

**HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
STAMMEL, LAPIN, MARIETTA, BROCKWAY, BASILE
OCTOBER 13, 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- present, via zoom
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 a one year extension of the CST-LTL contract up to \$9,000 annually. Representative Lapin moved for approval. Seconded, Basile. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 2,154. Motion carried.

Tamie Reed requested approval for a one year extension of the Dietitian contract up to \$29,188 annually. Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 2,154. Motion carried.

As related to the 2021 budget and budget reductions that have been made and the budget presented by the Treasurer, Tamie Reed noted that she saw an additional reduction of \$200,000 in the senior meal expense line. Mrs. Reed explained that the reduced funding will allow the home delivered meals program to continue but it will impact the ability to open existing congregate meal sites, adding that if the existing site allows for continued use, only one or two sites at half participation would be possible based on the level of funding. Mrs. Reed added that the survey results show that a large majority of the community based seniors want to continue with and would go to the congregate meal site. Mrs. Reed is looking at how it can be done differently and how to be creative in providing the rural isolated seniors access to nutritious meals, reduce isolation, etc.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH- HEIDI BOND via zoom

Heidi Bond gave the following updates on staffing:

- Currently has a vacant RN position
- Only one application received and the individual does not have a NY nursing license
- Will ask at next month's meeting to change the vacant position from a RN to a LPN position to try and get more applicants

Heidi Bond stated that they are busy with providing guidance and support to schools.

Heidi Bond informed the committee of a cease and desist order issued for an event scheduled last weekend in Mount Vision, which was found to be held on County owned property, adding that citations were also issued. Mrs. Bond added that she has not received any feedback as far as the effects of the issuance of the cease and desist order or citations as related to the number in attendance.

Heidi Bond stated that there were 5 new positive COVID cases over the weekend of which one is related to a wedding and a couple related to SUNY.

Heidi Bond informed the committee that all schools have gone back to in person or a hybrid model as of this week.

The committee discussed the following with Mrs. Bond but was not limited to:

- is there a need to set up rapid testing sites with schools reopening. Mrs. Bond stated not at this point, they don't have a large number of tests available, they are costly and it would not be cost effective but one would possibly be set up if a cluster develops

- what is the response to a positive case in a school. Mrs. Bond stated that there are no positives in the schools yet and the response to a positive case in school is standard to all schools even though each school has their own reopening plan

- why are there outbreaks in Northern and Southern NYS. Mrs. Bond explained what the outbreaks are being linked to

- why is the flu shot not available at certain locations such as Rite Aid for certain age groups. Mrs. Bond stated that there are no shortages of the vaccine that she is aware of, so probably it is just a shipping delay

Heidi Bond stated that they are pushing for people to get their flu shots noting that they have not seen any positive flu cases yet

Heidi Bond stated that she did not have any concerns about her 2021 budget as there were minimal reductions made.

COMMUNITY SERVICES- MARTHA QUACKENBUSH via zoom

Martha Quackenbush stated that the revenue report was sent via email and that they are still ahead of projections at this point.

Martha Quackenbush informed the committee of 20% of state aid that was withheld for the 4th quarter for OASAS and OMH, noting that OMH housing is exempt.

Martha Quackenbush informed the committee that they received \$37,000 from the Care Act-Phase 2, adding that there are no spending restrictions as far as what the funding can be used for.

Martha Quackenbush requested approval to purchase medication from Cardinal Health for Mental Health up to \$5,200, which is fully reimbursable by Medicaid. Representative Lapin moved for approval. Seconded, Basile. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 2,154. Motion carried.

Martha Quackenbush requested approval to allow the Community Services clinical staff and the SPOA Coordinator to continue teleworking up to 3 days per week through 12/31/20. Representative Lapin moved for approval. Seconded, Basile. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 2,154. Motion carried.

OTHER

Representative Lapin stated that it would have been nice if a Health and Education committee member was on the conference calls concerning this past weekend's festival event issues and inquired why the District Attorney declined to prosecute.

County Treasurer Allen Ruffles joined the meeting via zoom.

Allen Ruffles gave an overview of the steps and actions taken by the County regarding an event held on County property in Mount Vision over the weekend that he was informed of mid-last week adding that two of the organizers are being prosecuted. Representative Lapin appreciates the hard work of multiple county departments involved but expressed concerns about the lack of information shared, how the situation was handled and the lack of support by the state enforcing their Executive Order.

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