I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Mrs. Baroody to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2019, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Office for the Aging

1. Award Home Care Quote – Mrs. Baroody stated we currently have one vendor who provides EISEP Level I care. A second request for quotes for EISEP Home Care Services was issued as the first one did not result in an award. We revised it so that providers could submit quotes for Level I (housekeeper/chore) and/or Level II (personal care). After the revision we received one quote from Comfort Keepers for Level I care. Mrs. Baroody explained most of the people on our waiting list are Level I and this award will help us provide services. She requested authorization to contract with Comfort Keepers for $10,000 for the year.

MOTION: AWARDING THE QUOTE FOR EISEP HOME CARE SERVICES TO COMFORT KEEPERS FOR LEVEL I CARE FOR AN ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $10,000 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked do you get a report back on how the vendors are doing? Mrs. Baroody replied our office provides monitoring and we know in real time if there are any issues. She commented that the hourly rate for Comfort Keepers is $30.00 per hour; however, they did agree to allow us to deduct $0.36 per hour from the rate for our administrative work.
Mr. Maio asked is there a waiting list for Level II care? Mrs. Baroody replied we currently do have a waiting list for Level II care and Home Health Care has been able to answer that need. We know that Level II is a growing need. There is a workforce issue to attract people to that type of work and one of the biggest issues is pay. This is hard work and it is isolated work in the home. There are statewide initiatives being put into place to figure out a solution, but we do not have any answers.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Full Circle America – Mrs. Baroody introduced Linda Tetor who is here to answer any questions about the Full Circle America Program. Mrs. Ferratella asked are there scholarships or are individuals responsible for paying the full amount? Mrs. Tetor replied individuals received a six-month free services trial and then we look at their income and payment is based on a sliding fee scale. Some individuals do pay the entire $250 per month. We also have a couple of individuals whose monthly income is $600 - $700 and they do not pay a fee.

Mrs. Tetor explained the Steuben Senior Services Fund is a not-for-profit agency that works in partnership with the Office for the Aging. The Full Circle America program allows individuals to stay at home with the use of a computer, the internet and cameras. We also have a case manager who reviews referrals of individuals interested in the program. We have a contract with Dr. Alan Teel, who is located in Maine. He monitors each case and will call 911 if there is an issue. Dr. Teel talks with clients fairly regularly about wellness issues. We have local nurses that go into the homes as needed. Currently there are 13 individuals on the program and we have serviced 30 to-date. People are hesitant to do the program because of the internet, but we are gaining traction. Our board has raised $137,000 to invest into this program. The average age of participants is 90.

B. Public Health

1. 2020 Contracts – Mrs. Smith presented the 2020 contracts for review and approval. There have been no changes since last year.

MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2020 CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH: COMMON GROUND HEALTH (REGIONAL HEALTH PLANNING SERVICES) - $1,000; ARNOT MEDICAL SERVICES (TB SERVICES) – MEDICAID RATE; NOYES HOSPITAL – QUANTIFERON TB TEST (TB SERVICES) - $50.00; FINGER LAKES MIGRANT HEALTH CARE PROJECT (STD TESTING) – MEDICAID RATE; PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC. (STD TESTING) – MEDICAID RATE; JAMES MCGUINESS & ASSOCIATES (SOFTWARE SUPPORT) - $625.00/MONTH FOR PRESCHOOL BILLING PROGRAM; $167.00/MONTH FOR MEDICAID SERVICE BUREAU AND $125.00/HOUR FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT; S2AY RURAL HEALTH NETWORK (CONSULTANT) - $18,500; S2AY RURAL HEALTH NETWORK (CONSULTANT – REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COOPERATIVE) - $2,000; BIOSERVE, INC. (MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL) - $75.00/BOX; JAN & BEV’S HOME CARE (CONTRACT STAFF – NURSES) – PAYROLL + 15%; PATHWAYS (CONTRACT STAFF – NURSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT) – PAYROLL + 15%; WELLNESS PROGRAMS WITH VALUE (BIOMETRIC COLLECTION & REPORTING) - $3.00/FORM AND $200.00 FOR REPORTS; NEW YORK BLOOD PRESSURE, INC. (BLOOD PRESSURE MACHINE) - $99.00/MONTH; LEAD SCREENING GRANT - $41,994; IMMUNIZATION GRANT - $48,470; RABIES GRANT - $20,210; EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT - $82,371; CHILDREN SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS GRANT - $21,888; EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT - $39,884; STUDENT FIELD EXPERIENCE CONTRACTS AT NO COST TO THE COUNTY WITH SUNY ALFRED, ELMIRA COLLEGE, SUNY BROCKPORT, KEUKA COLLEGE, PLATTSBURG, SUNY EMPIRE, CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SUNY BINGHAMTON, ROBERTS WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ST. JOHN FISHER AND CORNELL UNIVERSITY MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Preschool Provider Contracts – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a contract for preschool related services with Whitesville Central School District for $70.00 per session and with Campbell-Savona Central School District for a preschool 1 to 1 aide for $18.00 per hour.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR PRESCHOOL SERVICES: WHITESVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (RELATED SERVICES) AT A RATE OF $70.00 PER SESSION AND CAMPBELL-SAVONA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (1:1 AIDE) AT A RATE OF $18.00 PER HOUR MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. Lead Grant – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to accept a Lead Grant from the United Way of the Southern Tier in the amount of $3,000. This is unrestricted funding and our intent is to use some of these funds to purchase supplies to assist families in the remediation of lead in their homes.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT A LEAD GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $3,000 FROM THE UNITED WAY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

C. Office of Community Services

1. CASA-Trinity Contract – Dr. Chapman stated several months ago Ann Domingos of CASA-Trinity came before the committee to request $80,000 in County funds to help cover the cost of the former Loyola inpatient detox unit. During the course of the budget process, $40,000 was budgeted for this purpose. He requested authorization to enter into a contract with CASA-Trinity for $40,000 to cover some of the overhead and start-up costs for the detox unit in Hornell.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CASA-TRINITY FOR $40,000 TO COVER SOME OF THE OVERHEAD AND START-UP COSTS FOR THE DETOX UNIT IN HORNELL MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked so what is the status of this? Dr. Chapman replied he is not aware that a decision about the future location has been made. They are currently housed in the old St. James Hospital and Ms. Domingos was working to secure space in the new hospital. As a backup plan she was also looking at an alternative location.

Mr. Van Etten commented Ms. Domingos had stated that she was going to seek additional funding from surrounding counties; was she able to do that? Dr. Chapman replied she did contact Chemung, Livingston and Allegany counties. Chemung and Livingston already have programs in their counties and declined. Allegany also did not contribute.

Mrs. Lando asked will Ms. Domingos be able to operate with $40,000? Dr. Chapman replied this amount was based on Ms. Domingos’ best estimates. His suggestion would be to, at the very least, get information from Ms. Domingos on a quarterly basis to see where things are at. Mrs. Lando commented it would be nice to have her come back to one of our meetings to give an update.

Mr. Van Etten asked is this going to be a 27-bed unit? Dr. Chapman replied yes and she recently was approved for 30 beds. Mr. Van Etten stated this is a good thing for our area and Ms. Domingos is a very good operator. Mr. Wheeler stated there were additional beds at the Bath VA and those were closed, so if Ms. Domingos did not take over the Loyola unit in Hornell, we would have no beds available in Steuben County.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Prevention Coalition Presentation – Dr. Chapman stated he would like to welcome Colleen Banik and Jim Bassage from the Steuben Prevention Coalition. They are here to provide the committee a presentation on what they can offer with regard to opioid prevention.

Ms. Banik stated back in September we had come to the committee to request funding in case we did not receive our Federal drug free initiative grant (DFC). This is a five-year grant of $125,000 per year. We did not receive
the grant in 2018. This year, for 2020, we did receive the grant. In the meantime, we did start our Opioid Prevention Program which is not covered under DFC funds. She explained in 2019 we established the Opioid Committee and our goals were to raise awareness, data collection and overall support for the reduction of opioid abuse. This committee is made up of 19 members. During 2019 we participated in the Regional Opioid Task Force and the Regional Vaping Task Force. We continued our data collection which included the 2019 adult perception survey, the formulated community perception survey and the 2019 prevention needs assessment survey. Additionally we have installed six drug free zone signs and now have 13 medication drop box locations.

Ms. Banik stated for 2020 the Opioid Committee will continue to meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. We will continue with our annual school and community events which include the PSA contest and media events projects, youth and community led café conversation and school policy recommendations and assistance. She stated they will continue to increase the community partnerships and collaborations. They will also be doing the Opioid & Vaping Crisis Educational Awareness training, DITEP (Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals) and community trainings on Opioid abuse and Vaping.

Ms. Banik stated the 2020 Opioid Community budget proposal is $62,724. She stated Catholic Charities has already committed $25,000 for a dedicated staff person. We are requesting a County appropriation of $37,724 for our portion. Additionally, we will be doing fundraising and outreach for an additional $9,300. Ms. Banik stated our request for $37,724 will be used for the operation of the Opioid Committee. Mr. Van Etten asked with your five-year grant, are there performance reporting requirements? Ms. Banik replied yes, we do quarterly reporting and we also have to reapply for the funding each year.

Mr. Malter asked did we put this request in the budget? Mr. Wheeler replied we did with the specification that Ms. Banik and Mr. Bassage would come and do a presentation to the committee on what these funds would be used for.

**MOTION: AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE STEUBEN PREVENTION COALITION FOR FUNDING OF THE OPIOID PREVENTION COMMITTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF $37,724 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS’ LAW, ARTICLE 7§ 105.1.H. THE PROPOSED, ACQUISITION, SALE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**

Wednesday, February 5, 2020
Legislative Committee Room
9:00 a.m.
Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, January 29, 2020
I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Ms. Towner to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

III. **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

A. *Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Contract* – Dr. Chapman explained with the resignation of Dr. Touchstone, we are in need of another prescriber. He stated Sonya Sariego is a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner who works with both adults and children. He requested authorization to contract with her at a rate of $125.00 per hour, not to exceed $104,000 annually.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO CONTRACT WITH SONYA SORREGA FOR PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER SERVICES AT A RATE OF $125.00 PER HOUR, NOT TO EXCEED $104,000 ANNUALLY MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

B. *Budget Adjustment* – Dr. Chapman requested authorization to transfer a total of $220,000 from 2019 contracted services lines into the 2019 line item for the Mental Hygiene Law to cover 2019 expenses. He explained when an individual is arrested on felony charges and is deemed incompetent to stand trial, they are sent to the Rochester Psychiatric Center (RPC) for treatment. The cost for that is $20,000 per month. At this point in time we have an individual who has been on that unit the entirety of 2019 and continues to be there. We also had an adolescent that needed to be evaluated at the Elmira Psychiatric Center (EPC). The total bill for 2019 was $270,000, and we typically only budget $20,000 in this line item.
Mr. Maio asked what is the outlook for 2020? Dr. Chapman replied we continue to keep in contact with RPC and at this point it appears that the individual will continue to need treatment services. Mr. Maio asked if there were no criminal charges, would this still be a County expense? Ms. Prossick replied no. She stated in these two cases due to the magnitude of the charges, we were unable to attempt to reduce the charges down. We have been working diligently to manage these types of cases.

Mr. Malter asked what did you budget for this line item for 2020? Dr. Chapman replied typically we only budget $20,000. Historically, we have been lucky that we have not had many of these instances. Mr. Maio commented you are already over budget right now for 2020. Dr. Chapman replied that is correct.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO TRANSFER $160,000 FROM THE CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES LINE ITEM IN THE MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC COST CENTER AND $60,000 FROM THE CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES LINE ITEM IN THE EMERGENCY OUTREACH COST CENTER IN THE 2019 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATING $220,000 INTO THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW LINE ITEM WITHIN THE MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION COST CENTER IN THE 2019 BUDGET TO COVER THE 2019 MENTAL HYGIENE BILL COSTS MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

B. Office for the Aging
   1. Accept and Appropriate Additional EISEP Funds – Ms. Towner requested authorization to accept $102,000 in additional EISEP funds and appropriate it into various line items and contracts in the 2019 and 2020 budgets.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO ACCEPT AN ADDITIONAL $102,000 IN EISEP FUNDS INTO THE 2019 AND 2020 BUDGETS AND APPROPRIATE TO VARIOUS EQUIPMENT AND CONTRACT LINE ITEMS WITHIN THE 2019 AND 2020 BUDGETS MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

C. Department of Social Services
   1. Budget Appropriation – Ms. Muller stated they had appropriated $438,000 in the 2019 Foster Care budget in anticipation of the Raise the Age expenditures. We have anticipated that the 2019 expenditures will be close to $800,000. The State has indicated that they will provide 100 percent reimbursement to counties under the tax cap, which we are, for the incremental costs associated with implementing Raise the Age. She requested authorization to accept $347,081 in State revenue and appropriate the same to the 2019 Foster Care budget.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE STATE REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF $347,081 INTO THE 2019 BUDGET REVENUE LINE AND APPROPRIATING $347,081 INTO THE 2019 BUDGET FOSTER CARE EXPENSE LINE ITEM MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0. Resolution Required.

D. Public Health
   1. Diabetes Coalition – Mrs. Smith informed the committee that the Diabetes Coalition had been formed on October 15, 2010 and this coalition served Steuben, Chemung and Schuyler counties. This coalition was later disbanded on July 17, 2019. Over the years the coalition had raised $4,559.29 and the group decided to set these funds aside for children, in the three-county area, with a diabetes diagnosis to be able to attend the American Diabetes Association’s Camp Aspire. She requested authorization to transfer these funds from the Diabetes Coalition to the S2AY Rural Health Network, who has agreed to accept and distribute these scholarships for Camp Aspire.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF $4,559.29 FROM THE DIABETES COALITION TO THE S2AY RURAL HEALTH NETWORK FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISTRIBUTING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CAMP ASPIRE MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Coronavirus Update** – Mrs. Smith stated the Coronavirus continues to be a very large problem internationally and that is expected to continue. Over the weekend we were informed by the CDC to expect 10,000 passengers per day to be flying back to the United States. It looks as though that number was inflated, but nevertheless, citizens are returning. Those individuals that are returning will be quarantined for 14 days at two military bases located in California. Mrs. Smith stated she had been concerned for Steuben County because of the companies within the county who have plants in China and thousands of employees. Corning, Inc. has locked down travel to China and that is really good news for us. Having said that, if this goes on for months, there will be occasions where they will need to allow employees to travel back and forth to China to work. We have met with various county officials to review our isolation/quarantine plan. Mr. Wheeler stated Mrs. Smith and her team has done a great job.

3. **Accreditation** – Mrs. Ferratella asked have you received any updates? Mrs. Smith stated we, and the other counties, will be submitting all of our documents this month. These are all of the outstanding documents that needed to be revised and that were worked on in 2019. Sometime in March is when PHAB will have their board meeting where they will review all of the documents. She expects that they will know in about eight weeks.

E. **Personnel**

1. **Reclassification – Office of Community Services** – Mr. Alderman stated Dr. Chapman is requesting the reclassification of one vacant Recreation Therapist position, Grade XII to a Social Work Assistant position, Grade XII. Dr. Chapman explained about twenty years ago the Recreation Therapist position was created. That individual has recently left employment and we really do not have a need for that position. However, we do have a need for case management services and a Social Work Assistant position would be able to provide that. The cost is the same and we have money in our 2020 budget to cover this. Mr. Maio asked how long has this position been vacant? Dr. Chapman replied since November.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF ONE (1) VACANT RECREATION THERAPIST POSITION, GRADE XII TO A SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT POSITION, GRADE XII IN THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

2. **Reclassification – Office of Community Services** – Mr. Alderman stated Dr. Chapman is requesting authorization to reclassify one (1) zero-based Staff Psychologist position, Grade XIX to an Assistant Director of Community Services position, Management Grade I. Dr. Chapman explained for the past eight years he has been working without a deputy and prior to him taking this position there had always been one. With managed care and the different projects the department is involved with now, he needs to have a person to help him oversee the programs and make decisions. This would really be in our best interest to start a succession plan. The salary is similar and there would be a bit of a savings.

