

**HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
STAMMEL, LAPIN, MARIETTA, BROCKWAY, BASILE  
SEPTEMBER 15, 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- absent  
Representative Brockway- present, via zoom  
Representative Basile- present, via zoom

**COMMUNITY SERVICES- SUSAN MATT via zoom**

Susan Matt reviewed departmental revenues; continuing to do well at 12% above revenue projections.

Susan Matt gave the following department updates:

- Addiction services is down as they cannot do groups; kids services is down as well
- Adult Mental Health is busy
- MH staff is working 3 days a week remotely and 2 days a week in the office mostly doing telehealth
- Projection is a 40% increase in demand for mental health services
- The Crisis Service has a significant increase in calls due to alcohol use

Representative Lapin arrived via zoom.

Susan Matt informed the committee that OMH restored a percentage of housing stipends, provider being RSS.

Susan Matt requested approval to contract with Thomas Fay, RN to provide nursing services at a rate of \$40.00/hour for a total cost not to exceed \$20,480 and not to exceed 512 total hours for the term of the contract 10/1/2020 – 12/31/2021. Representative Lapin moved for approval. Seconded, Basile. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,764; Absent: 390- Marietta. Motion carried.

Susan Matt reviewed the proposed 2021 budget, noting current reductions with more anticipated reductions. Ms. Matt proposed changes in staffing by abolishing one Keyboard Specialist (retired) and one Alcohol Abuse Counselor (retired) and keep the Addictions Counselor and the Keyboard Specialist positions but unfund until the volume increases. Ms. Matt mentioned a

surplus that should be earmarked for Mental Health potentially for an upgrade in the medical records IT system.

Allen Ruffles asked Ms. Matt about mandated and non-mandated services due to the deficit. Ms. Matt stated that mental health and addiction services are mandated but do not have to be county operated as they can be contracted and once privatized you lose control. Ms. Matt stated that she is very careful in what they do and what they contract out and what is feasible for us financially as well as what serves our county and residents in the best way.

Susan Matt gave a brief update on OMH and Criminal Law 508.

### **CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION- DON SMYERS via zoom**

Don Smyers submitted and discussed the proposed 2021 budget with hopes that the County will support CCE as it has done since 1914.

Don Smyers sent committee members the CCE Action flyer with information on their Covid pandemic response and the ways they worked on it particularly through the food system, agriculture teams and the CCE programs.

Allen Ruffles stated that any outside agency are funded at the same level in the beginning of 2020 until the Board says otherwise. Treasurer Ruffles asked what would a greater reduction look like in CCE. Mr. Smyers said he is unsure of what more reductions would do. Mr. Smyers mentioned in years past when they were under funded they had to dip into their reserves to maintain services. They are grateful for the stability from the County for the past two years. Mr. Smyers does not know how much more of a reduction they can have for the programs impact to be viable. Representative Stammel asked how difficult would it be to put some aspects of the operations on temporary pause and later restore them. Mr. Smyers stated the state has reduced their funding 20% and has reduced the budget by 15%. Mr. Smyers stated staff is a large expense and putting a program on pause would mean a determination would have to be made. Representative Stammel thanked Mr. Smyers for his time and will continue this discussion.

### **OFFICE FOR THE AGING- TAMIE REED via zoom**

Tamie Reed requested approval for the following budget transfer:

Transfer from A-60-6772-0000-547700 (Senior Meals) \$10,000.00

Transfer to A-60-6772-0000-549000 (Contracts) \$10,000.00

Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,764; Absent: 390- Marietta. Motion carried.

Tamie Reed informed the committee of a request for a parking designation for the county vehicle at 242 Main Street for one parking space.

After further discussion Ms. Reed will submit this request to the Public Works Committee.

Tamie Reed discussed the proposed 2021 budget. Ms. Reed explained the County is in contract with NYS Office for the Aging through 2024, as the 4-year plan was recently signed, mandating the County to provide services within the contract. OFA is the designated area agency on aging for the service area of Otsego County. NYS OFA has not been asked to or had any funding cuts. The Alzheimer's CSI Grant has a 20% (\$4,000) reduction. Ms. Reed stated several grants include reimbursements for county fringe benefits, contributing approximately \$200,000 towards the fringe benefit cost and \$80,000 towards central services costs. Ms. Reed stated if additional reductions are needed they would be directly effecting revenue sources. Ms. Reed wanted to clarify that the budget does not reflect the inter-department reimbursement from DSS. After further discussion it was agreed upon that OFA provides services for less than what a private provider would charge. Ms. Reed stated the focus for 2021 is for essential services.

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

Heidi Bond informed the committee of a free rapid testing site partnered with Bassett.

Heidi Bond requested approval to purchase two packages of testing equipment for the special educators to do evaluations on preschoolers at a cost of \$188.00. Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,764; Absent: 390- Marietta. Motion carried.

Heidi Bond requested approval for an annual stipend for 2020 and 2021, 100% federally funded through the Covid Response Grant: \$5,500 for the Director of Public Health, \$5,000 for the Assistant Director, \$3,000 for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and \$3,000 for the Business Office Manager. After further discussion Penney Gentile, Personnel Officer, stated she needs to look into this more making sure it is done correctly and properly.

Heidi Bond discussed the proposed 2021 budget. Ms. Bond stated that she has no room to cut and is hesitant to cut anything. Preschool and Early Intervention are mandated services. Ms. Bond stated that the DOH is a partial service and is mandated. Allen Ruffles asked if all aspects of what they do are mandated. Ms. Bond stated the preschool special education services are not mandated.

Representative Stammel asked Ms. Bond if she felt her department was properly staffed after the challenges faced during the current outbreak in Oneonta. Ms. Bond thinks they are through the highpoint of the outbreak but feels they can be better prepared for immediate help with trained people. Ms. Bond updated the committee on the current active and new cases. Ms. Bond mentioned that communication with the college is much better now than in the beginning.

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