**MINUTES**

COMMITTEE: Carol A. Ferratella, Chair  K. Michael Hanna, Vice Chair  Robert V. Nichols  
Gary B. Roush  Paul E. Van Caeseele  

STAFF: Jack K. Wheeler  Christopher Brewer  Jennifer Prossick  
Hank Chapman  Patty Baroody  Mitch Alger  
Karen Monroe  Nate Alderman  Jennifer Galvan  
Bill Caudill  Darlene Smith  Lise Reynolds  
Jennifer DeMonstoy

LEGISLATORS: Scott J. Van Etten  Robin K. Lattimer  Kelly H. Fitzpatrick  
Hilda T. Lando  Steven P. Maio  John V. Malter  
Frederick G. Potter

OTHERS: Mary Perham  Margaret Cleary

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2021, MEETING MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Community Services

1. **Budget Adjustment** – Dr. Chapman stated due to COVID, the Governor had instituted a 20 percent withhold of State Aid. That was recently reversed and he requested authorization to accept into the 2020 budget, $28,241 in OASAS funds and $15,898 in OMH funds to be passed through to our service providers.


Mr. Van Etten asked did the service providers reduce their services to that 20 percent funding level? Dr. Chapman replied yes and for some of the providers that meant layoffs. Mr. Van Etten stated so you will be restoring that funding and they will ramp their services back up? Dr. Chapman replied yes.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.
2. **Collections RFP** – Dr. Chapman stated we put out the RFP this past fall and one agency submitted a proposal; Collection Bureau of Fort Walton Beach. They are proposing 14.98 percent of the total collected with no start-up or maintenance fees. This looks like a good proposal and he requested authorization to accept the proposal and enter into an agreement.

**MOTION:** AWARDING THE RFP FOR COLLECTION SERVICES TO THE SOLE BIDDER, COLLECTION BUREAU OF FORT WALTON BEACH FOR 14.98 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COLLECTED WITH NO START-UP OR MAINTENANCE FEES MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Van Etten asked how much are your outstanding collections? Dr. Chapman replied right now it is in the $150,000 range. We have been without collections services for the better part of the year. Mr. Van Etten asked had you previously put it out to bid and no vendors responded? Dr. Chapman replied not that I recall. We put out the bid this past fall and it has taken this long to process.

Mr. Malter asked how much is collected and how much is written off? Dr. Chapman replied the Affiliated Group was our collections agency in the past and over the course of twelve years we had an outstanding balance of $650,000 and of that we collected $100,000. Our business office does a very good job of working with individuals when they are enrolled in services. Once clients leave service, our business office will send a letter out and we are able to prevent many from having to go to collections.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked what is the payment to this vendor for their collection service? Dr. Chapman replied they retain 14.98 percent of whatever they collect. There is no county cost. This is a better rate than we have had as historically it was 17.5 percent. Mr. Malter asked what percentage of cases go to court and is there an additional charge for that? Dr. Chapman replied there is no additional charge to do that and I don’t know what percentage they would take to court.

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

B. **Office for the Aging**

1. **RFP – Legal Services Provider** – Mrs. Baroody stated the Law Office of Joint and Von Hagn have terminated their contract. She is requesting authorization to put out an RFP for a legal services provider. Over the years we have had one provider and we have found it helpful to have two providers to choose from.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDER MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Hanna asked what type of cases do you refer to them? Mrs. Baroody replied they provide services for Power of Attorney, Wills, and general consultations.

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

C. **Public Health**

1. **Preschool Transportation** – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to put out the annual bid for preschool transportation.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO ISSUE BIDS FOR PRESCHOOL TRANSPORTATION MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.
2. **Contracts** – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to renew the contract with the S2AY Rural Health Network for the Finger Lakes Public Health Alliance. The annual contract has increased to $2,800.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH THE S2AY RURAL HEALTH NETWORK FOR THE FINGER LAKES PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE FOR AN ANNUAL COST OF $2,800 MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Ferratella commented the S2AY Rural Health Network gets a lot of grants for us and we get our money back in return. Mrs. Smith stated yes, they are a unique network. For the past year none of the other counties have been able to take advantage of this. Under normal circumstances when one county needs to run a clinic, that is when it is really beneficial as the other counties can lend support.

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

Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a new contract with Wayland-Cohocton School District for the preschool program and related services. The school is in the process of getting approval from the State. This was previously done through Pathways, but they discontinued the program at the end of June.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WAYLAND-COHOCOTON SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR A PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM, EVALUATIONS AND RELATED SERVICES MADE BY MR. ROUSH. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. **Memorializing Resolutions**

- **Allocation of Unrestricted Resources** – Mrs. Smith stated NYSAC and her State Association, NYSACHO, are requesting the Governor and the State Legislature support allocating unrestricted resources to local health departments to fortify provision of core services. We are requesting this in anticipation of some expanded public health mandates that we expect will be coming down.

