

**HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
STAMMEL, LAPIN, MARIETTA, BROCKWAY, BASILE  
NOVEMBER 10, 2020  
9:45 a.m.**

Under the current COVID-19 emergency/Executive orders, this committee meeting was not physically open to the public at the County Office Building. The meeting was streamed via facebookLIVE.

Members: Representative Stammel- present, via Zoom  
Representative Lapin- absent  
Representative Marietta- present, via Zoom  
Representative Brockway- present, via Zoom  
Representative Basile- present, via Zoom

**OFFICE FOR THE AGING - TAMIE REED via Zoom**

Tamie Reed requested approval for the following budget transfers:

- Transfer \$500 from A6772-548000 Other to A6772-547200 PERS
- Transfer \$600 from A6772-548000 Other to A6772-544000 Postage
- Transfer \$1,800 from A6772-547702 In Home Services to A6772-549000 Contracts

Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Basile. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,806; Absent: 348- Lapin. Motion carried.

Tamie Reed requested approval to contract with Otsego Rural Housing for ramp installation and home repair not to exceed \$20,314. Representative Marietta moved for approval. Seconded, Basile. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,806; Absent: 348- Lapin. Motion carried.

Tamie Reed informed the committee of the new Intergenerational Pen Pal Project along with an art project. Because of social isolation and the continued pandemic, OFA wanted to add a variety of strategies to address loneliness and social isolation in the rural population of seniors. OFA has reached out to schools, community and facility based seniors to engage in the pen pal project. OFA has received positive feedback from seniors who would love to receive something. OFA will be sending letters to the elementary school principals engaging and requesting them to work with their students through art projects, developing cards or other ideas to distribute to the isolated seniors.

Tamie Reed informed the committee that OFA has reengaged their Nutritional Oversight Committee to start looking at doing senior meals differently

especially congregate dining as senior dining sites are closed. OFA is considering implementing a restaurant dining program:

- partner with & support local restaurants
- create a ticket/voucher-based system for any senior over the age of 60 interested in getting a nutritious meal would be able to go to any partnered restaurants, use the ticket/voucher to select a menu item that OFA's registered dietician has worked with the restaurant to develop
- goal is to develop menu items that meet the required 1/3 daily nutritional value or to modify what is already on the menu
- promotes health with good nutrition and socialization

Seniors could go out, enjoy a meal, socially engage within their own community in a safe way, as restaurants have to follow necessary protocol and gives flexibility to seniors as when dining sites are available have certain days, times and locations. Ms. Reed mentioned she should have more detailed information next month.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES – SUSAN MATT via Zoom**

Susan Matt stated that revenues are still doing well and are running above projected collections and in October will start to bill for the Behavioral Health Resource Center.

Susan Matt informed the committee that they received \$39,000 from a 2019 Upper Payment Limits, which is the difference between Medicare and Medicaid rates, and expect to receive 2018 funds as well.

Susan Matt requested approval for the following budget modification:

Increase rev. 4490 by \$110,000  
Increase 4322.4694 by \$110,000

Representative Brockway moved approval of the budget modification. Seconded, Basile. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,806; Absent: 348- Lapin. Motion carried.

Susan Matt requested approval to purchase technical assistance for \$5,415 through the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene for the year 2021. Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Basile. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,806; Absent: 348- Lapin. Motion carried.

Susan Matt requested approval to purchase the following:

For Mental Health (4310)

\$995 Postage

\$350 Hummel's – envelopes, receipt books, basic office supplies

For Addiction Services (4250)

\$580 Postage

\$200 Hummel's – envelopes, receipt books, basic office supplies

Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Basile. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,806; Absent: 348- Lapin. Motion carried.

