

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

Present: Chairman Dick Lucia; Supervisors Vince DeLucia, Tara Gaston, Todd Kusnierz, Tom Richardson, Sandra Winney and Tom Wood; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Tina Potter, Marissa Alber, Social Services; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction; Cathi Duncan, Public Health; Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the minutes of the March 12, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Kusnierz, to proclaim May as Older American's Month in Saratoga County. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Cross said that the Federal Government and New York State also proclaim May as Older American's Month. The Annual Senior Picnic will be coming up soon and invitations will be sent out to all Supervisors.

**A motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Wood, to authorize acceptance of a grant from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance in the amount of \$163,479.50 to comply with rules and regulations regarding the provision to provide shelter to the homeless during inclement winter weather, authorizing a contract with Shelters of Saratoga in the amount of \$149,679.50 to administer the program, and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Potter said that inclement winter weather is defined by air temperatures at or below 32 degrees. Mrs. Potter said that the plan submitted New York State received approval on March 19, 2018. Mrs. Potter said that remaining funds of \$13,800 will be retained by the Department of Social Services for overflow shelter expenses, transportation, and DSS staffing for time spent above and beyond normal hours on Code Blue issues. The funds are 100% State. Ms. Gaston requested a copy of the plan that was approved by NYS.

**A motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Ms. Gaston, to proclaim May as Mental Health Month in Saratoga County. Unanimous.**

Mr. Prezioso said that this will help the department to raise awareness and sensitize the community to the fact that these issues exist.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Kusnierz, to authorize a reappropriation of unspent grant funds in the amount of \$27,280 from the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services and amending the 2018 budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mr. Prezioso said that there is no budget impact as these items are 100% state aid. The funds will be spent on components related to the new electronic health record.

**A motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Ms. Winney, to authorize the acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$567,635 and a 5-year agreement with New York State Department of Health for the Immunization Action Plan with Saratoga County Public Health Services for the period from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Duncan said that the funds will help support the department in reducing and eradicating vaccine preventable diseases in adults and children.

Mrs. Duncan distributed a handout and brochure and gave a brief update on Harmful Algae Blooms. Mrs. Duncan said that HABs can exist in any body of water and are high concentrations of algae that produce dangerous toxins that can be harmful to humans and animals. They can close economically important beaches and fisheries and can threaten drinking water supplies. The issue has grown within NYS in the past five years. Mrs. Duncan recently attended a summit, one of four regional meetings held throughout NYS, which was held to educate the stakeholders on strategies to combat the HABs. Mrs. Duncan said that brochures on HABs can be ordered. Mrs. Duncan said that the environmental district office will respond to reported HAB's and the DEC will work closely with citizen statewide lake assessment programs, a lake monitoring and education program that is managed through the DEC and NYS Federation of Lake Associations. The Saratoga County lakes that have citizen statewide lake assessment programs are Ballston Lake, Galway Lake, Hunt Lake, Genee Lake and Saratoga Lake. Mrs. Duncan said that they will be putting information on their website, Facebook page and will provide brochures at the County Fair and other events.

Mrs. Duncan said that an emergency preparedness event was held on April 3, 2018 at the Maple Avenue Middle School. The drill was for a Hepatitis A outbreak and the goal was to take in 450 people in two hours. They succeeded in immunizing 348 people with only 10 nurses. Mrs. Duncan thanked all of the staff and volunteers for the work done. Over half of the Public Health staff were involved, volunteer medical staff and approximately 20 RSVP volunteers who rotated for the two hours to simulate a large number of patients. NYS DOH attended and will provide an evaluation of the drill.

**On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wood, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board