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 FEBRUARY 3, 2021, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Department of Social Services

1. CAC Medical – Ms. Muller stated with our Child Advocacy Center, we have been partnering more with Allegany County. Allegany County has secured a medical doctor in their facility and that individual is also interested in coming and overseeing our center. This is a retired pediatrician who oversees facilities in Erie, Niagara and Genesee, among others. She requested authorization to enter into a contract for medical director services at the Child Advocacy Center for $24,000 annually. The medical director will provide consults, attend team meetings and supervise nurses when they come to do medical exams. Last year we had a contract with Arnot and never utilized it because of COVID.

Mr. Nichols asked how much was the contract with Arnot? Ms. Muller replied it was $25,000. Mrs. Ferratella asked are the other county programs aligned similar to our program? Ms. Muller replied yes. They have opened their doors for us to come up and meet with them. Next week we will be meeting with Batavia as we will have the ability to bill when the same nurses complete exams.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR MEDICAL DIRECTOR SERVICES FOR THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER FOR AN ANNUAL COST OF $24,000 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.
2. **Hornell Preventive Services Contract** – Ms. Muller informed the committee that she received a call from the Superintendent of the Hornell City School District inquiring about preventive services. Educational neglect cases have soared since COVID as kids are not engaging in remote learning and they are not attending school. This population has been difficult to address during COVID. There are many families in the Hornell area that could benefit from preventive services which would help prevent them from coming through the system in a different way. Years ago, we had a contract for preventive services with the Hornell School District and they opted out. There is now a new Superintendent who has had experience with this in Livingston County and has asked if the County would partner again to fund the balance of the cost of a Preventive Services Caseworker to work out of the school district. She is proposing that we move forward with that as this will be a huge benefit to that end of the County. Ms. Muller stated with regard to the cost, the school district has to donate funds toward the cost of the Preventive Services Caseworker and then the other portion of the revenues will come from the State. She requested authorization to fund a zero-based vacant Caseworker position and appropriate State and in-kind funding. Additionally, we will be amending our equipment line item to add one computer/laptop.

Mrs. Ferratella commented this sounds like a worthy cause. Mr. Malter asked what about the rest of the County? Ms. Muller replied there are a lot of educational neglect cases. Mr. Malter asked how will you address that in the rest of the County? Ms. Muller replied we will start here. We do not have the positions to do that across the County. The Hornell School District reached out and they are willing to pay for it. I would like to start here and see how it goes.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HORNELL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE PREVENTIVE SERVICES; FUNDING A VACANT, CASEWORKER POSITION, GRADE XII, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THIS PURPOSE AND AMENDING THE EQUIPMENT LIST TO ADD ONE COMPUTER/LAPTOP MADE BY MR. VAN CAESSEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0. Resolution Required.

3. **Budget Appropriation** – Ms. Muller requested authorization to accept DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Program) funds in the amount of $86,628. These funds are based on our previous year’s performance. She stated that she would like to look at using these funds to improve housing and basic needs for the homeless population.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ACCEPT DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM INCENTIVE PROGRAM (DSRIP) FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $86,628 AND APPROPRIATE SAID FUNDS INTO THE DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM CAPITAL PROJECT MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0. Resolution Required.

Mr. Nichols asked are the homeless numbers up? Ms. Muller replied yes. They are up over last year and the previous year. We have seen a 22 percent increase for the month of February, resulting in a cost of $176,000. Mr. Nichols asked is that the cost for the rental units? Ms. Muller replied yes, that is for the motels and boarding homes.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated since people cannot be evicted, is there an explanation for why the numbers are up so much? Ms. Muller replied the economy and Code Blue. People know they can get housing when the temperature is below 32 degrees. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated it is hard to grasp if you cannot be removed from your apartment. Is this measured based on the dollars we spend? Ms. Muller replied no, we track the number of people. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated to me it doesn’t make sense if you cannot be removed through the normal eviction process; it doesn’t make sense that our homeless numbers are up so substantially.

