

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

Present: Vice Chairman Tom Wood; Committee Members Tara Gaston, Darren O'Connor, Dan Pemrick, Jon Schopf; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction; Catherine Duncan, Public Health; Tina Potter, Social Services.

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

On a motion made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Schopf, the minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to authorize 2020 subcontracts for the Office for the Aging. Unanimous.

Ms. Cross distributed a list of the contracts being approved. Ms. Cross said that they are the same as last year except Lena's Adult Day care. Last year there were two adult day cares but one closed therefore Lena's as increased. Additionally the legal agreement is out to bid and will be brought forward at the December meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to approve the 4-year service plan for the Office of the Aging. Unanimous.

Ms. Cross said that a 4 year service plan is required by NYS every 4 years. Annual updates are provided in the in-between years. Ms. Cross said that there are six designated State goals within the service plan.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Schopf, to authorize Community Mental Health renewal contracts for 2020. Unanimous.

Mr. Prezioso said that this is an annual item. The contract amounts are consistent with 2020 county budget allocations and existing state aid, to be amended with any changes in state aid.

A motion was made by Ms. Gaston, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to approve the Office of Mental Health State Aide Supported Housing Bed increase. Unanimous.

Mr. Prezioso said that there are 57 supported housing beds operated between the transitional services association and rehabilitation support services. The total increase is \$8,550 which reflects an increase of \$200 per bed effective 4/1/2019. There is no net cost to the county as it is all state aid.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Schopf, to authorize an amendment to the software license agreement with Complia Health to increase license and hosting fees. Unanimous.

Mrs. Duncan said that this is a housekeeping item. The agreement runs from 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020. This is for the cloud storage of the medical records from the old EMR system. The cost is \$524.90 per month which reflects an increase of 3% from last year. Ms. Gaston inquired how long these records need to be maintained. Ms. Duncan said that there are some children's records in there and they need to be 21 before they can be filtered out. Ms. Duncan said that it was more costly to transfer the records than to pay for cloud storage.

A motion was made by Ms. Gaston, seconded by Mr. Schopf, to authorize the acceptance of \$5,000 from Saratoga Hospital to facilitate baby cafes in Saratoga County and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mrs. Duncan said that they will be accepting \$5K in 2019 and an additional \$5K in 2020. Saratoga Hospital and Saratoga County Public Health have recently written their combined Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) 2019-2021 cycle which identified obesity as one priority area for the county. The goal is to improve breastfeeding rates and encourage longer lengths of breastfeeding. Establishing a Saratoga County Baby Café will provide an evidence-based intervention that provides certified lactation consultants who offer lactation advice and social support to breastfeeding mothers. Mrs. Duncan said that at this point in time, the initiative will begin in Corinth twice a month.

Mrs. Duncan said that a copy of the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement plan was previously emailed to all committee members. The plan was created in collaboration with Saratoga Hospital and will be submitted to the State. The two areas of need that were identified were obesity prevention and substance use disorder prevention. One particular area in need was Corinth. Saratoga Hospital has identified that ER visits from residents in the Corinth area has increased by 75%. Mrs. Duncan said that they are working in collaboration with Saratoga Hospital to focus on this area for services.

Mrs. Duncan distributed a handout from the New York State Association of County Health Officials regarding e-cigarettes and vaping which was presented to the Senate Standing Committees on Consumer Protection, Health and Education. The legal age to purchase tobacco products was raised to 21 on July 16th but does not take effect until November 13th. On September 17th, NYS became the first state in the nation to implement emergency orders banning the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes and nicotine e-liquids for 90 days. Ms. Duncan said they are currently up to 1605 cases of e-cigarette or vaping product use associated lung injuries reported to the CDC in 49 states. Furthermore, 34 deaths have been confirmed in 24 states, none in NYS. There are currently approximately 55-90 cases of lung injury in NYS. County Health Officials strongly support the Governor's recent directive requiring sales sites to post signage alerting consumers of the health risks associated with the use of vaping products as well as the proposed ban on the sale of flavored e-cigarettes and nicotine liquids. They are encouraging the Governor to include mint and menthol to the ban. Mrs. Duncan said that THC oil has been contributing to the deaths. Mrs. Duncan also said that all public health directors and commissioners are not in favor of legalizing marijuana.

Mrs. Potter gave a brief overview of the 2019/2020 home energy assistance program. This will open next week on November 12 and will remain open until March 16, 2020. Regular benefits amounts are similar to last year. Oil & propane \$675, wood & pellets \$525 and electric heat \$350. Income guidelines did increase slightly, for example a family of 4 can have a gross monthly income of \$4,797. Households already receiving temporary assistance or the food stamp program will automatically get a HEAP grant. Early applications for elderly or disabled adults already went out. An informational letter with all details was put in each of the Supervisor's mailboxes. Last year they processed a little under \$6.2M in benefits for approximately 13K households.

Mr. Hellwig gave a brief update regarding Code Blue. They have had ongoing discussions with representatives from the City of Saratoga Springs and Code Blue. A plan was put together a week or so ago relative to the roles of the County, City, Shelters of Saratoga, Saratoga Hospital and City of Saratoga Springs Police Department. There was a code blue in effect last Friday. A decision was made to open up the County Fire Training Center as a location for code blue to address the needs until the new location in Saratoga Springs is available for occupancy, which is expected to happen the first week of December. A van was leased by the County for the month to help transport individuals from the City to the Fire Training Center. Ms. Gaston thanked Mr. Hellwig for leasing the van and requested that she be updated on developments regarding Code Blue.

On a motion made by Ms. Gaston, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board