

Health & Social Services Committee Minutes
March 4, 2020 – 2:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Dick Lucia; Committee Members Eric Connolly, Todd Kusnierz, Darren O'Connor, Sandra Winney, Tom Wood; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Ed Kinowski, Bill Peck, Mo Wright and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Cathi Duncan, Public Health; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction; Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Winney, the minutes of the February 5, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize an amendment to Resolution 234 of 2019 to increase funding reimbursement to the Mechanicville Area Community Services Center from \$20,000 to \$42,000. Unanimous.

Ms. Cross said that this will allow for the expansion and enhancement of services and programs for Seniors aged 60 and older in the City of Mechanicville. Ms. Cross said she is working with Supervisor Richardson, the Mechanicville Area Community Center and the Mechanicville Senior Center as Mechanicville continues to have food insecurity issues with Seniors. Mr. Lucia confirmed that the additional funding is pass through funding from the State.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Kusnierz, to authorize renewal contracts with five different homecare agencies to provide services for the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP) program. Unanimous.

Ms. Cross said that this is an annual housekeeping item.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to proclaim April 2020 as "Donate Life Month" in Saratoga County. Unanimous.

Mr. Hayner distributed a handout regarding Donate Life. Mr. Hayner said that this is the seventh year the County will be promoting Donate Life. Mr. Hayner said that last year their goal was to meet the national average of enrolled organ donors, Saratoga County has exceed the national average of 57.7% with 59.6% of Saratoga County eligible residents now enrolled in the NYS Donate Life Registry. The Donate Life flag will be flown for the month of April, County Clerk office staff will wear Donate Life pins and also display information on the televisions in DMV. Residents can sign up to be organ donors online or via the DMV.

Mrs. Duncan distributed a handout and gave an update regarding COVID-19. Information was also previously sent out to all Supervisors. Mrs. Duncan said that currently there are 6 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in NYS. There is currently no immediate risk for exposure to the virus but

the Public Health Department are preparing for an inevitable pandemic. Postponing travel to areas such as China, Iran, South Korea, Italy and Japan should be considered. More cases of COVID-19 are likely to be identified in the coming days and person to person spread will continue to occur. Widespread transmission would translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time. Schools, childcare centers, workplaces, and other places for mass gatherings may experience more absenteeism. Public health and healthcare systems may become overloaded with elevated rates of hospitalizations and deaths. Other critical infrastructure such as law enforcement, emergency medical services and transportation industry may also be affected. Health care providers and hospitals may become overwhelmed, and at this time there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medication approved to treat it. They are depending upon non pharmaceutical interventions. Good hygiene and respiratory etiquette must be practiced. Use hand sanitizers and good basic handwashing, stay at home when you are sick to not spread illness. All of these messages and more are available on the CDC and Public Health websites.

Saratoga County Public Health activated its Health Emergency Operations Center on January 24. Daily webinars and phone calls have taken place with the CDC and Department of Health. 13 individuals have been quarantined since January and all have been released since.

On February 11th all County partners were called together, Public Health, Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff, Hospital, Fire, Corrections and the County Attorney. They updated all departments, isolation and quarantine plans were explained and discussed. 911 received addresses for all individuals who were quarantined so that they would be aware if needed. Services needed for those individuals in quarantine were provided, such as grocery deliveries and doctor's appointments if necessary. No one is currently in quarantine. It is advisable for those who have traveled to high risk areas to self-report to the Public Health Department.

Mrs. Duncan said that they need to look at places that have large gatherings as they may need to be cancelled. Schools are looking into remote learning capabilities. Mrs. Duncan said that it is important for people to still get their flu shot if they have not already.

Mrs. Duncan said that they are contacting members from the County-wide Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Local Emergency Planning Committee to partner up for a larger meeting for community planning. A County department head meeting will be held next week, and cleaning of county buildings has been stepped up. A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 13, time, place and location to be determined. This informational meeting will be for County Supervisors, Town Health Officers and more. Invitations will be sent out once the location is determined. Mrs. Duncan said that they need to explore ways for people to work from home, consider locations for mass quarantines and the hospital may have to cancel elective surgeries and consider mandatory vaccinations for emergency management staff. Mrs. Duncan said that the highest risk population is ages 20 – elderly. It is more serious for those that have co-morbidities. Mrs. Duncan said that every health department is working on this, they have a pandemic plan in place which is also being updated.

Mr. Barrett said that is very important to keep the Supervisors in the loop so that information can be disseminated to residents. Mr. Barrett requested that planning meetings are open to Supervisors or a designee so that the Towns are prepared with the latest information. Mr. Barrett also suggested that a team be put together that includes some Supervisors, Public Health and Administration as a way to condense information flow within the County and help with the County and Municipalities in the event that policy decisions need to be made quickly. This would help the County Staff operation wise. Mr. Barrett said that Clifton Park will be setting up their own committee and that he will be contacting Mrs. Duncan about having a representative from Public Health as a member.

Mr. Kinowski confirmed with Mrs. Duncan that the Emergency Management Teams from the communities have been in contact with Public Health and information has been disseminated via the Office of Emergency Services and Public Health to the communities. Mr. Barrett clarified that policy decisions may need to be made for the County. Immediate decisions may need to be made regarding items such as whether County employees come to work, if extra building security is needed, if the County Board meeting will take place. Mr. Barrett said a series of quick decisions may have to be made that can't wait for a Board quorum. Mr. Barrett said that this would be for policy decisions that affect day to day operations and also dissemination of information to the press. Mr. Kusnierz supported Mr. Barrett's recommendation. Mr. Kusnierz said that they need to be proactive and ready to go at a moment's notice. Policy decisions would need to be made quickly and it would be nice to have a framework in place prior to that.

Mr. Peck said that as part of the rapid response team Mrs. Duncan is working close with Emergency Services. Mr. Peck requested that Mrs. Duncan also give a brief update at the upcoming Public Safety meeting later today. Information was also sent out in the Office of Emergency Services monthly newsletter. Mrs. Duncan said that the CDC is the best source for updated information.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board