

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 8:30 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
Mr. Jake Brown	Legislator
Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services (MH)
Mr. Shawn Yetter	Commissioner of Social Services
Ms. Mickelle Andrews	Director of Administrative Services (DSS)
Ms. Heather Vroman	Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services (PH)

Guests: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Legislative Chair
Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney
Ms. Liz Myers	Deputy Commissioner (DSS)
Mr. Nick Conklin	PH Fellow
Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk
Ms. Erin Riddle	Legal Secretary

**MENTAL HYGIENE**

1. Financial

- Mr. Chris Korba noted that the 2023 budget expenses are under budget due to vacancies & fringe savings. Both Expenses and Revenues are below target due to vacancies. At this time, a return of local share is expected but that can change due to Tioga County Residents in Court Ordered Criminal Psychiatric Care. Right now, Mental Hygiene has only been invoiced through July, so the status of the Tioga County Residents whether they are still enrolled or not is unknown.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – Ms. Lori Morgan shared that they have not received any recent invoices for criminal psych services. There are currently 2 people receiving services and MH may have another one. The cost is \$33,000/month per person.

3. New Business

- Waverly location – Ms. Morgan noted that she & Gary Hammond met with Hunt Engineering last week and worked on a formal plan. She should have the estimate next month.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the September 5, 2023 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Monell. Seconded by Legislator Brown. Motion Carried.

4. Personnel
  - Rebecka Deretz, CSW, starting 10/10/23
  - Cara Blatt, CSW, starting 10/10/23
5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to continue
  - Authorize Grant Renewal, Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2023 Budget (DFC)
  - Transfer of Funds, Budget Modification (replacement camera)
  - Appropriation of Funds, Budget Modification 2023 (pass-through state aid to Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES & Trinity)
  - Appropriation of Funds and Budget Modification (pass-through state aid to Catholic Charities, AspireHopeNY, NYS/Elmira Psych Center & RSS)
  - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds (roll-over of unspent funds)
6. Proclamations
  - None

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

1. Financial
  - Mr. Denis McCann reported that 2023 Public Health budget continues to track well, and he expects to have a return at the end of the year. On the preschool side of the budget, he stated there will be a resolution in November and another probably in December to add funds to Preschool in 2023. Mr. McCann shared that in coordination with Gary Hammond, PH's Capital Plan was changed to purchase an additional vehicle as a result of purchasing less expensive vehicles. There is 36% reimbursement on the vehicles. Legislator Standinger thanked Public Health for working with Gary Hammond on improving the vehicle fleet.
2. Old Business
  - None
3. New Business
  - Agency Report for September 2023 forwarded to committee.
  - Ms. Vroman reported that there has been an uptick in COVID cases. There were 218 confirmed cases in September, which is more than June through August combined. No new directives from NYS.
  - Ms. Vroman shared that after this meeting, she will be attending a PH Directors Summit where they will be discussing the NYSACHO resolutions: 1) ask that pre-school transportation coordination be put back to school districts and 2) an 11% increase to EI providers.
  - Denis McCann was recently recognized for his 20 years of service.
  - PH partnered with Mental Hygiene, CASA-Trinity, and Tioga ASAP to hold six Narcan trainings. During the event, 84 Narcan kits were distributed.
  - Vaccination clinics are every Thursday. The clinic team has been busy vaccinating children either at risk of being, or already, excluded from school due to lack of vaccines.

4. Personnel
  - Megan Givens, Early Intervention Service Coordinator, hired effective 9/11/23
  - Adam Ace, Public Health Sanitarian, resigned effective 9/15/23
5. Resolutions
  - Amend Budget and Appropriation Funds (CHSC)
6. Proclamations
  - Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (repeat)

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Commissioner Yetter noted as a result of Gary Grant's retirement, Mickelle Andrews, Director of Administrative Services will be presenting the financial report. He also noted that Liz Myers, new Deputy Commissioner, will be attending the Committee meetings as her schedule allows.

1. Financial
  - Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that all programs are at or below budget for 2023. Day Care is running high. Foster Care may have another residential placement. The MA weekly shares have enough funds to cover 2023. Jackson Bailey adjusted the 2024 budget for the increase of over \$800,000 in weekly shares.
2. Old Business
  - None.
3. New Business
  - Caseloads  
During September, Cash Assistance decreased 8 cases, with Family Assistance remaining flat and Safety Net decreasing 8 cases.  
MA-Only decreased 18 cases.  
MA-SSI decreased 7 cases.  
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 61 cases to 3,483.  
SNAP decreased 17 cases.  
Day Care increased 11 cases. Have funds to cover.  
See Caseload Summary
  - Tioga Career Center report is attached. The unemployment rate in Tioga County continues to remain below the state & federal levels.
4. Personnel Changes
  - Amanda Bieberich (Miller), Grade B Supervisor, resigned effective 9/7/23
  - Erin Evans, Caseworker, resigned effective 9/8/23
  - Samantha Webster, promoted to Coordinator of Child Support Enforcement, effective 9/11/23
  - Jessica Morris, promoted to Sr. Social Welfare Examiner, effective 9/11/23

- Shawna Ives, promoted to Sr. Support Investigator, effective 9/11/23
  - Stacy Bell, hired as Social Welfare Examiner, effective 9/11/23
  - Margaret Mary Dunsford, Caseworker, resigned effective 9/25/23
  - Stephen Williams, hired as Seasonal SWE in HEAP, effective 9/25/23
  - Christina Franscone, hired as Seasonal SWE in HEAP, effective 9/25/23
  - Alexis Gause, hired as P/T Community Services Worker in Services, effective 9/25/23
  - Jeanette Carosella, hired as Caseworker, effective 9/25/23
5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to continue
- Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2023 Budget (Non-residential DV)
  - Amend 2023 Budget (CAC)
6. Proclamations
- None

**ADJOURNED:**

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gail V. Perdue*

Executive Secretary, Social Services