I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7, 2019, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. MAIO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Public Health
   1. Contract – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to contract with Maria Staub to provide preschool occupational therapy services. The rate is set by the State at $70.00 per visit.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MARIA STAUB TO PROVIDE PRESCHOOL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES AT A RATE SET BY THE STATE AT $70.00 PER VISIT MADE BY MR. MAIO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Mr. Hauryski asked with regard to occupational and other therapies, he thought we got out of the CHHA. Mr. Wheeler replied this is different as it is for preschool. Mr. Hauryski asked why are we doing this and not VNA? Mr. Wheeler replied this is a State mandate. We are not providing direct services. We no longer have a license to operate to provide direct service and we sold the license when we got out of the CHHA.
2. **OD Mapping** – Mrs. Lando asked for an update on OD Mapping. Mrs. Smith stated they are still in the MOU process and have a template that the Law Department is reviewing. Ms. Prossick commented we do have a draft MOU and we need to get that out to everyone for review. Mrs. Smith stated after looking at what other counties are doing, we have decided that rather than have an extra department that could slow things down, we have agreed that 911 will enter the data and run the necessary reports. We have a draft policy, a draft workflow and a draft MOU written. Ms. Prossick stated that 911 will be meeting with the police, fire and EMS departments to see who is willing to sign the MOU’s. Mrs. Lando asked when do you anticipate this up and running? Mr. Wheeler replied the end of this year, beginning of next year is a good target.

Mr. Maio asked are there any issues with HIPAA? Ms. Prossick replied the MOU is very vague in general. We are using the same template that the Federal government is using and it does not go into any specifics.

IV. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. **United Way**

1. **2020 Funding Request** – Mr. Hughes stated last year when we came in, we had talked about a significant shift to focus on early childhood development. We have taken a total of $1.5 million and allocated it to the Southern Tier Kids on Track Program with $1 million dedicated for birth to 8 years and the remaining $500,000 dedicated for ages 9 to 21 years. He explained the goal of the Kids on Track Program is to increase the number of children who are proficient students by the third grade. Today, he would like to revisit one of the important elements of the Kids on Track program.

Mr. Hughes informed the committee that they have acquired the Comet Data Sharing Management database (Comet) and have built capacity in for Steuben and Chemung Counties. This database is a critical element to achieve our goals for the Kids on Track program. He explained this shared management platform will be the repository we need to prove that we are beginning to see the changes that we seek. He is requesting funding from the County to help fund this partnership. This will help us to support the ongoing costs of Comet. Ms. Hubbell explained Comet is in the second year of development in Steuben County and ProAction is the main user. This database is aligning the information that is collected in both Chemung and Steuben counties. ProAction has collected information through single point of entry. We have collaborated with Arnot and Corning-Guthrie hospitals so that when a child is born at those hospitals, the staff at ProAction or Public Health can go to the hospital to gather information and meet with the new mom, and if a release is signed, then they enter the information into the database. This is the beginning stages of an infant registry. They collect birth information about the child, but also over time do home visits, provide breastfeeding support, determine what, if any, kind of interventions are needed, perform screenings, provide questionnaires regarding age/stage development of the child along with family stability. She stated United Way will never use the individual child’s information.

Mrs. Ferratella commented she likes how this incorporates both the parents and the child. We need to make sure that the parents are involved. How are the parents included in this? Ms. Hubbell replied we are taking a two-generation approach and we work with the parents as well as the child. Ultimately, we are looking at the outcomes for the child and everything with regard to the family and stability; that is tracked in the system.

Mrs. Lando asked what about those parents who do not agree to sign a release? Ms. Hubbell replied this program is absolutely voluntary and the parents do not have to sign the release. This process can also be started at any point after birth. Mr. Hughes commented if we can expand these services to 300 families, it will significantly improve child school readiness. Right now we are at 60 percent and if we can expand to 300 families, then we will be at 75 percent. Although the number is not large, it will have a significant impact.

Mr. Ryan asked why was St. James left out? Ms. Hubbell replied we have had an agreement with Arnot for a number of years. We have negotiated a relationship with Corning-Guthrie and we are in the process of opening conversations with the western region which would include St. James in Hornell, Jones in Wellsville and Noyes in Dansville.
Dr. Chapman asked will you be tracking child information beyond preschool? Mr. Hughes replied we are beginning that work and have been looking at Binghamton University as well as others. It is expensive and we will need to find the resources to do that. This would be a multi-year project and there is the cost component.

Mrs. Ferratella asked how many home visitors are there? Ms. Hubbell replied we have an OCFS (NYS Office of Child and Family Services) grant to add 6 additional home visitors through ProAction. We also have added capacity in Chemung County. ProAction is also working with children over the age of five that have been referred for services by juvenile justice of Child Protective Services.

