

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 3, 2019

The Health & Human Services Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: D. Camp, T. Eaton, OFA; N. Williams, K. Empett, K. Saunders, Mental Health; R. Kaufman, Health Department, C. Hall, A. Martin, J. Bertoni, M. Tanzini, Legislature; J. Garnar, K. McManus, C. Cramer, Executive; A. Wilmarth, UHS.

The Health & Human Services Committee meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:00 PM. Ms. O'Brien made a motion to move the agenda, seconded by Mr. Weslar.

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

#20 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM INCENTIVE PROGRAM COHORT VISITING NURSE SERVICES GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2019

Responding to a question from the Committee, Ms. Camp stated this grant will be used to work with senior housing and visiting nurse programs to address nutritional services and application management.

Carried. Ayes-5 Nays-0

#21 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CLEAR PATH FOR VETERANS PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET AND RENEWING THE AGREEMENT WITH CLEAR PATH FOR VETERANS, INC. TO ADMINISTER SAID PROGRAM FOR 2019

Responding to a question from the Committee, Ms. Williams stated that the peer to peer services funding was not cut from the State's budget. Ms. Williams stated this money will be used for Clear Path's Canteen services. This funding is the same that it has been in the past and is pass through funding for Clear Path. Ms. Williams stated an additional ten percent has been allocated for this year to cover additional cost of living increases and she wanted to have enough in the budget so the program would not be cut short. Ms. Williams agreed to provide information regarding how many individuals utilize the program on a monthly basis.

Carried. Ayes-5 Nays-0

#22 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISION OF THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, ADOPTING A REVISED PROGRAM BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY TO ADMINISTER SAID PROGRAM FOR 2018

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Williams agreed to provide a list of all the school districts that are served by this program along with a number of students who utilize this program. She also mentioned there was a shortage of qualified social workers. Ms. Williams stated this program should be supported and is a critical tool for students.

Carried. Ayes-5 Nays-0

#23 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE THE JAIL BASED SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH UNITED HEALTH SERVICES TO ADMINISTER SAID PROGRAM FOR 2019

It was stated that the second paragraph should read "WHEREAS the Commissioner of Mental Health..." instead of "WHEREAS the Director of Public Health..." The resolution will be corrected. In Response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Williams stated this is a new program with new money, and the program has not started yet. Carried. Ayes-5 Nays-0

#24 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE YWCA OF BINGHAMTON/BROOME COUNTY FOR A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR 2019

In response to a question to the Committee, Ms. Williams stated this is a part of the Bridge Program, which assists substance abusing mothers and their children. In order to be in the program, mothers must consent to Child Protective Services opening a preventative case, which Ms. Williams states discouraged some people from participating because they did not want an open CPS case. Ms. Williams stated the program assisted approximately six clients last year. Ms. Williams agreed to provide information regarding the number of people who utilize the program. Ms. Williams noted while it does appear that there is less funding for this program than in previous years, that is attributed to the County decreasing the contract with the provider because they could not spend all of the money they were given last year. Ms. Williams is also looking into providing a breakdown of costs associated with the program. Carried. Ayes-5 Nays-0

#25 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE BROOME COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU ADVISORY BOARD

In Response to a question from the Committee, the County Executive stated that Megan Wise is the Broome INCLUDES Coordinator. He stated that it was critically important to have her on the Youth Bureau Advisory Board.

Mr. Weslar made a motion, seconded by Ms. O'Brien to amend the resolution to add the following language before the final Whereas: "WHEREAS, Section 17-3 of the Broome County Charter & Code mandates that it shall be a requirement for membership on all boards of the County of Broome that each individual member be a resident of Broome County unless an exemption is granted by the Broome County Legislature, and WHEREAS, the County Executive has submitted the nomination of Megan K. Wise, who is not a resident of Broome County, and has requested an exemption of the residency requirement, and WHEREAS, upon review of the County Executive's request and associated justification, it is the desire of this Legislature to grant an exemption of the residency requirement for Megan K. Wise, now, therefore, be it."

Amendment Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays-0
Resolution Carried as amended. Ayes-5, Nays-0.

#31 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE BROOME COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COUNCIL

Ms. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ryan to amend the resolution to add the following language before the final Whereas: "WHEREAS, Section 17-3 of the Broome County Charter & Code mandates that it shall be a requirement for membership on all boards of the County of Broome that each individual member be a resident of Broome County unless an exemption is granted by the Broome County Legislature, and WHEREAS, the County Executive has submitted the nomination of Megan K. Wise, who is not a resident of Broome County, and has requested an exemption of the residency requirement, and WHEREAS, upon review of the County Executive's request and

associated justification, it is the desire of this Legislature to grant an exemption of the residency requirement for Megan K. Wise, now, therefore, be it.”

Amendment Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays-0

Resolution Carried as amended. Ayes-5, Nays-0.

#32 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS 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 says the Health Department assists around 300 households a year.

Carried. Ayes-5 Nays-0

The Committee opened the floor to Alan Wilmarth from UHS who presented on details for a new program in partnership with UHS. This is a jail-based substance use disorder program at the Broome County Jail. UHS was awarded the RFP for the project.

Mr. Wilmarth stated that there is evidence that points to an increased overdose fatality rate for substance abusers who leave a facility of incarceration, compared to the general public. He also said that tolerance drops significantly, which can lead to an overdose when someone is released from incarceration.

Mr. Wilmarth explained how the program would work. When an inmate is processed, the individual will be screened for a presence of an alcohol or drug use disorder. After the screening, if the individual is arraigned and released, they will receive information on resources in the community along with training for overdose prevention. They will also receive a kit and treatment information. The inmate has the right to decline treatment, which would be documented if that occurs.

Mr. Wilmarth stated there is a focus on connecting people with services outside of jail so when the inmate is released, they can be connected with services to continue treatment.

If an inmate is arraigned and remanded to jail, they will receive a medical evaluation. If the individual was screened and was deemed to have signs of an alcohol or drug use disorder, that person will receive a follow-up substance abuse disorder assessment, which includes a screening for risks and behaviors associated with withdrawal, which Wilmar says is very common amongst opioid users.

Those who are experiencing withdrawal symptoms will be placed in the Jail’s Medical Unit where they will receive a supervised dose of buprenorphine, which is used to treat opiate addiction. If they are released before the tapering off of medication is complete, they can receive transportation and inpatient treatment at UHS or Fairview Recovery Services.

Those who are sentenced will have the option to receive medically assisted treatment while serving time in jail. The medication will be transported daily by the provider.

After release, they will have the option to continue treatment once they are released.

A plan has not been established for inmates who are sentenced to State Prison after their time at Broome County Jail.

While there are not many comparable programs in the region, there is a methadone program that has been established at Rikers Island in New York City.

Mr. Wilmarth anticipates this program getting off to a slow start, but he says he expects it to ramp up once people realize the success of the services offered.

Mr. Wilmarth stated as part of the new centralized arraignment process, inmates do not have to wait to be arraigned in order to be checked out by medical personnel regarding their substance abuse disorder.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hilderbrant, seconded by Ms. Ryan. The meeting adjourned 4:53 PM.