

Health & Social Services Committee Minutes  
February 6, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Dick Lucia; Committee Members Tara Gaston, Darren O'Connor, Jon Schopf and Tom Wood; Supervisor Phil Barret and Chairman of the Board Kevin Tollisen; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction; Catherine Duncan, Public Health; Frank McClement, Veterans; Steve Bayle, Probation; Tina Potter, Social Services.

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

Mr. Tollisen distributed a handout and gave a brief overview of the Year of the Senior Celebration. Mr. Tollisen said that the celebration has been set for Wednesday, June 26 from 11am – 3pm at the Canfield Casino and Congress Park in Saratoga Springs. A save the date will be sent out to all of the Senior Centers in the County. Input from the entire Board of Supervisors is welcome.

The celebration will take place both inside and outside the Canfield Casino. Mrs. Cross said that the Georgie Wonders Band has been booked, they are a 16-piece big band. Mr. Tollisen said that they are planning an informal carnival theme outside and food stations selection inside. North East Dining and Lodging has been chosen to provide the food for the event. Parking will be somewhat of an issue, however several seniors will come on buses. They are planning a small giveaway for the seniors, perhaps a reusable cup and straw that they can use both at the event and bring home for future use. Mr. Tollisen said they will be reaching out to Town Supervisors to recognize each senior group in their towns. Mr. Tollisen said that they are also looking to provide tables and booths to show the services available in the County for example, Veterans benefits, Social Services benefits. Mrs. Cross said that she will be reaching out to Department Heads to help volunteer during the celebration. Mr. Tollisen requested feedback from the Supervisors, all suggestions and recommendations can be sent to Therese Connolly.

**On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Schopf, the minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Ms. Gaston, to authorize renewal contracts with seven different homecare agencies to provide services for the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP) program. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Cross said that this is an annual item. The agencies provide personal care level 1 and level 2. There are no changes from last year, the cost is a flat rate of \$23/hour for all seven agencies.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Schopf, to authorize an amendment to Resolution 248 of 2018 to change the contract vendor name from Critical Signal Technologies to GTL, Inc. DBA Link to Life. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Cross said that this is a vendor name change only. The contract approved in 2018 was made with Critical Signal Technologies, which is the national name of the company. In New York State they do business as GTL, Inc. DBA Link to Life.

Mr. Prezioso said that he is working on a project with Veterans Services Director Frank McClement to provide a service to Veterans that currently does not exist in the County or the State. The service is an integrated 100-day transformation plan, working with Veterans on two components. One is primarily health related, physical training, nutrition consultation, functional movement assessment. The other is working with personal development, coping skills, decision making, focus, breathing etc. They have a venue in Clifton Park and with the support of the Peer to Peer program will be able to pilot this initiative. Mr. McClement said that they will not only be working on the individual but also working as a group. Mr. McClement said that they have received a lot of positive feedback from those that they have already reached out to.

Mr. Hellwig said that Mr. Prezioso is making a personal commitment, spending time on weekends and on his free time with these individuals and believes this will be a successful endeavor.

Mr. Prezioso said that another department initiative, collaborated with Public Health, is the Suicide Prevention Coalition. One of the members of the Community Services Board is a nationally known scholar currently employed as a research psychologist at the Austen Riggs Hospital in Stockbridge MA. They specialize in cutting edge treatment for those with profound personality disorders. They are engaged in research to assess the impact of interactions over the course of a persons' day on a persons' tendency to engage in suicidal thinking. There is an opportunity for Saratoga County to collaborate with Austen Riggs, Saratoga patients can voluntarily participate in the program. The opportunity will allow the Department to contribute to the body of knowledge and see if the results can be translated into concrete clinical practice that benefit those served.

**A motion was made by Ms. Gaston, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to amend Resolution #31-2018 to revise the sublease rent schedule with Genoa Healthcare, LLC to reflect all necessary State and local municipal approvals and permits needed prior to permitted use. Unanimous.**

Mr. Prezioso said that they have been working with Genoa to have a pharmacy located on site. They amendment will reflect a new start date and also an increased size.

