

STEBEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

9:00 a.m.

*Legislative Chambers, 3rd Floor, Annex Building
Bath, New York*

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE: Carol A. Ferratella, Chair James Kuhl Paul E. Van Caesele

STAFF: Jack K. Wheeler Christopher Brewer Jennifer Prossick
Lynn Lewis Nate Alderman Kathy Muller
Lise Reynolds Bill Caudill Tammy Hurd-Harvey
Cathy Baker Christine Towner Darlene Smith
Jennifer DeMonstoy

LEGISLATORS: Scott J. Van Etten Kelly H. Fitzpatrick Hilda T. Lando
Wendy Lozo John V. Malter Robert V. Nichols
Nicholas D. Pelham Frederick G. Potter

OTHERS: Colleen Banik, Coordinator, Steuben Prevention Coalition
Connie Terry, Program Assistant, Opioid Committee – Steuben Prevention Coalition
Brandon Beuter, Certified Recovery Peer Advocate
Mary Perham

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Van Caesele to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2023, MEETING MADE BY MR. KUHL. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Public Health

1. **Preschool Contract** – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a contract with Alyssa Wallace, Speech Language Pathologist at rates set by the State. Those rates are \$70.00 per individual session and \$35.00 per group session.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A PRESCHOOL RELATED SERVICES CONTRACT WITH ALYSSA WALLACE, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AT THE STATE SET RATE OF \$70.00 PER INDIVIDUAL SESSION AND \$35.00 PER GROUP SESSION MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELE. SECONDED BY MR. KUHL. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

2. **Grant** – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to accept a new grant entitled Grants to Local Health Departments to Strengthen Public Health Workforce and Foundational Capabilities. Each Public Health Department in New York State received an award based on population. This is a five-year grant and the amount awarded to Steuben County is \$617,670. This may be taken annually in the amount of \$123,570 per year for five years, or as one lump sum amount of \$617,670. The purpose of this grant is to enhance public health infrastructure. As a result of the COVID pandemic, it became apparent that the local health departments did not

have the infrastructure needed to respond to the pandemic. Allowable expenses under this grant include recruitment and retention efforts, tuition assistance, staff training opportunities as well as investing in office upgrades and modernization. They are looking for local departments to be creative.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO ACCEPT A NEW GRANT ENTITLED GRANTS TO LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND FOUNDATIONAL CAPABILITIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$617,670 OVER FIVE YEARS. MADE BY MR. KUHL. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE.

Mr. Van Caesele asked is there a date when these funds have to be expended? Mrs. Smith replied the life of the grant is five years. She recommended taking the yearly allocation of \$123,570 for the five years. Mr. Kuhl asked what are your top priorities for using these funds? Mrs. Smith replied the first thing would be specialized training based on title and position. She would also like to invest in office upgrades. We have done a good job with ergonomics, but I think there is more to do if there is a need.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. Resolution Required.

B. Youth Bureau

1. **2023 Youth Development Program Contracts** – Mr. Caudill requested approval of contracts for the 2023 Youth Development Program. He noted these contracts are for nine months as we are transitioning to the new program year. That is why it looks as though there is a decrease in funding, however, in reality there is a slight increase.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE FOLLOWING 2023 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUNDING CONTRACTS: CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF STEUBEN COUNTY - \$7,057; FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY, INC. - \$11,228; HORNELL AREA CONCERN FOR YOUTH - \$19,678; PROACTION OF STEUBEN & YATES, INC. - \$4,414; THE FRIENDS OF THE ADDISON YOUTH CENTER - \$7,505 AND YOUTH BUREAU SERVICES - \$15,028 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. KUHL. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

C. Office for the Aging

1. **Contracts** – Ms. Towner stated we have unspent funds that will expire on March 31st and she is requesting authorization to increase contracts with Faith in Action, Institute for Human Services, Center for Elder Law and Legal Assistance of Western New York. Additionally, the Wellness in Nutrition (WIN) funding was much higher than they had projected and they would like to allocate the additional \$41,000 to increase the Corning Meals on Wheels Contract and the ProAction WIN Contract.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO USE UNSPENT FUNDS THAT WILL EXPIRE ON MARCH 31ST TO INCREASE THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS: FAITH IN ACTION - \$17,262; INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION - \$22,000; CENTER FOR ELDER LAW AND JUSTICE - \$3,000; AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF WESTERN NEW YORK - \$3,000; AND APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL WELLNESS IN NUTRITION (WIN) FUNDS OF \$41,000 TO THE CORNING MEALS ON WHEELS CONTRACT - \$20,000 AND PROACTION WIN CONTRACT - \$21,000 MADE BY MR. KUHL. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE.

