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 1, 2021, AND SEPTEMBER 27, 2021, MEETINGS MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Department of Community Services
   1. Budget Adjustments – Dr. Chapman requested authorization to accept COLA funds in the amount of $6,905.00 from NYS OASAS (Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services) and pass those funds on to contract providers.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ACCEPT COLA FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,905.00 FROM NYS OASAS AND APPROPRIATE TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS: $801.00 TO HORNELL CONCERN; $979.00 TO FAMILY SERVICES AND $5,125.00 TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES MADE BY MR. ROUSH. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Dr. Chapman requested authorization to accept COLA funds in the amount of $23,721.00 from NYS OMH (Office of Mental Health) and pass those funds on to contract providers.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ACCEPT COLA FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $23,721.00 FROM NYS OMH AND APPROPRIATE TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS: $6,501.00 TO ARBOR-SCAP; $166.00 TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES; $8,172.00 TO ARC; $7,004.00 TO ASPIRE HOPE AND $1,878.00 TO ARA MADE BY MR. ROUSH. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Public Health

1. Contracts – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a contract for preschool related services with Brittany Williams, Speech Language Pathologist. The rates are set by the State at $70.00 per session and $35.00 per group session.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR PRESCHOOL RELATED SERVICES WITH BRITTANY WILLIAMS, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AT $70.00 PER SESSION AND $35.00 PER GROUP SESSION MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Purchasing Contracts – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into purchasing contracts with three different vendors for the purchase of COVID tests for schools. All three contracts will be paid for and fall under the ELC Screening/Testing Grant for Schools. Mr. Wheeler clarified the committee will be ratifying these contracts as they had been executed under an emergency purchase.

Mrs. Smith stated the first contract is with Quadrant Bioscience for the purchase of 40,000 test kits at $20.00 each. This is a lab in Syracuse that provides the self-administered saliva test. These tests are for those faculty and staff in schools that are unvaccinated. This is pooled testing and the total cost was $800,000. The second contract is with GinkGo Bioworks for 12,800 antigen rapid tests for schools. These tests are $5.50 each for a total cost of $70,400. We will give each school about a month supply at a time. The third contract is with Trusted Nurse Staffing. This contract will provide travel nurses for school testing. This is a temporary agency located in Buffalo. They will be administering the saliva tests. There are about 1,000 school faculty and staff that are unvaccinated. This contract will provide two travel nurses and each will go to a different district each day of the week to help augment the school nurses. The rate is $75.00 per hour for RN and $55.00 per hour for LPN along with mileage.

MOTION: RATIFYING THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH: QUADRANT BIOSCIENCE FOR 40,000 POOLED TESTING KITS FOR SCHOOLS FOR A TOTAL COST OF $800,000; GINKGO BIOWORKS FOR 12,800 ANTIGEN RAPID TESTS FOR SCHOOLS FOR A TOTAL COST OF $70,400 AND TRUSTED NURSE STAFFING FOR TWO TRAVEL NURSES AT A RATE OF $75.00 PER HOUR FOR RN AND $55.00 PER HOUR FOR LPN PLUS MILEAGE MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Nichols asked how are these being paid for? Mr. Wheeler replied we received $2.8 million from a Federal pass through grant under ARPA. Mr. Nichols asked did the State collect some of that or did we receive all of it? Mr. Wheeler replied we received all that was allocated to us.

Mrs. Lando asked will the staff be tested once a week? Is there a difference between the tests? Mrs. Smith replied the Quadrant Bioscience tests are self-administered PCR saliva swabs and pools of twelve tests will be sent in to the lab. The GinkGo Bioworks tests are a nasal test similar to the Binax cards that we have been using. This is a rapid antigen test for the school nurses to utilize for when an individual is symptomatic.

Mr. Van Caeseele asked are the accuracy of the tests consistent? I’m hearing concerns from my constituents about that. Is one test any more accurate than another? Mrs. Smith replied the saliva tests have a high accuracy as they are a diagnostic test. The rapid antigen tests are not as reliable as the diagnostic tests, however, they are more reliable if you are testing someone with symptoms. Mr. Wheeler stated we have used the rapid antigen tests quite a bit. You can see false negatives if the test is done in the 12 to 18 hour window prior to exhibiting
symptoms. We have not seen any false positives. Mr. Van Caeseele stated that is good to know as people are insinuating that there are a lot of false positives. Mrs. Smith commented we are still offering vaccine clinics at the Civil Defense Building every Friday from 10am to 2pm.

Mr. Wheeler explained the requirement for testing is that it is available to anyone in the school district that wants it and the pooled testing is perfect for that. Over time that requirement might expand to vaccinated staff and students whose parents opt in. We do have enough ELC grant funds to accomplish that. Mrs. Smith stated some districts are already getting requests for that and I think those requests will grow throughout the year.

