

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2022

The Health & Human Services Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 via Zoom.

Members Present: J. Shaw (Chair) C. O'Brien, M. Hilderbrant, M. Kaminsky, K. Beebe

Members Absent: None

Others Present: D. J. Reynolds, A. Martin, M. Tanzini, R. O'Donnell, J. Scott, C. Hall, M. Kaminsky, R. Weslar, S. Ryan, K. Myers, M. Whalen, Legislature; M. McFadden, Health Department; A. Aranov, WPRNC; N. Williams, DSS; K. Empett, K. Saunders, Mental Health; J. Garnar, C. Wagner, M. Ponticiello, C. Whalen, Executive; J. Knebel, OMB; E. Gartenman, Assigned Counsel; M. Whitcombe, OFA; M. Decker, Real Property; R. Behnke, Law Department; R. Murphy, OET; K. Rozenberg, Izzy Wolff, A. Lantzitsky, Centers Health Care, V. Gialanella, Resident.

The Health & Human Services Committee meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:30 PM. Mrs. Beebe made a motion to move the agenda, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien

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

#11 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISION OF THE MENTAL HEALTH SCHOOLS PROJECT GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, ADOPTING A REVISED PROGRAM BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH BROOME TIOGA BOCES TO ADMINISTER SAID PROGRAM FOR 2021](#)

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#12 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH VARIOUS VENDORS FOR TEMPORARY STAFFING SERVICES FOR THE WILLOW POINT REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER FOR 2022](#)

Mrs. Beebe stated that the amounts regarding this agreement are very high and difficult to compete with.

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#13 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISION OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY \(CSE\) PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A REVISED PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2021-2022](#)

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#14 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISION OF THE WELLNESS IN NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A REVISED PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2021](#)

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#15 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISION OF THE EXPANDED IN-HOME SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM \(EISEP\) GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A REVISED PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2021-2022](#)

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#16 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN TIER INDEPENDENCE CENTER TO ACT AS FISCAL INTERMEDIARY FOR CONSUMER DIRECTED SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING'S EXPANDED IN-HOME SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM (EISEP), UNMET NEED PROGRAM, TITLE 111-E FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM, FCC3 CARES ACT PROGRAM, AND FCCG ARP PROGRAM GRANTS FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#17 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH TWIN TIER HOME HEALTH, INC., FOR PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#18 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS VENDORS FOR PERSONAL CARE/HOMEMAKER SERVICES FOR VARIOUS OFFICE FOR AGING PROGRAMS FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#19 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISION OF THE CARE COMPASS NETWORK PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A REVISED PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2018-2020

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#20 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISION OF THE COVID-19 ENHANCED DETECTION, SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A REVISED PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2020-2022

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#21 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH SERAFINI TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR 2022

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#31 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISION OF THE FAIRVIEW RECOVERY SERVICES PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, ADOPTING A REVISED PROGRAM BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH FAIRVIEW RECOVERY SERVICES, INC. TO ADMINISTER SAID PROGRAM FOR 2022

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kaminsky to amend the first RESOLVED paragraph along with the first, second and third FURTHER RESOLVED paragraphs to replace \$99,750 with \$199,750 and to replace \$1,989,858 with \$2,089,858. The amendment also includes a new "Exhibit A" that reflects the increase in funding.

Amendment carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

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

#35 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MARY MCFADDEN AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

Members of the commended Mrs. McFadden on her work and her appointment to the position of Director of Public Health.