MOTION: MEMORIALIZING THE GOVERNOR AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT ALLOCATING UNRESTRICTED RESOURCES TO LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO FORTIFY PROVISION OF CORE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES AND PREPARE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATES MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

- **Restoration of State Funding for Rabies Human Post-Exposure Prophylaxis** – Mrs. Smith stated in the past we have received $20,000 from the State and right now that funding is not included in the State Budget. We would like to have that funding restored as we can easily exceed the allocation they give us. It can be very costly.

  Mr. Van Etten commented the State adopted the budget last night. Mrs. Smith stated she did not realize that.

MOTION: MEMORIALIZING THE GOVERNOR AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO RESTORE STATE FUNDING TO LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS FOR RABIES HUMAN POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

- **Expand Vaccination Access and Reporting** – Mrs. Smith stated we are requesting the State expand vaccination access specifically to allow pharmacies to vaccinate for all school needed vaccines. This would give families greater access to the necessary childhood vaccines.
MOTION: MEMORIALIZING THE GOVERNOR AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND VACCINATION ACCESS AND REPORTING FOR NEW YORKERS MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

4. COVID Update – Mr. Van Etten asked can you provide the committee with an update on the percent of County residents that have been vaccinated? Mrs. Smith replied for those that have received at least the first dose, that is around 25 percent. Those individuals that have been fully vaccinated and are fourteen days beyond their second dose is around 15 percent. Mr. Wheeler stated those numbers have increased a little. I checked last night and we are now at 27 percent and 17 percent.

Mr. Roush asked does that include VA vaccinations? Mr. Wheeler replied yes, those numbers include any Steuben County veteran or family member that has been vaccinated at the VA. Mrs. Smith clarified it does not mean how many we ourselves have vaccinated. This records residents who went anywhere to get vaccinated. Mr. Van Etten commented he was at Corning Hospital and staff was canvassing visitors to see if anyone wanted a vaccine as they did not have enough arms for the supply they had. Mrs. Smith stated supply exceeds demand at the moment. At our clinics of late, all of the appointments have not been filled up. Mr. Malter asked where are these numbers generated from? Mrs. Smith replied the State. For anyone that receives a vaccine, that information gets uploaded into the New York State Immunization System and that is a good gauge.

Mr. Hanna asked do you have any idea the percent of people who are not getting vaccinated? Mrs. Smith replied unfortunately we fear a large percentage of the population in the County are saying no. When clinic appointments began to not be filled we did a survey on social media. We had over 700 respond and there were two reasons at the top. The first is vaccine hesitancy as it is too new and they don’t trust it. The second is they don’t want to be guinea pigs. A lot of people are also waiting for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. There were also some who were worried about the side effects from the second dose of Pfizer and Moderna, but they can get side effects from Johnson & Johnson as well. A lot of people like the one dose idea. Mrs. Smith stated I don’t currently have the Johnson & Johnson and I have booked a fairly large order. To date, we have received 100 doses of Johnson & Johnson.

Mr. Van Caeseele stated there was a report from Reuters about the Astra Zeneca vaccine and the potential for rare blood clots in the brain. That is a concern for people as well. Mrs. Smith stated there is so much narrative out there right now and it is hard to change minds.

Mr. Malter asked with all the temperature taking in the buildings, how many have been turned away from the building? Mr. Wheeler replied the number that were flagged for fever was very low. There were a handful of employees and I don’t recall any visitors in that number.

E. Personnel

1. Reclassification – Public Health – Mr. Alderman requested authorization to reclassify one Public Health Coordinator position, Grade XVI to a Deputy Public Health Director position, Grade J. It has been quite evident this has been needed, especially during the pandemic. Mrs. Smith stated Public Health has never had a deputy, at least in the six years that I have been Director. The Public Health Coordinator position is better defined as a Nurse Supervisor. The individual that was the Nurse Supervisor retired last year and despite advertising, nobody has applied for the position. We need a Nurse, a Nurse Supervisor and I need a Deputy. Because there was no interest in the Nurse Supervisor position, I thought it would be more attractive to combine the Nurse Supervisor and Deputy position. That already has generated some interest and there will be a savings in the long run.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF ONE (1) PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATOR POSITION, GRADE XVI TO A DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR POSITION, GRADE J IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH & NURSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.
F. Department of Social Services
   1. Foster Care Recognition – Ms. Reynolds requested authorization to spend up to $3,000 on the Foster Care Recognition Event. This year we would like to provide a $50 coupon that foster parents can present for dinner at area restaurants and we have a list of participating restaurants in Bath, Corning and Hornell.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO SPEND UP TO $3,000 ON FOSTER CARE RECOGNITION MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Hanna commented $50 is not a lot of money for people to go to dinner. Mr. Van Etten commented the work these foster families do is remarkable. It is amazing what they deal with. Ms. Reynolds stated we have 50 foster families right now.