Mr. Van Etten asked how much funding are you requesting? Mr. Hughes replied we are requesting $20,000. Mr. Van Etten commented we did not fund last year because at that time it was a pilot project. Mr. Wheeler replied correct; last year was the first year of using Comet in Steuben County and the Legislature had discussions regarding that. Mr. Van Etten asked is the $20,000 a recurring annual amount or will it increase? Mr. Hughes replied it will be a recurring cost. This request is for $20,000 for the upcoming year. We would not want to leave the impression that we are encumbering for future years. He would expect that we would come back each year to request funding and provide you with statistical information. Mr. Wheeler commented this would be a flat request and you would just renew it each year.

Mrs. Lando asked are we duplicating effort and are you working with the Department of Social Services? Mr. Hughes replied there is overlap with the data collection as it is a shared management platform. Ms. Hubbell commented with the early childhood development, we are making sure that both counties are looking at this regionally. Chemung County is expanding into Social Services, but we are not doing that in Steuben County.

Mr. Wheeler explained the primary user is ProAction, not county government. This is supplemental funding to help pay for the shared platform. Public Health would have access to the aggregate information, however, the primary user is ProAction.

Mr. Hanna asked does this interface with the schools? Mr. Hughes replied we have been working with the schools, but they are not in the data sharing phase yet.

Mr. Maio asked is there any lag time between the gathering of information and the time that it becomes useful to you? Ms. Hubbell replied if a delay is identified by the home visitor with a child, the intervention is immediate. With regard to the information in the database, there will be some lag time. The reports that are coming out now have been helpful to Public Health as they can see immediately the referral process that happens.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked will this program move forward if we choose not to fund it? Mr. Hughes replied yes. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked if we choose to fund you $20,000, what is the intention for use of the not-designated funding you do receive? Mr. Hughes replied if you choose to fund the $20,000, that funding comes out of the operating budget and will not affect the other allocations.

Mr. Malter stated that he would like to have Ms. Muller and Mrs. Smith give their input. Mrs. Ferratella commented Mrs. Smith provided them with a letter of support. Ms. Muller stated she has questions, but she does not have enough information to speak on it; however, one of her staff has been involved in the process. Mrs. Smith stated she had met with Ms. Hubbell previously about this and she did provide the United Way with a letter of support. In the long term, she sees the benefits of this program. It will take a while for the data to be gathered and tracked before we will see any trending. Years down the road, she does think there will be valuable data and we will be able to see what interventions may or may not be working.

Mrs. Ferratella asked is there a window for determining if the program is successful? Mr. Hughes replied this shift for us is a general shift and will not take away from early childhood readiness. We are talking about
workforce development and if we don’t get after this aggressively, we will see a very different region 20 years from now. We are in this for the long haul. The cost of early intervention is less expensive than the interventions that happen later on in life.

Mr. Van Etten stated in the letter you emailed to us, you are inviting all other agencies to use Comet through your license. Will there be an increase in cost to accommodate more software licenses? Mr. Hughes replied no.

B. CASA-Trinity
1. Funding Request – Ms. Domingos stated she is the Chief Executive Officer of CASA-Trinity. We are a community-based, not-for-profit substance abuse treatment organization. She stated they have provided prevention, education, treatment, referral and recovery services to individuals, families and communities affected by alcohol, tobacco and drugs in various counties since 1974.

Ms. Domingos stated on July 8, 2019, the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) approached us to see if we would take over Loyola. We have agreed to do this through a temporary operating agreement. Essentially, this gives us all of the power to run the services and manage the finances. Loyola is the shell and CASA-Trinity has taken up the space. We have been running the center for 7 weeks now. The State has asked us to take this over as Loyola is financially bankrupt. This is a 27-bed unit. All of the services provided are in the continuum of care and these beds are very important and we are working hard to try to keep them. She stated they have finished their assessment of the program and have some projections for the coming year. We believe that eventually this will be sustainable on just revenues, however, it will take a lot of beginning investment. She stated she believes these services are critical and currently there are no other similar services in this pocket of the southern tier.

Ms. Domingos stated their program in Chemung County currently has 600 patients. We were awarded a NYS Department of Health capital grant to build another residential facility in Chemung County. On May 6, 2019, we opened the new residential facility in Dansville. That is a 25-bed unit and those beds have been filled consistently; the need is great.

Mrs. Ferratella asked what is the length of stay? Ms. Domingos replied the average length of stay for detox is 3 days and then they are moved into the inpatient level of care. Inpatient stays are 21 – 28 days and residential stays can be up to 3 – 4 months.