Mr. Malter stated I have a couple of clients in the Hornell area with rental properties and because they cannot evict, they are losing rental payments and getting farther behind. I thought part of the COVID relief bill was to help these landlords. Is that something that would go through Social Services? Ms. Muller replied that portion is
not coming through Social Services, but I have some information that I can send you. That is not something we manage. The districts are really lobbying to have some kind of funding source to help landlords when this opens up. The eviction moratorium will last through May. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I know the court system sent out an email that said if evictions were started prior to COVID, those can move forward. Some programs for rental assistance are contingent upon if you are not in immediate danger of being evicted, then they do not qualify for the funds. So, because of the moratorium there are some funds out there for rent, but you don’t qualify for it because the landlord can’t evict you. Ms. Muller commented that is a familiar story for how the State operates. It is frustrating. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated the State has put in contingencies that makes it impossible for the money to be spent.

B. Office for the Aging

1. Contracts – Mrs. Baroody stated we have been struggling to spend our home care dollars, particularly during COVID. There is money left over that we will lose if we do not spend it. We have now been given latitude to spend those dollars in any way that is needed. She is requesting authorization to move money to be spent in areas where we think it is most needed. The nutrition program is a high priority and this is a great opportunity to move money and not lose it. She requested authorization to increase the ProAction C-1 and C-2 contract by $70,000.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT WITH PROACTION FOR THE C-1 AND C-2 PROGRAM BY $70,000 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Malter asked this is a one-time situation and they are aware that this funding is not coming every year? Mrs. Baroody replied yes.

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

Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to increase the Corning Meals on Wheels contract by $10,000 for the added cost for more emergency meals during the pandemic.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT WITH CORNING MEALS ON WHEELS BY $10,000 MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to increase the Faith-In-Action contract by $10,000 for additional volunteer transportation and other projects.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT WITH FAITH-IN-ACTION BY $10,000 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Mrs. Baroody informed the committee that the contract with AIM for the Consumer Directed Fiscal Intermediary has increased from $15.24 per hour to $18.52 per hour. This is a big jump, but it is within their authority to raise it. We typically have trouble spending the funds. The contract will remain the same and we will be purchasing less services.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH AIM CONSUMER DIRECTED FISCAL INTERMEDIARY TO REFLECT A RATE INCREASE FROM $15.24 PER HOUR TO $18.52 PER HOUR MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS FOR DISCUSSION.
Mr. Nichols asked how much of a rate increase is this? Mrs. Baroody replied this represents a 21.5 percent increase. Mr. Van Caeseele asked do we have any other options? Mrs. Baroody replied other options are available and I think the rates are similar. We would need to put it out to bid.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION. MOTION CARRIES 3-1. (MR. VAN CAESEELE OPPOSED)**

Mr. Van Caeseele stated I would like to put this out for bid. Mr. Nichols asked when does this contract expire? Mrs. Baroody replied April 1st. Mr. Malter commented as long as the contract is not increasing, I don’t see a problem with it. Mrs. Baroody commented we have been having trouble spending the funds anyway. Mr. Van Caeseele stated I’m just thinking the bigger picture and I understand what you are saying.

3. **Vaccine Registration** – Mr. Swackhamer asked how do individuals get on the list to get the COVID vaccine? Mrs. Baroody replied we are just starting this week to assist individuals with signing up. We have had a waiting list and now we are working with Public Health. They sent us a link for the vaccine clinic on short notice and we called people on the waiting list and we helped enroll them in real time. Yesterday we had 200 slots and we worked all day to fill them.

Mr. Wheeler commented we are using media outreach as well to get those who do not use the internet to get their news. There will be an article in *The Evening Tribune* either today or tomorrow. We are trying to get the information out to as many folks as we can. Mrs. Baroody has done a great job scrambling to work with us. This is what we will be dealing with. Hopefully we will get some more lead time. We have a little more time for our clinic next week. The contact numbers are getting out there.

