

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2019

The Health & Human Services Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Wednesday, July 10, 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, M. Kaminsky, S. Ryan.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: N. Williams, J. Sullivan, S. Bennett, DSS; J. Phelps, Health Department; L. Schuhle, C. Colicchio, OFA; R. LaClair, WPNRC; T. Dellapenna, C. Capwell, Risk & Insurance; M. Tanzini, C. Hall, A. Martin, Legislature; J. Knebel, G. Bucciarelli, OMB; J. Garnar, K. McManus, C. Cramer, Executive.

The Health & Human Services Committee meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:03 PM. Ms. Ryan made a motion to move the agenda, seconded by Ms. O'Brien.

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

#8 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE UNMET NEED PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

In response to a question to the Committee, Ms. Schuhle stated that program recipients are on a waiting list for this program. Ms. Schuhle also stated that since this is new money, the State is treating this as a new program with a separate budget and separate grant. She also stated the \$27,000 will be used to hire part time staff.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#9 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH INTERIM HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS AND STAFKINGS HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS FOR PERSONAL CARE/HOMEMAKER SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING'S EXPANDED IN-HOME SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM FOR 2019-2020

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Schuhle stated the program was re-negotiated. The money will be going to the care aides.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#10 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH VEN TEK FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR 2019

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Bennett stated that this program will greatly benefit DSS. This electronic authorization management system will allow the department to make authorizations electronically, instead of utilizing paper copies. Before the electronic system, the same piece of paper would have to be filled out and submitted to multiple departments. Ms. Bennett says the process is very time consuming and employees are often shuffling around the building trying to get the cases approved on paper. Now, they can be accessed electronically, ultimately cutting down the time needed to sign the authorizations. Ms. Bennett says this will free up around 3 hours a day for employees, allowing them to be more productive with their time.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#11 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE DSS/BCC CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT TRAINING PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Williams stated that a new requirement was recently added to this program. Employees must stay employed at DSS for a minimum of two years, instead of six months.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#12 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE DSS/BU CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT TRAINING PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#13 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE OUTSTATIONED CASEWORKER PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET AND RENEWING THE AGREEMENT WITH THE BINGHAMTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR DSS CASEWORKERS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 2019-2020

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#14 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH MAINE-ENDWELL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OUTSTATIONED CASEWORKER SERVICES FOR 2019-2020

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#15 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE TELE-CONSULT HEALTH PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE WILLOW POINT REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. LaClair stated Willow Point was approached by Care Compass Network of New York to see if the facility would be interested in this program. Mr. LaClair says the program helps reduce hospitalizations and improves quality of care for residents. He says there is no cost to the County for this program. In fact, there is money in the program built in to help WPNRC improve some of its technology, including WiFi, which is outdated and has many dead spots in the facility. CCN is providing 2 tele-health medical carts which include a camera and a television. The resident can be seen by a doctor using the technology, instead of having to make the trip to the hospital and emergency room, which benefits WPNRC's rating. After the program, WPNRC can keep the equipment.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#16 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH KEYSTONE MATERIAL TESTING, LLC FOR HOME INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR 2019-2022

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#31 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PERSONNEL CHANGE REQUESTS FOR THE WILLOW POINT REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. LaClair stated Willow Point has had many personnel changes across many departments. Instead of 2 RNs and an Admissions Coordinator, there is now an Admission Coordinator and an LPN on staff. A charge nurse position in the Rehab Unit will be abolished in exchange for an RN Supervisor position to help with the intense caseload at the Rehab Unit. These changes will result in a net savings of \$21,000.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

The Chairman introduced Tom Dellapenna from Risk and Insurance to provide a Worker's Compensation update on the departments fall under the Health & Human Services Committee. These include WPNRC, Social Services, the Health Department and the Office for Aging. An exhibit highlighting payments made on wages, medical and expenses, reported cases by year and lost workdays was provided to the Committee and is attached at the end of this document. Tom was joined by Colleen Capwell. Mr. Dellapenna stated WPNRC has the most Worker's Comp claims and payments far exceeds the other departments in Health & Human Services but is ranked fourth highest in the County behind Transit, Buildings and Grounds, and the Sheriff's Departments. Mr. Dellapenna attributes this to the type of work that is done in these departments. At WPNRC, employees have to move patients around and sometimes help transport them to different areas, which can result in injuries. Settlements are also included in this data. Mr. Dellapenna says it's been a particularly bad year and there are some cases where two individual employees have been out for over 100 days each. WPNRC has a hard time finding employees to begin with and when employees miss time due to injury, it causes an additional strain on employees to cover the workload. In many cases, agency workers and temporary workers are hired to cover the open positions. Mr. LaClair stated the Dementia Unit is a targeted department for Worker's Comp due to the unpredictable behavior. Mr. LaClair says WPNRC is looking into purchasing equipment including a lift system that, according to the manufacturer, could potentially help reduce injuries.

Mr. LaClair stated the Dementia Unit and Short-Term Rehab are among the departments with the most difficult/demanding workload. He also said he looked into increasing compensation for the employees in those departments, but the Union had concerns in the disparity that would be created between units and departments.

Ms. Capwell and Mr. Dellapenna agreed that it is advantageous for the County to remain self-insured.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Kaminsky, seconded by Mr. Hilderbrant. The meeting adjourned 4:40 PM.

PAYMENTS MADE ON WAGES, MEDICAL AND EXPENSES

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (to date)
Willow Point	\$202,026.37	\$402,543.83	\$220,345.38	\$260,279.22	\$248,784.25
Dept of Social Services	\$21,383.14	\$75,948.60	\$51,792.65	\$45,472.60	\$8,922.79
Health Dept	\$9,688.60	\$30,630.16	\$18,468.39	\$17,483.87	\$7,764.29
Office for Aging	\$10,817.40	\$69,466.50	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00

REPORTABLE CASES BY YEAR (INJURIES REQUIRING TREATMENT OR LOST WORK TIME)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (to date)
Willow Point	26	16	28	29	17
Dept of Social Services	5	2	9	6	4
Health Dept	0	3	2	1	0
Office for Aging	0	0	1	1	0

LOST WORK DAYS FOR INJURIES OCCURRING IN THE INDICATED YEAR

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (to date)
Willow Point	402	36	106	244	505
Dept of Social Services	14	2	9	3	0
Health Dept	0	21	0	0	0
Office for Aging	0	0	0	0	0