before the clinics because the Health Department has had trouble getting the vaccine. She also noted there are two days scheduled for County employees to receive their flu shot.

Transfer of Family Planning Fees (A4035.409) to Office Equipment (A4035.201)

<u>From Account No.</u>	<u>To Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A4035.409 Fees	A4035.201 Office Equipment	\$971
	Total	<u>\$971</u>

Ms. Ballengee requested to move monies from the Family Planning Program Fees account (A4035.409) to the Office Equipment (A4035.201) account. The additional funding will be used for the purchase of three ScanShell card scanners which are required for the eClinicalWorks Electronic Medical Records System.

Legislator Decker asked what the impact is to family planning. Ms. Ballengee stated family planning will not be affected. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Transfer General Fund-Regular Pay (A4010.101) to General Supplies (A4010.408) 20150811

<u>From Account No.</u>	<u>To Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A4010.101 Regular Pay	A4010.408 General Supplies	\$22,177
	Total	<u>\$22,177</u>

Ms. Ballengee requested to move monies from the Health Department General Fund Salaries account (A4010.101) to the Health General Fund General Supplies (A4010.408) account. The additional funding will be used for the purchase of supplies and vaccine which will result in both additional Health Department service revenues and Article 6 funding from the State.

The availability of 2015 budgeted salaries is the result of the EI Service Coordinator position remaining vacant from January 1 through July 6, 2015. Additionally, the new position was filled with a part-time employee at 21 hours per week versus 28 hours per week for the previous employee.

Legislator Burt asked why the purchase of vaccines wasn't already budgeted for 2015. Ms. Ballengee stated it was originally in the budget at \$70,000; however, the County Administrator Mitch Alger had cut the budget to \$40,000. Ms. Ballengee also stated the flu clinics will generate revenue because the County can charge an administrative fee. Approval

was granted on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

Prepare Resolution

Grant Opportunity

Ms. Ballengee and the committee discussed the possibility of applying for a grant which would allow the Health Department to become nationally accredited. The maximum award is \$15,000. The grant will not cover all of the costs to become accredited, only \$7,500. Furthermore, funds would have to be secured in the future to be reaccredited. Ms. Ballengee stated only three health departments in the state are accredited. Livingston County is the closest and Cattaraugus County is currently going through the process. New York State does not require the Health Department to be accredited, but strongly encourages it.

Legislator O'Grady understands the amount of labor and resources it takes to be accredited. He questioned whether it is worth it. Legislator Graves asked if it would help with insurance rating. Legislator O'Grady stated it may, but the County may pay more in personnel costs. Ms. Ballengee stated she currently does not have an employee to work on this process. Legislator LaForge asked if the certification strengthens the County's ability to share services with other counties in the future. Ms. Ballengee stated no. Legislator Graves and Legislator Pullen asked if there are any hidden benefits. Ms. Ballengee stated the only benefit she has identified is that it forces the Department to look at their policies and procedures. Legislator Burt stated he doesn't see the value or benefits from being accredited, so he won't vote for or support the application of the grant. Legislator Decker stated he is not in favor unless the County was forced to do it. Legislator O'Grady stated he would support Ms. Ballengee if she wanted to apply. Legislator LaForge stated there is not a consensus of support now, but if Ms. Ballengee can find a compelling reason to apply, then it can come before the committee again.

Cooling Stations

Ms. Ballengee discussed cooling stations because of the recent outbreak of Legionnaires Disease. Governor Cuomo has created a law where health departments are responsible for registering and monitoring cooling towers. Based on a conference call Ms. Ballengee participated in, the Health Department can set permit fees. The Health Department is currently investigating how many there are and contacting the owners. Based on the findings, a fee may or may not be set. If the process is labor intensive and there are numerous cooling towers, the Health Department may set a fee.

Department of Social Services

Legislator LaForge thanked Commissioner Vicki Grant for the lunch on the lawn a few weeks ago.

Ms. Grant stated last month was Child Support Awareness Month. The Child Support Unit did an outreach at the farmer's market that was successful and helpful. Ms. Grant wanted to thank Don Horan, Sharon Wallace and Angie Freeman for assisting in securing the non-custodial parent grant. Ms. Grant stated New York State increased the support establishment rate at about 90 percent, this month it is 90.5 percent.