Mr. Van Caeseele stated one big concern I am hearing is that the vaccine may not be as effective as the government is suggesting. Do we have any concrete numbers on that? Is there any study in place for that or will there be a study to put those models together? Mrs. Smith asked are you referring to breakthroughs? Mr. Van Caesele stated for individuals that got the vaccine and whether they got infected or not. Mrs. Smith stated locally we track that data and we list the breakthrough infections. We also try to track which vaccine they received. I cannot say that one vaccine has a higher rate of breakthrough right now. The State is tracking more now and just added breakthrough data for the State. I assume they are doing that nationally.

Mr. Van Etten stated the messaging around this has been haphazard by the State and Federal governments. There is a lot of hesitancy to get vaccinated now because they are seeing vaccinated people getting infected. The message needs to be that if you are vaccinated you don’t get as severe an illness and you will not be hospitalized. Mrs. Smith stated I agree. Locally we do try to emphasize that; not that we haven’t had many breakthrough cases that were hospitalized or died. By and large these vaccines keep you out of the hospital and keep you from dying.

Mr. Van Caesele stated those are the numbers that people want to see. Another concern is the new technology of the mRNA vaccines versus the old technology. People are saying that these spike proteins are sticking to tissue in the body. These are the concerns that constituents are bringing to me. Mrs. Smith explained that research is constantly being conducted. Each time we do a press release, we do say how many of the cases were vaccinated and it is either zero or a very low number. Mr. Wheeler stated we have, since summer or earlier, encouraged people to talk with their doctor and generally, by and large, the primary care physicians have said that the vaccine is good and it will protect you.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated maybe change the messaging with general information about how to boost your immune system. The flu shot is no guarantee that you will not get the flu. We need to rebuild trust. If we tone it down and talk about boosting your immune system by washing your hands and consider getting the vaccine, without forcing it down people’s throats, I think most people will do it.

Mrs. Lando stated these are still alarming numbers with a 10.83 percent positive rate and 210 people have died in the County and that is sad. I don’t know what the messaging is. Mrs. Smith stated other counties are not seeing the numbers that we are seeing, but part of it is our low vaccination rate. Our total vaccination rate is 49.6 percent and that is low compared to counties around us, especially Ontario County. Vaccination rate has a lot to do with it. Mrs. Lando asked what are those counties doing different? Mr. Wheeler replied they are not doing anything different than we are.

Mr. Van Caesele stated you can only make people aware of the risks. Mrs. Smith stated it is not due to a lack of availability. Now clinics and vaccines are readily available. Mr. Wheeler commented it is just a different demographic. Mr. Nichols commented I have had people tell me they don’t want to be vaccinated and I tell them that is their choice. How many people now get polio or smallpox? That is because of vaccination. I tell people to get vaccinated.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**
C. Office for the Aging

1. **Unmet Needs Funding** – Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to accept and appropriate Unmet Needs Funds in the amount of $85,000. She stated these funds do not require a match. She would like to appropriate $51,250 into the 2021 budget and $33,750 into the 2022 budget. The bulk of this funding will go to our contracts.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF $85,000 IN UNMET NEEDS FUNDING AND APPROPRIATING $51,250 INTO THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING 2021 BUDGET AND $33,750 INTO THE 2022 OFFICE FOR THE AGING BUDGET MADE BY MR. ROUSH. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Comfort Keepers Contract** – Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to use $10,000 in Unmet Needs funding to increase the Comfort Keepers contract due to increased demand for home care.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH COMFORT KEEPERS TO REFLECT AN ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF $10,000 IN UNMET NEEDS FUNDS MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. **Elder Law and Justice Contract** – Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to use $5,000 in Unmet Needs funding to increase the Elder Law and Justice contract due to the increased demand for legal services.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH ELDER LAW AND JUSTICE TO REFLECT AN ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF $5,000 IN UNMET NEEDS FUNDS MADE MR. ROUSH. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Nichols asked are we setting a precedent that we are going to increase their contract from $5,000 to $10,000? Mrs. Baroody replied I don’t think so. The contract is discussed each year and the money is more plentiful this year. They do understand that. Mr. Wheeler stated this is based on need and is a one-time increase. Ms. Prossick stated this is all in writing in the contract and we can change it each year.

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

4. **Corning Meals on Wheels Contract** – Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to use $10,000 in Unmet Needs funding to increase the Corning Meals on Wheels contract due to increased program costs.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH CORNING MEALS ON WHEELS TO REFLECT AN ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF $10,000 IN UNMET NEEDS FUNDS MADE MR. ROUSH. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando stated this is huge for them and I am glad we can do that for them. Mrs. Baroody stated they are appreciative and I know it is needed. They do a very nice program.

