

Health & Human Services Committee Minutes  
February 2, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Phil Barrett; Committee Members C. Eric Butler, Eric Connolly, Diana Edwards, John Lant, Tom Wood; Supervisor Bill Peck; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, Michelle Granger, Nicholas Martin, County Attorney; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction; Tina Potter, Pat Maxwell, Department of Social Services; Daniel Kuhles, Public Health; Mike McEvoy, Emergency Services; Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Butler, the minutes of the November 22, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Barrett announced the appointment of Mr. Schopf as Committee Vice Chair .

**A motion was made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize an amendment to the agreement with Rise Housing and Support Services Inc to supplement the salary and benefits of an Intake/Crisis Response Specialist (ICRS). Unanimous.**

Dr. Prezioso said that Intake/Crisis Response Specialist essentially deals with people who are in crisis via phone or walk ins, conducts initial assessments on clients' mental status, and identifies needs and makes connections with service providers. This incentive is in the interest of retention and potentially future recruitment. There is no budget impact as it will only involve a re-application of State aid.

**A motion was made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize amendments to Mental Health Contracts to include increases in State funding and amending the 2022 County budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Dr. Prezioso said that the funding in the amount of \$500 will be used to purchase secure lock boxes for medication storage.

**A motion was made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize the reappropriation of a \$1,200 donation from Metabolic Fitness of Clifton Park for Saratoga County Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Suicide Prevention Coalition of Saratoga County and amending the 2022 County budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Dr. Prezioso said that a Suicide Prevention Coalition event scheduled for 2021 had to be rescheduled for 2022. Funds will be carried forward from 2021 for use in 2022.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize the acceptance of Workforce Development Grants from the New York State Office of Mental Health and the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports. Unanimous.**

Dr. Prezioso said that this is specifically designed for workforce retention and recruitment and workforce stabilization funds. This would apply to all staff as of December 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 and each will receive equal amounts. Dr. Prezioso thanked Human Resources and the Union for their help in bringing this together. An MOU was signed in support of this bonus. Mr. Bulger thanked everyone involved for their help on this.

**A motion was made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize the acceptance of additional federal funding through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block grant in the amount of \$25,991 and amending the 2022 budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Dr. Prezioso said that the funds will be spend on supplies within the guidelines of the grant.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize amending the 2022 County budget to reappropriate \$142,123 in expenses and revenues under the Department of Social Service. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Potter said these are unspent funds from the Emergency Rental Assistance program. Mrs. Potter said that applications are still being accepted for the program. 1,792 applications have been submitted for Saratoga County however only 523 applications have been paid out to date. October applications are currently being paid out.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Butler, to authorize the acceptance of Federal funding through the Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services to Respond to COVID-19 in the amount of \$47,846. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Potter said that the funds are intended to improve, enhance and expand the ability to provide services to the Adult Protective population to enhance the ability to do investigations into abuse, neglect and exploitation. The funds will be utilized to purchase laptops to improve remote work capability, purchase goods and services, and provide assistance with housing and transportation costs.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Wood, to authorize renewal agreements with local ambulance service providers for the provision of ambulance services to administer COVID-19 vaccines. Unanimous.**

Dr. Kuhles said that under the guidance of Mike McEvoy our EMS agencies were the first in the State to offer this service and it became a model for all other EMS agencies in the State. It is unknown what the future beholds for COVID and therefore this renewal agreement will keep options open. Costs are reimbursable either through FEMA or one of the various NYS DOH COVID grants. Mr. Barrett thanked all of the agencies that have been involved.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize an amendment to the agreement with Blue Raster LLC for technical and training support of the ESRI ARC GIS Enterprise System software. Unanimous.**

Dr. Kuhles said that Blue Raster provides technical assistance for the data dashboard for COVID. The agreement expires on February 21<sup>st</sup>. It is hoped to enhance some of the dashboard as we shift from case counting to look at other metrics and forms of COVID surveillance to inform health care providers in the community.

Dr. Kuhles gave a brief COVID update. While transmission remains high it is much lower than it has been in several weeks. Dr. Kuhles said that hospitalizations have remained very low relatively speaking compared to other parts of the state and country. Dr. Kuhles said that that vaccination continues to protect against severe illness, hospitalization and death.

Mr. Lant thanked all of the staff for the great job they are doing for all of the county residents.

**On a motion made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Connolly, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Clerk of the Board