

Health & Human Services Committee Minutes  
March 7, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Phil Barrett; Committee Members John Lant, Scott Ostrander, Jonathan Schopf.  
Absent: Tom Richardson, Tom Wood, Mo Wright.

Supervisor Michael Smith; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Audra Hedden, Stephanie Hodgson, Matt Rose, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Maribeth Hunt, County Attorney; Daniel Kuhles, Public Health; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction; Tina Potter, Marissa Alber, Social Services; Sandra Cross, Rebecca Robarge, Office for the Aging & Youth Services; Frank McClement, Veterans Services; Craig Hayner, Betsy Demars, County Clerk.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, the minutes of the February 7, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, to establish increased funeral rates for indigent decedents. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Potter reported that an increase was requested by the Adirondack Funeral Directors' Association. The last increase was in 2014. Mrs. Potter gave a brief overview of the program and rates.

Dr. Kuhles reported that a successful Narcan distribution event took place last night and gave a report of statistics to date. Discussion ensued.

**A motion was made by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize use of opioid settlement funds by the Saratoga County Department of Health to support surveillance, control, and prevention of substance use disorder, and amending the 2023 county budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Dr. Kuhles gave a brief overview of the proposed use of the funds which includes the purchase of a mass spectrometer. Discussion ensued.

**A motion was made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize the acceptance of additional funding for the New York State Department of Health Children and Youth with special health care needs grant, and amending the 2023 county budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Funding is in the amount of \$43,518 per year for years 3, 4 and 5.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, to authorize an agreement with Captain Community Human Services, Inc. for in-home respite care services. Unanimous.**

Dr. Prezioso and Mr. McClement reported that the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer-to-Peer funding is currently split between the Office of Mental Health & Addiction and Veterans Office. It is currently being discussed to move all of the funding to the Veterans Office which will result in greater efficiencies.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Schopf, to authorize amending Resolution 296-2021, authorizing an amendment to a Mental Health contract to include State-funded start-up funding and a stipend for supported housing beds, and amending the 2023 county budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

The rate per bed stipend is \$600 per bed for 51 beds and an additional \$30,600 for start-up costs for a total of \$61,200.

Mr. Barrett gave an overview of an Opioid Emergency Summit held recently at the County. Dr. Prezioso reported that approximately 15 agencies attended the session along with representatives from several county departments.

**A motion was made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, to proclaim April 2023 as “Youth Month” in Saratoga County. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Cross said that the County will partner with the Adirondack Library System to provide a summer reading program called “All Together Now”, and gave a brief overview of the activity.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Schopf, to authorize an agreement with Captain Community Human Services, Inc. to provide runaway homeless youth programs and services. Unanimous.**

This is an annual agreement.

**A motion was made by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize an agreement with Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties to provide Youth Development Programs. Unanimous.**

The agreement is in the amount of \$18,750 and will provide both counseling for youth, and a youth mentoring program.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, to authorize the acceptance of 2023 State Aid allocation from the Office of Children and Family Services for youth**

**development, youth sports and education opportunities, and runaway homeless youth programs and services. Unanimous.**

Funding is for 9 months running from January to September.

**A motion was made by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Schopf, to authorize contracts for the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program. Unanimous.**

There are five home care agencies at a flat rate of \$28/hour.

**A motion was made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Lant, to proclaim April 2023 as “Donate Life Month” in Saratoga County. Unanimous.**

Mr. Hayner gave an overview of the donate life registry in Saratoga County. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Barrett reported that the Lifeguard classes are available for 15-17 year olds.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Clerk of the Board