

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING **Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Hubbard Auditorium, Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 8:35 AM.

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| Present: Mr. William Standinger | Chair of the Committee |
| Mr. Tracy Monell | Legislator |
| Mr. Dennis Mullen | Legislator |
| Ms. Lori Morgan | Director of Community Services |
| Mr. Chris Korba | Director of Administrative Services - MH |
| Mr. Shawn Yetter | Commissioner of Social Services |
| Mr. Gary Grant | Deputy Commissioner of Social Services |
| Ms. Lisa McCafferty | Public Health Director |
| Mr. Denis McCann | Director of Community Services - PH |
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| Guest: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey | Chair of the Legislature |

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Budget Status
 - Mr. Chris Korba noted that local share projections are on target for the original 2020 budget. There will be some adjustments when final invoices come in. With savings due to fringe (vacancies), Mr. Korba expects to have a return to local share at the end of the year. The 20% withhold from the State will continue into 2021.
2. Personnel
 - None.
3. Critical Issues/Topics
 - Waverly Clinic – Ms. Morgan shared that the Waverly Clinic lease is up at the end of August. She will investigate how many clients in the Waverly area are/could use telehealth for treatment. She will report back her findings to the Committee in the next several months.
4. Resolutions
 - None.
5. Proclamations
 - None.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Commissioner Yetter discussed caseloads, programmatic highlights, and personnel changes.

1. Budget
 - Mr. Gary Grant shared for the 2020 budget most programs remain under or on budget except for Foster Care. FC costs and Safety Net costs have stabilized over the past few months. There is a surplus of over \$500,000 savings due to the reduction of MA Weekly Shares. There will be a further reduction of weekly shares for the first 11 weeks of 2021 (\$175,000). Raise the Age – the state has not allowed facilities to bill us (2 kids) for \$332,000. The money has been accrued for 2021.

- Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the December 8, 2020 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Monell. Seconded by Legislator Mullen. Motion Carried.

2. Caseloads

- During December, Cash Assistance caseloads increased 6 cases, with Family Assistance increasing 1 case and Safety Net increasing 5 cases. Cash Assistance is down 9% for the year.
- MA-Only decreased 16 cases.
- MA-SSI decreased 7 cases.
- Total Individuals on Medicaid remained flat at 3,684.
- SNAP cases increased 11 cases.
- Day Care remained flat at 104 cases. Day Care is down 17% for the year as a result of more people being at home.
- Services increased 2 cases.
- See Caseload Summary.

3. Programmatic Highlights

- Tioga Career Center Report – Unemployment rates in Tioga remain lower than the NYS and Federal rates.
- Emergency Shelter Grant (\$205,000) will only assist people with rent due to COVID-19.
- DSS will be moving from the State system to the County system (VDI). Mr. Grant will be meeting with Doug. Legislative Chair Sauerbrey suggested that Mr. Grant include Legislator Sullivan in the discussions with IT.
- Homeless “Code Blue” law discussed. When the average temperature is below 32 degrees, DSS must find housing (hotel) for homeless. Commissioner Yetter does not believe there has been any significant increase in the number of homeless in Tioga County.

4. Personnel Changes

- Megan Weed, Caseworker, last day 12/3/2020.
- Christopher Kallin, SCU Coordinator, retired 12/4/2020.
- Candis Seeley, Caseworker, started 12/7/2020.
- Casey Yelverton, Caseworker, started 12/7/2020.
- Jennifer Warner, Accounting Associate II, last day 12/7/2020.
- Angela Figgs, Sr. Caseworker, last day 12/11/2020.
- Anita Teed, SCU Coordinator, promoted 12/21/2020.
- Duwan Baker, OSI (HEAP Temp.) last day 12/24/2020.
- Amy Eiklor, SWE, last day 12/30/2020.

5. Resolutions

- 2021 Staff Changes.
- Recognize June Sisenstein’s 24 Years of Service to Tioga County Dept. of Social Services.
- Authorize Position Reclassification.

6. Proclamations

- None.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Lisa McCafferty presented highlights and resolutions.

1. Budget Status

- Mr. Denis McCann noted that for 2020 TCPH is tracking well; and expects to have a return to local share. Expenses and Revenues are still coming in. Mr. McCann will be working with Stephanie at the Treasurer’s office on the large revenue accruals and rollover of grants. El escrow has over \$100,000 in savings.

2. Personnel

- Maggie McGoff, Temporary Public Health Educator, new hire effective December 21, 2020.
- Christopher Scagnelli, Temporary Public Health Educator, new hire effective December 22, 2020.
- Nicole Whitmore, Director of Dental Services, promotion effective January 1, 2021.
- Jordan Marsh, Senior Early Intervention Service Coordinator, promotion effective January 1, 2021.

3. Program Comments

- Agency Report for December 2020 was forwarded to the Committee.
- Agency Financials for December 2020 also forwarded to the Committee.
- Provided update on COVID-19 activities and status, including vaccine distribution. TCPH is doing an ongoing public information campaign, via website, Facebook and print media buys, to inform the public about vaccinations, clinics/POD's and scheduling in accordance with the Governor's priority population, phased approach. An example displayed today was the ½ page ad in the Morning Times explaining the priority populations as established by the Governor. There is a NYS policy change in quarantines from 14 days to 10 days which has created confusion. It was noted that TCPH (and all counties) are having to switch to a State system (Comp Care) that is not as accurate for reporting.

4. Resolutions

- None.

5. Proclamations

- None

ADJOURNED:

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services