Mr. Wheeler stated you do have an individual that you are considering; what is the plan for that position? Dr. Chapman replied the plan with that individual is to modify her current responsibilities and carve out some time to be able to do some deputy responsibilities. He is not replacing that position 100 percent of the time at this time. The plan is to delegate some of her current duties to other staff. Mr. Wheeler stated he is not backfilling the position at this time.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF ONE (1) ZERO-BASED STAFF PSYCHOLOGIST POSITION, GRADE XIX TO AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES POSITION, MANAGEMENT GRADE I MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Van Etten asked is it worthwhile to you to do it this way? Dr. Chapman replied in an ideal world it would be best to have the position focused 100 percent on deputy responsibilities. He is trying to keep the budget in mind and keep expenses contained. Mr. Wheeler stated if it looks like the workload is going to be too much, we could authorize filling the position so that we have flexibility. We will leave it vacant for a little bit and see how it all transitions. Mr. Maio commented he is not seeing this position being vacant for a long period of time.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0. Resolution Required.

F. County Manager

1. United Way Contract – Mr. Wheeler stated the United Way had requested $20,000 to help support the implementation of their COMET Program. This is the tracking software for the Kids On Track Program. We have included this in the 2020 budget. He requested authorization to enter into a contract with the United Way to provide this funding.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE UNITED WAY TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF $20,000 FOR THE COMET SOFTWARE PROGRAM MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**

Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Legislative Committee Room
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, February 26, 2020
CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Prossick to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Office of Community Services

1. Psychiatric Contract – Dr. Chapman requested authorization to amend the contract with Dr. Neerukonda to provide additional hours to cover the Jail and for the PROS Program. The contract would be amended from $111,000 annually to $150,000 annually to cover these additional services.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH DR. SAMPATH NEERUKONDA, DBA WESTERN NY PSYCH-MED, FOR INCREASED HOURS TO COVER THE JAIL AND THE PROS PROGRAM AND INCREASING THE CONSIDERATION FROM $111,000 ANNUALLY TO $150,000 ANNUALLY MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

2. Budget Adjustment – Dr. Chapman requested authorization to accept $682,485 in one-time start-up funding from the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (NYS OASAS) and to appropriate these pass-thru dollars to CASA-Trinity. He announced CASA-Trinity will be moving into their new space in the plaza next to the new hospital within the next two weeks.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ACCEPT $682,485 IN ONE-TIME START-UP FUNDING FROM THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES (NYS OASAS) AND TO APPROPRIATE TO CASA-TRINITY MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.
B. Department of Social Services
   1. Resolution Urging Preservation of Zero Percent Medicaid Growth Cap – Ms. Muller informed the committee the Governor’s budget contains severe cuts to the local districts on the Medicaid Cap. If we are facing new growth above 3 percent savings based on our cap, we will have to pay back the difference. We will lose additional FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentages) which average $1.6 million per year.

Mr. Wheeler stated we will be doing a lot of press releases in the next couple of days. He stated FMAP is a big deal as that is the enhanced funding through the Affordable Care Act as New York State provided a higher level of services. The other piece is if you go over in any year, then that becomes your new global cap. The interpretation of NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties) was your last year is compounding every year. We are talking millions of dollars.

Mr. Malter asked how do you determine the savings? Ms. Muller replied it is based on the gross cost, the local share of that and the local share compared to the cap. Anything above a 3 percent savings would need to be paid back to the State. Mr. Wheeler stated it basically is the growth of the program. In addition, if we have to override the cap, the 3 percent does not matter at that point. If you exceed the cap, you are exceeding it because of the Medicaid cost.

Mr. Horton asked can you cut services? Mr. Wheeler replied no. Ms. Muller explained the other thing is the State is saying that counties are increasing costs because the counties are enrolling everyone that comes through. We are bound by the State’s requirements as to who gets on Medicaid. In 2012 the State took over the administration of Medicaid, but we are only processing 20 percent of the applications at this point in time. In addition, they are including the percentage of applications that include SSD and SSI which are not processed locally. The State is exaggerating the numbers.

Mr. Wheeler stated there is a good article regarding this that he will send out to the Legislature. This article shows that on average the counties are processing 40 percent of the applications and the State is processing 60 percent of the applications. To say we are responsible for the increased enrollment is a lie.

Mr. Malter asked when you do the applications, how do you verify eligibility? Ms. Muller replied applicants have to provide proof of their income and we also have a contract with Bonadio who does a Medicaid audit and verifies eligibility. We also make referrals to HMS to do fraud investigations. Mr. Wheeler commented long-term care is another huge issue. Maximus is a for-profit company that manages long-term care on behalf of the State, with no input from the counties.

Mr. Maio commented that he does not think we need to oversell how much is generated by fraud. Mr. Wheeler stated this is just another aspect that we do not control. The Governor made a point that counties are not doing that and that would be a bullet we would present in a press release. Mr. Maio commented Medicaid fraud is a national problem.

Mr. Malter stated between 2014 – 2019 there was a $56 million increase in Medicaid. Ms. Muller stated approximately 25 percent of the population in the County is on Medicaid. Hospitals and behavioral health systems have been hit negatively. Mr. Maio asked has the eligibility been expanded? Ms. Muller replied yes and that was part of FMAP. The State signed on to get additional federal money to make more people eligible.

Mr. Malter stated they have cut reimbursement but the costs are increasing. We must have more people based on eligibility? Ms. Muller replied yes. Mr. Wheeler stated yes, and that was the State’s goal and now the State is saying it is the counties fault.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked where is the money going? A lot of doctors do not have it because the amount they get for the services they provide is a pittance. Mr. Wheeler replied it is long-term care. Ms. Muller stated it also goes to transportation and prescription costs. Mr. Wheeler commented it is a shell game. For the past two years the State has kicked one Medicaid payment into the next year, a deferred cost of $1.2 billion each time. Ms. Muller stated
long-term care has increased $21 million since 2012 and skilled nursing has increased $17.2 million since 2012. Mr. Potter stated New York State also offers more of the Medicaid benefits than the other states. Mr. Wheeler replied yes.

Ms. Muller commented we pay for the actual health care and New York State pays a portion of that cost. The other states only pay for the cost of administration. Mr. Wheeler stated it really is long-term care that is exploding the program. Ms. Muller stated that, along with transportation and prescription costs.

Mr. Malter asked what will be the total additional cost? Ms. Muller replied we anticipate $2.6 to $3 million. Mr. Wheeler stated that is the estimated additional cost in the first year and then it will compound every year after that.

Ms. Lattimer asked what is NYSAC’s perspective? Mr. Wheeler replied both houses hate this. We are hand-in-glove with New York City on this issue. The Governor has proposed that the Medicaid Redesign Team work on this and we, NYSAC, are saying let them do their work to find the savings on the State level.

Mr. Malter asked what is the federal administration looking at? Mr. Wheeler replied it is very likely there would be a suit that we would probably look at. NYSAC has said from a legal perspective, the language is murky, but we could challenge it. Senator Schumer agrees and is very concerned if the State takes that FMAP funding from the counties.

**MOTION: URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PRESERVE THE ZERO PERCENT MEDICAID GROWTH CAP FOR ALL COUNTIES AND NEW YORK CITY MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Malter asked if this legislation passes, when would it take effect? Mr. Wheeler replied April 1st is the start of the State budget. The 3 percent would start being calculated mid-year at a minimum, but we would see the impact in the next budget year.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0, Resolution Required.**

2. **Foster Parent Mileage** – Ms. Muller requested an increase in mileage for foster parents from $0.28 per mile to $0.50 per mile.

**MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO INCREASE THE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR FOSTER PARENTS FROM $0.28 PER MILE TO $0.50 PER MILE MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.**

3. **Statistical Information** – Ms. Muller stated she wanted to give the committee an update on their housing numbers. For the months of January and February 2020, our gross cost has been $290,000. We spent $140,000 during 2019. She stated Bath Police Department is doing our room checks. For Code Blue, we spent $38,000 during 2019 and already for 2020 we have spent $95,000. With the Code Blue, it is all 100 percent reimbursable, but it is very taxing on the system. The threshold for Code Blue is 32 degrees and

Mr. Van Etten stated going back to the Medicaid discussion, are the Baby Boomers part of the increase? Ms. Muller replied yes and the other part is the long-term care that is managed by Maximus. Mr. Wheeler commented the interesting part is that the last renewal of the Maximus contract was not subject to Comptroller approval. Mr. Horton commented as the Boomer population declines, we should have less long-term care costs. Mr. Wheeler stated that cost may stabilize at some point.
C. County Manager

1. Coronavirus – Mr. Wheeler stated the Governor has allocated $40 million for the Coronavirus. Additionally, the Legislature has expanded the authority of the Governor to declare states of emergency at the local level as well as the ability to issue quarantines. This takes away all of the local authority. Ms. Lattimer commented if the virus does not explode the way the Governor expects, he will find a way to shift those funds into a slush fund and then they will be gone; we wonder why there is a $6 billion deficit.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, April 1, 2020
Legislative Committee Room
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, March 25, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Office of Community Services
   1. Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Contract – Dr. Chapman stated he would like to table this until a later time.

   2. Canisteo Valley Lease Agreement – Dr. Chapman stated as many of you know, we have been leasing office space and providing mental health services from Dr. MacKellar’s Canisteo Valley Family Practice, for the past three years. Recently Dr. MacKellar’s practice was purchased by WNY Medical Practice. Therefore, I’m asking your permission to enter into a lease agreement with WNY Medical Practice that is being transferred from Dr. MacKellar. Mrs. Ferratella asked any other questions? Mrs. Lando stated I have a question; nothing has changed? Dr. Chapman replied nothing has changed; it is $1,000 per month, internet and phone service included, front office support, shared waiting area and furniture. That all remains the same. Mrs. Ferratella stated all right. Do we have a motion?

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW OWNERS OF THE CANISTEO VALLEY FAMILY PRACTICE, WNY MEDICAL PRACTICE UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THE LEASE UNDER CANISTEO VALLEY FAMILY PRACTICE MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Mrs. Ferratella asked, Dr. Chapman are you going to address the psychiatric nurse practitioner contracts? Dr. Chapman replied no I am going to table that to a later date. Mrs. Ferratella stated okay, do you think that would be our next meeting? Dr. Chapman replied most likely next meeting, yes. Mrs. Ferratella stated all right, thank you.
B. Public Health

1. Accept Covid-19 Response Grant – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to accept and appropriate the Covid-19 Response Grant from the NYS Department of Health; they are administering the funds. The amount of the grant is $112,025. This will cover things like overtime, supplies, mileage; things like that.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ACCEPT A COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANT FROM THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE AMOUNT OF $112,025 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando stated so now I have a question. Will this even touch what we have spent so far? Mrs. Smith replied yes. This is a big shot in the arm for us. The last two weeks we have certainly had a significant amount of overtime from the nurses and anticipate more in the coming weeks because of the numbers increasing exponentially. Mrs. Lando asked so Darlene, what are those volunteers doing? Mrs. Smith replied well they are, Civil Defense is their home base right now (Secretary’s Note: Audio cut out) they are helping in a variety of ways. They are helping to answer the million phone calls coming in every day from the community; questions, concerns. They are helping with that. They are helping with going to the homes of those who are positive and are under mandatory isolation. Those individuals need a daily, in-home check to make sure they are still in isolation and managing their symptoms. There is office and clerical work out at the Civil Defense and even starting with today, I have a couple of retired nurses coming back to help with some of our regular public health work that we really haven’t gotten to, much, you know like Lead, Rabies, STD’s, things like that.

Mrs. Ferratella stated all right, thank you. Any other questions?

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. Contract – Mrs. Smith stated the last item for me is authorization to enter into a contract with the Hornell City School District to provide preschool evaluations and related services. Same price point as always; $70.00 per session and $35.00 per group session. Mrs. Ferratella asked are there any questions?

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE HORNELL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR PRESCHOOL EVALUATIONS AND RELATED SERVICES AT A RATE OF $70.00 PER SESSION AND $35.00 PER GROUP SESSION FOR RELATED SERVICES AND THE STATE RATE FOR EVALUATIONS MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. Preschool Transportation Bids – Mrs. Smith stated the last item for me is this is the time of the year when I always come to ask for approval to request bids for our preschool transportation services.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR PRESCHOOL TRANSPORTATION MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Mrs. Lando stated so I have a question; are we going to get an update from Jack or from you, Darlene, about what is going on? Mrs. Smith replied I can give you a little update this morning. Now these numbers that I’m going to give you are effective last night. Each morning when we come in, we start adding up new numbers from overnight, so I don’t have the overnight numbers for you. As of last night when we all went home, we have 36 confirmed, positive Covid cases. We have a total of 152 individuals in both isolation and quarantine. Throughout the County approximately 283 tests for Covid have been performed and approximately 214 of those have come back negative so there are still some outstanding pending. We currently have 11 that are hospitalized. We do expect all of the numbers to increase today and in the coming days. It’s at a pretty fast pace right now with the numbers that are coming in.

Mrs. Ferratella asked are there any other questions?
Mr. Van Caeseele stated I have a quick question. How much of a problem do you think it is with people who are suspicious that they have it and then how much room are they going to take up when they go to the emergency room for testing; is that causing a big backflow in the hospitals? Mrs. Smith stated I don’t think it is causing a backflow. I think a number of those, quite simply, are getting turned away. They may think they have it, but if the medical provider or the hospital feels that they really don’t meet the criteria, they are trying to protect the number of testing kits they have available and they are often not testing them. They are just sending them on their way. So I don’t think it is really causing a capacity issue in terms of the number of people at the ER, it’s more the number that are being turned away.

Mr. Wheeler stated (Secretary’s Note: Audio cut out)…it is more of an issue with people coming into the ER…..more likely to be positive. Before we were seeing about a 25 percent positive tested rate and that number we are seeing is going up because the providers are getting tight with how they are testing. So we have asked the hospitals about capacity and issues they are experiencing and for the past week, week and a half they haven’t mentioned it to me. Mr. Van Caeseele stated okay, thank you.

Mr. Maio asked, Darlene how are we set in the County for test kits, masks, etc.? Are we having any issues there yet? Mrs. Smith stated the hospitals have a supply...(Secretary’s Note: Audio cut out) We, I mean in conjunction with Tim at OEM (Office of Emergency Management) placed a testing kit supply order about two and a half weeks ago now and we still do not have all of the components of that that we would need to perform testing. It’s a problem for everybody. With PPE, we still have PPE and we are distributing it based on need and acuity and you know hospitals first and then down the line chain of health care providers and health care institutions. We did have a conversation yesterday with the hospitals on our morning call, that they really need to preserve and ration their PPE, specifically gowns. Sometimes you can’t and at this point they you just can’t change a gown every time they walk in a room and come back out.

Mr. Wheeler stated so we have a daily call with the State Office of Emergency Services and they are the organization that Tim and Ken and Matthew work with for supplying. We received a shipment, pretty significant shipment, of about 1,000 N95 masks, 1,000 surgical masks, gowns and gloves last week. We are expecting a small shipment again today. But like Darlene said, and you see it downstate; the CDC does have guidelines for the rationing and provisioning of the N95’s and gowns. We know their burn rates, so every day they tell us how many they have gone through and it is getting concerning. They are taking the measures and all of the hospitals are already instituting the measures to preserve. Specifically in the Hornell area because you currently have 5 positive individuals that we know of as of last night, that are hospitalized with Covid. That’s where we are seeing the highest burn rate right now.

Mrs. Ferratella asked are we seeing mostly the elderly or is there a mixture of ages? Mrs. Smith replied there is a mixture. We even have a fairly young individual who is positive and is hospitalized, so it is a mixture at this point in time.

Mr. Hanna asked how do they determine if a person needs to go to the hospital versus just going home and being in quarantine? Mrs. Smith replied you know certainly it is a medical condition. We have had it both ways where the individual went to the hospital to get tested and their symptoms, condition was severe enough that they were immediately hospitalized. Then we have had it the other way that they got tested, sent home but their condition worsened and then they ended up going back and getting hospitalized at that point in time. It’s certainly how they present and I think a big part of it, whether they need hospitalization, a big part of it is related to their breathing. How difficult, because we had one individual who tested positive quite some time ago, they went home and were home for probably a week and then it ended up her O2 rates were just too low and ended up getting hospitalized a week later after testing positive.