Mr. Hanna asked what is the cost per person for a residential stay? Ms. Domingos replied there are two funding components. The first is the housing component which we receive from Social Services. The second portion is the treatment, which insurance pays. She stated she does not really have a good number, but the payment per day would be about $300.

Ms. Domingos stated the temporary operating agreement they have can be renewed for whatever time we need. That is the legal piece of this. The second piece is that the inpatient services are currently housed on the 3rd floor of St. James Hospital and the outpatient services are housed in another building. As you aware, St. James is moving to a new medical campus. They have not invited these services to move with them. The hospital will close March 2020 and she has been tasked with finding new space to move the beds and to retrofit to fit our needs. There are currently two units on the new medical campus that have not been rented and they would have enough space for this program. She has asked the hospital to consider renting that space to us. They have agreed to allow me to submit a letter of request and a proposed design. They have also asked that this be separate from the hospital. She stated the next step is to go and look at the space. She believes she will be able to work with the landlord of these units, which is not the hospital.

Ms. Lattimer asked how many existing beds are there? Ms. Domingos replied 27. Ms. Lattimer asked if you are successful, what is your projection for the number of beds? Ms. Domingos replied at least 27. She stated OASAS will allow her to increase the number of beds to what she feels is necessary, but they are not funding the beds. The more beds you have, the more revenue you generate.
Mr. Maio asked do you have a Plan B if St. James declines? Ms. Domingos replied she has looked at several sites in Hornell.

Mrs. Ferratella asked what is your request? Ms. Domingos replied she is requesting $80,000 for rent. The rent amount will change and there are a couple of things that can happen. There may be a one-time payment from the State for capital funding to modify the space. She has also gone to FLPPS to ask for additional money. If she cannot get that, the landlord has indicated that it can be rolled into the long-term lease. She anticipates the rent will be $8,000 - $10,000 per month.

Mrs. Ferratella asked have you requested funding from the other counties? Ms. Domingos replied no, this was her first stop. She will make a presentation to the other counties to request funding if we deem it necessary. She does have a meeting scheduled with Chemung County. From February – July 2019, our inpatient/detox unit had 14 referrals from Allegany County, 42 referrals from Steuben County and 13 referrals from Livingston County. We did not have any referrals from Chemung County.

Mr. Maio asked you are asking for $80,000 for rent for a Steuben County facility that would take in people from surrounding counties? Ms. Domingos replied she feels that the beds need to be regionally sustained. If we do not need the funding, she will not take it. The first two years will be critical. She would plan to come back to the County with projections and financial documents. There are several things that go into moving a program.

Mr. Wheeler commented the detox and short-term rehab program at the VA Hospital was also run by Loyola and was shut down. Mr. Maio asked if we end up being the only County to fund, is there any way to give preference to County residents for the beds? Ms. Domingos replied yes. Dr. Chapman commented there is a regional need, but most of the referrals have been from Steuben County.

Mr. Van Etten asked would the $80,000 be an incremental add to the budget? Mr. Wheeler replied Dr. Chapman had passed through State funding to Loyola, but no County funds. This would be an $80,000 add.

Mr. Malter asked has there been any interest in Allegany County to put a facility in? Ms. Domingos replied not that she is aware of. Mr. Van Etten asked are the referrals coming from Social Services or Mental Health? Ms. Muller replied both. Mr. Van Etten asked if this facility closed where would they be referred to? Dr. Chapman replied they would be referred to Chemung County. Ms. Muller stated they would also be referred to Pennsylvania. She stated she doesn’t know if that would increase the County’s cost, but it would put us in a bind as to where to send people for treatment. Mr. Van Etten stated he is trying to think of a way to justify the $80,000. Mr. Wheeler replied the justification would be on the back end. There may be more people in crisis and more interventions without a facility nearby. Ms. Domingos stated your crisis teams would be overworked. Ms. Muller stated it would also impact the Jail. It would create a huge bottleneck.

Dr. Chapman asked what is the percentage of patients that are addicted to opioids? Ms. Domingos stated she would say about half of the patients that go into detox and inpatient are addicted to opioids. There is a high need and this is a tough population. If we don’t have a facility, people will be on the streets, law enforcement will be burdened, etc.

C. Opioid Prevention – Mrs. Lando informed the committee the Steuben Prevention Coalition has produced new postcards with information about Narcan and where to find help. They also have bookmarks which list the locations of the medication drop-off boxes. They have asked the pharmacies to distribute the bookmarks in the prescription bags. Mr. Wheeler commented we can also place this information on the County website.
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, October 2, 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, September 25, 2019