

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2019

The Health & Human Services Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Wednesday, May 8, 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: K. White, B. Ravas, DSS; S. Liu, OET; K. Saunders, K. Empett, Mental Health; R. Kaufman, Health Department; T. Eaton, L. Schuhle, OFA; B. Weslar, M. Tanzini, C. Hall, Legislature; J. Knebel, G. Bucciarelli, OMB; C. Cramer, C. Wagner, K. McManus, Executive;

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 Ms. Ryan.

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

#9 [RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE BROOME COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD](#)

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#10 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS WITH LICENSED CHILD CARING INSTITUTIONS FOR FOSTER CARE, HOME FINDING AND ADOPTION SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR 2019-2020](#)

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#11 [RESOLUTION DISSOLVING THE COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS AGENCY \(CASA\) ADVISORY BOARD](#)

In response to a question from the Committee, it was stated that CASA used to be its own County Department. It is now a program funded by Medicaid as a unit in the Department of Social Services. It was stated that the Advisory Board is no longer seen as necessary, as other departments have been picking up some of the responsibilities formerly administered by CASA.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

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

In response to a question to the Committee, it was stated that the money is used for both Health Schools and Communities. This specific grant will be used on the Communities side in the Town of Union, which has recently adopted a Complete Streets Policy, which qualifies the Town to receive the funding. This money will be used specifically for sidewalk repair, with a goal to encourage more students to walk to school.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#13 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PERSONNEL CHANGE REQUEST FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES](#)

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#14 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH PROACT, INC. FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In response to a question to the Committee, it was stated that this program is growing. The card covers dental and pet prescriptions. It was stated that around 3,000 prescriptions are filled on a monthly basis using the card in Broome County. This number does not reflect the number of unique individuals who are receiving prescriptions, but rather the total number of prescriptions filled.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#15 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS) GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#16 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS STATE OFFICE FOR AGING (SOFA) PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#38 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ADMINISTER A PORTION OF THE HUD LEAD HAZARD GRANT FOR 2019-2022

In response to a question to the Committee, it was stated that this program, which is heavily regulated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Health Department goes into a home to find lead then they perform dust samples throughout the house. If lead is found, the family is relocated until the lead is removed and the dust samples come back clean. It was stated that many local contractors do not have expertise in lead, therefore the Health Department conducts the training.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

#44 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH SPARK BROOME LLC FOR LEASE OF SPACE AT 601-635 HARRY L. DRIVE FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH AND THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FOR 2020-2034

In response to a question from the Committee, it was stated that OET, Mental Health and a number of DSS employees will be housed at this property. The Medicaid and SNAP unit specifically from DSS will be moving to the new facility. These departments will be occupying a portion of the top floor of the property. It was stated that final plans are still being developed and it was stated that between 35,000 and 40,000 square feet of space would be utilized for the County departments at this new facility and that the estimated cost would be between \$500,000 to \$600,000. It was stated while the overall cost could be higher compared to the rate being paid at the current facilities, DSS could receive a higher amount of reimbursement for its services, ultimately resulting in a savings to the County in the total of approximately \$15,000.

Carried. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

Once regular business concluded, the Committee turned the floor over to Lisa Schuhle of the Office for Aging. Ms. Schuhle began the presentation by discussing OFA's Meals on Wheels program. It serves Eastern Broome, the Town of Sanford, Conklin and Kirkwood along with other rural outlying areas in the County. Western Broome County is served by the Western Broome Meals on Wheels, which is a separate organization, however OFA works closely with them and takes client referrals.

Last year, around 325 volunteers gave their time to the organization. Developmentally disabled individuals, local students, and teachers who are off for the summer also volunteer. Ms. Schuhle stated that last year some clients were put on a waiting list, but they have since caught up and all clients are being served. This program is grant funded, but OFA did seek out private contributions to bring in more funding.

The program has 36 routes and served around 181,000 meals to 728 individuals.

Ms. Schuhle stated that while the program helps feed the clients, many people also see Meals on Wheels as a social program, where they can talk with volunteers and socialize. In addition, Ms. Schuhle stated that 12 people were found in medical distress who were able to receive emergency care.

Ms. Schuhle stated that OFA has been trying to relocate Meals on Wheels to another facility in the City of Binghamton. The current facility is poorly maintained, contains mold and is located on a one-way street. Ms. Schuhle stated that the location has turned away some elderly volunteers because they are not comfortable driving in the parking lot due to potholes and the inability to adequately see when pulling their cars out of the lot.

Ms. Schuhle stated that Broome County's 60+ population will be the largest group in Broome County over the next 15 years.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. O'Brien, seconded by Ms. Ryan. The meeting adjourned 4:35 PM.