#38 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH CENTERS FOR CARE LLC FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE WILLOW POINT REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER

In response to a question from the Committee regarding evaluation criteria for this agreement, County Executive Jason Garnar stated that he is looking to see how the consultant would fill unoccupied beds at Willow Point. He also stated that the evaluation criteria also includes the overall care for patients and the

management of accounts receivable. Willow Point is currently operating at an 8% to 9% unpaid billing rate. He stated the industry standard is around 1% and the consultant's facilities operate at around 0.5%. The County Executive agreed to update the Legislature on a regular basis on the operations at Willow Point. The County Executive would provide an update to include census information, day-to-day operations and billing. The County Executive stated there is currently a draft contract between Broome County and Centers Health Care, LLC and it was sent to all Legislators. The County Executive stated that Centers Health Care is a for-profit entity. He also stated that the previous Administrator left with 30-days' notice and the County had to find a licensed Administrator to keep the facility operating. Mr. Whalen questioned the terms of the agreement and asked for justification regarding language included in the resolution. The County Executive stated that if they were not able to find a licensed Administrator, the nursing home would not be able to operate, and residents would need to be evacuated to other facilities. He stated that Centers Health Care was able to send one of its most experienced Administrators to keep Willow Point open. He stated that Centers Health Care brings a lot to the table regarding census, billing, staffing and tapping into their resources will help improve the operations at Willow Point. In response to a question from a Legislator, Real Property Director Mike Decker stated while a full appraisal has not been conducted, Mr. Decker toured the Willow Point facility last year to inspect the overall functionality and condition of the facility and determined the value of the property to be between \$4,000,000 and \$6,000,000. In response to a question from the Committee, the County Executive stated this agreement was not put out for a request for proposals. If an RFP was conducted, it would take four to six months to finalize an agreement and that point, they would be awarding an RFP for an empty facility because the County would not be able to operate the facility without a licensed nursing home Administrator. The County Executive stated the new Administrator is a Centers Health Care employee who was loaned to Broome County for employment due to the need to fill Willow Point's Administrator vacancy, and Centers would not send an Administrator unless the consulting agreement is ratified. The County Executive stated this was a good faith agreement that is time sensitive. In response to a question from the Committee, Centers Health Care CEO Kenneth Rozenberg stated that Centers Health Care was able to reassign one of their most experienced Administrators in a matter of a few days to come to the aid of Broome County and Willow Point. Centers is investing resources into Willow point, and Centers would require a contract in place to allow the Administrator to continue working at Willow Point. Mrs. Myers commended Centers Health Care for their high rating for satisfaction and thanked the representatives for sending an Administrator and other resources to help Broome County. In response to a question from a Legislator regarding termination agreements, Centers Health Care CFO Izzy Wolff stated that the consulting agreement is a 4-year agreement and Centers would have the first right of refusal for six years in order to protect their investment. The County Attorney stated that if Centers were to breach the agreement, there would be cause for terminating the contract. Mrs. Beebe stated that this resolution does not legally commit to selling or privatizing Willow Point at this time with this contract. Mrs. Ryan stated concerns regarding the vetting of the company and believes there are other options on the table to operate Willow Point, including issuing an RFP. She also expressed concerns regarding the value of the property and the first right of refusal clause of the contract. Mr. Whalen stated he was committed to having a County-owned-and-operated nursing home. In response to a question from the Committee, the County Attorney stated the contract would preclude the County from transferring Willow Point to a non-profit entity. In response to a question from the Committee, Kenneth Rozenberg stated that Centers Health Care has worked with six county-owned nursing homes and eventually purchased all six facilities. Izzy Wolff stated these facilities were slated to be sold and were not stemmed from a consultant agreement. Mr. D.J. Reynolds stated his appreciation and hard work of the County administration to come up with a plan to address the nursing home needs. Mr. D.J. Reynolds stated he is in support of this agreement and other alternatives to the agreement would seem grim for Willow Point. He also stated that there were not many, if any, available candidates to operate Willow Point with such short notice of the Administrator vacancy. He also underscored the importance of the care for residents at Willow Point. In response to a question from a Legislator, the County Executive stated there are no other options or alternatives regarding the nursing home.

Carried. Ayes-4, Nays-1 (Shaw)

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Kaminsky seconded by Mrs. O'Brien. The meeting adjourned at 5:51 PM.