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

5. **Institute for Human Services Employment Contract** – Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to use $13,750 in Unmet Needs funding to increase the Institute for Human Services Employment Contract for additional management support for increasing case load. This will help pay for a temporary case management worker to cover for staffing shortage. Mr. Nichols asked is this part-time? Mrs. Baroody replied this is a contract employee, full-time with benefits, but it is time limited. Mr. Wheeler stated they are not on our insurance. The contract cost is all in the cost for these services.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION:** ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT TO REFLECT AN ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF $13,750 IN UNMET NEEDS FUNDS MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

6. Purchase of Van – Mrs. Baroody stated she would like to withdraw this item. We put out a bid three times and did not receive anything suitable. This EISEP funding will need to be spent by March 31, 2022. We will take a look and see what the best use is. Mrs. Lando asked what is the problem with the bid? Mrs. Baroody stated we had required stow and go seats as we will need the cargo space. We had talked about retaining ownership and we would probably need seating for moving people. That type of van is not available. We put the bid out two times then did an open bid. There was one vendor that was interested, but it may be six to eight months before delivery. Mr. Wheeler stated there is a national and global shortage of vehicles due to the computer chips. Mrs. Lando asked can we ask for an extension for spending the funds? Mrs. Baroody replied this is the extension.

D. Personnel
1. Reclassification – Department of Community Services – Mr. Alderman requested authorization to reclassify a vacant Senior Stenographer position, Grade VIII to a Principal Clerk position, Grade VIII. This title more accurately describes the duties of this position. Mr. Malter asked is there any difference in pay? Mr. Alderman replied no.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF A VACANT SENIOR STENOGRAPHER POSITION, GRADE VIII TO A PRINCIPAL CLERK POSITION, GRADE VIII IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

E. County Manager
1. Steuben Prevention Coalition – ARPA Funding Request – Ms. Banik stated I had submitted a proposal for $8,000 in funding to send two students and two adult chaperons to the National Conference for Annual Youth Leadership. Youth are an essential part of prevention. She has attended this conference in the past and the youth will come back and become leaders in the prevention field. We need them to be leaders in the county. We are seeing increased use in marijuana, alcohol, heroine and opioids. In many categories, Steuben County has been higher than the national average and use is starting as young as the 8th grade. Our goal is to have the youth go school to school to do peer messaging and then also go to the community to do adult messaging.

MOTION: RECOMMENDING THE APPROPRIATION OF $8,000 IN UNRESTRICTED ARPA FUNDS TO THE STEUBEN PREVENTION COALITION TO SEND TWO STUDENTS AND TWO ADULT CHAPERONES TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ANNUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Horton asked are the youth that are chosen to go actually in the percent that are using? Ms. Banik replied the first choice is not a user of substances, is a 9th grader at Canisteo-Greenwood and is a youth sector representative. Our goal is to recruit for the second individual and we could use that as a guideline. Mr. Horton asked would it be more beneficial if someone in the group who had a history of substance use was interested in going? I have a hard time believing that a 9th grader who is using is going to go and give sermons to get other youth to stop using. I’m just being the devil’s advocate. Ms. Banik stated we do recognize that. We try to get the school districts to send us a wide range of students. We want to reach those that are not currently active in anything. I think that those who are currently using would be the best advocates. The goal is to create youth groups where they meet on a regular basis and recruit other students to talk about what they are seeing and then they can come back to us with that information.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I don’t see where this is not a good opportunity and a good resume builder. We are looking at fighting a five-alarm fire with a bucket. I think we need to challenge the outside agencies to bring us great
ideas. I don’t think kids outside of their cliques have influence over their peers. ARPA funds are the opportunity to plant seeds of great ideas. I would ask you to take this back and come up with a great idea rather than just a good one.

Mr. Nichols asked if this is a 9th grader and they are in school, how will they have time to leave the school to go to another school and be able to keep up with their own work? Ms. Banik replied these activities would not necessarily take place during school hours. There would be opportunities to do them after school. Mr. Nichols commented most students leave after school and there may not be opportunities to do those programs. Mrs. Lando stated one of the things we had talked about was the new youth center in Bath and the youth center in Corning. They could go to those and that would be after school. There are clubs at schools that are held after school. Our Youth in Government program works and this would be similar to that. They would be sharing information with kids that may be on the border of using. Mr. Nichols stated I think the program is good. I was just wondering how the students would have the time to do it. Ms. Banik stated we will be actively involved in assisting them as well. Mrs. Lando stated if the parents are going with the students to the conference, they have to pay as they are also participating in the conference and they will be the supporters for those students.