Mrs. Smith stated we purposely do not send out the pre-registration link until we have the vaccine in hand. Other counties have learned the hard way as they have had to go back and cancel clinics when they didn't receive vaccine. We have not gone that route. In the long-run it is less work and stress to wait until the vaccine is actually in hand. Mr. Nichols asked what vaccines do we get? Mrs. Smith replied up to today we have only received Moderna. Tomorrow we will receive a lot of Pfizer and that is what we will be using next week for our 65+ clinic. Mr. Nichols asked do we know that we will get the second dose in 28 days? Mrs. Smith replied yes, that has not been a problem so far. We have also gotten our second dose in plenty of time for Moderna and expect the same for Pfizer. Additionally we expect to get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Mr. Malter asked how many county employees have been vaccinated at this point? Mr. Wheeler replied not enough. We have reached everyone in the Sheriff’s Office, Probation, Adult and Child Protective, and Public Health that have elected to have it. Those are the only departments eligible at this point. We have seen a pretty good take rate.

Mr. Potter stated he has been getting feedback on the vaccine clinics about how well run and organized they have been. Kudos to you. Mrs. Smith replied thank you, we appreciate that. We drill this and exercise mass vaccination clinics every year. Mr. Wheeler stated Mrs. Smith, Mr. Marmour, Mr. Forenz and Mr. Marshall do a phenomenal job.

C. **Community Services**

   1. **Resolution to Restore OMH, OASAS and OPWDD State Funding** – Dr. Chapman stated over the past year, to offset fiscal deficits, the State Division of Budget imposed a 20 percent withhold. The State is proposing for 2022, a permanent 5 percent cut, along with hundreds of millions of dollars of additional cuts. The resolution being presented to you today was created by the Conference of Mental Hygiene Directors and NYSAC. The resolution is requesting the Governor restore the previously withheld State Aid and to commit fully to funding local State Aid as we move forward.

**MOTION: REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO FULLY RESTORE OMH, OASAS AND OPWDD STATE FUNDING MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.**

*Human Services, Health & Education Committee*  
*Wednesday, March 3, 2021*
Mr. Nichols asked the 80 percent that they are sending us, are they holding that up? Dr. Chapman replied that funding has been coming in. I am optimistic this will come to be as we received word that the 20 percent withhold will be coming in. We are hoping that we can advocate against the permanent 5 percent cuts. It is very challenging to say the least, as there would be an impact on my program, but also local providers such as schools, housing providers, etc. If we get this funding back in it will shore things up to where they were prior to the pandemic.

Mr. Nichols asked have cases increased because of the pandemic? Dr. Chapman replied we have seen some increases with overall cases. We have seen more people present with depression and anxiety. We have also seen an increase in substance abuse issues as well.

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

**D. Public Works**

1. **CDL Training** – Mr. Spagnoletti stated we have a program to upgrade licenses of truck drivers and equipment operators and this requires the approval of both the Public Works Committee and the Human Services, Health & Education Committee. Mr. Spagnoletti stated I have one MEO that I would like to upgrade to a Class A license. This individual will be a backup on the chip seal crew and this license will allow that individual to run the chip seal spreader. This will be a tuition reimbursement only in the amount of $1,500 with the training to occur at Coopers Plains. There are two bridge workers that are required to have their Class B within two years of hire. We will reimburse their tuition and that cost will be $1,585 for each. They will be going to Mt. Morris for their training. Mr. Spagnoletti stated I would also like to send three shop mechanics for training. The first was hired after we had put the requirements in place for a Class B. We will reimburse the tuition in the amount of $2,035 to get the Class A license and he will be going to Mt. Morris for that training. The other two mechanics were hired before we instituted the Class B requirement at the highway shop. In these two cases, we will pay for travel time and time in the classroom, in addition to the tuition in the amount of $2,035 each. They will be reimbursed prior to training and will take their training at Mt. Morris.

**MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO TAKE CDL TRAINING TO OBTAIN THEIR CLASS A LICENSE: DANIEL L. MARVIN – MECHANIC; ROBERT W. KNOWLES – MECHANIC; DAYTON SHILOH – MECHANIC; AND APPROVING THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO TAKE CDL TRAINING TO OBTAIN THEIR CLASS B LICENSE: AUSTIN BAKER – JR. BRIDGE WORKER; TYLER VANSKIVER – JR. BRIDGE WORKER; AND BENJAMIN MULLEN – MOTOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Van Caeseele asked is this in the budget? Mr. Spagnoletti replied yes. Mr. Nichols stated we will not pay for new hires. This is a new requirement for people that have already been hired. Mr. Spagnoletti explained the way the program is set up, if someone was hired before the licensing requirement was in place, then we do pay their tuition, time and travel to take the course.