Mr. Van Etten asked when did we learn about these additional funds? Mr. Wheeler replied about two weeks ago. Toward the end of the State fiscal year they find additional funds and allocate them. Every year since he can remember, we have had these types of things.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

C. Social Services

1. **Foster Parent Banquet** – Ms. Muller requested authorization to spend up to \$4,000 on the foster parent banquet which will be held May 18th at the Bath Fire Hall.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO SPEND UP TO \$4,000 ON THE FOSTER PARENT BANQUET WHICH WILL BE HELD MAY 18TH AT THE BATH FIRE HALL MADE BY MR. KUHL. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

2. **RFP for Central Cost Allocation Plan** – Ms. Muller requested authorization to solicit an RFP for the central cost allocation plan. The contract that we have with Maximus expires this year. This is the plan that allocates our rent, maintenance in lieu of rent and all of the other services that we chargeback to departments. This is one way that we are able to leverage additional State funding.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO SOLICIT AN RFP FOR THE CENTRAL COST ALLOCATION PLAN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELE. SECONDED BY MR. KUHL. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

3. **Homeless Presentation** – Ms. Muller distributed a handout with information regarding the Homeless Program and the Temporary Assistance Program. We are mandated by several State laws to provide services to individuals in need of housing, financial assistance, Medicaid, HEAP, etc. These are all State regulated programs with no local authorization and no flexibility to modify anything. We get \$0.29 on the \$1.00 for the Safety Net Program and we have been advocating for the 50/50 split that was previously in place.

Ms. Muller stated we have three categories for housing; Temporary Assistance, Homeless Assistance and Code Blue. Individuals applying for Temporary Assistance must comply with multiple requirements in order to receive benefits. These requirements include employment requirements. This category includes orientation, job search, school, classes/training, mobile work program and work experience. We do have a contract with BOCES and ProAction to provide CNA and machinist training along with other trade training. We also provide in-house soft skills training including personal hygiene, resume writing, etc. We work with the individuals to help them learn those skills. We have a contract with Public Works to do the Mobile Work Program and in that program they also teach the participants various skills. Ms. Muller stated we also require a drug/alcohol screen. Last year we did 3,500 screens and 70 of those were for Temporary Assistance applicants and 70 percent of those came back positive. If they come back positive they are then referred for drug/alcohol treatment. We also do a mental health and domestic violence screen. If they are eligible, they must apply for unemployment. We also assist them with applying for SSI and SSD. If they apply for SSI and receive a benefit, SSI will pay us back for any financial assistance. Last year we brought back \$300,000 to the County. In addition to all of the above requirements, we also do a fraud screen. Last year we realized \$4 million in recoveries and cost avoidance. Our staff is pretty astute at identifying fraud.

Ms. Muller explained for individuals applying for Homeless Assistance, they have to sign an individual living plan and sign off on the rules of placement. They must also apply for Temporary Assistance in order to continue receiving housing services and we also complete a fraud screen. Ms. Muller stated under Code Blue, there are no requirements for individuals coming into the office and calling our on-call services when we are under the Code Blue designation.

Ms. Muller stated in 2022 we served 1,260 unduplicated individuals. On average we serve 260 individuals per month and need an average of 103 hotel rooms per night. We had a total of 37,595 hotel room nights last year. She noted what is most striking to her is bed nights; 149 per night. That equates to 54,000 in a year.

Mr. Kuhl asked have you seen an increase in the average household size seeking benefits? Ms. Muller replied we had one household with ten members last year. Typically we average three to four per family unit. The State average for the length of stay is three weeks, but we have had cases that have been longer than that due to lack of housing and sub-standard housing in the County. She commented our numbers for Code Blue are not the largest,

but we did spend \$350,000 last year. The largest cost is the time it requires our staff and on-call staff to respond. The administrative costs add to that.

