CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2019, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. County Manager
   1. Introduction of Deputy County Manager – Mr. Wheeler introduced Christopher Brewer, the new Deputy County Manager.

B. Department of Social Services
   1. Budget Transfer – Ms. Muller informed the committee they have seen more of an increase in emergency assistance for adults than they had anticipated. We have already spent, in the first quarter, what we had budgeted for the entire year, which is $60,000. She requested authorization to transfer $130,000 from the IV-E Foster Care line to cover costs through the end of the year, as well as the associated revenue.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO TRANSFER $130,000 FROM THE IV-E FOSTER CARE LINE ITEM, ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED REVENUES, TO COVER COSTS FOR THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR ADULTS PROGRAM MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Mr. Van Etten asked what has caused the increase in the number of homeless? Ms. Muller replied some of the increase is associated with the Code Blue Program; individuals are learning that they can be housed, regardless of income. Additionally, there is a lack of affordable housing in the County. Arbor Development is submitting a grant for homeless housing, and if they are successful, they will be building a new 50-unit building which will greatly help.
C. Public Health

1. Preschool Transportation Bid Award – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to award the bids for Preschool Transportation. They received three bids and she recommended awarding to Birnie and ARC of Livingston/Wyoming on a line item basis. She noted the cost is higher than last year. Birnie’s cost increased 20 percent, and ARC increased 30 percent for the 10-month program and 52 percent for the summer program.

**MOTION:** AWARDING THE BID FOR PRESCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AS FOLLOWS:

**CONTRACT A** – KIDSTART TO ARC OF LIVINGSTON/WYOMING AT A RATE OF $150.00 PER CHILD PER DAY FOR THE 10-MONTH PROGRAM AND $175.00 PER CHILD PER DAY FOR THE SUMMER PROGRAM AND **CONTRACT B** – CORNING-PAINTED POST TO BIRNIE AT A RATE OF $89.71 PER CHILD PER DAY FOR THE 10-MONTH PROGRAM MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. WEAVER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Implications of Legalized Recreational Marijuana – Mrs. Smith presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the potential implications if New York State legalizes recreational marijuana. At this point, we still do not know what will happen at the State level. She noted that the information she is presenting is a compilation of information from various sources such as NYSACHO, Nassau County Department of Health Task Force, Colorado Department of Health and Environment, and Colorado Division of Criminal Justice.

Mrs. Smith stated that the use of E-Cigarettes and Vaping is rising rapidly and has grown 900 percent among high school students from 2011 to 2015. In 2018 there was a 78 percent increase in e-cigarette use among high school students. One of the concerns is that Cannabis and other substances can be used in electronic devices and that the Cannabis concentrates have a potency ranging between 50 – 80 percent. Mrs. Ferratella asked is there any information regarding middle school students? Mrs. Smith replied this data seemed to focus more on high school students, although e-cigarette use is starting in middle school. Vaping is the number one problem in middle and high schools. Mrs. Lando commented it has become such a problem at the Corning-Painted Post School District that they are going to be installing vaping sensors.

Mr. Maio asked wouldn’t the dramatic increase in the use of e-cigarettes be due to not existing in the past? Mrs. Smith replied e-cigarettes are new in the last few years. Overall tobacco use is on the decline. There is a perception that e-cigarettes and vaping are safer.

Mrs. Smith reviewed the slides that outline the lessons that have been learned from Colorado and other states that have legalized marijuana. These lessons are the unintentional exposure in children, increased emergency room visits, increase in homelessness, increase in crime, increase in suicide, increased risk of addiction, increased traffic fatalities, possible role as a gateway drug, cognitive/academic effects, relationship to mental health, adverse cardiac/respiratory effects. She stated that Denver was just voted to become the first city in history to decriminalize the use of “magic mushrooms”.

Mrs. Smith reviewed a list of regulatory recommendations that would be important to put in place prior to legalization. These recommendations are to put an infrastructure in place before sales begin; the addition of Marijuana to the NYS Clean Indoor Act, include warning labels on all marijuana products, formulate edible safety regulations including child-resistant packaging, fully fund enforcement and oversight, standardize and test packaging and potency, set a blood level operating limit for THC and fund surveillance and research efforts.

Mr. Maio stated these recommendations are all really good ideas, but we have to get past the point of just being annoyed with the possibility and get to the point of dealing with it. We need to concentrate on the recommendations. Mr. Wheeler stated we are taking a detailed look at what the additional local impacts may be. The New York State Association of Counties (NSYAC) has asked the State to fully fund the counties for additional costs as a result of legalizing. As examples, we will need more Drug Recognition Experts (DRE), there will be issues with the K-9’s as they are trained to target on marijuana. There will be additional impacts to Public Health.
Mr. Maio stated his point is that it’s a conversation we need to have. What are the things that we need to do? Mr. Wheeler replied the question is what will the bills be as there are multiple bills, but we don’t know what will be happening. Mrs. Lando stated her approach is that it is not a done deal and that we should be fighting it.

Mrs. Ferratella commented that at a recent public hearing, Mrs. Smith was the only one that was opposed to legalization. Mrs. Smith stated yes, a few months ago she had attended a public hearing in Binghamton. She had attended on behalf of NYSACHO (New York State Association of County Health Officials) and she was the only one opposed. There were probably about 200 in attendance. Everyone else that spoke was in favor and many were medicinal users. There were a variety of people that strongly expressed favor.

Mr. Weaver stated personally, there are a number of people already using the product. Just because they legalize it does not mean that people are going to jump on board and start using, although he understands there will be increase in accessibility. Mr. Maio commented history shows that prohibition has not worked.

