

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 7, 2019

The Health & Human Services Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: J. Shaw (Chair), M. Hilderbrant, G. Baldwin (Voting Representative for C. O'Brien) M. Kaminsky, S. Ryan.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: N. Williams, S. Bennett, J. Mitchell, DSS; R. LaClair, S. Pisani, WPNRC; Rebecca Kaufman, Health Department; A. Martin, C. Hall, M. Tanzini, Legislature; J. Knebel, OMB; J.Garnar, K. McManus, C. Cramer, Executive.

The Health & Human Services Committee meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:01 PM. Mr. Hilderbrant made a motion to move the agenda, seconded by Ms. Ryan.

The Committee took the following action with regard to the matters before it:

#21 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF 2009-2015 UNCOLLECTIBLE ACCOUNT RECEIVABLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES DIVISION](#)

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#22 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF DICKINSON FOR SERVICE DELIVERABLES RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CREATING HEALTHY SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES GRANT FOR 2019](#)

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#23 [RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE BROOME COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU ADVISORY BOARD](#)

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#24 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE OPIOID OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION \(O2DA\) PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2019-2020](#)

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Kaufman stated that this is a grant that allows the Health Department to do more regarding fighting opioid addiction. This allows the County to work with grassroots organization on the issue of opioid addiction.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#25 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2019-2020](#)

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#26 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOURDES HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2019-2022](#)

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

The Chair introduced WPNRC Administrator Ryan LaClair to discuss staffing issues at the nursing home. Mr. LaClair stated that direct care specifically is understaffed by 30%. These are people working directly with residents at the facility. Mr. LaClair stated that WPRNC was recently upgraded to a Three-Star facility, but in the last few weeks, it has been downgraded to a Two-Star facility because of the low staffing numbers. In November, the Star Rating will be re-evaluated. Mr. LaClair stated that WPNRC was upgraded to five stars regarding quality measures, which is the first time this has happened. However, the month-to-month quality measures are declining due to low staffing. Mr. LaClair stated he has not hired a Registered Nurse since he's started at Willow Point, but he has lost many Registered Nurses. WPNRC relies on agency nurses to fill voids when available. Specifically, the weekends are very difficult to staff. Mr. LaClair says WPNRC pays a significant amount of benefits for employees, but some younger employees are not as attracted to a bigger benefits package because the salary is too low. There was a discussion about potentially carving out some of the benefits, but Mr. LaClair stated that the unions representing the employees may not be willing to agree to a carve out. Mr. LaClair has reached out to similar County-run Nursing Homes to gain insight on what they're doing to attract new employees. Incentives were discussed. Mr. LaClair is brainstorming ideas to suggest to the unions when negotiations take place. Mr. LaClair says he relies on a lot of the employees to pick up extra shifts in order to adequately run the facility.

The Chair introduced Sonya Bennet from DSS along with John Mitchell who is running a new program called "Clean Sweep," where welfare benefit recipients work on odd jobs around the county and other municipalities. Projects include painting picnic tables, planting flowers and sprucing up facilities. Participants work 12 hours a week. Mr. Mitchell is the mentor, tutor and the job coach associated with this program. The program began in March and has taken on 95 small projects. 20 people have obtained interviews for employment, and 22 people in total are currently enrolled in the program. Four people have completed the program. Seven people have been disqualified from participating due to non-compliance with program requirements.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Ms. Kaminsky The meeting adjourned 4:59 PM.