Susan Matt requested approval for the following annual contract renewals for psychiatric services; LEAF with an amount unknown due to cuts in state aid; ACCUMEDIC and DOCUTRAC EMR Software for MHC, as listed below contingent on approval of the 2021 budget:

- Samuel Press, M.D., 303 Kinderhook Lane, Nassau, New York 12123, for the provision of psychiatric services, up to 700 hours at \$160 per hour, not to exceed \$112,000. Funding included in budget lines 4310-4880 and are 100% reimbursed from fees, state and federal funds.
- Jean M. Van Kingsley, PMHNP-BS, independent nurse practitioner, 17 Overlook Drive, Sidney, New York, 13838, for the provision of psychiatric nurse practitioner services, up to 500 hours at \$90 per hour, not to exceed \$45,000. Funding included in budget lines 4310-4880 and are 100% reimbursed from fees, state and federal funds.
- Kate Bolger, NPP, APRN, 2410 Walley Rd., Franklin, NY 13775, for the provision of psychiatric nurse practitioner services, up to 1536 hours at \$95 per hour, not to exceed \$145,920 for the term of the contract. Funding included in budget line 4310-4880 and 4250-4880 and are 100% reimbursed from fees, state and federal funds.
- Bassett Hospital, 1 Atwell Rd., Cooperstown, NY 13326 for the provision of Addiction Medicine Services, up to 200 hours at \$350 per hour, not to exceed \$70,000. Funding included in budget line 4250-4880 and 100% reimbursed from fees, state and federal funds.

Representative Marietta moved to approve the above listed (4) four annual contract renewals. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,806; Absent: 348- Lapin. Motion carried.

Susan Matt requested approval of the LEAF contract, with an amount unknown due to cuts in state aid, contingent on approval of the 2021 budget, 100% State Aid, Appropriations 4323-4698 for school-based prevention and community education. Representative Basile moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,806; Absent: 348- Lapin. Motion carried.

Representative Marietta asked about keeping telemedicine in place after returning to normal. Ms. Matt stated that telemedicine has been available but the regulations have not been helpful. They have received OASIS permanent telehealth approval for the license and has met OMH's restrictions. Telehealth is beneficial to clients except for those who are in early recovery and is challenging to those who do not have access to broadband or phone service. OCCS does not have the ability to open the door to anyone and cannot accommodate everyone as they have limitations as well as other systems do to and the priority is to Otsego County residents and established clients. Anyone who is an emergency does have access to the crisis service. Private practitioners are all doing telehealth so there is no reason why non-residents cannot connect with their own clinicians for their best care.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - HEIDI BOND via Zoom**

Heidi Bond gave the following updates:

- working with K-12 schools twice a week in trying to prepare for staying open should the County become a yellow zone
- helping with getting testing set up
- threshold is confusing as the Governor's office uses several metrics
- implication for the schools is to test 20% of their in-person students and staff on a weekly basis to stay open
- test kits are coming from the State to provide to the schools
- problem is not enough DOH staff to help with the testing
- reaching out to Bassett and Fox Hospitals to get something established to perform tests
- some schools would go remote
- yellow zone is not the whole County, it's community level
- working with both colleges
- an increased and spread out number of cases
- since November 1<sup>st</sup>, 46 new cases reported, 11 were Hartwick College students, 3 were SUICO students, 17 were clusters in either residential facilities or residential workers or long-term care facility and 15 were community residents with no relation to a common source
- DOH will be putting out safety messaging

Representative Stammel followed up on a request by Representative Kennedy from the last Board Meeting regarding vaccine distribution, asking Heidi Bond once they are ready and in our County, how they will be distributed. Ms. Bond stated there is a point of distribution plan already developed and a specific Covid pod plan that outlines how the DOH will distribute the vaccines that will be submitted to the State. Ms. Bond believes it will be manageable as the vaccines will come in slow and will be restricted at first.

Representative Marietta asked Heidi Bond, regarding the new testing requirements, if Otsego County DOH has any interaction, enforcement or involvement with people with these requirements in monitoring or coordinating with them. Ms. Bond stated that Otsego County DOH uses the State tracers to do the monitoring of the contacts, anybody on a travel quarantine or an exposure to a positive. The tracers give reports a couple times daily. The State will be doing the monitoring of the people who want to test out of quarantine. The driving travelers are the hardest to monitor, as they would have to self-report.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned.