

Health & Human Services Transcript 3-2-2022

SPEAKERS

Phil Barrett, Diana Edwards, Sandi Cross, Daniel Kuhles, Several Supervisors, Eric Butler

Phil Barrett

Welcome to the March 2 Health and Human Services Committee meeting. I'll entertain approval in the minutes of February.

Eric Butler

I'll make that motion.

Diana Edwards

I'll second.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Butler and Mrs. Edwards. Thank you very much. Discussion. All in favor?

Phil Barrett

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. All right. Sandi Cross. How are we doing Sandi?

Sandi Cross

I'm good. Thank you. I have one resolution today. And it is for authorizing the Chairman to enter into renewal contracts with five different homecare agencies to provide level one and level two personal care through a State grant we get every year. This is housekeeping. I've attached the grants and the only difference from last year is we increase their rate \$1 from \$24 to \$25 to be competitive, so our clients get services.

Phil Barrett

Very good. I'll entertain a motion to approve the request from Sandi Cross.

Diana Edwards

I'll make that motion.

Phil Barrett

Mrs. Edwards.

Eric Butler

I'll second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. Butler. Discussion. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed. It's okay, Eric, you can step right up there. It's a tough decision.

Eric Butler

I was waiting for the Chairman to vote.

Phil Barrett

All right. Motion passes.

Sandi Cross

Thank you.

Phil Barrett

Sandi there's also a special dinner coming up or lunch, right?

Sandi Cross

Yes, St. Patrick's Day, we will have, you will have corned beef and cabbage at all the meal sites. Chris Rush got the flyer. So I would encourage all the Supervisors to find a meal site. And I'd be more than happy to send our list to go have corned beef. Right up there in Corinth you'll be having some delicious corned beef on the 17th. So yeah. And as an aside, our Senior luncheon will happen this year. And it's on May 6 at the City Center.

Phil Barrett

Great.

Sandi Cross

More information to follow on that one.

Phil Barrett

Fantastic. All right. Well make your reservations early. Dr. Kuhles is here. How are you doing, sir?

Daniel Kuhles

How are you Supervisor?

Phil Barrett

Yes. So today was a landmark day in the State right?

Daniel Kuhles

Yeah. Today is the first day in some time that children are not mandated, and staff not mandated to wear masks in schools.

Phil Barrett

Right. So it's the first day of the rest of their lives, I guess. Right? At this point. So is there have they lifted, I forgot to look this up earlier? Did they lift the vaccination mandates in the City? Or are those still in place? There was some talk about it, but I don't know that they did that again.

Daniel Kuhles

Could you be more, there are a number of, there have been a number of mandates. So if you could just clarify. Do you mean New York City? They did not lift, in terms of schools, they have not changed the mandate that staff that are not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated, submit to weekly testing.

Phil Barrett

Okay. So I know with sports, with some sports the vaccination mandates have gotten in the way of certain people playing and everything I just remembered hearing something about they were going to lift those mandates, so I just thought that was interesting.

Daniel Kuhles

You have, that's the New York City and the player was it Kyrie Irving?

Phil Barrett

Yes. Some guy on one of the NBA teams he can't play in the home games.

Daniel Kuhles

Yeah, I think that's Kyrie Irving used to be a Celtic.

Phil Barrett

Yea, he can only play in the in the away games, which is pretty amazing. But any anything else?

Daniel Kuhles

No, you know, I think the schools have done a great job of getting the word out to families even while awaiting written confirmation from the State Health Department. That is very strong partnership. Not only that, I think that the partnership amongst the schools in the County and with Public Health, the group itself is, is very, very strong and resilient. And we remain fully committed to supporting kids. COVID has had a tremendous effect on mental health, social emotional learning. And we remain fully committed to our schools, parents and families. The masks may be done, but the impact of COVID is certainly not.

Phil Barrett

Yeah. Well, I do want to thank you and your staff for working so closely with the schools right throughout. I know myself and many other Supervisors received tremendous feedback over the pandemic, about the support that our schools were receiving from County Public Health, in many ways,

many different facets of trying to maintain kids in school, in the classroom. And in doing it safely. So thank you. And I had written an op-ed that was in the Saratogian on Sunday that spoke to how the County led by Public Health was a leader in so many different ways throughout the pandemic. So, great job by you and your staff.

Daniel Kuhles

And I'm so thankful, on behalf of our team for the County Administration and the Board of Supervisors for giving us the resources and the tools to do that work. I don't know of any one of my counterparts that have had the support that you've given us, so many thanks.

Phil Barrett

You bet. Thank you very much. Okay. Like I said, very short agenda today, but we wanted to get that one item through. Is there any other business to come before the committee today? Okay, seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Eric Butler

I'll make that motion.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Butler.

Diana Edwards

I'll second.

Phil Barrett

Mrs. Edwards. Very good. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Thank you.