

Health & Social Services Committee Minutes  
January 9, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Dick Lucia; Supervisors Vince DeLucia, Tara Gaston, Todd Kusnierz, Sandra Winney, Tom Wood and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health; Cathy Duncan, Public Health; Tina Potter, Social Services.

Chairman Lucia called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Lucia announced the appointment of Mr. Wood as the Committee Vice-Chair.

**A motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Wood, to authorize an agreement with Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc. to administer six (6) supported housing beds and associated services in the amount of \$125,923 and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mr. Prezioso said that Rehabilitation Support Services provide residential and care management services in several counties. They offer the opportunity not just to offer residential services but enhances services to people who are largely coming out of State Psychiatric hospital, those with a higher level of need. Mr. Prezioso said that his concern is that as the State reduces its footprint and state beds, the County will see an increase in the level of people with higher impairment in the community and a structure needs to be in place to address their needs. RSS is an addition to what is currently in existence, Transitional Services are also a current provider. Reimbursement funds from the State are available for the 6 beds, unused current funds will also be reallocated to help support RSS with an additional staff person who will be able to provide care management support.

**A motion was made by Ms. Winney, seconded by Mr. Kusnierz, to authorize an amendment to the agreement with Transitional Services Association, Inc. in the amount of \$13,000 to supplement salary and fringe benefits for a Community Mental Health Nurse. Unanimous.**

Mr. Prezioso said that registered nurse services are provided on site to the Children's program. The amount that is being subsidized to TSA for the registered nurse is not near current competitive rates. This reallocation of funds will bring the salary and related benefits in line with what is competitive. Mr. Hellwig said that here is no change in cost to the County.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, to authorize a Professional Services Agreement, effective 2/1/18 through 2/1/21 with a 2-year renewal option, with Genoa Healthcare, LLC to facilitate delivery of onsite pharmaceutical services to Mental Health Center patients. Unanimous.**

Mr. Prezioso said that there are a lot of benefits to this item, medication administration and adherence to a prescribed medication regimen tends to keep the mental health population the most stable over the longest period of time. Genoa will sublease 310 square feet of space from the Mental Health facility. Patients will not be required to use the pharmacy, but it will provide a choice for patients.

Mr. Prezioso gave an update regarding opioid training and trends. In addition to the services provided by the Mental Health Clinic which include a full range of addiction related services, both individual and group, the Clinic partners closely with SPARK which provides intensive treatment. The department collaborates with Saratoga Hospital which opened an addictions medicine program recently and provide Medication Assisted Treatment which provides medications to those with an opioid addiction to block the receptors that provide the gratification that goes along with taking an opioid. The clinic also has staff deployed daily to the Jail and they can supply vivitrol to those willing and who are getting ready to be released, which also acts to block the receptors and lasts for approximately one month.

The Mental Health Department has been engaged as a department in a number of forums. One forum was recently held at the Burnt Hills High school with Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh, Sheriff and representatives from the DEA similar to the forum that is coming up shortly in Mechanicville. The Department is working with OASAS on a Centers for Treatment Innovation project who have hired people who have lived with addictions doing outreach and telemedicine, and identifying those in the community who may not be able to get to treatment.

Mr. Kinowski said that he attended a meeting today regarding the upcoming program at the Mechanicville school district. It's an ongoing effort to address the opiate issue in the county. The event will be held on February 5 at the Mechanicville High School. Mr. Kinowski said that once finalized, he will forward the event details to the Supervisors. Mr. Prezioso said that first responders and law enforcement are being supplied with Narcan kits, the rescue kits, he is working with OASAS and they have a grant which Mr. Prezioso can facilitate with.

Ms. Gaston said that she took the Narcan training, it took around an hour and she would advocate that all supervisors undergo the training.

**A motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Kusnierz, to authorize an amendment to the 2018 budget to reappropriate unspent grant funds for Lead, IAP, CSHCN and Rabies Programs in the Public Health Services Department in the amount of \$7,885.13. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Duncan said that they have until March 31, 2018 to spend the funds and will do so on items such as additional lead awareness pamphlets, payment of a refrigerator/freezer for vaccines and parent stipends for early intervention coordinating care meetings.

Mrs. Duncan distributed copies of the 2016-2018 Saratoga County Community Health Improvement Plan Update Report. In 2016 a community health assessment was done for the entire county looking at all of the different areas that have public health issues. When the data was reviewed, it was decided that Public Health focus on mental health and substance abuse. Mrs. Duncan said that they also looked at suicide prevention. The report will be uploaded to the NYS Department of Health website and Saratoga County Public Health webpage. The report outlines the targeted areas, how they stand, what has been accomplished so far and the progress

made. Mrs. Duncan said that they also targeted neonatal abstinence syndrome which happens when a baby is exposed to drugs in the womb before birth. They are involved with a coalition in Glens Falls and this spring are planning a panel presentation to educate OBGYN practices and Pediatricians to be aware of the issue.

Mrs. Duncan said that they continue to work on Pre-Diabetes. It's a chronic disease that leads to several other co-morbidities and increases the rate of hospitalization. They are working with partners at Saratoga Hospital, Cornell Co-operative extension, nutritionalist and dieticians in the area to bring programs forward.

Mr. Kinowski read an invitation from Assemblywoman Mary-Beth Walsh to a roundtable in the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 2pm. The initiative is called "ThinkDIFFERENTLY Campaign" and aims to foster a more inclusive community for our neighbors with special needs. Mr. Kinowski said that he will have the invitations forwarded via email to all Supervisors.

Ms. Gaston said that Mr. Finocchi from Code Blue has requested to come before the committee to discuss homelessness in Saratoga County.

Mr. Lucia said that this is a new committee which incorporates public health and social services. Mr. Lucia introduced Tina Potter, Commissioner of Social Services. Mrs. Potter distributed a handout to the new members identifying the programs from her Department as well as contact information.

**On a motion made by Mr. Kusnierz, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board