Ms. Grant stated she wanted to talk about the safety of Department of Social Services workers. Recently, a Vermont child welfare worker was killed and a New Jersey worker was stabbed. There are trainings and process and procedures in place, but Ms. Grant will want to continue to examine how to keep her workers safe.

Monthly Report

Legislator O'Grady asked about the number of referrals because of criminal action and if there was a particular reason they were a little high this month. Ms. Grant stated no. Legislator LaForge commented the Medicaid numbers were holding steady. Ms. Grant stated they had decreased slightly. Legislator Decker asked about food stamps decreasing by about 400 from July of 2014. Ms. Grant stated it is a cyclical issue.

Permission to Abolish One Social Welfare Examiner Position and One Accountant Position

Ms. Grant requested permission to abolish one Social Welfare Examiner position and one Accountant position. Due to efficiencies in the Department at this time, the positions are no longer needed. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request Permission to Fill a Senior Case Manager Position

Ms. Grant requested permission to fill a Senior Case Manager (AFSCME, Grade 17) position. This position is the result of a retirement. This position is responsible for determining eligibility for day care assistance and authorizing benefits to day care providers, assisting those with emergency needs and those claiming homelessness. This position is 80 percent funded by state and federal funds. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Office for the Aging

Monthly Report

Director Madeline Gasdik highlighted the waiting list for the Personal Emergency Response (MercyLine). Although the Office for the Aging received a \$15,000 grant from United Way to help with the Personal Emergency Response, there is still a waiting list. Ms. Gasdik is looking for other grants to cover those expenses. Ms. Gasdik also noted the waiting list for EISEP (personal care/chore). They are trying to fill hours and spots.

Legislator Pullen noted telephone calls to the front desk have increased. Ms. Gasdik stated the office is getting ready for their busy season with insurance counseling and Home Energy Assistance Program. Individuals are already calling for appointments.

Ms. Gasdik presented the new brochure for the Office of Aging's program services. The brochures used to be professionally done, but it is less expensive to print and change information when needed by doing it within the department. Legislator Burt suggested using a heavier stock paper or colored paper to make the brochure stand out. Ms. Gasdik stated the previous evidence based program; Growing Stronger is no longer considered an evidence based program. As a result, Powerful Tools for Caregivers will be the evidence based program.

It will start on September 17 and will meet every Thursday evening until October 22, 2015. Ms. Gasdik stated only three people have signed up.

Ms. Gasdik also stated Office for the Aging partnered with Ardent Solutions to offer a program on August 28, 2015, on how to prepare for retirement. Ms. Gasdik reported no one signed up. Legislator Pullen suggested participation may be low because so many agencies offer programs and people are overwhelmed and overloaded. Ms. Gasdik responded the Department provides many programs, but individuals are busy and it is hard to find time to attend. Legislator Burt stated many individuals find information on the internet as well. Ms. Gasdik stated she has partnered with the Alzheimer's Association from Western New York to answer questions from 1-2 p.m. on October 27 and from 2-3 p.m. for center managers, volunteers, and paid drivers. Additionally, Ms. Gasdik stated they have lost four center manager attendees and will be offering grief counseling with Catholic Charities at the end of September.

Ms. Gasdik stated the Department will have its annual state evaluation on Thursday, September 3, and Friday, September 4. She is very comfortable with the evaluation this year and doesn't anticipate any problems. She also received an email stating a person stopped by the New York State Office for the Aging booth at the New York State Fair. The person stated how they appreciated the Office for the Aging in Allegany County.

Ms. Gasdik reported she will be on vacation from Monday, September 7, until Tuesday, September 15. She is available by cell phone and will miss the Board meeting on September 14.

New Business

Ms. Ballengee stated Senator Cathy Young is coming on Thursday, September 3 for a press conference awarding \$50,000 to Cancer Services. Everyone is invited for the 11 a.m. press conference. Lunch will be held right after the press conference in the Health Department conference room.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Scott, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators