

Health & Human Services Committee Minutes
June 8, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Phil Barrett; Committee Members Eric Connolly, Diana Edwards, John Lant, Jonathan Schopf, Tom Wood; Supervisor Tara Gaston; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, Michelle Granger, Vida McCarthy-Cerrito, County Attorney; Jenniffer McCloskey, Employment & Training; Daniel Kuhles, Brian Miner, Rachel Maxwell, Michaelah Townley, Public Health; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction; Scot Chamberlain, Human Resources; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer; Rich Rothwell, Kim Rothwell.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Lant, the minutes of the May 4, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. McCloskey provided an update on the launch of the first Saratoga County EMT Pathway Program. Ms. McCloskey announced that a grant was awarded for childcare funding. People interested in opening childcare centers in their homes should contact the Employment & Training Office.

Dr. Kuhles reported that a new cycle of the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan is beginning. Once data collection is completed, public input will be included. Final report is due by the end of the year.

Dr. Kuhles presented the following items and gave a brief overview of each.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize the acceptance of 2022 – 2025 Rabies Program funding from the NYS Department of Health. Unanimous. Funding will be used for vaccinations, vaccination clinics, prevention and education activities.

A motion was made by Mrs. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize an agreement with Health Research, Inc. to accept a NYS Department of Health Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program Grant. Unanimous. This is an annual grant, funding has increased due to the 2020 census.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Wood, to authorize and approve a renaming of the Public Health Services Department to the “Saratoga County Department of Health”. Unanimous. The name change is in light of the Public Health expansion and becoming a full service Health Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize an increase in Preschool Special Education Program rates for “related services” commencing July 1, 2022. Unanimous.

Reimbursement rates will be increased to be the average of rates in the Capital District Counties. Mr. Barrett introduced program providers Rich and Kim Rothwell, Licensed Physical Therapists, who gave an overview of the challenges they currently face. Mr. Barrett said that the rates will be reviewed on a regular basis in future during the budget process.

A motion was made by Mrs. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Wood, to authorize acceptance of Year 9 Local Health Department Performance Incentive award from the NYS Department of Health and amending the 2022 County budget in relation thereto. Unanimous. Funding is in the amount of \$34K and can be used for any State aid eligible expenses.

A motion was made by Mrs. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize reimbursement at the Federal mileage rate for Parents who provide transportation for Children attending Pre-School Special Education Programs. Unanimous. The rate will be set at the standard IRS rate of \$0.585.

Mr. Kuhles introduced Mr. Brian Miner, new Environmental Health Director for the County.

Dr. Prezioso presented the following items.

A motion was made by Mrs. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize amendments to Mental Health contracts to include State funded cost of living increase, minimum wage increase and a stipend for supported housing beds and amending the 2022 County budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize an amended agreement with the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Prevention Council of Saratoga for the provision of additional Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) Services. Unanimous. This is a mandated service through the State Office of Alcohol Substance Abuse Services.

A motion was made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Wood, to authorize the acceptance of Federal Medicaid Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) fee enhancements for Saratoga County Mental Health and Addiction Services Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) Program and amending the 2022 County budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Dr. Prezioso gave a brief update on Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) services for the Sheriff's Department and Veterans' Service Agency. Services will be funded by opiate funds. Mr. Hartnett reported that one payment has already been received, next payment is anticipated in the next two weeks.

Supervisor Gaston reported that a forum on homelessness and panhandling is taking place at the City Center today at 5:30pm.

On a motion made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Wood, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board