

Health & Human Services Transcript 4-6-2022

SPEAKERS

Steve Bulger, Tina Potter, Phil Barrett, Diana Edwards, John Lant, Jonathan Schopf, Michael Hartnett, Daniel Kuhles, Michael Prezioso, Judy Dahoda-Taylor, Several Supervisors, Rebecca Robarge, Eric Butler, Bridget Rider

Phil Barrett

All right. Good afternoon. Welcome to the April 6 Health and Human Services Committee for Saratoga County. I'll entertain a motion to approve the minutes of March 2.

Jonathan Schopf

So moved.

Eric Butler

Second.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Schopf, Mr. Butler. Discussion. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. First up, we have some items from Department of Youth and Aging. How are you today?

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

I am fine.

Phil Barrett

Come on up. Yeah, you're at the lectern.

Jonathan Schopf

It's brave new world.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, this is all, this is our first run here for this committee in our new confines.

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

The first item agenda that I'm requesting the Chairman to enter into a contract with is with Captain Community Human Services for their Runaway Homeless Youth Shelter. This is a yearly housekeeping

item contracted for \$25,015. It's 100% pass through money from OCFS, and it was already included in the 2022 budget.

Phil Barrett

All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve that pass through funding for the shelter, Capital shelter.

Jonathan Schopf

Motion.

Diana Edwards

Second.

Phil Barrett

Discussion. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Okay, motion passes. Next.

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

The second item that we have requesting a Chairman to enter to contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension for a youth development program. Again, this is a yearly housekeeping item. It is mostly funded by the County with \$5,660 reimbursement from OCFS. This provides direct services for education in schools.

Phil Barrett

Motion for that one?

Eric Butler

I'll make it.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Butler.

Diana Edwards

Second.

Phil Barrett

Mrs. Edwards. Thank you. Discussion. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Okay, C.

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

Third one is an agreement for the Chairman to enter into contract with Kee to Independence, which is also known as New Journeys Social Adult Day for \$15,000, This is funded through our EISEP program. It provides social adult day program for those who are 60 and over in our community. It is the only social adult day program that is offered in Saratoga County, and is funded in the 2022 budget.

Phil Barrett

Very good.

Diana Edwards

Motion to approve.

Phil Barrett

Supervisor Edwards.

Jonathan Schopf

Second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. Schopf, and what's the location?

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

It is in Malta behind Panera Bread in the, I don't know what to call it back there now, right across from the hotel, I visited myself. And it's a wonderful facility. And it's actually very reasonable for families to drop off their loved ones to be supervised during the day.

Phil Barrett

Do you know how many? How many take advantage of the program on a regular basis?

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

As of right now, when I was there, there was 16 older seniors, there's probably only 3 or 4 60 and below there. They actually accept them too, there was more of them right now. But with our caseworkers and our case managers going out in the field and telling them about the service. We hope to bring those numbers up. It is a wonderful program.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, we have one in Clifton Park, Halfmoon right on the border there at Exit 9 for a few years.

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

Two and a half, three years. Yeah. Very consistent on our clients were there they had a very consistent following.

Phil Barrett

Yeah. And that was run by Colonie Senior Services. And they seem to do a good job with that. So hopefully, hopefully there'll be other similar type programs in other parts of the County. Very good. All in favor.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Motion passes.

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

Okay, the next item I have we are asking Saratoga County Proclaim April as youth month. And from here on out every April will be youth month in Saratoga County. In honor of our first youth month, I would like if it's possible for Rebecca Robarge, our Youth Coordinator to speak a little bit about one of the programs that she has actually developed herself and has gone out in the community and started by herself.

Phil Barrett

Oh, good.

Rebecca Robarge

So thank you for considering April as Youth Month in Saratoga County. The way I rolled it out this year, the theme is Readers are Leaders. I reached out to the Southern Adirondack library system and seven Libraries volunteered to take part of the program. I put together some kits, it has little prizes that were donated, Legos, cars, dolls, books, puzzles, tons of like, really cool engaged things. And there's a flyer that got pushed out electronically. And there is a place for kids to submit a listing of four books that they read in the month of April, they write a little book review, obviously not critiqued, but it's a way for us to collect some data and push out something on the back end, they get a certificate of a job well done, it has a coloring page on the back, and then they get to pick a prize of their choosing. The libraries were really happy, the kids were super colorful, and I look forward to continuing to do it year after year with more community engagement. You know, maybe some a Global Youth Service Day where we could work to clean a park and provide activities to food driver supply drivers. Sky's the limit.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, that'd be a good thing to push down through the well, I guess there's a number of organizations if you think about it, but the first one that came to mind was Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, I think that'd be perfect because they do those community service projects, and might be a good symmetry there.

Rebecca Robarge

Honor society programs.

Phil Barrett

Well you're the youngest one here on the board here.

Several Supervisors

(inaudible, several Supervisors speaking).

Phil Barrett

Can you get Supervisor Schopf a coloring book? I don't want them to feel left out.

Jonathan Schopf

I'll take the Lego. I'll move it, thank you.

Phil Barrett

I'll settle for motion.

Diana Edwards

I'll second.

Phil Barrett

Diana you look the youngest of anybody here.

Diana Edwards

Oh thank you.

Phil Barrett

Second, all in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Very good. Thank you very much. Now, you are also working on a program for lifeguarding training.

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

We'll talk about that.

Phil Barrett

You're gonna talk about that today.

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

Next month.

Phil Barrett

Well, I want to talk about it today. So we're working with Rebecca on some lifeguarding training. If other municipalities are in the same shape as say, Clifton Park. We're looking for lifeguards, we need lifeguards. Thankfully, somehow we do get them trickling in this time of year, so we're able to get ready to open our pools. But to have the same type of season we're accustomed to from Memorial Day to Labor Day has become virtually impossible due to the shortage. And I know other municipalities have the same. So we're working on some training. It's not completely set yet. But want to let everybody know that that's something we are working on. And I know we'll be hosting a class in Clifton Park, but it'll be open to anybody in the County. So did you want to say a little bit about that just to let everybody know.

Rebecca Robarge

We're still trying to finalize all the details. We would hope to have 10 youth certified in Clifton Park. And another 20 here in Ballston Spa, I follow up with (inaudible) the details fall into place. Yeah. But yeah, I put out a four question survey to recreation programs throughout the entire County. And there was such a huge response, that everyone is seeking lifeguards, they can't get a training. So without it if we brought a trainer here made it accessible to you, but we could fill that need.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, it's great. And Rebecca made contact with the same trainer that we use in Clifton Park, we do some of our training internally some externally. And I can certainly vouch that she does a good job, too. So more to come on that. But I know Rebecca has put some work into that and I wanted to recognize her for it and let you know that it's something that can hopefully get done this year. And we can offer an incentive an additional incentive for lifeguards, and again they can come from any municipality to get some training. Thank you.

Rebecca Robarge

Thank you

Phil Barrett

All right. Now you want to proclaim May as Older Americans Month.

Several Supervisors

(inaudible - several Supervisors speaking at once)

Phil Barrett

Who's the oldest?

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

I do.

Phil Barrett

I didn't want to volunteer anybody, I didn't think it was you.

John Lant

Yea right.

Phil Barrett

I was gonna make the motion. Do we have a second?

Eric Butler

I'll second.

Phil Barrett

Would you like to talk about that?

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

Every May in Saratoga County or NY State, May is considered Older Americans Month. This year's theme is age my way, which, being in the aging field, it's more like age in place. People want to age in their home, they want to age safely. And they want to age with dignity. And that's what our office does. So to go along with the theme age my way, our staff will continue to support services, and supporting those seniors at home and be safe.

John Lant

Have you got a card?

Phil Barrett

Everybody's gonna get the coloring opportunity. I don't want anybody think they're gonna be short shrift on that deal.

Phil Barrett

We have some adult coloring books, you gotta stay on the line. So.

Phil Barrett

Well I do want to thank Aging for their good job and restarting the meal program, which we're going to talk about in a second, the congregate lunches, getting those back for many people are very important, because it is a social opportunity for many seniors. They relish those opportunities, after all that everything we've been through as a society and the isolation that people of all ages have experienced. So I know we're gonna move into that in a second. But first, I'll say we have a motion on the floor for Proclaiming May 2022. Is Older Americans Month in Saratoga County. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Very good. Who could be against that right? All right. Steve, you want to talk about the new incentive? Well, I guess, you could call an incentive but certainly appreciation for many volunteers we have in the congregate lunch program.

Steve Bulger

Sure. Thank you, Chairman. Yes. So this is an initiative that Administration and the Office of Youth and Aging have been working on for probably the last month. And really, what it is what we're proposing is for our volunteer drivers, we have a lot of them for our Meals on Wheels program. Because the cost of gas has been climbing so quickly, that has put a real strain on some of these drivers on their budgets. These again, these are volunteers who do not get reimbursed from the County, they're doing it out of the goodness of their heart. And what we realize and talking with Sandi and her team is, at some point, we're going to lose some of these volunteers because they're like, they can't afford the gas to drive around. And we're already seeing, you know, where that is an issue. And I know a lot of counties are going through this. So given the incredible importance of this program, to our County, to the Supervisors, to our constituents, this is really one of the most critical programs, I believe that we provide to our constituents across the County, not just giving them food, but there's also medical checks, there's a lot that goes behind this. So it's critical, we keep it we keep it running as quickly or as effectively as possible. So what we're proposing, and we're still working out a little bit of the details is that we're going to take \$10,000 from contingency fund, set it aside, purchase gas cards of varying amounts that again, these are the details we're trying to work out. From, we think it's going to be three main distributors in the County. Stewart's having the most stations in the county, Cumberland Farms having the second most and Speedway having the third most. So we will take that 10,000 and split up gift card purchases there. The Office of Youth and Aging is going to be looking at, working with their volunteers, and our office and the County Attorney's office to come up with a plan on how to fairly effectively and efficiently to get those gas cards to the volunteers. Now we have to be careful, because we have to make sure this is a reimbursement program. We can't just be handing out gas cards. You know, there's laws against that we can't be spending taxpayer dollars on gifts. But these people are providing a real service to us and to our constituents. There's no question about it. And in fact, in a lot of counties they pay, they're paying for the drivers, you know, to deliver these meals so we are blessed to have these volunteers willing to do it. So Mr. Chairman, so what we're proposing there's no action needed by the Board other than we were looking for an indication of support that this would be supported. It's not a major contract, we can handle it internally. But we wanted to make your Committee aware of it and get your blessing more than anything else that this was something worthwhile. Before we move ahead. Now, we, as I was talking to the Chairman earlier, we've set aside \$10,000 for now, we don't know how long that will last. And there's some benchmarks we're going to associate with that price of gas, how many miles are driven, depending on who gets what, right? Long term, we'll have to monitor this because if gas prices stay at a high level for a longer period of time, we're going to have to revisit this. And then we may have to come back to the Board in a more formal application to, you know, to come up with a different version of this program. But really, today, we're just looking to get any feedback from the Committee on the idea. And as we move forward, we can come back and let you know exactly how we implemented it. But before we start jumping through hoops, we wanted to be sure you guys were okay with the plan.

John Lant

I think it's a great idea.

Diana Edwards

I spoke with somebody who's a senior herself and drives around and it's really hard, it's hard for them to afford to do that, given the price of gas today. So I'm totally for it.

John Lant

And somehow we should be taken care of the gas anyways.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, I mean, a lot of them, you know, doing, obviously, because they're committed to helping, you know, their fellow citizens.

John Lant

Nothing's cheap anymore.

Phil Barrett

Well, that's for sure. So I think if nothing else, showing the appreciation that we have for these many volunteers, goes a long way. And we can offset the rising cost of gas while we're expressing our appreciation for what they do, I think that's a very positive step. Not only to thank them for what they've been doing, but retention, as well. It's not an easy task anyway, but then, when your costs go up to actually volunteer, you know, it can place a pressure place a lot of pressure on somebody's budget. So it sounds as though we have full support here of this initiative. And hopefully, we can get this consummated sooner than later. And but at least this discussion, beginning, I'm sure will filter down to the volunteers. So they know that we are thinking of them and appreciate their efforts on behalf of their fellow citizens, because without the volunteers, we'd have to do something else if we were going to continue the program, whatever that might be.

Steve Bulger

Right exactly. Okay. Well, I appreciate that. And we will be sure, yeah, we want to move on this as quickly as possible as well, for obvious reasons. And so we will be sure at the next Committee meeting to give you an update, Chairman.

Phil Barrett

Very good. Thank you, everybody. Appreciate it. Okay, Tina how are you today. Come on up.

Tina Potter

Thank you Chairman Barrett. I just have one item today just to request for a resolution to Proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. It's been an annual observance dedicated to raising the awareness of child abuse prevention. And the Congress did this back in the early 80s. When the rise there was a significant rise in the number. And so we would like to participate in Saratoga County with the National event of April being Child Abuse Prevention Month. Our Department is doing a lot of activities with the community just to increase awareness. We regularly do education with particularly schools and other community agencies. In addition to that, we'll do some activities this month in particular earmarked one of the items is wearing blue, it's designated as child abuse prevention. The other thing that staff does, we'll be doing an event on April 12, where we place pinwheels, we do a pinwheel garden. The idea with that being is that children really deserve a free lifestyle, and the

pinwheels have like a whimsical theme to it. So that's part of it. We leave that in throughout the month, and staff really like that. And another part of the recognition is also to acknowledge the dedicated work that the caseworkers do. The depth, the hours, the endless hours that they work to combat child abuse and make sure that the kids in our community are safe. So I my request today is just a resolution to proclaim April as child abuse prevention and awareness month.

Phil Barrett

Great. I'll entertain a motion.

John Lant

I'll make that motion Mr. Chair.

Jonathan Schopf

Second.

Phil Barrett

Seconded by Mr. Schopf. Discussion. Questions for Tina? Thank you for bringing this forward Tina I appreciate it. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Okay. Motion passes.

Steve Bulger

Mr. Chairman, if I may?

Phil Barrett

Yes.

Steve Bulger

Little side detour here. Yes. The first time I had a chance to see Commissioner Potter since the new security team was put in starting last Friday. I know. Chairman Lant from Public Safety thanked the Sheriff for that. I just want to kind of inquire how is that going now that we have deputies added to DSS building? What's the feedback from your staff?

Tina Potter

That's been great on it's gone very smoothly. We have everything in place for them to be there. They have a metal detector, we have two Sheriff's deputies that are positioned at the door. Staff has been extremely pleased.

Tina Potter

Absolutely, absolutely good. It's made a big difference. And staff feels very thankful for the increased security that they feel. I talked to the deputies today. And they said they've had quite a few interesting incidents that have kept them busy. When everything's going good, and it's great deterrence really made a huge difference. I think all of that Office for the Aging staff would concur with that. And there's been quite a volume, there's been a little over 50 or so people daily that they're dealing with. But the staff, I couldn't tell you how pleased they were when they went around and introduced them explained to them that it's going to be what it was going to be starting. So it's been really good. I thank everybody for their support and that.

John Lant

People feel safer?

Judy Dahoda-Taylor

And we've had no problem with our seniors coming in the building at all. We provide them a list and they call us, and we just go downstairs and give them the seniors, or they haven't actually (inaudible) do it.

Tina Potter

Yeah, we've worked out systems and procedures for the people that have come regularly. So it's going really well. I'm very thankful. The staff really, really appreciate it. So thanks for your support with that.

Steve Bulger

Thank you Chairman.

Phil Barrett

Thank you. All right, Michael, you have a long list today.

Michael Prezioso

I have, this may be a record for us. I have no month to request at this point. Okay, there we've got a couple of resolutions, we've had a chance to talk about that. One is related to accepting rollover funds from OASAS office of addictions, services and supports. This is the amount of about \$37,000. Those funds were earmarked for purchase and medication for the medication assisted treatment program at the jail. Not all those funds were expended or 2021. So we were able to get permission to roll those over. So this request this is 100%. State Aid, no budget impact. This is just a request to accept those funds rolling over into 2022.

Phil Barrett

Very good. I'll entertain a motion to roll that over.

Jonathan Schopf

So moved.

Eric Butler

Second.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Schopf. And Mr. Butler discussion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Motion carries, B.

Michael Prezioso

Okay. This is related to funds that come out of ARPA, their ARPA monies. And it has to do with their enhanced medical percentage. What it is a 10% increase on the amounts that we bill between November and this coming June. So we don't know exactly how much it will be. But we'll get a 10% rate increase during that period of time for addictions related services. There are a couple of earmarks for its use based on percentage of the revenue that we generate and that 10% going forward, we'd like to just be able to accept that. And again, this is all federal money. It's ARPA money. Yeah.

Jonathan Schopf

Motion.

Phil Barrett

Motion by Mr. Schopf.

Diana Edwards

Second.

Phil Barrett

By Supervisor Edwards. Discussion. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Motion carries. All right, next up discussion item.

Michael Prezioso

So I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to talk about a couple of things related and there'll be a common theme here of peer related services. The first thing that I wanted to mention came out of some discussions and consideration possible uses for any opiate settlement monies that we have coming up. And one of the premier models for providing assistance for those with addictions is called a surplus certified recovery peer advocate. So one of the proposed uses we'd like to think about for those funds when and as they come through, is to attach CRPA to the Dwyer fund, the Dwyer project for the Veterans' agency that's already a peer based program. This would be a veteran who has lived

experience related to addictions who would provide additional supports connections with a veteran. So I think that that might be an effective use. That actually led to a subsequent discussion about possible incorporation in the Sheriff Second Chance program, if we're able to do that, too. So that might be something that we want to talk about going forward. Next item is related to what's called the post critical incident seminar for law enforcement, veterans, perhaps other first responders. The PCIS program is actually an extension of an FBI program, and it was adopted in South Carolina and now several other states have adopted it, it's an opportunity for a peer led three day long seminar for those who are experiencing cumulative career related stress, acute stress, oftentimes in service in the military, but also through law enforcement, some of the experiences that they encounter, this is something that I attended back in January, I went to Buffalo for a couple of days to watch the program. And you encounter a number of people as it's described to me, they were voluntold to go. And on Monday, you can read that on everyone's face. And by Wednesday afternoon, when things are done, after a series of completely peer related activities, psychoeducation, coping skills, or relating of different stories, opportunities to meet with a clinician, and all the clinicians, that was one of the beauties of the program, I think all people like me sit in the back. So everything is peer related, there's much more credibility, much more valence for the people, they also involve spouses. So what I'd like to talk about the possibility for doing again, extending the peer model is to have maybe a PCIS, here in Saratoga County going forward. And it's a good way of reaching folks who may be more reticent to talk openly, or you know, even approach guests based on the occupational cultures, a counselor, but it's a way for people to develop a peer system of support. And then if that opens doors, and there needs a little bit extra help that make will come and see people like us for some of that assistance. So want to move, talk about moving in that direction.

Phil Barrett

Now these other discussion items would, and Mike and I had a discussion about the opioid settlement money that will be coming, and I wanted him to get some ideas together as to how we might best utilize a portion of those funds. And one thing we talked about, as he's got here is a CRPA. And it's based around the peer program that we've seen very clearly, the peer to peer programs are very effective. So, you know, we want to make sure that this money is directed towards programs that are going to drive results for people directly. It makes no sense to just start new programs that cost a lot of money and have dubious results. We know this works, let's focus some of that money towards areas that we know work through experience. So that and the Sheriff Second Chance program, were two ideas now. One thing I'm not sure about Mike, is these other discussion items, those would not fall under the opioid.

Michael Prezioso

They would not right, no, but there are other places that some of those might come from Chairman, to kind of have a chance to talk with Steve enrich a little bit. And these are sort of one thing flows from another ultimately and foundational way. They're all connected with the type of service that we can provide and building it out to law enforcement, veterans, and other first responders, fire, dispatch. So there's chances to do some of that work.

Phil Barrett

Okay, I just want to make sure we're clear on what we can use that will be Opioid money for what we can't. So that way, when we come back and ask the committee to approve funding for the program, you know, they know very clear what the discussion entail. That's all. Okay, go right ahead.

Michael Prezioso

I'll be more clear I am.

Phil Barrett

No, that's okay. You've got it spelled out here appropriately. I just want to make sure we're on the same page.

Michael Prezioso

Okay, moving on to some additional support for law enforcement. I have mentioned this in here before that we partnered with the Sheriff's office and we've secured funding for crisis intervention training for law enforcement. Chairman Barrett attended our first meeting, which was really just a mapping of existing services. And coming up in September is when more of the content specific to crisis resolution for law enforcement and dealing with folks who have mental illness de-escalation skills, but a little bit about backgrounds of mental illness and ways to engage people will have family members present. People who may have lived experience with serious mental illness themselves. That'll be coming up in September. So we're proud to be able to bring that.

Phil Barrett

And what's the next step in that process? Mike, we, you know, there was probably 30 people there, I would say, and the state was giving the presentation and thought that this discussion was pretty good. But what's the next step?

Michael Prezioso

So the next step is they generate a report based on the information that we provided to them. And then that's where our consideration is, they formulate recommendations for us about ways to support and build out our system of interventions. And it's all sorts of human service providers, it'd be residential services, employment services, but also the kinds of treatment services that we provide. That'll be coming, that set of recommendations, but then they will come in September and actually meet with up to I think it's 25 members of law enforcement to add, to talk about the specifics of mental illness, how to engage people with an illness, how to de-escalate and crisis situations. And it's been a bit of a focus of attention, I had some connection with the EO203 Group a while back, this is kind of consistent with the recommendations that that group gave. And as an additional enhancement or inducement, the State offers as part of this program \$1,500 to support overtime costs associated with the people who attend. So it's a 40 hour training program. So there'll be some of those kinds of costs associated with it. Out of that process will also come two train the trainers. So at this point, we're expecting that that'll be Captain Morley from the Sheriff's office and myself, then on a rolling basis, we'll just be able to offer ourselves, we won't need to bring in other folks to do it. So you know, based on the needs of local law enforcement, we'll be able to bring that training to folks. I think the minimum requires something like two years of service experience, but then we'll be able to step that out. Pretty much at will. So

Phil Barrett

Yeah, and as we complete that process, I think it'd be good to have future updates for this Committee, because some of the discussion and recommendations were very positive. And I think that could help in our communities, others not so much. And I think I made that clear to the group, but gave my opinion anyway, for what it's worth. But there was clearly some of the policies that many of us think are concerning on the national level, they're being pushed down to the state and now being pushed down to the county. And, you know, we won't get into a big discussion today. But in the future, we will have to because I personally had a lot of concerns about some of the topics and initiatives that they want to push down to the counties. I personally don't see them as effective. But that's something we can talk further, absolutely about.

Michael Prezioso

Okay, yeah. I've mentioned a couple of times, trying to incorporate the whole gamut of first responders, law enforcement, fire dispatch, as well as EMS services. I'm in touch with a trainer. And again, using the Peer, extending the peer idea, been in touch with folks who are able to bring training at relatively nominal cost, I'm still working that out and what sources there may be to support this. But what I'd like to do is build out a system across all first responder agencies of peers are able to respond on an individual basis or a group basis. For example, if an agency encounters, you know, a bad call, let's say, how to help people process that through how to direct them, refer them to appropriate resources for follow up. So there are some resources that provide that sort of training, again, nominal cost, and if we can spread it out two things, one, you dilute the amount of cost. So it's for each of the agencies involved that can include up to 35 people at a time. And then what I like to do is I'd like to develop a common centralized list of these resources, so that all the command staff and all the agencies have access to it, and they can call on each other to provide support to their members, trying to sustain the focus, I mean, certainly improved quality of life, dealing with critical incidents critical stressors, but to the extent that they maintain themselves in their work roles and the functions they're providing vital functions for the rest of the citizens of the county. So I see it as a sort of a force multiplier where that's concerned.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, I like that idea.

Michael Prezioso

And so you know, finally to that end, try to put my money where my mouth is, but I've been given some leeway to participate with Wilton EMS. Initially did some training up there. And I know there are cultural differences between first responders doing what people like me clinicians typically do too. So one of the ways to break down those barriers was when somebody said, if you really want to help, why don't you ride with us? I said, Okay. I don't think they thought that I was gonna say that. So bad news for them. Now I'm an EMT. So I've continued to do that. And I have been able to assist them with additional trainings, have another training for them coming up tomorrow evening have been able to assist with various grants that both Clifton Park, Halfmoon, and Wilton have done. talking with them about some additional trainings, I've been able to be out on calls and talk with patients who are suffering from mental illness, as well as act as a resource for some of the members of the agency who have, you know, experienced some difficulties over time, again, meeting with them during an assessment of kind

of evaluate what kind of services would best meet their needs, and go ahead with those things. So those are some of the things that we're working on, again, trying to develop the peer model. Yeah, broader reach more credibility in so many ways. And, as you said, Chairman, very, very effective model.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, I agree. I appreciate you bringing these discussions forward Dr. Prezioso, and as we, where is Mike, is Mike here, oh there he is, so what's the timing on the some of this opioid settlement funds that might be coming to us.

Michael Hartnett

Thank you Chairman, the initial tranche was slated for February, that's been delayed somewhat. The last correspondence that I had with outside counsel, was that the money should start coming in later this month, perhaps early May. So keeping an eye on that, and I'll make sure to forward that to your attention. Keep close tabs on it . As soon as it hits, will let everybody now so they can start putting it to good use.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, good. I mean, you know, programs like the like C. that we talked about, I don't think are terribly costly. But like I said, they have meaningful impacts. And we know that through experience. So as we just started about the timeline for the money, if we can particularly focus on those two programs, I see Frank McClement is on the line. I know you've spoken with Captain Morley and Frank, about this, I appreciate you doing that. So Mike's taken our discussion and really run with it, which is great. And if we can provide these additional services for our veterans through this funding opportunity, as well as the Sheriff's Second Chance program, I think, would be a valuable use of those funds. So if we can continue to work on that path and get that done. Frank, is there anything you wanted to say about this?

John Lant

Hello Mr. Chairman, I just want to thank Dr. Prezioso, yourself and the rest of the Committee. Anything that we can do to bolster positive impact on veterans in the county is a good thing. And, you know, as you all know, there's not a ton of funding that comes out of New York State for veterans' programs and services. There just really isn't, we've been fortunate with the PFC Joseph Dwyer funding that we've received from the New York State Senate. But as everybody in the room knows, we also have to fight for that every year. So if there's opportunities to work with somebody like Dr. Prezioso, and expand what we're already doing, I think we seize the opportunity and move forward as a county, we've always led the charge. And I think we can continue to do that in this way.

Phil Barrett

Great. Well, we look forward to it, and I'll be in touch. That's a threat not a promise. All right. Dr. Kuhles? Geez, you know, we go through a whole Health and Human Services Committee. He only has one item. Boy that's a change isn't it?

Daniel Kuhles

Well, thank you.

John Lant

It means things are working.

Daniel Kuhles

Things are working. And, you know, we're starting to get back to our other Public Health programming. And as we've heard from colleagues here, you know, we've heard about seniors and the isolation we've spoken, I'm here to talk about schools. But we know how children have been impacted by this and getting back to where our everyday lives is much needed and learning to live with the virus. I'm here to ask for an agenda item to enter into MOU's or contracts as appropriate and consultation with the County Attorney, with our public school districts and all of our private schools related to an existing grant that we have, the federal epidemiology and laboratory capacity grant for reopening schools, these MOUs and or contracts would allow for the purchase or reimbursement of eligible costs as delineated in federal guidance based on a per pupil basis of \$85.50. And any expense or reimbursement request would be approved by the State Health Department.

Phil Barrett

And they've extended the timeline on that, right.

Daniel Kuhles

Yeah, when I initially put this forth, you know, the concern was the deadline was 7/30 of this year, we had been advocating strongly for a no cost extension for this money and in between the submission deadline for this committee meeting and a couple of days ago that was finally approved. So school districts will have a full other school year to utilize this money is, as you know, it's their district and their kids and their communities.

Phil Barrett

Good. I'll entertain a motion to get this on the table.

Phil Barrett

I'll make that motion.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Lant.

Eric Butler

Second.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Butler. Discussion, any questions for Dr. Kuhles?

Steve Bulger

Mr. Chairman, I just like to add that, based on conversations I've been involved with, with regional leaders in the educational area. Once again, Dr. Kuhles and Saratoga County are leading the way, in

getting this money out. I think we're farther ahead than any other county, certainly in this region, by far, maybe in the State, certainly you know, leading the state. So I just want to, and this was all Doc's idea. And once again, it's a winner. And I just want to point that out that once again, we're leading the way.

Daniel Kuhles

Thank you very much. We've developed a real strong partnership with the two BOCES, Jim Dexter and Anita from Capital Region BOCES. And all of our schools. And we think this has not only helped us with COVID. But as we again, learn to live with COVID. And it's talking about the impacts on children and other health issues in schools. We have a strong foundation of trust now, and they know how responsive the county, the Board and the County Administration has been to support children and families.

Phil Barrett

Very good. Any other questions for Dr. Kuhles at this point? Okay.

Daniel Kuhles

Thank you Chairman.

Phil Barrett

Thank you, sir. Just want to quickly update everybody on our build out of the Environmental Health Department. We are still actively working on hiring a director. We just had another interview today. So it's a lengthy process. We thought it would be but it's moving along well. We don't have a anybody signed, sealed and delivered yet but the interviews are going well. And hopefully we'll have some good news in the near future. The other thing I just wanted to mention was we continue to have discussions with the state we're keeping them up to date on everything we're doing. As far as the build out goes, we've put together some priorities working with New York State, it's clear they want us to be successful in this effort. We've, I think we've built a lot of credibility with the State based on how we've gone about things with the communication with our willingness to be aggressive toward taking these responsibilities from New York State as we're required to do. Dr. Kuhles has a lot of credibility with the folks who are working with as well. So I think all of that together is making for a very good beginning stage as we plan for the build out. I think the biggest obstacle we might have is just the same issue everybody's having and that is finding enough staff in a fairly short period of time. You know, there's approximately two dozen positions that we will be looking to fill and that probably won't be very easy, unfortunately. So that could take some time. But, we are starting with the Director, and we'll be working our way through the positions that have been approved by the Board and we still have some that'll be coming forward to be added to the compensatory schedule for the for the County. Okay so it's all good planning is in place, the State's happy with what we're doing, it's just a matter of finding people. It's the same challenge everybody's having public sector private sector so. Any other business become before?

Michael Hartnett

Mr. Chairman can I inquire, was there a vote on the ELC?

Bridget Rider

Yes

Michael Hartnett

There was a motion and a second, there was a vote?

Bridget Rider

Yes.

Michael Hartnett

Okay, I did not record it and I appreciate the (inaudible)

Phil Barrett

No problem. We appreciate the confirmation that we are following proper procedure. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn Mr. Schopf?

Jonathan Schopf

You got it.

Diana Edwards

Second.

Phil Barrett

Mrs. Edwards. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Okay, motion passes thank you everybody.