Mrs. Ferratella asked are there any other questions?

Mr. Mullen stated I have a couple of questions. One of them is, have we talked; I had seen an article about blood testing for people who may have already had it. I have talked to different people who have said I think I may
have had this a few months ago. Have we talked about doing anything like that to try and see what is going on with that in the County? Mrs. Smith replied the last I heard about that was I would say last week I think when Governor Cuomo said plans were being put into place for that testing, but we haven’t received any direct communication that we are ready to roll with that. Mr. Wheeler commented we don’t have the supplies, so that would be coordinated by the State, but we will keep asking that question when we are on the phone with our State reps.

Mrs. Lando stated I have a question. So if I’m not mistaken, when I am looking at the reports, a lot, several of the cases are centered around Hornell, Hornellsville. Is there a reason, has anybody figured out why that is happening? Mrs. Smith replied we have noticed that as well and we are not sure. You know it only takes a small number of people to increase the spread. (Secretary’s Note: Audio cut out) Mr. Wheeler stated we haven’t noticed a, so some of the cases are related, so it definitely is community spread. We haven’t seen any, you know where one person is responsible for, or the origin of another infection. We haven’t seen that yet.

Mr. Van Etten stated one question I asked Jack this morning is as I am driving from Corning, I am following a pick-up truck with six, well five Amish contract workers and a driver. I had said has there been any issue as far as the Amish community, in Woodhull or wherever, because they certainly self-isolate on their own until they ride to a work site and then they are all huddled in a truck. Mr. Wheeler stated yeah to your point, I have talked with the Governor’s Office yesterday because it came up again. (Chris) Mr. Brewer did a great job as he has connections with an individual who is close to the community and spoke with their Bishops to urge them to take the proper precautions. I asked yesterday for State guidance on dealing with this and they said they have been asked by other communities up in the North Country for that and they said they were working on it.

Mr. Mullen stated hey Jack, I have a suggestion on that. One of the wind proceedings that went through, it was suggested by some of the people that one of the best ways to inform Amish is that there are several Amish newspaper publications that are specific to their community that most of the people in the communities get that and it may be good to try to look into those and just getting a notice into some of those newspapers and I’ve got names for like three of them that I can email to you. Mr. Wheeler stated that would be fantastic. Lorelei, Darlene and her staff have done an awesome job with messaging so there are pretty simple and easily communicated messaging that would be applicable for all communities that we could get out, so yeah, if you could send it to us, that would be awesome. Mr. Mullen stated he will get that contact information to Mr. Wheeler today.

Mrs. Ferratella asked any more questions?

Mr. Van Caeseele stated just one more concern. The messaging to the average citizen about the PPE, (Secretary’s Note: Audio cut out)….should we be, should, does it help healthy people stay healthy by wearing it because I am concerned that, assuming that it is limiting supply to the hospitals. Does that make sense? Mrs. Smith stated I know we are trying to get the message out that the PPE is not necessary or required for healthy people and that we should be preserving that for those that are ill and certainly the health care workers. They are the most important individuals who should be utilizing it. So where some of those people that I see in the grocery store where they are wearing a mask; where they are getting it from I’m not sure, but it’s out there and I do see healthy individuals wearing masks. I’m not sure, but we can certainly continue to message around that. Mr. Van Caeseele stated all right, that was my concern.

Mr. Swackhamer stated on the TV they are warning, saying that everybody leaving their house should be wearing a mask now. That was on this morning, earlier. Mr. Wheeler stated yeah I saw the CDC…..(Secretary’s Note: Audio cut out)….Mrs. Ferratella stated Jack, Gary said this morning that on TV it said that everyone should be wearing a mask. Mr. Wheeler stated CDC was talking about that yesterday, but we will keep our eye out and do some messaging on that. You know some folks in the community in the knitting community and others are doing an awesome job making the homemade masks and certainly that, some of them being distributed to hospitals and others and that is more appropriate, and in my uneducated opinion a better use for the public than the N95 and surgical masks. The N95 and surgical masks need to really be reserved for the hospital systems and quite frankly, if a citizen wanted to buy N95’s on Amazon, they are not going to be able to right now. It’s not a concern at the
moment, but yep we will do some more messaging and look at what CDC says. Mr. Swackhamer stated okay, thank you.

Mrs. Lando stated Gary they also are saying you can use a bandana, or a scarf around your head, it does not have to be a real mask.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked Mrs. Ferratella if she could make a comment. Mrs. Ferratella stated sure. Mr. Swackhamer stated they said anything that can protect the virus from coming in; anything, a scarf, bandannas, anything of that nature. Mrs. Ferratella asked Ms. Fitzpatrick if she wanted to say something.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I wondered how many calls was Public Health taking regarding businesses that have not been deemed essential and also regarding the post on our Facebook page for the Attorney General’s phone number to call regarding businesses that are still open. Is that post still up? Mrs. Smith replied yes…. (Secretary’s Note: Audio cut out) …I can tell you that we got a lot more calls about those types of questions before we put some messaging out there about, you know, who to call in relation to all sorts of specifics of people who didn’t agree or didn’t know who was essential service. We got a lot more calls before our messaging than after.

Mr. Wheeler stated we also, I mean Lorelei monitors the social media activity. You know we get a couple questions about those a day and they are very focused on the larger businesses that have been deemed essential that remain open, not the (Secretary’s Note: Audio garbled). We have gotten really one question that I can recall us discussing, a small business.

Mr. Mullen stated I have a comment. I looked at the posts there. I think it is good to have information on the website about who is an essential business. I thought and I know you guys were in the middle of a lot of things and this is a small issue, relative to that, it may be better to say this is, is it Empire State Development Jamie? The website that if you still have a question whether you are an essential business, this is the link where to find that. Mr. Johnson stated so can I jump in here Jack? So how we are directing things; Empire State Development, in the last couple of days, has taken a much more hands off approach, designating whether you are essential or not. They basically are saying to go to the guidelines and they are not making special designations at this point, they are just directing everyone to the guidelines. If a business really wants to push the issue then they can request a legal opinion through the State of New York. We are telling people that it is better to be safe and to just take a conservative approach because if they request a legal opinion, it’s going to take them forever to get one anyways. The State is actively investigating, through the Attorney General’s Office, those complaints that they get, which is the information that has been posted and referenced a few minutes ago. I can tell you that the AG’s Office is actively investigating those types of complaint as they come in because we have gotten several calls from businesses related to that and continue to field those calls. Right now the State is not making any designations as essential as they got inundated and they are just directing people right to the guidance that is on their website. Mr. Mullen stated yeah that was what I was talking about, the guidance on their website. Mr. Wheeler stated if you would like, we can do more messaging and… (Secretary’s Note: Audio cut out)

Mrs. Ferratella stated all right, any more questions? Jack, do you have anything additional? Mr. Wheeler stated no, thank you.

Mr. Hanna stated thank you to Darlene and staff for all they are doing. Mrs. Smith stated thank you we appreciate it very much.
MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, May 6, 2020
Legislative Committee Room
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, April 29, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA, SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Community Services
   1. Authorizing Acceptance of NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports COLA – Dr. Chapman informed the committee they have received $14,643 in COLA (Cost of Living Allocation) funding from the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports. He requested authorization to accept this funding. This funding is to be used to support salary and fringe benefits increases.

   MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ACCEPT $14,643 IN COST OF LIVING ALLOCATION FUNDING FROM THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF ADDICTION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

   2. Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Contracts – Mrs. Lando asked did you postpone the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner contracts from last month to this month? Dr. Chapman replied, yes, that was taken off the agenda last month and is not being presented at this time.

B. Office for the Aging
   1. Increase IHS Balanced Incentive Payment Program Contract – Mrs. Baroody informed the committee that early in June she anticipates two vacancies in our contracted workers; one through the Steuben Senior Services Fund and one through Institute for Human Services. She would like to blend the roles of those two positions to make one full-time position. This will allow us to more completely cover the two programs. The NYCONNECTS health insurance counseling program is very complex and it is difficult to find someone with that
type of expertise. We will also use this position to conduct the assessments on the home-delivered meals and that will allow for more comprehensive coverage. The contract with the Institute for Human Services is already in place and she is requesting authorization to increase that contract by $20,637 for this full-time contract position. There is money available in the budget.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE BALANCED INCENTIVE PAYMENT PROGRAM BY $20,637 FOR ONE FULL-TIME CONTRACT POSITION TO PERFORM HOME-DELIVERED MEALS ASSESSMENTS AND THE NYCONNECTS HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING SERVICES MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked do you think you will be able to find an individual to do both? Mrs. Baroody replied I do. We typically like them to have some experience in human services, but we will train them in whatever they need. This position would be located in the Corning area, but would cover the county as needed. Their role with the health insurance will be secondary; the primary goal is to stay compliant on the home-delivered meals assessments.

Mrs. Lando asked will you be saving money? Mrs. Baroody replied in terms of efficiencies we would be. We will not be paying someone from the other part of the county to do the assessments. In terms of one full-time versus two part-time positions, there will be an increase in the benefits package, but by being able to retain workers we actually save money and it will be in a more stable position.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Amend Steuben Senior Services Fund Contract – Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to amend the Steuben Senior Services Fund contract to eliminate the scope of work relative to the home-delivered meals assessor.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE AGING TO AMEND THE STEUBEN SENIOR SERVICES FUND CONTRACT TO REMOVE THE SCOPE OF WORK RELATIVE TO THE HOME-DELIVERED MEALS ASSESSOR MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. Accept and Appropriate Families First Covid Response Act Funds – Mrs. Baroody stated she was notified that they are getting Covid relief funds. This is Federal funding that is passed through the State. We are scheduled to receive $70,275. These are funds that can be used in any way to bring relief for efforts that have taken place since Covid started. She stated she has contacted the agencies to determine what extra work they have been doing as a result of Covid. Mrs. Baroody stated that she would like to reserve $8,000 of this funding for her office to cover anything that we have not already anticipated. With the remaining funds, she would like to increase the contracts with Institute for Human Services for transportation, with Faith in Action, ProAction, Steuben Senior Services Fund and Corning Meals on Wheels. The reason for increasing the transportation contract with the Institute for Human Services is that transportation is the number one need and the volunteers that the transportation program utilizes are seniors and they have not been able to go out because of the stay at home order. We have authorized taxi tokens to get people to urgent medical appointments. For ProAction she would like to allocate $40,000 to go toward their effort of putting more meals into their pantries. They are doing this because if anyone at the ProAction kitchen gets Covid, that operation will likely shut down and they are working to shore up food for their clients. These funds can be used through September 2021.

Mrs. Baroody stated she is asking the contractors to attest that any funds given are not being duplicated by other funds they are receiving. She stated Corning Meals on Wheels does not get a lot of support from the County, but they too have worked to fill their pantries in case of a shut down and she is recommending appropriating $5,000 to them. The appropriation for the Steuben Senior Services Fund is for the home-delivered meals assessor and to help with the extra time that individual had to use for the uptick during Covid.

Human Services, Health & Education Committee
Wednesday, May 6, 2020

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Mr. Hanna asked will you lose a lot of your volunteers when things recover? Mrs. Baroody replied I like to think that the dedication of the volunteers will prompt them to resume. I suspect that people are going stir-crazy and have been hearing that they are anxious to help in any way they can.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE A TOTAL OF $70,275 IN FAMILIES FIRST COVID RESPONSE ACT FUNDS AS FOLLOWS: OFFICE FOR THE AGING - $8,000; INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES – TRANSPORTATION - $11,000; FAITH IN ACTION - $5,000; PROACTION - $40,000; CORNING MEALS ON WHEELS - $5,000 AND STEUBEN SENIOR SERVICES FUND - $1,275 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked do these agencies know that this money is coming? Mrs. Baroody replied I put an email out to the executive directors of the agencies asking them what they need and what that would look like. I have gotten good feedback and that is how I made the decisions on how to allocate the funding. She stated she has been having discussions with these agencies over the last ten days or so. A lot of the agencies have really mobilized and scrambled to find emergency funding. It took time to figure out what would not duplicate what they had already been funded.

Ms. Prossick stated there should be two motions; the first to accept and appropriate the funding and the second to amend the contracts to reflect the increase in funding.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION:** ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO AMEND THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS TO REFLECT APPROPRIATION OF FAMILIES FIRST COVID RESPONSE ACT FUNDS: INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES – TRANSPORTATION - $11,000; FAITH IN ACTION - $5,000; PROACTION - $40,000; CORNING MEALS ON WHEELS - $5,000; AND STEUBEN SENIOR SERVICES FUND - $1,275 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

C. Public Health

1. **Preschool Contract Renewals** – Mrs. Smith presented the list of preschool contracts for renewal. Mrs. Lando asked what happens if schools don’t open in the fall? Mrs. Smith replied we will only pay for services that are rendered. Mrs. Lando asked if there is summer school, will these contracts kick in when school starts? Mrs. Smith replied there will be no lapse in the contracts.

Ms. Prossick explained we have looked at the school contracts and these terms run from July 1st through June 30th. We included additional language with regard to the pandemic that the County will only pay for when services are provided.

Mrs. Ferratella stated she would like to thank Mrs. Smith for all of her hard work. Mrs. Smith stated thank you. We have a great team out here at the EOC and there has been so much going on.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO RENEW ALL EXISTING PRESCHOOL CONTRACTS AS PRESENTED MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **Testing for Covid** – Mr. Maio asked where do we stand on testing now and what are our prospects on meeting the testing goals? Mrs. Smith stated I feel we are in pretty good shape on that. We participated on a call with Guthrie and others. Guthrie has a very large capacity to test and meet the requirement of the Governor for reopening. We still have Arnot and U of R that will contribute to that. We need to work out the process, but we do have the capacity. In addition we received a call over the weekend from the Department of Health, and they realize it might be a good idea to do universal swabs at nursing homes across the state. We have
three more nursing homes that we haven’t already done. If all goes well, by the end of next week, all of the nursing homes in the county will have been swabbed. This will result in 750 – 800 samples which will include both staff and residents.

Mr. Maio asked when do you expect to have things worked out on general testing? Mr. Wheeler replied it appears that County Executive Chris Moss is the lead for our economic development region. All of the county managers and executives in our economic development region will be on a call this morning at 11:30 a.m. to discuss twelve points that we need to meet in order to reopen. Logistically, what is the expectation for testing? Is it testing capacity or do we actually have to test 700 people daily in our region? It will not be easy logistically, but we are actively working on it. I think we have a good plan.

Mrs. Lando asked how many nursing homes do we have and who will do the testing? Mrs. Smith replied we have six nursing homes within the county, not counting the VA. On the three more that we have to complete, we will model that testing after the way we did the other facilities. We have a team of six nurses; five are school nurses and one is a retired nurse who helps us out with our biometric screenings in the fall. That team will go in and go through the entire facility and do the swabbing and then the samples will go to URMC (University of Rochester Medical Center).

Mr. Hanna asked is this just to determine whether or not they have the virus? Mrs. Smith replied this is not the antibody test. This is the Covid test to determine if they have it. Thankfully we have a significantly decreased positive rate in the community. A lot of the positives you are seeing are nursing home related. We need to find out which residents and staff have the virus and keep them isolated so they don’t continue spreading the virus.

Mrs. Lando stated former Governor George Pataki talked about a lawsuit against the State; do we have any responsibility with this or are we caught up in that? Mr. Wheeler replied I don’t believe we have any liability. I think especially for any rural counties, we have been more aggressive than just about any other county. Ms. Prossick stated I would agree. Mr. Wheeler, Mrs. Smith and the team have been working on the nursing homes well before the State was. We pushed the Department of Health through the entire process.

Mr. Potter asked how frequently will you have to do the testing? You could do the testing now and next week someone could test positive. Mrs. Smith replied you are right. Someone could be negative this week and next week they could be positive. Universal swabbing now gives us a baseline and then a week or two from now if someone tests positive, they get isolated as well as their contacts. If a cluster develops, then it would be appropriate to do the testing all over again. Mr. Wheeler stated it has been three weeks since we have tested the other facilities and the numbers have stabilized. There might be an issue that pops up, but we are in pretty good shape.

