

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Transcript

10/25/2021

SPEAKERS

Darren O'Connor, Phil Barrett, Sandra Winney, Joe Grasso, Sandi Cross, Eric Connolly, Daniel Kuhles, Michael Prezioso, Several Supervisors, Therese Connolly, Tom Wood

Darren O'Connor

Welcome, everybody to the committee meeting for Health and Human Services. Therese do we have attendance?

Therese Connolly

We do. We have a full committee except Supervisor Lant is excused.

Darren O'Connor

Do we have a motion to accept the minutes of September 29?

Tom Wood

So moved Supervisor Wood

Eric Connolly

Second Supervisor Connolly.

Darren O'Connor

Discussion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Darren O'Connor

Opposed, carried. Next item on the agenda is the Mental Health Services provider contracts. Dr. Prezioso.

Michael Prezioso

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got essentially a housekeeping resolution to speak with you about. This is the annual renewal of our contracts with our service providers. We'd like to call your attention to the fact that we did have one correction to make on the second page for Mechanicville Area Community Services Center, the total amount remains the same, but the correction involves the addition of the County portion of those funds. So in the original that you received, you'll see New York State OMH

13,506, that was broken out, New York State OMH 10,084, Saratoga County 3,422, the OASYS amount that you see there, 1,486, that remains the same. And again, this is essentially a housekeeping item. It's a renewal of annual contracts. The only other change I'd like to point out is after consultation with County Attorney Hartnett. We are moving from annual renewals to renewals once every three years on these contracts.

Darren O'Connor

Makes sense to me. Do we have motion for this resolution?

Sandra Winney

Supervisor Winney I'll make the motion.

Phil Barrett

Second.

Darren O'Connor

Have you got that Therese? Discussion, any questions for Dr. Prezioso? Comments? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Darren O'Connor

Opposed. carried. Next item on the agenda is OMH State aid for a cost of living. Dr. Prezioso? Is this \$213? Is that what this is?

Michael Prezioso

That's the one. Okay. Yeah, this is a cost-of-living increase. It is effective beginning of April this year through December of this year, the amount is \$213. And per past resolution when we receive an amount of this type that's less than 10% of contracted amounts, then it's customary, it's by resolution that this committee can accept those funds without having to take an entire resolution back to the entire Board.

Darren O'Connor

Sounds good to me. I don't think this is real controversial. Do we have a motion to pass that resolution?

Tom Wood

Supervisor Wood. I'll make it.

Eric Connolly

Second Supervisor Connolly.

Darren O'Connor

Discussion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Darren O'Connor

Opposed, carried. Thanks very much. Dr. Prezioso.

Michael Prezioso

Thank you.

Darren O'Connor

All right, we have a contract tracer agreement. Dr. Kuhles.

Daniel Kuhles

Good afternoon. This request is seems to be now standard for each of our contact tracers as we continue our program. This is for Shelby Farrelly, who is one of our best contact tracers and who is approaching the maximum amount under her current contract and we're requesting that it be modified to, or reauthorize for a major contract so that she can continue her work with us.

Darren O'Connor

Sounds good? Do we have a motion to approve that?

Joe Grasso

So moved.

Darren O'Connor

Discussion. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Darren O'Connor

Opposed? Carried.

Daniel Kuhles

Thank you.

Darren O'Connor

Thanks Dr. Kuhles. Next, Sandi, we have our Aging subcontracts for 2022.

Sandi Cross

Yes, so I'm requesting a housekeeping resolution also for our new going into 22 contracts. There was a list that was passed out to everyone requesting that the Chairman be authorized to sign contracts with the following vendors. And I will point out that there were a few increases. For our dietitian, we increased her \$7 an hour, she has not seen an increase in five years. And for greater Adirondack and

Wesley the rate per hour was went from \$24 to \$25 an hour. Everything else is the same except for Connect America. We had our PERS, the button that the seniors wear. We had, it was Best Buy and they got bought out by Comcast and we've had a horrible time with them. So we did find a new company that actually St. Peter's goes with in the region. It's called Connect America. So they'll be in place of the previous Personal Emergency Response provider we had.

Darren O'Connor

Got it. Thank you, Sandi. Do we have a motion for this resolution?

Sandra Winney

Supervisor Winney. I'll make the motion.

Darren O'Connor

Do we have a second?

Joe Grasso

I'll second it.

Darren O'Connor

Discussion or questions for Sandi?

Sandra Winney

I have one.

Darren O'Connor

Go ahead.

Sandra Winney

One question, Sandi had sent out for volunteers for delivering food. This has probably nothing to do with it. But how is she coming with that, is she getting any?

Sandi Cross

We are getting a great response. So yes, I would love to thank Christine Rush for all her help. But yes, our phone is ringing off the hook. So yeah, we're getting lots of volunteers. So yep we are very happy.

Sandra Winney

Thank you.

Darren O'Connor

Good question. Thank you. Okay, I think we have a motion in a second. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Darren O'Connor

Opposed? Carried. Other business. You know, all the Supervisors have been in constant communication with Dr. Kuhles about the status of the whole COVID thing. But, you know, this is always an appropriate time, if any Supervisors has questions for Dr. Kuhles, on how we're doing with COVID. In terms of the testing, the schools, the clinics, we're generally kept up to date on that as a regular matter. But since this is a Health Committee, I just wanted to open that up for any questions or comments from Dr. Kuhles or to Dr. Kuhles. How are we doing on the testing in the schools, I know they were having all kinds of problems, Doctor.

Daniel Kuhles

Thank you. They're coming along. Anytime you initiate a new program, there's sometimes bumps in the road, but the schools are doing a very good job. Many of them, some of them are already, all of them are testing the staff that are unvaccinated, which is the State mandate. And many of them are offering screening testing to students whose parents choose to opt in on that, more will be coming along in the next couple of weeks. And our department has also been offering testing for students to help out both the schools and the pediatric providers in the county.

Darren O'Connor

Sounds good. The clinics that we're providing, I noticed that we're still providing the vaccine in accordance with the first one that the people took in terms of the booster shot. Will that change for any of our clinics? Or is that the way we're doing it for the foreseeable future?

Daniel Kuhles

We have, we're working on a press release now. We'll be offering Moderna to anyone that's eligible. So there's now a mix and match. Residents should talk to their health care provider about which booster is best for them. But we'll be offering that Wednesday to individuals that are 65 and older, and qualify and then in the afternoon, that'll be for the balance of the day. And late on in the afternoon into the early evening, we'll be offering a special clinic for school teachers and staff that want to Moderna booster. We're doing everything we can to keep the schools as safe as possible.

Darren O'Connor

Thank you. Thanks very much. Any other questions for Dr. Kuhles?

Sandra Winney

Dr. Kuhles, this is Supervisor Winney. I'm just curious, is there a mandate for these pupils to get this vaccine from like 5 to 12? Is it mandated or not? For students to get it.

Daniel Kuhles

There's no mandate for a 5 to 11 year old, it's still in the process of receiving or attempting to receive an emergency use authorization. But at this time pending that there is no mandate in New York State for kids to receive a COVID vaccine for school entry.

Sandra Winney

Okay, how long do you think our children are going to have to be masked in school?

Daniel Kuhles

You know, it's hard to predict, what will happen with COVID. I'm hopeful that once we get through the 5 to 11 year old population, and then late winter, late year, December, late December, early January, I'm hopeful that either both Pfizer or Moderna vaccine will be approved for individuals six months and up. And I think once you start getting good coverage in that population, the exit strategy for many COVID related things becomes a key question. But as you know, the mask issue (inaudible) mandate comes from the Governor.

Sandra Winney

Thank you, Doctor.

Darren O'Connor

Thanks, Doctor. Any other questions for Dr. Kuhles? Any other business? Okay, do we have a motion to adjourn?

Eric Connolly

So moved.

Sandra Winney

I'll second.

Darren O'Connor

Do we have a second? Discussion. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Darren O'Connor

Opposed. Carried, thanks very much, everybody.