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

Mr. Nichols asked what impact has the immigration issue on the southern border had on us? Ms. Reynolds replied last month we had 14 out-of-county and that included 7 that were out-of-state for temporary assistance. Mr. Nichols asked how long do we take care of the out-of-state individuals? Ms. Reynolds replied if they move here, then they become part of our caseload. Mr. Van Etten commented the State budget included $4 billion in aid for undocumented immigrants.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked are there different standards as far as who gets help and are they the same county to county or similar? Ms. Reynolds replied the rules should be similar across the State because they are State mandates.

Mr. Malter stated my understanding is that people are coming over the border and if they are relocating they have to have family in the area that they are being sent to? Ms. Reynolds replied I have not seen any additional directives and right now we treat them as we normally would. Mr. Malter asked is the federal government notifying us when they are sending immigrants? Ms. Reynolds replied I have not seen any documentation at this point.

IV. OTHER
A. Goals – Mrs. Ferratella stated in keeping with the two goals that we set, Mary Perham has generously taken her time to start working on these goals. Her first focus was on Mental Health and I would like to thank Dr. Chapman and Ms. Perham for doing that. This is a great start.

B. Vaccine Clinics – Mrs. Ferratella stated on March 30th I volunteered at the vaccination clinic at the Bath School. My job was exit “greeter” and a number of people appreciated the program and were very complimentary. I just wanted to make sure that Mr. Wheeler and the team were recognized for that. Thank you.

Mr. Wheeler stated thank you. Mrs. Smith, Mr. Marmour, Mr. Forenz and all the volunteers do a tremendous job. We have dozens of volunteers each week and it has been fantastic. Mrs. Lando stated I cannot say enough about how organized and how appreciative people were. You are doing a great job. Mrs. Smith stated thank you. It requires many individuals to make it successful and the volunteers have been awesome in responding. Mr. Van Etten stated the clinic I went to was very well organized and well run and there were many county retirees working the tables.

C. Village of Bath – Mr. Van Etten asked Ms. Fitzpatrick to give an update on the Village of Bath and concerns regarding the use of motels/hotels. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I had a brief meeting with Mayor Sweet about this last week and he is very anti-social services. I am in the process of collecting more information for him. I have the names of the local business owners and I would like to reach out to them as well. We do have a lot of problems with a certain individual. It is not just homeless individuals causing the problems. The other thing is if the businesses did not accept the homeless, they would not be able to survive the winter. Given the conditions of Bath, it is not a simple issue and I need more information. I need to find out how many times the police department has been called for welfare checks at the businesses. I believe the approach by the police department and the village is wrong. The Mayor wants a meeting, but is
on vacation and I am trying to get information together. Mr. Van Etten commented the report that we were supplied was pretty telling. This is not just a concentration on the Village of Bath; all areas with boarding are affected.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated one year we had 56 percent and people were being spread out. When you present as homeless there are other things you have to do every day and it makes sense for people to be here in Bath. I would like to see some other approach. The reason for housing them is so they are not living under bridges, etc. There are a lot of problems and we need to approach it with a lot more solutions. This will be a complicated issue with an individual that may not be really open to that approach.

Mr. Wheeler stated I resent the 911 data to Ms. Fitzpatrick which shows three years of police calls. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I think part of the issue is the more liberal policies of the State and the hesitancy to write tickets. There is also more hesitancy to handle individuals because of video. There are no consequences for bad behavior and that is part of the reason why it continues.

Mr. Wheeler stated I have reached out to my counterparts and this is not an issue just relegated to Steuben County. There has been much push and pull between county seats and the Department of Social Services. This is not just an issue in our county. We have demonstrated that we want to be partners. This is not just a Bath or county issue. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I agree.

Mr. Hanna asked what happened with the landlord that wrote the letter to the County? Ms. Prossick replied that has been all sorted out. The landlord has taken the County’s training and was restored to the list.

D. Schools – Mr. Potter asked with the schools going back to full instruction, have they been coordinating with the County? Mr. Wheeler replied Mrs. Smith and I have a weekly call with the school superintendents. We anticipate the NYS Department of Health will review the new recommendations of three feet spacing versus six foot spacing in terms of how the districts will bring the students back. They do not submit their plans to us. They know the regulations and we do not have any formal role in approving or disapproving what the districts do.

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 5, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, April 28, 2021