Mr. Malter asked how was this training funded in the past? Ms. Banik replied we have not been. This would be the first for the Prevention Coalition. Mr. Malter asked have you sent people to this in the past? Ms. Banik replied we have sent adults and this year we sent 7 adults and last year we did it virtually. One of the requirements of the grant is that you have to send youth to the leadership program. Mrs. Lando stated I went two years ago and it was an amazing conference.

Ms. Fitzpatrick commented the peer advocate for OD Mapping might be a better advocate as he has been in that world and understands it. He may be more effective. I feel we will have a better impact with someone other than a student. Ms. Banik stated we do utilize that individual and he attends 90 percent of our functions. The 12 to 18 years olds are the focus of our grant. With the youth to youth messaging we need to get out and start early. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated but you are not utilizing that grant to facilitate that program; you want ARPA funds.

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

2. **Steuben Opioid Prevention Committee – ARPA Funding Request** – Mrs. Ferratella stated the Steuben Opioid Prevention Committee is requesting $4,570 in funding for the Dispose RX program, medication lock boxes and printing costs. Mr. Wheeler stated if you approve, this will come from ARPA funds.

**MOTION: APPROPRIATING $4,570.00 IN UNRESTRICTED ARPA FUNDS TO THE STEUBEN OPIOID PREVENTION COMMITTEE TO BE USED FOR THE DISPOSE RX PROGRAM, MEDICATION LOCK BOXES AND PRINTING COSTS MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS FOR DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Nichols asked are the lock boxes for parents? Where are they located? Mrs. Lando replied yes the lock boxes are for parents. We also distribute to real estate agents to use to lock up medications before they hold open houses. We have had a number of people ask for the lock boxes. We purchased a lot and we would like to purchase more. The Dispose RX packets allow people to safely dispose of prescriptions so they do not end up in the sewer system. These packets are expensive and we have given them out at the Steuben County Fair and other events. Both of these items are very expensive and they are things that we want to hand out to the community.

Mr. Nichols asked how are we doing with the ARPA funding? Mr. Wheeler replied you have appropriated $130,000 out of the $18.6 million of ARPA funds that we have received. Of those funds, $9 million is restricted. You have appropriated $130,000 out of $9 million of unrestricted funds. My suggestion is if you approve this request that it come out of the unrestricted funding. A big chunk of the unrestricted funds so far have been appropriated to a handful of construction projects, but you still have money available.

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

A. Steuben Prevention Coalition – Mrs. Lando stated that she just has a couple of announcements to make on behalf of the Steuben Prevention Coalition. First, they have sent out a request to the school superintendents to ask if there is any interest in having the school nurses trained in how to administer Narcan and that we will provide samples. We have received two responses back that they would like to have the training. We have someone who will do the training and we will provide the Narcan. That is a huge effort for us. This will be used not just for students, but also for staff.

Mrs. Lando stated the second announcement is that the District Attorney, the Sheriff and Ms. Banik have been going to the municipalities to talk to them about opting out of adult-use sale of cannabis. Last week the Sheriff held a session and there are meetings come up with the cities of Corning and Hornell. These sessions are not County sponsored, but the Steuben Prevention Coalition sponsors.

Mr. Nichols asked is this so the municipalities can prevent the sale of marijuana? Mrs. Lando stated if you don’t opt out, you are actually opting in and then you cannot opt out. If you have already opted out, then if you chose later, you can opt in. Mr. Wheeler stated you, as a Legislature, have not taken a position on what your opinion is about opting in or out. The Sheriff and the District Attorney are elected officials and they need to be careful about speaking for the County as the County is not on record. Under the Legislation the County has no authority. Mr. Malter asked where is the Legislation and when will people be appointed to the board? Mr. Wheeler replied the cannabis board met for the first time yesterday. They have expanded the timeframe for physicians to prescribe medical marijuana from three months to six months.

Ms. Prossick stated this is not as simple as people think. This needs to be in an area that was targeted by the drug laws and we did not have any areas that met the criteria. You get one dispensary per 50,000 people. So at the most, we would have two dispensaries. Then the dispensary has to pay $200,000 or more to obtain a license.

Mr. Horton commented if any of your town supervisors are interested, there will be another training session October 28th and 29th. If you don’t opt out, you have automatically opted in. Mrs. Lando commented the timeframe is short now. Ms. Prossick explained this requires a local law and there is at least a two-month turn around.

Mr. Van Etten asked does the fact that the Sheriff and the District Attorney have taken it upon themselves to educate the towns; does that put any additional liability on the County? Ms. Prossick replied I sent a letter to the Sheriff and District Attorney stating that the County has not taken a position on this. Any position they take would be as an elected official. Mrs. Lando stated they both made that clear at the meetings. The Steuben Prevention Coalition and the Steuben Prevention Opioid Committee sponsored these.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. ROUSH. 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 3, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, October 27, 2021