Mr. Van Etten stated more of this will be covered at tomorrow’s ad hoc meeting and they will also be on a call today regarding the testing requirements. We will know more tomorrow.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MS. LATTIMER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted by Amanda L. Chapman, Deputy Clerk, Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**

**Wednesday, June 3, 2020**

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office

**NO LATER THAN NOON**

**Wednesday, May 27, 2020**
I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO, SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE, ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Office for the Aging

1. Contract – Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to reassign the contract with St. James for the personal emergency response system to Doyle Security. St. James is no longer offering this service and they have requested that we transfer the contract to Doyle Security. Doyle has actually been providing the services in the homes and this reassignment will essentially eliminate the middle man. Doyle thinks they can do the installations a little quicker. This reassignment would go through the end of 2020 and then we would have to put the contract out to bid.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE REASSIGNMENT OF THE PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM CONTRACT FROM ST. JAMES TO DOYLE SECURITY THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 MADE BY MRS. LANDO, SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE, ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Community Services

1. Distance Learning Grant Proposal – Dr. Chapman stated he has been working with Mr. Caudill on a grant proposal to provide distance substance abuse counseling. This would also include medical treatment via telemedicine. We are looking at three PCP (primary care physician) providers in Hornell (Canisteo Valley), Woodhull and Addison. This service would also be available at all three of our office locations in Bath, Corning and Hornell. Dr. Chapman stated we are pursuing this grant and he is looking for authorization to continue that process as there will be a 15 percent County match if awarded. Right now it looks like we will be requesting $150,000. This will cover the cost of new computers for my department and the technology for the PCP offices.
If we receive the $150,000, the County share would be $22,500. Since we already partner with Canisteo Valley and pay $12,000 annually, that would count toward the match and would leave $10,500. The deadline for the submission of the grant is mid-July.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A $150,000 DISTANCE LEARNING GRANT TO PROVIDE SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING AND MEDICAL TREATMENT VIA TELEMEDICINE MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked if you receive this grant, what will it do? Dr. Chapman replied we will be able to offer off-site counseling. Staff will not physically be in the PCP office, but will be able to meet with clients through video conferencing. The $150,000 would allow us to update the computers in my department as the majority of them are eight to nine years old and need to be replaced. The whole premise behind this grant is to provide teledicine to more rural areas where there is not easy access. Our public transportation has significantly improved, but there are still many areas where individuals cannot access public transportation.

Mrs. Ferratella asked under the list of eligible applicants there are a multitude of entities that can apply. What are your chances of getting this? Dr. Chapman replied he would like to think that since we are highlighting the need for medication assistance with opioid addiction that it will help, along with the rural nature of the County in general. Mr. Caudill explained the scoring of the evaluation is broken down into a few areas. One is how rural and in that category we scored 30 out of 40 points. Another area is economically depressed and in that area we did not score as well; 10 out of 30 points. One of the emphases is opioids and we got an extra 10 points if we focus on opioids and other substance abuse areas. Mr. Caudill stated I think we will be competitive. With regard to the match, there is a possibility that we can work with Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Brewer about funds for the broadband. We can also use ARA funds for a match. The actual cost to the County may end up being zero.

Mrs. Ferratella asked when will the grant be awarded? Mr. Caudill replied he doesn’t know the timeframe off the top of his head, but he would anticipate by fall for sure.

Mr. Maio asked is this an addition to our services or in addition to what we already offer? What do we know about the efficacy of remote sessions? Dr. Chapman replied this will be in addition to what we provide. With regard to efficacy, tele-psychiatry has been around for many years and research shows that patients benefit from it. Studies support it. Covid-19 has forced all of us to change what we do and from service delivery, we are doing that by phone and video conferencing. For some folks, depending on their location, they seem to prefer this as it saves them travel time and the expense of getting to an appointment. This is a way to offer psychiatric services to folks that would not normally get them. This will not require our prescribers to travel and they will be more efficient as well. Dr. Chapman stated we have been fortunate, in my opinion, that we have had prescribers local with us out of our office. So many others don’t have that and they have to contract for agencies to provide telemedicine. This would be our first go around with this to continue with telemedicine after things reopen. This is a positive thing to add to our community.

Mrs. Lando stated I agree this is a positive step, but what about people without a computer or internet access? Dr. Chapman replied if it is closer for an individual to go to their PCP, they could do that and those three PCP offices will have the technology installed to enable them to do a teledicine visit with our office. We will also have the same thing available at all three of our office locations. Many folks don’t get reception or have the equipment. If we receive this grant, those individuals will be able to come to our office and sit in front of a computer and have sessions with one of our prescribers.

Mrs. Ferratella stated telemedicine is the wave of the future. Will you ever do one-on-one visits occasionally to have better communication with people? Dr. Chapman replied yes. We are not discontinuing one-on-one sessions. This would be in addition or a supplement to those one-on-one visits.
Mrs. Lando asked if we receive the grant in October, when would this be implemented? Dr. Chapman replied I think with the purchasing and installation of the equipment, hopefully we would be able to start prior to the first of next year; December or January at the latest.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

C. Social Services
   1. Summer Learning Experience – Ms. Muller stated we have operated the summer learning experience program and historically have contracted with BOCES to facilitate it. We have been operating the program for 18 years now and this year, because of Covid, they are unable to facilitate it. Our sites are in Corning-Painted Post, Woodhull, Bath, Avoca and Hornell. These are onsite programs with activities and are targeted to high risk kids. This has been a very successful program over the years and there is a food component built-in. She requested authorization to change the contract for this year to ProAction for a total cost of $225,000. We are currently working on modifications. The program would be off-site and I think what we want to do is go out to the kids with the counselors and do activities with them. She stated she would like to coordinate with ProAction and share the administrative burden.

Mrs. Lando asked will ProAction be able to handle this? Ms. Muller replied yes. Many of the counselors contracted with BOCES and are very interested in coming on board. The biggest challenge is how we will execute things. This program is a huge benefit. Our office is anticipating a high volume of child protective calls at some point and this is a way to prevent some of that activity because we will already be out there.

Mr. Swackhamer asked what age group does this serve? Ms. Muller replied this is for kids age 8 to 17. Over the previous years we have served 180 – 200 kids.

Mr. Mullen stated I was a summer learning experience counselor and noticed that this program was a big help to kids and was very beneficial. You could see that it was very helpful. This is a great program.

Mr. Maio asked are we looking at this as hopefully just for this year and then going back to how it was before? Ms. Muller replied yes. I think the group experience is very beneficial to the youth. This is a way to get our eyes on these kids and engage them in positive activities.

Mr. Maio stated it was announced that summer camps open on June 29th. Will there be a problem with transportation? Ms. Muller stated transportation will be a problem as well as social distancing rules.

Mr. Wheeler stated we were surprised about the summer camp announcement. GST BOCES was under the assumption that summer programs would not be permitted. This contract with ProAction is a measure to fill the gap.

Mr. Maio asked do you think BOCES will change their minds? Ms. Muller replied no. We will do this for this year and resume our contract with BOCES next year.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PROACTION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SUMMER LEARNING EXPERIENCE PROGRAM FOR A TOTAL COST OF $225,000 MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

D. Public Health
   1. Mutual Aid Agreement – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to renew the Finger Lakes’ Counties Mutual Aid Agreement. This is done every five years. During times of crisis, we can utilize other counties within the S2AY network to assist and support one another.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO RENEW THE FINGER LAKES’ COUNTIES MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR FIVE YEARS MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. Preschool Transportation Bid – Mrs. Smith informed the committee they received two bids from Durham and Birnie. She recommended awarding the three contracts based on the low bid.

MOTION: AWARDING THE PRESCHOOL TRANSPORTATION BID AS FOLLOWS: CONTRACT B – BIRNIE FOR $99.99 PER CHILD PER DAY FOR 10-MONTH PROGRAM; CONTRACT C – DURHAM FOR $135.00 PER CHILD PER DAY FOR 10-MONTH AND SUMMER PROGRAM AND CONTRACT D – DURHAM FOR $149.86 PER CHILD PER DAY FOR 10-MONTH AND SUMMER PROGRAM MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS
A. Corning City Manager – Mrs. Lando stated she forwarded a letter from the Corning City Manager thanking the County for all of their help; especially thanking Mr. Wheeler, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Marshall, Sheriff Allard and Mr. Baker. They could not say enough about Mrs. Smith and Mr. Marshall. Thank you so much for all your help.

B. ProAction - Mrs. Lando stated ProAction had been approved for a $750,000 PPP loan. They will not need all of it, but these funds will help carry them forward with their payroll. The board approved and received it and this will be a big help.

C. Hunger Coalition – Mrs. Lando stated the Hunger Coalition had a meeting a couple of weeks ago and Steuben County is more than 20 percent higher for food distribution. The Food Bank of the Southern Tier is 50 percent higher for food distribution to households. She stated they now have our RSVP volunteers and Public Works for big distributions. Teachers are also volunteering and Corning Inc. employees are as well. They are working to get food out to people that need it.

D. Prevention Coalition – Mrs. Lando stated she recently spoke on Frankly Speaking to talk about the Prevention Coalition. They recently did a survey of kids and parents and marijuana use by 8th graders ranked higher than the national average while seniors reported less use of alcohol, marijuana and opioids. However, binge drinking increased among sophomores. Vaping is still a huge issue. Another issue is energy drinks. Kids are using energy drinks and there has been a huge increase. These are scary things.

Mr. Van Etten asked why would ProAction qualify for the PPP loan? Mrs. Lando replied they qualify because of the nature of their business. She stated she was also surprised when they applied. Mr. Wheeler commented CSS Workforce Development also applied for those funds and received it. Being a non-profit agency was not prohibitive. Mrs. Lando stated they probably won’t use it all and what they don’t guess they will give back. This will help them.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Amanda L. Chapman, Deputy Clerk, Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, July 1, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, June 24, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Wheeler to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Office for the Aging
   1. Accept and Appropriate New CARES Act Funding – Mrs. Baroody informed the committee that they are receiving new CARES Act funding in four separate “buckets”. This will help get us through these difficult fiscal times. This funding is retroactive to January 1, 2020 and we have until September 2021 to spend these funds. She stated her preference is to use some of the funds in 2020 to help some of our contractors, with the remaining to be spent during 2021.

   Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to accept a total of $10,000 in CARES Act funding under FCC3 (Title IIIE) and appropriate $6,000 to the contract with Faith-In-Action and appropriate $4,000 to the contract with ProAction for program services and to amend both contracts to reflect this increase in funding. She requested authorization to accept a total of $46,000 in CARES Act funding under HDC3 (C1 and C2) and appropriate $6,000 to the contract with Corning Meals on Wheels and $40,000 to the contract with ProAction for C1 and C2 and to amend both contracts to reflect this increase in funding. Additionally, she requested authorization to accept $8,314 in CARES Act funding under SSC3 (Title IIIB) and appropriate to the contract with Steuben Senior Services Fund and amend the contract to reflect the increase. Mrs. Baroody commented telemedicine has become even more important with COVID and this increase in the Steuben Senior Services Fund contract is an effort to bolster their services for technology needs.

   Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to accept and carry over into 2021, CARES Act funding under ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) in the amount of $21,612. She explained this is the NYCONNECTS program.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL CARES ACT FUNDING AS FOLLOWS: $10,000 UNDER FCCE (TITLE IIIE) - $6,000 TO FAITH-IN-ACTION AND $4,000 TO PROACTION FOR PROGRAM SERVICES; $46,000 UNDER HDC3 (C1 AND C2) - $6,000 TO CORNING MEALS ON WHEELS AND $40,000 TO PROACTION FOR C1 AND C2; $8,314 UNDER SSC3 (TITLE IIIB) TO STEUBEN SENIOR SERVICES FUND AND AMENDING THE CONTRACTS TO REFLECT THE INCREASE IN FUNDING; AND $21,612 UNDER ADRC (AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER) TO BE CARRIED OVER INTO 2021 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Maio asked is the appropriation to ProAction and Corning Meals on Wheels in proportion to what their meals are? Mrs. Baroody replied we started them with $380,000 and we added $40,000 to their contracts with the previous stimulus money as they were under funded for what they were doing. Mrs. Lando commented she attended a senior nutrition meeting a couple of weeks ago and they talked about funding. They are moving to charge those who can afford it, $4.00 per meal instead of $3.50 per meals and that will help them as well.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

Mrs. Lando asked do you have a plan for the funds you will use in 2021? Mrs. Baroody replied we have had some discussions, but we still need to sit down and work that out.

B. Public Health
   1. New Contracts – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into new contracts for preschool related services with Jessica Dgien, Speech Language Pathologist; Whitesville Central School; and Abigail Long, Speech Language Pathologist. The rates are $70.00 per session and $35.00 for group sessions.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO ENTER INTO NEW CONTRACTS FOR PRESCHOOL RELATED SERVICES WITH JESSICA DGIEN, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST; WHITESVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL; AND ABIGAIL LONG, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AT A RATE OF $70.00 PER SESSION AND $35.00 PER GROUP SESSION MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

   2. Contract Renewal – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to renew the contract with Workplace Vitality, Inc. for biometric data collection and reporting. The rate is $3.00 per employee and $200.00 for reports.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH WORKPLACE VITALITY, INC. FOR BIOMETRIC DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING AT A RATE OF $3.00 PER EMPLOYEE AND $200.00 FOR REPORTS MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS
   A. Senior Nutrition – Mrs. Lando stated at last week’s meeting they had discussed the need for a new vehicle and will be looking at that next year. They have been working with RSVP and the Girl Scouts to help deliver meals.

   B. Opioid Committee – Mrs. Lando informed the committee that the Prevention Coalition is coming in August to make a presentation. They have been working on their elevator speech for different initiatives and have been working with the pharmacies. They are also looking to check the need for lock boxes for medications. We are also hoping to work with the realtors and are also talking with daycare centers. The Prevention Coalition is applying for a Wal-Mart grant to purchase more DisposeRX.

   C. OFA Monthly Report – Mrs. Ferratella commented you had a backlog for the homecare waiting list. Is that going down? Mrs. Baroody replied we have 41 on the list right now and the number fluctuates. During the COVID crisis, seniors were really hesitant to have people in their homes. Part of the increase in the waiting list is the workforce.
We do have Comfort Keepers that does Level I housekeeping and we think that will help ease the burden. Things are starting to open up and seniors are feeling a little more confident having people in their homes.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman  
Deputy Clerk  
Steuben County Legislature  

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**  
Wednesday, August 5, 2020  
9:00 a.m.  

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office  
NO LATER THAN NOON  
Wednesday, July 29, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Maio to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO, SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. PRESENTATION

A. Opioid Committee Report – Ms. Terry introduced herself as the Program Assistant for the Opioid Committee for the Steuben Prevention Coalition. The Opioid Committee now has a new logo and we also have a mission and vision statement. Our vision statement is the same as the Steuben Prevention Coalition. Our mission is to engage, educate, and support communities to reduce opioid abuse and stigma. Ms. Banik commented we are funded by Steuben County and Catholic Charities. She stated we have been doing video messaging and our Facebook presence has increased and we are on track for a goal increase of 20 percent for overall substance abuse awareness.

Ms. Terry stated we are always seeking grant opportunities and have received grants from the Walmart Community Grant and AmerisourceBergen to fund the DisposeRX and medication lock boxes. We are always looking for more members and have put together informational packets. In addition, we have also put together a variety of target specific elevator speeches. One key area is with the realtors to encourage the use of medication lock boxes during open houses.

Ms. Terry stated they conducted a community perception survey of 187 community members of whom the majority was over the age of 60. Through this survey we learned that we need to find a way to survey a younger population of community residents, ages 20 – 40. We will be looking to redo the survey in January and would like to target college campuses. Ms. Banik commented we did contact colleges in Steuben County and were denied the opportunity to distribute the surveys at this time. Ms. Terry stated we need to raise awareness with the county about the safe disposal of prescription medications and we also need to educate the community about the importance of securing their prescription

Ms. Terry stated due to COVID, a number of our events were cancelled including the Stand Up for Recovery Event scheduled in March, the Elmira-Corning Regional Realtors Association breakfast scheduled for April and the Health Fair scheduled for May. We have a number of upcoming events scheduled including International Overdose Awareness Day which is August 30, 2020. We will be distributing purple ribbons and educations signs regarding recovery. We have a Recovery Walk Vigil which will be held in partnership with Steuben County Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services. This event is scheduled for September 19, 2020 and we believe it can happen, but we may need to do it virtually. We are looking to put together our Opioid Forum as soon as we can. Additionally, if possible, we will pursue a drug take back day during late fall in collaboration with the Sheriff’s Office. Looking ahead to 2021, we will also be holding Black Balloon Day in March 2021.

Ms. Banik stated with regard to statistics and how we compare to the national averages, for all grades our numbers are lower, but we are very close and we need to get to children before they start using. Heroine is higher than the national average which is concerning. Students are still trying opioids and we have seen an increase in 8th grade use from 2017. 10th grade use has stayed the same and 12th grade use has decreased.

Mrs. Ferratella asked what is Black Balloon Day? Ms. Terry replied Black Balloon Day represents overdose deaths and purple stands for recovery. For Black Balloon Day we will reach out to area business to hang black balloons along with an explanation of what is represents in an effort to raise awareness. This is a national awareness day.

IV. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS
A. Community Services
   1. Request to Issue RFP for Electronic Health Record – Dr. Chapman stated Cerner was purchased by Anasazzi who created a new millennial software. Our current version is no longer being supported. We will need to purchase a new product and have set aside $250,000 in the budget. He requested authorization to work with Purchasing to issue an RFP to see who responds.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked is this just authorization for the RFP? Dr. Chapman replied yes. Mrs. Lando asked to purchase new software from the current company would cost $250,000? Dr. Chapman replied yes.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION:** ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Request to Issue RFP for Account Collections – Dr. Chapman stated we currently use Affiliated Group for our client account collection; however, they did not renew their contract. In any given year we send between $15,000 - $20,000 in accounts to collection. Affiliated Group was keeping 17.5 percent of what was collected. He requested authorization to issue an RFP to see what other agencies might be interested.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ACCOUNT COLLECTION MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Maio asked how much money are you getting back from collections? Dr. Chapman replied we have had this contract since 2011 and through last year we have sent $663,000 to them for collection and in total we received back just under $100,000. He explained we use collections for all of our programs; mental health, substance abuse, PROS, anywhere where there is a fee for services. Our business office does the best they can with sliding scales and payment plans and we do our best to work with the clients. We have been fairly successful in
eventually getting payment. The amount we send to collections is relatively small. At the same time, I am open to suggestions, but my mindset is that any money we can get, the better so that we can support our programs.

Mr. Maio commented the demographics are not people that have extra money to throw around. Mrs. Lando asked why is the contractor not renewing? Dr. Chapman replied they did not give a reason.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: MOTION CARRIES 4-1. (MR. MAIO OPPOSED)

B. Department of Social Services
   1. Accepting DSRIP Funds – Ms. Muller informed the committee they are receiving $289,545 for meeting our performance measures on the DSRIP project. There are no strings attached. She requested authorization to accept and appropriate this funding.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE $289,545.00 IN DSRIP PROJECT FUNDS INTO A NEW CAPITAL PROJECT MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked what will you do with these funds? Ms. Muller replied we still need to figure that out. The homeless population has exploded over the last four to five months and we need to look at how to move forward and make modifications to reduce that cost. Mrs. Lando asked is there a time limit to spend these funds? Ms. Muller replied no.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked why has the homeless population increased? Ms. Muller replied part of the reason is the pandemic and our inability to meet with people. Our numbers are now back down. We have had housing and homelessness issues for years. This speaks to the workforce issues that we did not have control of.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Personnel – Reclassification – Ms. Muller requested approval of a reclassification which is needed in order to run the Child Advocacy Center. We lost the coordinator at the onset of the pandemic. This has been a challenge to manage and we need someone who has the expertise in child protection. She requested authorization to reclassify a Supervising Clerk, Grade XI to a Case Supervisor Grade B, Grade XVI. There is a lot that goes into running the Child Advocacy Center as we need to get certified and need to apply for funding and the center is starting to get very busy. The mobile unit has not been repurposed, but we have expanded its use during this time until the County Office Buildings reopen. She explained a Supervising Clerk, Grade XI makes $41,505 and a Case Supervisor – Grade B, Grade XVI makes $52,279 so there is an $11,000 difference. This position is funded through the VOCA grant for this year, next year and six months into 2022. After that, we will continue to look for support from VOCA and other avenues. If we are not able to procure funding, then there would be a 30 percent county share. Ms. Muller stated I have someone with child protective experience who is coming up through the ranks. This supervisor comes with the knowledge and would have the dedication to the county and to the mission of the Child Advocacy Center.

Mr. Wheeler stated in talking about positions, we are holding back nearly all of the vacancies until we see what is happening in Washington, with a few exceptions. This position is critically important as the Supervisor is now doing double duty and is getting burned out. We support this on our end.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF A GRADE XI SUPERVISING CLERK TO A GRADE XVI CASE SUPERVISOR GRADE B IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Resolution Required.

Mr. Hanna asked have you seen an increase in child abuse cases since schools have been closed? Ms. Muller replied initially our cases went down and a month into the pandemic they were booming again and we are seeing
more of the physical and sexual abuse. Mr. Wheeler commented some of that is actually getting eyes on the children. Ms. Muller stated educational neglect will be a tough balancing act with work and doing what is needed at home for schooling. We have a great relationship with the schools to deal with that as we go forward.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked is the mobile child advocacy center unit being repurposed? Ms. Muller replied no. The use has been expanded to assist us for public services needs. Instead of coming to the building, they are able to come to the unit and we can get them the applications they need. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked are you moving it around the County? Ms. Muller replied no, it has remained stationary. Mrs. Lando asked how many are coming to the mobile unit? Ms. Muller replied we have seen consistent activity. Mrs. Lando asked do you have security for it? Ms. Muller replied no, however, there is a Deputy at the Annex Building and they do a walk around. Mr. Van Etten commented I am glad that it is being utilized.

Mr. Wheeler stated one of the issues has been with drug screening. Ms. Muller stated originally we were not doing drug screens because the State had said no. Now we are doing them in Corning and Hornell and have been working with Probation and Buildings and Grounds to clean and disinfect. We are not doing drug screens in Bath yet. She stated with regard to the mobile unit, if we have a need to do a child interview, then we will take it out.

C. Public Health

1. Preschool Contract Approval – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a contract for preschool related services with Theresa Brayman an Occupational Therapist. The rate is $70.00 per session and $35.00 for a group session.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR PRESCHOOL RELATED SERVICES WITH THERESA BRAYMAN, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AT A RATE OF $70.00 PER SESSION AND $35.00 PER GROUP SESSION MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked do the schools being closed affect these services? Mrs. Smith replied yes. During the pandemic the providers were only providing services virtually if the parents wanted it. They can go back out now to provide one-to-one services. There is still reluctance on the part of the parents to have someone coming into their home. It has been a slow go.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Healthbot Lease (Blood Pressure Machine) – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a lease agreement with NYBP, Inc. for an interactive wellness station which includes blood pressure, weight, body mass index and blood oxygen. We have had a blood pressure machine for employees to use for a couple of years and it has been utilized. The Wellness Committee researched and found this machine. The cost of the lease is $159.00 per month for three years.

Mr. Wheeler commented there are funds set aside in the budget for the Wellness Committee. This was one of their initiatives and the committee includes management and union staff. Ms. Prossick stated I am a member of the committee and they track the usage of the machine and it has been used pretty regularly.

Mr. Maio asked what was the price of the old machine? Mrs. Smith replied that was $99.00 per month. Mr. Van Etten asked why not purchase instead of lease? Mrs. Smith replied that is a good question. Was that discussed at the Wellness Committee? Ms. Prossick stated I don’t think so. Mr. Van Etten asked do they have to come and do maintenance and calibrate? Ms. Prossick replied they would have to come in and do maintenance.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NYBP, INC. FOR AN INTERACTIVE HEALTH STATION FOR A COST OF $159.00 PER MONTH FOR THREE YEARS MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.
3. **Accept Funding from Health Research, Inc. for COVID-19 Enhanced Detection** – Mrs. Smith informed the committee that all counties in New York State will be receiving funding, based on population and other metrics, from Health Research, Inc. The amount we are receiving is $310,840.00 and it will be used for two distinct purposes. The first for enhanced COVID-19 detection and contact tracing. The second is to strengthen flu vaccine rates ahead of flu season. These funds will pay for us to increase staff. Mr. Wheeler commented that Mrs. Smith does have some vacancies that were not filled. Mrs. Lando asked what positions are you looking to fill? Mrs. Smith replied they would like to fill some RN positions and hopefully they will not have trouble recruiting them.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ACCEPT $310,840.00 IN FUNDING FROM HEALTH RESEARCH, INC. FOR COVID-19 ENHANCED DETECTION MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

4. **COVID-19 Update** – Ms. Lattimer asked can you give us a quick overview of the testing opportunities? Mrs. Smith replied there are multiple sites within the County including Arnot, Bath, URMC, Rite Aid. Mr. Wheeler stated we did put those site locations on social media and the County website. We have seen a better turnaround time from Arnot and St. James. Ms. Lattimer asked what is the average turnaround time? Mrs. Smith replied two to four days. We are starting to see some cases with health care workers. The nursing homes are mandated to test once a week.

Mr. Van Etten stated we are in a lull right now and there is some anticipation that as fall starts the cases will ramp back up. Is there any planning taking place to be ready to fire up the EOC again? Mr. Wheeler replied this weighs on all of us. We still have our daily calls and there has been a lot of work on that front. Mrs. Smith stated Matt Marmor and Ken Forenz on a daily basis are still accessing and distributing PPE to various groups and entities that ask for it. This money we just received will help us to ramp up a little and get positions filled. We have always been able to meet the metrics. The Department of Health has expected a follow-up on a positive case within twenty-four hours and we have managed to do that. This funding will help us to refine some things and shift responsibility.

Mr. Wheeler commented Mr. Marmor did a survey with the user groups and stakeholders about what we did well and where the gaps were and the results of that survey will help us. We keep up with the masking and non-pharmaceutical interventions to affect the infection rate.

Mrs. Lando asked do we have any active cases? Mrs. Smith replied we have eight active cases right now. Mr. Wheeler commented the regional rates are concerning. Broome County is seeing a spike and Tompkins was as well. Those numbers impact our regional numbers. At one point our region was just behind New York City on the number of new daily cases. The regional hospitalization rates are back up to early June levels. We are keeping an eye on that. He stated Broome County puts out a daily report and we are constantly monitoring that. With not knowing what the Governor will do, the regional view does have an impact.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated she received a call from a constituent yesterday that got the test, but they didn’t get their results for 13 days. The real issue now is that the people that were in contact with that person have to quarantine, but the original person does not have to quarantine now and that does not make any sense. Mrs. Smith stated I agree. Under the Department of Health guidelines, it goes from the date of the last contact. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated the CDC guidelines are only 10 days. Mrs. Smith replied for the general public, but not for health care workers. Mr. Wheeler explained nursing home staff is 14 days quarantine and any individual in that setting is tested weekly. When that comes back and the test is positive, that may trigger an additional quarantine.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked what about the talk about once you test positive that it stays in your system but you don’t necessarily have it anymore? Mrs. Smith stated there is a lot of discussion about that. We have had multiple individuals that test positive multiple times. Does it mean they still have it or did they get reinfected? The school of thought right now is they are still considered positive. Mr. Wheeler stated we have not heard a definition from
the State on what the viral load needs to be to not be contagious. Mrs. Smith stated the consensus is that you do not continue to shed the virus after nine days.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked is there any truth to the rumor that if someone ever tests positive that they are denied their ability to join the military? Mrs. Smith replied I have not heard that. Mr. Wheeler stated we can ask.

Mrs. Smith stated there has not been a lull in the number of PAUSE complaints regarding people not wearing masks and travelers being tattled on by others. We have many, many complaints per day. Mr. Wheeler stated we have at least five per day and the weekends have been the busiest times and then we could get a couple dozen per day. If we reach a point where we get multiple; five or more complaints, on an establishment, then Mrs. Smith, the Sheriff and I go out and visit them. When we have done that, the conversations have gone well and have been pretty well received. We are also saying and hearing weekly that when the Department of Health is conducting inspections, they are also doing PAUSE violations at the same time. We are trying to educate businesses to be on the alert as the Department of Health and the Liquor Authority are being very active. Mrs. Ferratella asked what is the fine? Mr. Wheeler stated it can be a warning. Ms. Prossick stated it can be up to $10,000 for failure to wear a mask. Mr. Wheeler stated Mrs. Smith has done a great job of helping to promote education. Mr. Maio asked where do people go to find the complaint form? Mr. Wheeler replied the form is on the New York State Department of Health website.

Mrs. Lando stated she would like to thank Mrs. Smith, Mr. Wheeler and Ms. Prossick for helping with issues with the Corning City Council on trying to disband the Board of Health.

D. Personnel
1. Tuition Aid Request – Sheriff’s Office – Mr. Alderman informed the committee they have received a tuition aid request from Donald Strittmatter who is a Corrections’ Officer in the Sheriff’s Office. He is requesting aid for four courses that he is taking towards an Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice. These courses are job related and he would recommend approval. The reimbursement is $150.00 per credit hour upon successful completion of the courses.

MOTION: APPROVING A TUITION AID REQUEST FOR DONALD STRITTMATTER, AN EMPLOYEE IN THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE, TO TAKE FOUR CLASSES TOWARDS AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, August 26, 2020

**Human Services, Health & Education Committee**
Wednesday, August 5, 2020
**MINUTES**

COMMITTEE: Carol A. Ferratella, Chair  
Paul E Van Caeseele  
Hilda T. Lando, Vice Chair  
Scott J. Van Etten

STAFF: Jack K. Wheeler  
Kathy Muller  
Jennifer Prosick  
Christopher Brewer  
Lise Reynolds  
Bill Caudill  
Brenda Scotchmer  
Patty Baroody  
Hank Chapman

LEGISLATORS: Kelly H. Fitzpatrick  
Jeffrey P. Horton  
John V. Malter  
Steven P. Maio  
Frederick G. Potter  
Mary Perham

ABSENT: K. Michael Hanna

OTHERS: Mary Perham

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:03 and asked Mr. Van Etten to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN ETTEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Secretary’s Note: Chairman Van Etten sat in as a member of this committee as Legislator Maio has temporarily been removed from this committee assignment.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Letter from Steuben Prevention Coalition – Mrs. Ferratella stated all of the Legislators should have received a letter from the Steuben Prevention Coalition thanking us for the opportunity to present their update at the August meeting.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Office for the Aging
   1. Approval for RFP for Personal Emergency Response System – Mrs. Baroody reminded the committee that our lifeline emergency response system was previously administered by St. James and then they assigned the contract to Doyle Security for the remainder of the year. She stated for next year we will need to put out an RFP for this service and she requested authorization to do that.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO ISSUE AN RFP FOR THE PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.
Mrs. Lando commented my aunt uses this but we are still getting bills from both St. James and Doyle Security. Who are we supposed to pay? Mrs. Baroody replied you should be paying Doyle and she will check into that. There have been some transitional issues.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.**

2. **Dietician Contract** – Mrs. Baroody informed the committee that New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) has updated the nutrition standards and are now requiring contracting for a minimum of 16 hours per week of registered dietician services. With annual approval from NYSOFA we have traditionally been contracting for less than 10 hours per week. We are increasing our hours to 13 hours per week effective September 20, 2020 with the approval of NYSOFA. With our shared registered dietician services with ProAction of Steuben and Yates County that allows us to create efficiencies and we believe these hours will be sufficient to meet program standards. She requested authorization to increase the contract for registered dietician services to 13 hours which will bring the contract total to $24,424.

**MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO INCREASE THE REGISTERED DIETICIAN SERVICES CONTRACT HOURS TO 13 PER WEEK, RESULTING IN THE CONTRACT TOTAL BEING AMENDED TO $24,424.00 MADE BY MR. VAN ETten. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

Mrs. Lando asked does the dietician have any problems with the increase in hours? Mrs. Baroody replied no.

3. **Increase IHS Employment Contract** – Mrs. Baroody informed the committee that she has had a contracted part-time receptionist through ProAction resign and she would like to move those responsibilities into the employment contract with the Institute for Human Services.

**MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO ADD PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST DUTIES TO THE EXISTING EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES UNTIL THE VACANCY CAN BE FILLED MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE FOR DISCUSSION.**

Mrs. Lando asked will you hire a new individual next year or continue to use the Institute for Human Services? Mrs. Baroody replied I would like to hire someone to fill that vacancy as soon as possible, especially with Medicare Open Enrollment coming up.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.**

B. **Department of Social Services**

1. **Accepting Emergency Shelter Grant Allocation** – Ms. Muller requested authorization to accept an Emergency Shelter Grant Allocation which is part of the CARES Act funding. We had previously operated a similar program, STEHP, last year. We will be receiving $406,097 to be used to support housing issues for the homeless. This funding will be used to pay for hotel/motel rooms, shelter operations, supplies, etc. We will extend our current contracts with Arbor Development for the issuance of security deposits, the payment of rental arrears, maintain shelter support and provide inspections. We will also extend our contracts with Legal Assistance of Western NY to support eviction prevention and with Catholic Charities to support wrap around services and outreach activities. She stated they will allocate $248,650 to Arbor Development; $5,000 to Catholic Charities and $26,817 to Legal Assistance of Western NY.

Ms. Muller stated we will receive these funds again next year. With our Legal Assistance of Western NY contract for evictions, the recent Executive Order has prevented evictions from happening through the end of the year and the money for that contract will roll through next year. We will encumber those funds next year and then we will budget for it in 2021 for next years funding.
Mrs. Ferratella asked is this a State Grant? Ms. Muller replied this is through the CARES Act. Mr. Maio asked how much did you receive under the STEHP Grant? Ms. Muller replied it varies, but typically $216,000 per year. The timing of this grant is really good as we have no mechanism to pay the security deposits for individuals. These funds can also help with utility payments and allows us to have a face-to-face with individuals to keep them in housing. Having that ability during COVID has been tremendously difficult.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE CARES ACT – EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF $406,097 INTO REVENUE LINE ITEM 607000 44610570 AND TO INCREASE THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS: $248,650 – ARBOR DEVELOPMENT; $5,000 CATHOLIC CHARITIES; AND $26,817 TO LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF WESTERN NY; SAID CONTRACT EXPENSES TO BE PAID OUT OF LINE ITEM 607000 5445100 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. VAN ETTEN FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked will you be spending this throughout the County or just using it in certain areas? Ms. Muller replied we will use it county wide; wherever anyone is homeless. Mrs. Lando asked this will also pay for arrears? Ms. Muller replied it will up to a certain dollar amount and that is dependent on a number of factors. Mr. Malter asked is the money being allocated to Legal Assistance of Western NY to help clients and represent them in court? Ms. Muller replied yes.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. VAN ETTEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, October 7, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, September 30, 2020
STEUBEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 
9:00 a.m.  
Legislative Chambers, 3rd Floor, Annex Building  
Bath, New York  

**MINUTES**

COMMITTEE: Carol A. Ferratella, Chair  
Hilda T. Lando, Vice Chair  
Paul E. Van Caeseele  

STAFF: Jack K. Wheeler  
Hank Chapman  
Andy Morse  
Tammy Hurd-Harvey  

LEGISLATORS: Robin K. Lattimer  
John V. Malter  
Frederick G. Potter  
Gary D. Swackhamer  

OTHERS: Tess McKinley, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Mary Perham

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Van Caeseele to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Secretary’s Note: Chairman Van Etten sat in as a member of this committee as Legislator Maio has temporarily been removed from this committee assignment.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. Department of Community Services

1. Accepting NYS Office of Mental Health COLA Funding – Dr. Chapman requested authorization to accept $6,703 in COLA funds from the NYS Office of Mental Health. This funding is to be used for salary and fringe benefit expenses.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ACCEPT A NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH COLA ADJUSTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,703, SAID AMOUNT TO BE USED TO COVER SALARY AND FRINGE BENEFIT INCREASES MADE BY MR. VAN ETten. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Van Etten asked is this an annual thing? Dr. Chapman replied yes. It does not totally cover the salary and fringe benefit increases, but it helps.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.
Ms. Fitzpatrick asked have you seen an increase in requests for mental health help with the shutdown restrictions and how is it going? Dr. Chapman replied we have seen an increase, especially with our crisis outreach services. At the early onset of the pandemic we had a lot of people calling after-hours with questions regarding COVID. There has been a lot of added stress to families coping with the changes to school, etc. People have really adjusted to our new way of providing services. The State relaxed the requirements so that allows us to do counseling over the phone and/or with video conferencing. We are seeing 20 – 25 percent of our clients on-site. For the individuals without the technology capability we do see them onsite on a regular basis. Overall, there has been an increased need and it has been a challenge to keep pace.

Mr. Swackhamer asked for the people that have cell phones, do you Facetime with them? Dr. Chapman replied yes and we do that. There are still some areas in the county where people do not have cell reception and we are targeting those individuals and seeing them on-site.

B. Department of Social Services

1. **Request for Proposals for HEAP Furnace Component** – Ms. Muller requested authorization to request proposals for the HEAP furnace component. This is for the repair/replacement of furnaces for the upcoming HEAP season.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT, TO REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR THE HEAP FURNACE COMPONENT MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Van Etten asked why wait so late in the season? Ms. Muller replied I believe the terms of our current contract expire in August or September so we are timely.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION:** ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

C. Public Health

1. **Preschool Contract** – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a contract with Anthony Cerneskie, Speech Language Pathologist, to provide Preschool Related Services. The rate is $70.00 per session and $35.00 per group session.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ANTHONY CERNESKIE, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST, TO PROVIDE PRESCHOOL RELATED SERVICES AT A RATE OF $70.00 PER SESSION AND $35.00 PER GROUP SESSION MADE BY MR. VAN ETтен. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **New Contracts** – Mrs. Smith stated she is looking to enter into contracts for contact tracing and to increase staff capacity. We have received funding from the State for the purpose of increasing capacity to assist with COVID work. She requested authorization to enter into a contract with Adecco Medical & Science Staffing for data entry for COVID along with LPN and RN services. We do not have a rate for the nursing staff, but the rate for data entry is $25.20 per hour.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A NEW CONTRACT WITH ADECCO MEDICAL & SCIENCE STAFFING FOR DATA ENTRY FOR COVID AT A RATE OF $25.20 PER HOUR, ALONG WITH LPN AND RN SERVICES AT A RATE TO BE DETERMINED MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a contract AMN Health Care, Inc. (Nursefinders) for RN at a rate of $82.00 per hour, LPN at a rate of $55.00 per hour and Medical Assistant at a rate of $40.00 per hour.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A NEW CONTRACT WITH AMN HEALTH CARE, INC. (NURSEFINDERS) FOR RN AT A RATE OF $82.00 PER HOUR, LPN AT A RATE OF $55.00 PER HOUR AND MEDICAL ASSISTANT AT A RATE OF $40.00 PER HOUR MADE BY MR. VAN ETTN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked will we be able to get people? Mrs. Smith replied that is a good question. So far, no. Distance is a little bit of a problem as these agencies are located more in the Rochester area and outlying areas. We will keep trying.

Mr. Van Caeseele asked will the funding from the State cover all of these services? Mrs. Smith replied it will cover a lot of it, maybe all of it.

Mr. Van Etten asked would the staffing from Adecco amount to three full-time equivalents? Mr. Wheeler replied yes. If we are able to and when we are able to stand up a joint testing with Chemung County, we will need that. They would be the equivalent of two full-time equivalents, but they would not necessarily be 40 hours per week.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a contract with Reliant Staffing Systems, Inc. for RN at a rate of $49.98 per hour and LPN at a rate of $38.73 per hour.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RELIANT STAFFING SYSTEMS, INC. FOR RN AT A RATE OF $49.98 PER HOUR AND LPN AT A RATE OF $38.73 PER HOUR MADE BY MR. VAN ETENN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Mrs. Smith stated she also would like to amend their current contract with Pathways. Mrs. Congdon explained we currently have a contract with Pathways for two full-time RNs. We would like to amend the contract to add an additional full-time RN, 2 part-time contact tracers for COVID and 1 part-time Clerk. She commented one of our Clerks resigned and this part-time Clerk would be helping us out until we can fill that position. The original contract was $170,000. With these additional staff, that would increase the contract $195,000 for a total contract amount of $365,000. Mr. Wheeler commented we were notified yesterday of the clerical position that is resigning and we are recruiting for that position now. This contracted part-time Clerk is just for the interim.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH PATHWAYS TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OF 1 FULL-TIME RN; 2 PART-TIME CONTACT TRACERS FOR COVID; AND 1 PART-TIME CLERK FOR AN ADDITIONAL COST OF $195,000, BRINGING THE TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT TO $365,000 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. COVID Update – Mrs. Lando asked Mrs. Smith to provide an update on where we are at with COVID. Mrs. Smith stated the numbers as of this morning are 604 have tested positive since the start of the pandemic. We currently have 227 active positive cases. There are 325 cases that are recovered. We currently have 17 hospitalized and there have been 52 deaths since the start of the pandemic. The number that is shocking to me is that we have 834 in isolation/quarantine right now. At our peak we hovered around 300 in March. Within a few weeks, starting in September, we have tripled that number.

Mr. Maio asked do you have a theory as to why we are seeing the high numbers? Mrs. Smith replied it is community spread. People are not following the regulations and the emergency orders as set forth. The executive orders state that we are not to have more than 50 people at non-essential gatherings. Additionally, people are not wearing masks and not social distancing. That leads to clusters, which lead to community spread. We have four different clusters now that we are aware of. We are fervently trying to contain the spread and are actively working on ramping up the testing to get the clusters tested and in isolation/quarantine.
Mrs. Ferratella commented there have been some issues in Chemung and Broome counties. Mrs. Smith stated yes, they have clusters which have led to striking numbers for them. We are working as fast as we can to partner with Chemung to use the rapid testing kits. There will be training tomorrow for the nurses and then we can start nailing down the locations and logistics.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated you said there are 800 in isolation/quarantine; what percentage of those are waiting for tests to come back? Also what percent of those have not bothered to get tested and how do we determine that? Some of the individuals are from schools I assume. She stated I appreciate the numbers in quarantine, but there has to be a certain percentage that have not tested positive for COVID. Mrs. Smith stated that is correct. The majority of them are not positive and are contacts to a positive. That is the reason the numbers are high; because of the schools as they are a congregate setting. With a positive in a school, we contact trace the classroom and the bus. We have to determine if they switched classrooms and do that contact tracing, etc. The 834 in isolation/quarantine is everyone and includes the 227 positive cases. The rest are contacts to the positives or have been tested for an elective procedure, or went to a drive-thru testing site. It is a combination. However, the majority of that isolation/quarantine number is due to being a contact.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated it is impressive then, given the number you are putting into isolation/quarantine that the majority in that process are working. So if someone on that list gets a test result back, are they allowed to go back to their normal activities and how long before they get their test back? Mrs. Smith replied if an individual is in quarantine, that is because they had a test for an elective procedure, and then yes, if they have a negative test they come out of quarantine. If an individual is in quarantine because they are a contact of a positive and they test negative, that does not let them out of quarantine early because of the incubation period.

Mr. Wheeler stated most of these in isolation/quarantine are contacts. We have seen a number of individuals who are a close contact to a positive and they are under quarantine and then by day 11 or 12 they have symptoms and by day 13 they are positive. That is why people abiding by the quarantine is important.

Mr. Van Caeseele asked is the increase in numbers because there are better ways of identifying the virus and tracking since May? Mrs. Smith replied testing has increased since May. The hospitals have solidified their plans and testing sites are available. The consistent emphasis on being tested has led to an increase in the numbers as well.

Mr. Hanna asked with regard to people coming in from other states, is there any way to keep track of that? Mrs. Smith replied they are supposed to complete a traveler form online if their State is on the list. Some do, but a lot do not. We will never know those who did not fill out the form. It is easier to capture the data from those who fly because there is someone at the airports to take the forms as they disembark. Those that drive, there is no way to know. There is an untold number of people who do not fill out the traveler form.

Mr. Mullen stated to follow-up on the conversation regarding people in quarantine. You are saying that some people are testing positive after having been in quarantine close to the two week period. What kind of numbers are you seeing on that? Also what about those individuals in a household were one member has tested positive and are trying to stay separated within that household? Mr. Wheeler replied we have seen both and there have been many multiple cases. We don’t tackle that as a metric. The more likely scenario is the wife is positive and they separate from the rest of the household. We have seen many of those. We have also seen where people have been quarantined for 13 days and then test positive.

Mr. Mullen stated with the hospitalizations, I’m just wondering about the data we have on the metrics of the people hospitalized. Do we have the breakdown of the severity of symptoms, etc. so that we can better understand? Mrs. Smith replied I don’t know that we could track the severity of symptoms. We know who is in the hospital and the majority of the 17 that are hospitalized are elderly. This is primarily hitting the elderly and nursing home residents hard.
Mr. Mullen stated there has been a low percentage of cases for younger people who have COVID. Of those who have tested positive, have you seen severe symptoms from your observations? Mrs. Smith replied I would be able to give you a breakdown of the 17 that are hospitalized, however, we don’t necessarily know what their symptoms are. The nurses anecdotally feel like, especially with some of the younger ones, that the symptoms are more severe this time around and that is leading to some of the younger patients needing to be hospitalized. The second wave has been worse and the symptoms are worse.

Mr. Van Etten asked do we have a feel of the 237 positive cases; what percentage are symptomatic? Also, of those that are symptomatic, is that different from the positive cases that we saw in April and May? Mrs. Smith replied we have 227 active positive cases right now. I think a good number of those are symptomatic. A lot of them, from what the nurses are reporting, are quite sick.

Mr. Wheeler commented right now, with the number of cases, the time to do a lot of deep data diving is a little limited. Mr. Van Etten stated I am not asking for extra work. Mr. Wheeler stated in all of the conversations, we were seeing a lot of asymptomatic cases over the summer and those were getting caught by testing. This feels different. Now with the schools and other things open, we are seeing something that is a little different.

3. Accreditation – Mrs. Ferratella stated she received a letter from the Public Health Accreditation Board. It states in part “The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is extremely pleased to inform you that Steuben County Public Health was awarded the designation of national accreditation through PHAB on September 1, 2020. To receive this national accreditation through PHAB, Steuben County Public Health underwent a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it met nationally established public health quality standards and measures.” Mrs. Ferratella stated I think Public Health deserves a lot of credit and also the other counties that were involved. This is a real milestone for us and I want to recognize Public Health for that.

Mr. Potter stated going back to the COVID discussion, related to the schools; I have two educators in my family and teachers’ worlds have been turned topsy-turvy by COVID-19. All of the changes they had to make in their classrooms and in their teaching has created a lot of stress for them. Protections and precautions have been put in place, but a lot of districts did not implement them as they should have. Not knowing what is in their classrooms is a big concern to them. When they received the county’s guidelines of what to do if failing any of the screening questions, it created additional stress as now they are required to get a COVID test, resulting in them being out of the classroom for up to a week while waiting for the test results. This is compounded by the lack of available substitute teachers this year. This is why they are reluctant to be honest about the self-screening and why they felt the County was trying to shut down the schools. This was partly because of a lack of communication and explanation from administrators when the guidelines were distributed. I assured them that this is not the case and explained the reasons for the guidelines which helped to put it into perspective for them.

Mr. Van Caeseele commented something seems ironic to me. Through this whole thing, in the department stores and grocery stores, not one case was tracked back to Walmart or Wegmans. It just seems like they skate out of this somehow. Mrs. Smith stated we have certainly had a number of people who were positive go to those places.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN ETTEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Amanda L. Chapman, Deputy Clerk, Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office

NO LATER THAN NOON

Wednesday, October 28, 2020
**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE:**
Carol A. Ferratella, Chair  
Paul E. Van Caeseele

**Hilda T. Lando, Vice Chair**
Scott J. Van Etten

**K. Michael Hanna**

**STAFF:**
Jack K. Wheeler  
Brenda Scotchmer  
Lynn Lewis  
Andy Morse

**Christopher Brewer**

**Patty Baroody**

**Nate Alderman**

**Bill Caudill**

**Lise Reynolds**

**Jennifer Prossick**

**Legislators:**
Kelly H. Fitzpatrick  
Frederick G. Potter

**Steven P. Maio**

**Gary B. Roush**

**John V. Malter**

**OTHERS:**
Mary Perham

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Mrs. Scotchmer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA.  
SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO.  ALL BEING IN FAVOR.  MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Secretary’s Note: Chairman Van Etten sat in as a member of this committee as Legislator Maio has temporarily been removed from this committee assignment.

III. **DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS**

A. **Office for the Aging**

1. **Accept Bid for Personal Emergency Response System** – Mrs. Baroody informed the committee our current provider is Doyle Security because St. James assigned their contract to them mid-year. We did put this out to bid and had four responses. She is recommending awarding to LifeStation for $13.50 per month. We are currently paying $19.00 per month or $29.00 per month for fall detection. LifeStation charges an additional $5.00 per month for fall detection. This contract would become effective January 1, 2021.

**MOTION:** AWARDS THE BID FOR PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM TO LIFESTATION OF NEW JERSEY FOR $13.50 PER MONTH OR $18.50 PER MONTH FOR FALL DETECTION, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021 MADE BY MR. VAN ETten.  SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Van Etten asked how many people are currently using this system? Mrs. Baroody replied we have 58 individuals using the system and LifeStation has indicated they have an unlimited capacity. We will be sending a letter to the individuals explaining what is happening and LifeStation will send a letter as well. Allegany County is currently using LifeStation.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION:** ALL BEING IN FAVOR.  MOTION CARRIES 5-0.
2. Accept National Council on Aging (NCOA) Grant for Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC) – Mrs. Baroody informed the committee we have received notification that we are being awarding a BEC (Benefit Enrollment Center) grant from the National Council on Aging (NCOA) in the amount of $60,000. This funding starts October 1, 2020 and goes through September 30, 2021. I would like to appropriate this funding into our 2021 budget. There is a 15 percent match required and that has already been figured in. The intent of these funds is to assist Medicare beneficiaries with applications for additional benefits and to make sure those benefits do not lapse when it is time to reapply. This funding will be used for covering salaries and fringe benefits as well as the mandatory training that is required. She stated there is a piece that requires us to roll this out to our partners throughout the County that provide similar programs. We will have a coordinated process for making sure we serve the maximum number of clients. We did 1,000 applications in the first funding cycle.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO ACCEPT A NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING GRANT FOR BENEFITS ENROLLMENT CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF $60,000 AND APPROPRIATING TO THE 2021 BUDGET MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

B. Youth Bureau

1. 2020 OCFS Youth Development Program Allocations – Mr. Caudill commented these funds are for programs that started January 1, 2020 and the State just notified the County of the awards. In 2019 we received $86,546 and for 2020, with the anticipated 20 percent NYS withholding, we are looking at $62,480. On the attachment that was sent out, you will see that the recommended allocations for 2020 already include the 20 percent withholding.

Mrs. Ferratella commented the summer youth programs are very beneficial to the towns and I see that some did not apply for funding this year. Mr. Caudill replied that is simply because of COVID. We are fully confident those programs will come back on next year. Mr. Wheeler commented over the years the summer youth programs used to get $1,000 or more. With the paperwork they are required to fill out, some have decided that it is not worth their time to complete the paperwork. Mr. Caudill noted they added Urbana back in and Lindley has a small, short program.

Mrs. Lando asked other than mental health, are there any other services provided to youth for counseling? Mr. Caudill replied there was primarily for alcohol and substance abuse prevention and I am fully confident Family Services will continue to provide that. However, due to performance measures set up by NYS OCFS, it became very difficult to have enough kids and they saw a need to expand the Youth Center to create a second floor for older youth and Family Services chose to have the funds allocated to the Corning Area Youth Center. Mr. Caudill stated ProAction started the Bath Youth Development Program, which is an after-school program, and has set up a virtual learning center for youth. They have a small program now, but that is the first step in creating a youth center.

Mr. Malter asked most of these appropriations allow a certain amount for administration? Mr. Caudill replied yes, they do allow for some flexibility.

MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUNDING CONTRACTS FOR 2020: CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF STEUBEN COUNTY - $7,035.00; FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY, INC. - $11,491.00; HORNELL AREA CONCERN FOR YOUTH - $19,002.00; PROACTION OF STEUBEN & YATES, INC. - $2,462.00; STEUBEN YOUTH SERVICES FUND, INC. - $1,210.00; THE FRIENDS OF THE ADDISON YOUTH CENTER - $5,837.00, AND THE YOUTH BUREAU - $31,064.00 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

C. Department of Social Services

1. Approve HEAP Furnace Bids – Ms. Reynolds requested authorization to approve the HEAP furnace bids. She is recommending award to the two vendors, Blevins and I.D. Booth on a line item basis.
MOTION: AWARDING THE BID FOR HEAP FURNACES TO BLEVINS AND I.D. BOOTH ON A LINE ITEM BASIS MADE BY MR. VAN ETTEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Appropriate Additional DSRIP Funds – Ms. Reynolds informed the committee that the County has received additional DSRIP funding in the amount of $242,000. She requested authorization to accept this funding and appropriate to the Delivery System Reforms capital project.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL DSRIP FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF $242,000.00 AND APPROPRIATE TO THE DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORMS CAPITAL PROJECT MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. VAN ETEN FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked is the homeless population expanding? Ms. Reynolds replied it was very expanded during COVID and the numbers have been lower during the summer months, however, now we are going into Code Blue weather. We are doing our best to have people housed. We were looking at 150 people per night that were housed and we are at about half that number now.

Mr. Hanna asked how many of the homeless are youth? Ms. Reynolds replied we have two families I believe, but we do count that and coordinate with Lisa Baker to track the number of homeless youth.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

3. Adoption Month – Ms. Reynolds informed the committee that November is national Adoption Month. We have 31 freed for adoption and there will be three adoptions for November.

D. Personnel

1. Reclassification – Department of Community Services – Mr. Alderman stated that the agenda has this listed as a transfer and reclassification, however, it is just a reclassification. We are proposing taking a vacant Staff Psychologist, Grade XIX in the Department of Community Services and reclassifying it to a Social Services Clinic Coordinator, Grade XVII.

Ms. Reynolds explained this position assisted with assessments and was working with hospitals; their duties were very broad. Previously a Staff Psychologist had been in that position. The Department of Community Services is in need of a Staff Psychologist and that individual is returning to their department. In order to keep the position filled and moving forward, it was best to lower the grade.

Mr. Alderman stated this new title is specific to the duties, where before a Staff Psychologist was used. Ms. Reynolds stated with this position, supervision is required and we need that through the Department of Community Services. This position will enable better communication and access. Ms. Lewis stated this title has been broadened so that is now opened up to a Masters level instead of Doctorate level and that will provide us with a larger pool of candidates.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF ONE (1) VACANT STAFF PSYCHOLOGIST, GRADE XIX TO ONE (1) SOCIAL SERVICES CLINICAL COORDINATOR, GRADE XVII IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked so this position is part of the Department of Community Services? Ms. Reynolds replied yes, we contract with Community Services for the position. Mr. Wheeler commented there is enough flex in the budget this year and was also accounted for in your draft budget for 2021.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.
E. Public Health

1. Preschool Related Services Contract – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a contract with Cynthia Vollmer, Occupational Therapist at a rate of $70.00 per session and $35.00 for group sessions.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A PRESCHOOL RELATED SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CYNTHERA VOLLMER, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST, AT A RATE OF $70.00 PER SESSION AND $35.00 FOR GROUP SESSIONS MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE, SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Soccer League Petitions – Mrs. Ferratella informed the committee that she received petitions regarding the soccer league and their opposition to making players wear masks during games. Under State guidelines, masks are not required, however, under local guidelines they are required. Mr. Wheeler explained under State guidelines; both the New York State Department of Health and the School Athletics Association, they are saying face coverings should be worn unless a player cannot tolerate it. We did get involved in this. Every week we have a call with the School Superintendents. With our schools, originally we did not take a written position because the schools agreed together, based on the advice of their medical directors and insurance carriers, that face coverings should be worn. Our schools were 100 percent together that players on both teams should wear face coverings. Where Public Health and the County got involved was with Section V. In Livingston and Steuben counties, the schools collectively agreed to wear face coverings. In Monroe and Wayne counties some of the schools did and some did not. Section V came down and said that Public Health never wrote a formal recommendation and that they would tell the schools what to do. Our schools were uncomfortable with that and requested that Mrs. Smith write an official statement. This is in support of our schools. Two points for this change is that number one, it would be at the discretion of the Public Health Director and number two, it would put the schools in a bad spot where they would have to forfeit games if they chose not to play a team that were not wearing face coverings.

Mrs. Smith stated another reason the schools wanted this is that it just doesn’t seem to make sense that students have to wear face coverings during gym class but not for soccer. Before this was put in place we had students that were playing soccer out of county and ended up being positive. Because nobody was wearing masks, we had to quarantine both teams. Had they been wearing masks, it would have lessened that impact. We currently have over 700 individuals in isolation/quarantine and it made sense to proceed this way.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated this petition was started by a constituent in my district who has a son who plays on a soccer team. My decision to present this petition is so we have an understanding on which policies are handed down by the State to us and how we get to these decisions. Mr. Malter asked how many signatures are on the petition? Mrs. Ferratella stated there is between 30 – 40. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented I still felt it was important to discuss and listen to the explanation, which seems to make sense. Is there a difference between inside activity versus outside activity? Mrs. Smith replied anything outside is thought to be less of a risk than indoor activities, but there is still the close proximity and the amount of exhaling and droplets is a concern. We still advise that masks be worn during play. Mr. Wheeler stated one of the physicians in the area is a medical director for a school and is also a soccer player and was pretty adamant to require face masks. Ms. Prossick stated the Department of Health has guidelines for every sport and they are categorized low, medium and high risk. That was step one and that was filtered down to the schools.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I’m not saying it is a good idea, but I just felt that it was important for us to have the conversation. Ms. Prossick stated I am not sure that a lot of people who are reading the minutes know that this information is on the NYS Department of Health website. Mr. Wheeler stated the confusion is with the wording “unless they cannot tolerate”. The guidance could be more clear from the State. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked is there a metric for determining who can tolerate? Is that based on a doctor note? Mr. Wheeler stated any other time it would require a medical opinion. In soccer, it is not explicit. Some people are interpreting that the athlete can make that determination. Mrs. Smith explained they just transferred that to apply to soccer as well. The student/parent still has that option if the student doesn’t tolerate the mask, that they can go to a physician and get a medical exemption.
Ms. Fitzpatrick asked with regard to the two soccer teams, were there any other positives from that that you are aware of? Mrs. Smith replied no. Mr. Wheeler stated one of the teams was from Ontario County, so we would not necessarily know that. Bradford plays with Dundee and they are in the Finger Lakes League, but that was the one we were talking about and the student was a Steuben County resident and that is why we were involved.

Mr. Hanna asked if the players are wearing a mask and test positive, then there is no quarantine? Mrs. Smith stated with soccer, the close proximity of the players is brief, so for all practical purposes they should be able to avoid quarantine.

Mr. Lando asked if Mrs. Smith could provide an update on COVID? Someone had asked what we have to do to get the percent of positives down to 1 percent and also the number breakdown for the City of Corning versus the County? Mrs. Smith replied currently we have 757 individuals in isolation/quarantine, there are 13 hospitalizations and we have 81 deaths. The positivity rate over the last seven days is 4.7 percent. We need to have a positivity rate just under 2 percent in the yellow zone area. The best mechanism to reduce our numbers quite honestly is through testing. We will most likely have positive cases come out of that, but we will also have a whole bunch of negatives and we are working toward that. The schools in the yellow zone have to do 20 percent testing and the school nurses will be administering the rapid testing. We will be overseeing the data from that. We are also going to be looking at another community wide testing site for that; and that will be dependent on help and support from the Department of Health as they send down contract nurses.

Mrs. Smith stated we updated the website yesterday and we have had 1,195 confirmed cases with 167 active. A fairly new category is the number deemed positive and we have 1 listed so far. This category is completely related to the school. The guidance is if a student is excluded from school due to a COVID symptom and if the parent does not get to the doctor to get an alternative diagnosis or a COVID test with a negative result within 48 hours, we have to deem them positive. We felt as though we needed to make that a separate category. Mr. Wheeler stated we are living with the rules that have been given to us by NYS. We want to make it clear to the constituents that we are clearly showing a separate category. The Binex card rapid test is much less invasive; they are a nasal swab instead of the PCR, and the swab only goes one inch into the nostril and this test is more readily available.

Mrs. Lando asked do you have a breakdown of the numbers for the City of Corning? Mr. Wheeler replied that breakdown can be found on the GIS map. There is also a link in the middle of the main page where you can click on each municipality and it shows the total number of cases. Mrs. Smith commented our Public Health Educator, Lorelei Wagner, is the guru of the data. What the City of Corning is asking for is incredibly labor intensive. My intent is to reach out to see if we can assist in a different way. It would take a lot of time investment to produce what they are asking for.

Mr. Van Etten stated going back to the petition issue; my opinion is this evolved by having a number of school districts, all of them, decide that the players needed to wear masks. The County only got involved because of the Section V issue. My question to Mr. Wheeler and Ms. Prossick would be that I have no interest in taking the petition forth, but if the Legislature decided we should not be wearing masks while playing soccer, can we tell them that? Ms. Prossick replied the Commissioner of the State Department of Health makes the decisions and recommendations. The local commissioner or Public Health Director can issue guidance. The State gives authority to the local board and Mrs. Smith to make a decision if one needs to be made.

Mr. Mullen asked when Steuben County teams are wearing masks but others are not, is Steuben not playing and forfeiting? What is the policy? Mr. Wheeler replied we have discussed it, but that would be a school decision. Some schools were uncomfortable with that, but now it is the school’s decision on whether they play or not.

Mrs. Ferratella stated I feel we need to support our Public Health Director in the decisions that are made. There is an option for children that cannot tolerate a mask. My opinion is I support the recommendation. Mrs. Lando commented I would rather have my kids be safe. I would have gone along with the mask wearing. Mrs. Ferratella stated we have accepted the petition and will stand by the Public Health Director’s memo.
MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, November 25, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and asked Mrs. Lando to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO, SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Secretary’s Note: Chairman Van Etten sat in as a member of this committee as Legislator Maio has temporarily been removed from this committee assignment.

III. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Department of Community Services

1. Deputy Director – Dr. Chapman introduced Lynn Lewis, the Deputy Director of the Department of Community Services. Ms. Lewis has been with the agency for twenty plus years in different capacities. She is a Social Worker and was a counselor for children and families. In addition to being my deputy, she also runs the Children and Youth Program.

2. 2021 Contracts – Dr. Chapman presented his 2021 contracts for approval. He noted there is no increase in the County share from last year. There is one new contract with Robert Burns. He recently retired and is now working two days per week to do intakes as part of the Open Access Intake Program. The annual cost is $36,000. One other significant change is to the contract with Dr. Verkleeren. This is a positive change as she is now providing MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) for Opioid dependence on site. As a result, this has increased her time from four hours per week to twelve hours per week and the contract has increased from $33,000 annually to $95,000 annually to compensate for the additional hours.
MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2021 CONTRACTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES: ARBOR DEVELOPMENT – CARE COORDINATION – OMH ($33,496); ARBOR DEVELOPMENT – SUPPORTIVE HOUSING – OMH ($470,636); CLARITY WELLNESS COMMUNITY (ARA) – OMH ($250,500); CATHOLIC CHARITIES – TURNING POINT – OMH ($23,670); NYSARC, INC. – OMH ($146,387); ASPIRE HOPE NY, INC. – OMH ($533,079); HORNELL CONCERN FOR YOUTH – OASAS ($119,042); FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY – OASAS ($81,158); CATHOLIC CHARITIES – KINSHIP – OASAS ($418,996); CATHOLIC CHARITIES – OASAS PREVENTION ($276,068); CASA TRINITY ($40,000); NYSARC, INC. ($71,250); MHL PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES, PLLC – DR. LOWERY, JAIL COORDINATOR ($85,000); ERICA VERKLEEREN, MD, PLLC – OASAS MEDICAL DIRECTOR/MATS ($95,000); WESTERN NY MED-PSYCH – DR. NEERUKONDA, PSYCHIATRIST ($175,000); NANCY HOUY, PLLC – PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER ($150,000); DIANE M. SCAGLIOLA, LLC – PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER ($80,000); PIERRE NIGLE, LLC – PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER ($80,000); ELLEN T. STEPHENS, PSYCHIATRIC N.P., LLC – PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER ($106,000); ELLEN T. STEPHENS, PSYCHIATRIC N.P., LLC – COMPEER ($11,000); ROBERT BURNS, LMSW – OPEN ACCESS FOR INTAKE PROGRAM ($36,000); CAPABILITIES, IC. – PROS-ORS PROGRAM ($60,040); CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER – 4 FT/5 PT CONTRACTED LABOR ($425,000); CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER – OPIOID PREVENTION COALITION ($37,724); FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY – 1 FT SOCIAL WORKER ($75,000); PATHWAYS, INC. – 18 CONTRACTED LABOR ($1,250,000); PATHWAYS, INC. – 1 SOCIAL WORKER FT/MOBILE CRISIS ($130,000); PRATTSBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL – SOCIAL WORKER ($40,000); PROACTION OF STEUBEN AND YATES, INC. – 6 FT/2 PT ADMIN CONTRACTED LABOR ($280,000); VILLAGE OF BATH – MH CLIENT TRANSPORTS ($73.00 PER HOUR); CORNING HOSPITAL – ANSWERING SERVICES ($50.00 PER MONTH); IRA DAVENPORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL – ON-SITE ABUSE EVALUATIONS ($54.00 PER HOUR); LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES – TELEPHONE INTERPRETERS ($0.75 PER MINUTE); MEDLAB, INC. – DRUG SCREENS ($15.00 PER 6-PANEL TEST); SIGN LANGUAGE SOLUTIONS, LLC – SIGN LANGUAGE SUPPORT ($50.00 PER SERVICE HOUR); 360 TRANSCRIPTION CORP. – TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES ($9,600); FIRE ALARM SERVICE TECHNOLOGY, INC. – FIRE ALARM MAINTENANCE ($1,927); CARR’S TRUCKING AND SNOW REMOVAL, LLC – SNOW REMOVAL @ CORNING OFFICE ($75.00 PER PLOW); TP’S CONCRETE AND CONTRACTING (D. PARKS) – SNOW REMOVAL @ HORNELL OFFICE ($75.00 PER PLOW); WESTERN NY MEDICAL PRACTICE, P.C. – CANISTEO VALLEY OFFICE SPACE LEASE ($12,000); AND STEUBEN COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU – RENTAL CONTRACT ($6,700) MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Van Etten asked how many hours per week is Dr. Verkleeren working for $95,000? Dr. Chapman replaced she is working 12 hours per week at a rate of $150.00 per hour.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked with regard to State aid, are these contracts subject to the 20 percent decrease and what are we doing about that? Dr. Chapman replied right now we left them whole, but we anticipate a 20 percent reduction and when that happens that will be the only pass-through money we will have. Mr. Van Etten asked will there be a 20 percent reduction in services? Dr. Chapman replied in most instances we will see a reduction in services. This funding helps support their personnel costs.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked how can the Governor withhold money for services that are contracted out and where that money belongs to the County that we pass through? Mr. Wheeler replied when it is Federal dollars, that is encumbered by the State and not passed on or the State Legislature earmarks it for certain programs. Last budget the NYS Legislature gave the Governor, based on what was happening with revenues, along with the Division of Budget, unilateral authority to reduce payments. If the Governor proposes a permanent cut, right now the Legislature is holding payment, but they have ten days to propose an alternative. If they do not, then the funding is cut.

Mr. Van Etten asked can you provide us with an update on CASA Trinity? Dr. Chapman replied they have moved to their new site in Hornell. My understanding is they are keeping very busy. With the pandemic they
have seen a decrease in services. Their inpatient unit is getting steady referrals and they are treating people. From my perspective, they are doing a great job. We are contributing $40,000 to help offset operational costs and they are very grateful for that. They have much appreciated the contribution and need an extra boost especially during the pandemic. Mrs. Lando asked where did they move to? Dr. Chapman replied they are located on Seneca Road North in Hornell next to the new hospital.

Mrs. Ferratella asked are they applying for grants from the State? Dr. Chapman replied yes they are in the process of writing a grant proposal. They are actively looking at dollars that are available and writing proposals. He stated he has a conference call with Ms. Domingos and they are working on submitting a proposal for State funding to help regions as part of the Opioid crisis. We are looking at what we can do for treatment, support, housing, etc.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Office for the Aging
   1. **2021 Contracts** – Mrs. Baroody presented her 2021 contracts for approval. In the list you’ll notice that BIPP has been eliminated, but the services have been moved under the Institute for Human Services contract. We have cleaned up different contracts and are accommodating for extra funding that has been received for 2020 and 2021. She noted the Doyle Security contract is now under Life Station and the contract is less than last year as the price from Life Station is lower. Mrs. Baroody commented with regard to registered dietician services, the NYS Office for the Aging is requiring us to increase the hours for registered dietician services to 16 hours per week and our contract is going up to 13 hours per week.

MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2021 CONTRACTS FOR THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING:
   - CORNING MEALS ON WHEELS – HOME DELIVERED MEALS ($10,000);
   - FAITH IN ACTION – TRANSPORTATION ($39,000);
   - HOME AND HEALTH CARE – III-E RESPITE ($15,000);
   - CORNING OFFICE SPACE ($2,400);
   - INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES – MEDICARE/EPIC PROGRAM ($50,226);
   - INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES – EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, FORMERLY TITLE V ($182,905);
   - INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES – TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ($80,000);
   - AVOCAMETHODIST CHURCH – RAMPS ($3,226);
   - JOINT/VON HAGN – LEGAL SERVICES ($15,000);
   - CENTER FOR ELDER LAW & JUSTICE – LEGAL SERVICES ($5,000);
   - PROACTION – PROGRAM SERVICES ($144,175);
   - PROACTION – HOME DELIVERED MEALS, FORMERLY SNAP ($155,555);
   - PROACTION TITLE III-C 1 & 2 – CONGREGATE AND HOME DELIVERED MEALS ($446,834);
   - PROACTION – WELLNESS ($12,400);
   - LIFESTATION – PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES ($13,500);
   - SSSF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ($57,281);
   - ELLIOTT – CONSULTING ($29,507);
   - HOME & HEALTH CARE – EISEP ($221,048);
   - PROACTION – EISEP ASSISTANT ($53,929);
   - AIM – CONSUMER DIRECTED ($30,000);
   - COMFORT KEEPERS ($10,000);
   - AND APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2021 CONTRACTS FOR RSVP:
   - INSITUTATE FOR HUMAN SERVICES – SPECIAL PROJECTS ($21,909) MADE BY MR. VAN ET TEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

C. Department of Social Services
   1. **Budget Adjustment** – Ms. Muller requested authorization to transfer $355,000 from the Medicaid Assistance Payments account to the Safety Net Assistance Payments account and to anticipate an additional $145,000 in State aid. Mr. Van Etten asked is this the result of increased demand? Ms. Muller replied yes. Mr. Van Etten asked will this get us through the end of the year? Ms. Muller replied it should. We have increased this line $500,000 for 2021. Mr. Wheeler commented there is a little flex in Medicaid to hedge against this and deal with potential State cuts.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF $355,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MEDICAID ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS ACCOUNT TO THE SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS AND ANTICIPATING ADDITIONAL SAFETY NET STATE AID IN THE AMOUNT OF $145,000 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **2021 Contracts** – Ms. Muller presented her 2021 contracts for approval.

MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2021 CONTRACTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES: FIRE ALARM SERVICE TECHNOLOGIES – DETENTION CENTER ALARM SERVICES ($1,305); VIRDEE MEDICAL GROUP – DETENTION CENTER PHYSICALS ($70.00 PER EXAM); BONADIO GROUP – ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS ($170.00 PER HOUR); LABCORP – PATERNITY TESTING ($43.00 PER PERSON); SHI INTERNATIONAL – KCHECKS ($3,500); DR. MICHAEL MORRONGIELLO – FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS ($130.00 PER BILLABLE HOUR); AND VENSION COALITION – PROCESS VENISON FOR FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION ($2,000) MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. **Mobile Unit** – Mrs. Lando asked how is the mobile unit going? Ms. Muller stated it is going very well. We have moved the unit back to the hospital for the winter months. Mrs. Lando asked do you have to submit reports to the State? Ms. Muller replied yes. We also have established a stationary unit at the hospital and our numbers are justifying the need. Mr. Van Etten asked are we provided funding for three years? Ms. Muller replied yes. We have secured funding for the entire project with anticipated continued funding. A lot of money is coming from the NYS Office of Victim Services. That funding comes from fines and fees for the criminal prosecution of sex crimes. These funds are reinvested for treatment and prevention activities.

D. **Public Health**

1. **Contracts** – Mrs. Smith presented two contracts for approval for preschool related services and evaluations with Finger Lakes Therapy Works and Rocky Mountain Speech Works, Inc. The rates are $70.00 per session and $35.00 per group session.

MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR PRESCHOOL RELATED SERVICES AND EVALUATIONS WITH FINGER LAKES THERAPY WORKS AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPEECH WORKS, INC. AT A RATE OF $70.00 PER SESSION AND $35.00 PER GROUP SESSION MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **2021 Contracts** – Mrs. Smith presented her 2021 contracts for approval. Mrs. Ferratella asked do these already include the 20 percent State reduction? Mrs. Smith stated I will need to check with Mrs. Congdon.

MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2021 CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH: COMMON GROUND HEALTH AGENCY – REGIONAL HEALTH PLANNING SERVICES ($1,000); ARNOT MEDICAL SERVICES – TB SERVICES (MEDICAID RATE); NOYES HOSPITAL – QUANTIFERON TB TEST ($50.00); FINGER LAKES MIGRANT HEALTH CARE PROJECT – STD TESTING, DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT (MEDICAID RATE); PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC. – STD TESTING, DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT (MEDICAID RATE); JAMES MCGUINNESS & ASSOCIATES – SOFTWARE SUPPORT ($625.00/MONTH FOR PRESCHOOL BILLING PROGRAM, $354.00/MONTH FOR MEDICAID SERVICE BUREAU AND $125.00/HOUR FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OVER 3 HOURS/MONTH); S2AY NETWORK REGIONAL – CONSULTANT ($18,500); S2AY NETWORK REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COOPERATIVE EFFORT – CONSULTANT ($2,000); BIOSERVE, INC. – MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL ($75.00/BOX); JAN & BEV’S HOME CARE – CONTRACT NURSES (PAYROLL COSTS + 15%); PATHWAYS – CONTRACT NURSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF ($PAYROLL COSTS + 15%); AND STUDENT FIELD EXPERIENCE WITH THE FOLLOWING: SUNY ALFRED, ELMIRA COLLEGE, SUNY BROCKPORT, KEUKA COLLEGE, PLATTSBURG, SUNY
2. **COVID Update** – Mrs. Lando asked can you provide an update on COVID? Mrs. Smith replied the numbers are not good. We continue to report dozens of positive cases per day and usually two to three deaths. Right now we are working on an initiative to hopefully stand up a community testing site through the inventory of rapid tests on hand. We are in discussions with Corning Community College to pursue that and utilize their nursing students. Public Health does not have the staff to do that. The NYS Department of Health is not able to assign staff for this purpose. We are concerned with holiday travel and we are already seeing the ramifications of that. Ideally, we are hoping to get a site stood up next week as that will be ideal relative to Thanksgiving travel and we are hoping to extend that through the month of December if possible. We should have more information by the end of the week or the first of next week. Our staff is working very hard on this.

Mrs. Ferratella asked are you involved in the distribution of the vaccines coming from the State? Mrs. Smith replied we will be heavily involved in the distribution. The FDA is meeting on December 10, 2020 to discuss the emergency use of the vaccines. If that goes through, I am hearing we could have delivery by December 12, 2020. It still remains to be seen which vaccines we will receive directly. We are making preparations now for either vaccine; one would require dry ice and the other can be kept in a normal refrigerator or freezer. Once we receive the vaccine, then we will be responsible to distribute to those individuals listed in Priority 1 of the distribution. Mostly likely that will be front line health care workers and nursing home residents.

Mr. Potter asked how are you set up for rapid testing supplies? Do you have enough on hand to get through the end of the year? Mrs. Smith replied I think so. We have more of the Binex cards. The Abbott ID kits require a machine and the Binex card is just the card. We do have significantly more Binex then ID kits and that is true across the State. Between both, I anticipate even if we do stand up testing for a good portion of December, we should have enough. We are in pretty good shape right now. The testing would be free to anyone who is pre-registered. This would be wide open for the community. I think that is the best chance of finding those asymptomatic positives and those that have traveled. It is important to try to hit those. Some travelers are trying to comply, but there is the issue of the public being able to access testing. We did put the ID now machines at Guthrie Centerway. Mrs. Lando asked for the testing at Guthrie, do you have to have an appointment? Mrs. Smith replied yes, an appointment is required. The number to call to schedule an appointment is 973-8000. We are hearing for the most part that it is difficult to get same day appointments. Mr. Wheeler commented we will publicize this a little bit more. As of the beginning of this week, Guthrie has their process in good shape now. Public Health gets a tremendous amount of calls looking for this.

Mrs. Ferratella commented I was surprised to see that they were talking about delivery of vaccines overseas as they are just starting the distribution here. Mrs. Smith stated I saw that as well. I don’t know the plans for how much vaccine there will be. At one point they had said there would be 40 million doses earmarked for the United States and that would cover only health care workers and nursing homes. She stated this is a two dose vaccine and that means that 40 million doses will cover 20 million people.

Mr. Hanna asked with health care workers, will it be voluntary for them to get a shot or will they be mandated? Mrs. Smith stated that is a great question. Under the FDA emergency use, the vaccines will be not be mandated at the Federal level. However, a hospital or nursing home could get more restrictive and mandate vaccines for employees.

IV. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. **Memorializing Resolution Re: Investigating the Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Nursing Homes** – Mrs. Ferratella stated Ms. Fitzpatrick is proposing a memorializing resolution for the NYS Legislature to establish a temporary commissioner to investigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic related to nursing home deaths.
Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I personally think this is important as we have to put a process in place to combat the pandemic and then review to determine if there have been mistakes and prevent those in the future. Based on the reports we have seen from our Public Health Department, there are a lot of deaths and cases that are a direct result of nursing home issues. It is necessary to review what has happened and improve the processes that have been put in place to protect the public.

Mrs. Lando asked is there already something going on that the State has committed to? Ms. Fitzpatrick replied I don’t know, but we should be on board. Mr. Wheeler commented the Attorney General is looking at this and temporary committees have been set up in each house. This resolution would form a more formal ad hoc committee in the State Legislature that is bi-partisan to review. Mr. Van Caeseele commented it is not a bad idea to show that we are on board.

MOTION: MEMORIALIZING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY COMMISSION TO STUDY AND INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE RELATED TO NURSING HOME DEATHS MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. VAN ETTEN. MOTION CARRIES 4-1. (MRS. LANDO OPPOSED) Resolution Required.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, January 6, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, December 30, 2020