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

**E. County Manager**

1. **United Way Contract** – Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to renew the contract with United Way that began last year. The cost for 2020 and for 2021 is $20,000 to assist the United Way in essentially paying for the Comet Program. Ms. Fitzpatrick had asked for additional information regarding this and I sent that out last night. Currently, there are 425 children that are being tracked through this program.

**MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH UNITED WAY FOR THE COMET PROGRAM FOR AN ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $20,000 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.**
Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I would like to see more specific information as to how many children is their goal to track in this program and how long will it take to see the benefit? I think it is great and necessary, and thank you very much for the information. Of the 425 children enrolled, how many are in Steuben County and how many need to be enrolled. Mr. Wheeler stated I will follow-up.

Mrs. Ferratella asked is Chemung County contributing to this as well? Mr. Wheeler replied they are, but in a different way. They have a partnership with United Way and their county departments use Comet, whereas we rely on ProAction.

Mr. Malter asked what area of the County is this program serving and can we get numbers based on district? I would like to see where the dollars are being spent. Mr. Wheeler replied he will ask that question as well.

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

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Designating Steuben County as a Purple Heart Community – Mrs. Ferratella stated we received a request from Senator Jordan of the 43rd Senate District and the Senator’s goal is to get all counties in New York State to adopt this resolution so that New York will be designated as a Purple Heart State at the federal level. This will allow the County to be recognized by the State on the national website.

**MOTION: DESIGNATING STEUBEN COUNTY AS A PURPLE HEART COMMUNITY MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS FOR DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Nichols asked what does this do for the people that have received the Purple Heart? Mrs. Ferratella explained the Purple Heart can be given to those wounded or who died during service. Mr. Nichols asked this is just a public relations program? It is nice to recognize recipients and I am not opposed to it. Mrs. Ferratella replied yes. Mr. Malter commented Livingston County is designated and I wonder if additional counties around us have done this? Mrs. Scotchmer stated this is a campaign to have every county in the State designated. Mr. Malter asked do you know if any counties around us have been designated? Mrs. Scotchmer replied I can reach out to my counterparts to find out who has been designated. Mr. Malter stated that isn’t necessary.

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

B. Goals – Mrs. Ferratella asked if anyone had any other ideas for committee goals? We’ve talked about those that I presented originally. Can we pick one or two of those or do we need to come up with different ones? She stated as a review, my first goal is to leverage our public relations function to feature one department bi-monthly; Mental Health, DSS, OFA, Public Health, Veterans and Youth. The second goal was to utilize employees from other departments with the expertise to assist those departments without adequate personnel. The third goal is to network/collaborate to seek assistance in updating or writing policies as needed in order to keep policies and procedures current. She stated that she thinks the committee should stick to two goals.

Mr. Van Caeseele stated any goal to run more efficiently or save money is good, and I think the second goal is one that we could focus on. Mr. Hanna asked that the second goal sounds like something that the County Manager does every day? Mr. Wheeler replied yes, at your direction we work with the departments. We certainly address these things, but it is good for you from a policy standpoint to look at it. You set your priorities for us and we run with them.

Mrs. Ferratella stated the other goal she picked was public relations and with COVID, we have not been doing a lot of public relations and it would be good to highlight our departments and to do that with the assistance of Mary Perham. Mr. Wheeler stated we do work with Ms. Perham to identify which departments to highlight and when. Mr. Hanna stated is that done mainly on the website? Mr. Wheeler replied we use social media and also do it through formal press releases, radio, television and newspapers.
MOTION:  SETTING THE COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2021 AS PUBLIC RELATIONS TO HIGHLIGHT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTS AND TO UTILIZE EMPLOYEES FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS TO ASSIST THOSE DEPARTMENTS WITHOUT ADEQUATE STAFF MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MS. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

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

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, April 7, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, March 31, 2021