3. **CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan)** – Mrs. Smith reported last month they held a priority setting meeting and selected three priority areas. The first priority is to focus on promoting healthy infants, women and children, with a focus on children. The second priority is tobacco cessation and the third priority is mental health and substance use prevention. We are only required by the State to choose two areas, however, this group agreed, that based on the close scoring results and feedback, along with the vast amount of work needed to combat the opioid and heroin problem, that they chose a third priority. She stated in August they will finalize which intervention they will choose to implement these priorities. The State gives us a list and then we, as a group choose which intervention is most realistic. This group is to be commended for taking on the extra priority.

4. **Accreditation** – Mrs. Smith informed the committee that the State has accepted our action plan which we submitted in March. Now we have the remainder of 2019 to demonstrate that we have implemented the changes in the action plan. This plan applies to all six of the counties that applied. Mr. Maio asked is the end of 2019 the State’s time limit? Mrs. Smith replied the State says they would like you to demonstrate changes within a year. We feel very confident that all of the counties can accomplish this within a nine-month time frame.

IV. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. **Technology/Efficiencies** – Mr. Hauryksi stated Mrs. Ferratella had sent out a list of questions for the departments under this committee to complete to provide the committee with some guidance on goals for this year. He found the answers to be very interesting. One of the things that struck him is that of all the departments in this room, all of you are going out into the field and meeting with clients. He has been curious as to the use of tablets for this purpose. He talked with Mrs. Baroody who has satellite offices in Hornell and Corning and they have issues with their telephones and computers in those offices. Public Health also goes into the field. How do you record your data?

Mrs. Smith replied the nurses do not record the data when they are in the field. They have a cell phone so they can call if they have a question or need something. When they come back to the office, that is when they record their visits in the field. Mrs. Baroody replied that she is gradually adding laptops for everyone that goes into the homes and that is working well. They use air cards for the laptops. Ms. Muller replied staff has I-pads that they take out into the field.

Mr. Wheeler stated with regard to Social Services, the tablets were budgeted for two years ago. Their tablets have to coordinate with the State software, which is currently up for bid. Ms. Muller commented they have seen efficiencies so far, but we need to look at software that will allow us to drop information directly into the State system.

Mr. Hauryksi commented in this era and age, we should not be dealing with going out into the field and then coming back and doing data entry. Going forward we need to budget for that. Mr. Wheeler stated he emailed the departments regarding the upcoming budget to assess their technology needs. Some will be big asks, but he is in the process of getting a comprehensive list. Mr. Hauryksi stated he asked Mr. Wolverton to attend today as he has to be on board with what will be required.
Mr. Wheeler asked if there is a State interface that is required for Public Health. Mrs. Smith replied no. They work more with Word documents to generate progress notes.

Mr. Wheeler commented we would have to come back for authorization to use capital project money to look at purchasing tablets and laptops. Mr. Wolverton stated when we talk about this during budget season, he wants to make you aware that these have an initial cost to purchase, but there is also going to be ongoing costs. Anything with Verizon or AT&T air cards will cost about an additional $40.00 per month, per device. This is not just an expenditure out of the capital project, there will be an ongoing cost. Mr. Wheeler stated yes, and for those departments that need to interface with the State, there will be additional costs. We typically budget for computer equipment for a life of about five years.

Mr. Van Etten asked do all field service people need to type when they are in the field? Mrs. Smith replied when her staff go out, they take notes and then come back to the office and do the data entry. Mrs. Van Etten commented it may not be a good use of time to have them typing when they are out in the field.

B. **Goals** – Mrs. Ferratella stated when she was looking through the department questionnaire, she found at least three departments that talked about doing cross training within their departments. That is something that other departments would be able to build off. Also there was an indication that we could utilize volunteers more. She asked the members of the committee to go back through the summary she sent and we will work on this at next month’s meeting.

C. **Other Updates** – Mrs. Lando informed the committee that she was asked to speak at a panel discussion at Canandaigua Finger Lakes Project Center, which was sponsored by the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services. We talked about opiates and marijuana; it was very interesting and well attended.

Mrs. Lando stated she attended an Opioid Task Force meeting for the Prevention Coalition. They have started to put together their thoughts on the actions they will take. She also attended the Crisis Intervention Training on May 17th, which was sponsored by the Sheriff and well attended.

D. **Mental Health First Aid Grant** – Mrs. Ferratella commented that Cooperative Extension has applied for a grant to provide Mental Health First Aid for schools and parents. Mrs. Smith stated they have asked for a letter of support to pursue that.

E. **OD Mapping** – Mrs. Lando asked for an update. Mrs. Smith stated they had a meeting two weeks ago and discussed bringing this to Steuben County. OD Mapping provides real-time data related to overdoses. We do not have real-time data from New York State. When first responders respond to a call and it is an overdose, they, or 911, enter that into the OD Map system, including the address and the suspected drug. Then, follow-up would occur within 24 hours where an individual will go to the address to offer the individual a link to services. Data shows that they have had a decrease in the amount of overdoses following that kind of follow-up. We are checking on the legality of it.

F. **Volunteers** – Mr. Maio asked with regard to the utilization of volunteers, is there an adequate number of volunteers available? Mrs. Smith replied no, we do not have an adequate number, especially in the medical area. Our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator has been working on this.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. WEAVER. 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 3, 2019

Legislative Committee Room

9:00 a.m.

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

NO LATER THAN NOON

Wednesday, June 26, 2019.