**A motion was made by Ms. Gaston, seconded by Mr. Schopf, to authorize the acceptance of a performance incentive award for Legionella from the New York State Department of Health in the amount of \$2,600 and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Duncan said that this is a year 6 incentive award. The funds will be spent on a new scanner and hands free headsets, all support their Article 6 eligible services.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Gaston, to authorize the Saratoga County Public Health Services Department to act as fiduciary for the Saratoga County Suicide Prevention Coalition, accept a grant in the amount of \$12,670 from the Suicide Prevention Center NYS, and amend the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Wood said that this is a three year grant. The budget amendment in 2019 will be in the amount of \$4,120 and the remaining two years can be included in the annual budget. The funds will be spent on attendance to the annual Suicide Prevention Conference, which is grant stipulated. They are also considering video production and social media releases to help reduce the stigma of suicide and increase awareness on help available.

Mr. Lucia said that they have looked into the need for public transportation to the new public safety building when the Departments are moved into the new facility. Ms. Gaston had requested that a sub-committee be set up, however at this point Mr. Lucia believes a sub-committee is not needed. Mr. Hellwig said that they talked to the Department Heads in Public Health and Probation and neither department has indicated any significant client use of public transportation. Additionally, CDTA last year had operating costs of approximately \$98M with operating revenues of only \$23M. One of the metrics used by CDTA when considering changes to create or revise routes is a productivity threshold formula and at this point, Mr. Hellwig believes that formula would not result in CDTA providing a new route. Mr. Hellwig said that one client area they have thought about is for racetrack personnel, and in this instance, the clinics they attend, such as TB Clinics, can be offered onsite at the racetrack. Mr. Hellwig said that the building will not be open until 2020 and they can always take another look at this in the future. Mr. Hellwig said that the Public Health Department has been keeping track of those who use public transportation and the number is approximately 5% of the total walk in business. Ms. Gaston said that she has been approached by residents in the City of Saratoga Springs and also outside the City, concerned about transportation once the Public Health Department is moved out of the City. Ms. Gaston said that in discussions with CDTA, they informed her that in order to make a change, it would take them approximately a year to 14 months and recommended starting the process of looking at it to determine whether a change was appropriate once a need for a new route was verifiable. Ms. Gaston said that she has identified analysts in public health and public transportation sectors who are willing to assist.

Mrs. Duncan said that for the past year they have tracked the transportation method of all participants in clinics in the electronic medical system except TB clinics. This year they will include TB clinics in their tracking. Mr. Bayle said that those sentenced to probation currently have an opportunity to discuss with their attorney whether they have transportation barriers that would affect their successful completion of the probation. Mr. Bayle said that his department does not have a lot of people that depend on public transportation at this time. Mr. Bayle said that he had a discussion regarding public transportation with the architect of the Public Safety facility in 2017 and at that time canvassed his department supervisors and have since then kept an eye on it. They anticipated an increase in need when the satellite office in Saratoga Springs was displaced due to the fire in City Hall. Satellite offices were moved to Schuylerville, Greenfield and Wilton. Others came to the Ballston Spa office and he has not had any violations of probation as a result of not having public transportation. Probation officers are sent to the satellite offices and they also have officers that go into the field and visit people in their homes. Supervisor O'Connor said that they can continue to track and monitor the situation to see if the need arises. Mr. Lucia thanked all for their research and work on this.

Mr. Barret said that a few years ago, he and other Supervisors were approached by therapists regarding the Saratoga County rates for pediatric occupational and physical therapies, and that the rate was much lower than other counties in the Capital region. At that time the rates were raised. Mr. Barret said that he has recently been approached again, and that the rates have again fallen behind. The concerns expressed by the therapists include if the rate differential is too great, the children may have difficulty getting services. Mr. Barret said that he has already spoken with Chairman Tollisen, Supervisor Lucia and Wes Carr. Mr. Carr is researching the issue. Mr. Barret said that the rates are set by the Board. He will be following up with Mr. Carr and will provide an

update next month. Mr. Hellwig said that the rates are currently set, and the earliest a change can be implemented is July of this year.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board