Ms. Muller stated they track out-of-State and out-of-County requests. We had 218 last year from Chemung, Tioga, Livingston, Pennsylvania and Florida. Mr. Van Caesele asked why was there such a large increase? Ms. Muller replied I wish I could say there was a specific reason, but these numbers are exploding across the State. Some speak to the economy, COVID, and multiple barriers to getting housing. Mr. Van Caesele commented there is a worker shortage now and people do not want to work.

Mr. Van Etten stated drug abuse leads to this as well. He asked Ms. Muller to talk about what happens if someone from another county comes to Steuben County and needs assistance getting a room. Ms. Muller explained you are homeless where you are found. If someone comes from Chemung County as homeless and they were housed by Chemung in Steuben and then they drop off the rolls for one day, they become Steuben County's responsibility. This is a problem. Mr. Kuhl asked what would lead someone to do that? Ms. Muller replied they are transient and have no roots. Some are following drugs. Sometimes they move to get closer to family members who are in prison. Mr. Van Etten stated there have been some issues with Chemung County putting people up at the former Lando's and then those individuals becoming Steuben County's responsibility.

Ms. Muller stated with regard to costs, she did a comparison over the last four years. In 2022 \$3.1 million gross was spent on the Homeless Program. The local share of that was \$1.7 million. In 2021 \$4.7 million was spent on the Temporary Assistance Program and the local share of that was \$1.6 million. We spent almost \$8 million in our county alone. She provided a breakdown of placements including the percent of individuals housed in different areas of the County. There has been a lot of controversy as some municipalities feel they are getting them all, but the placements are pretty evenly divided. Ms. Muller stated philosophically, she understands the dangers of people being homeless during inclement weather; but imposing these regulations is creating a pocket of people that know the system and know that when Code Blue starts they can call. It is creating a whole new population of individuals that are coming through the doors. Mr. Wheeler commented the State was responding to the homeless crisis in New York City. This is similar to bail reform; they applied this to the entire State without recognition of the unintended costs of these things.

Mr. Kuhl asked in Code Blue, for those people who are using this program, are there any barriers they have that are keeping them from being processed through the other programs we have in place? Ms. Muller stated the biggest proportion of those individuals accessing Code Blue drop off the same day and then don't come back until the next Code Blue is issued. There are people that really need the shelter, but there is a population of individuals that do abuse this. We are serving a very needy population. She stated 31 percent of the population is now on Medicaid and that number used to be 20 percent. Approximately 60 percent of the population are on SNAP. Mr. Wheeler commented with the BILT Unit, they are specifically working to transition individuals to self-sustainability and gainful employment. It is tougher to engage the Code Blue population. The department has had many successes. The entire State is seeing this and there are a mix of things contributing to this including housing and the economy.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked when we place people out of County and we transport them, do these people then have to check in every day? If so, how do they get back? Ms. Muller replied we will look at the situation. We will sometimes voucher them for more than one night. We do transport them back if we need to. Mr. Wheeler commented access to public transportation is a key factor when we look at housing options. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated with the handout showing the percent of costs; Bath is 36 percent with a placement rate of 49 percent. Mr. Van Etten stated there was a higher percentage placed in Bath, but at a lower cost. Ms. Muller stated correct. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated there are more placements in Bath as it easier to do the check-ins. Do we have a way for people in Corning and Hornell to do their check-ins without coming back to Bath? I know there was a push over the years to centralize. Does that still continue to be the best option? She stated I know you have presented us with the numbers, but it seems like are so many more people out there. I see more people walking the streets at night with suitcases. I understand the State regulates this, but it is frustrating as we spend millions of dollars on problems that never seem to get better. I have to say out loud that we are begging and pleading and we are not

solving the problems. She stated I appreciate your job and what you do and I have told you that. Mr. Van Caesele stated we have the programs in place for people to better themselves, but we cannot force them to.

Ms. Muller stated in response to location and being centralized, things are much more efficient as bus tokens and bus routes are available at the centers where we are housing individuals. If we tried to expand, that would increase the costs. Mr. Wheeler stated when they are dealing with cases with children, they are going to be housed in the area where they are attending school. You can see the percent change with some of the Corning properties that have become available. It is good to have a mix throughout the area. This is a push and pull among all the communities. Mr. Wheeler commented we do have so many success stories where individuals are engaging to the level that we want. We have a few County employees that are some of those success stories. Also at some point, we want to highlight on the successes as well.

Ms. Muller stated in her handout she also included a breakdown of 2022 by quarter in terms of costs and number of bed nights. Additionally, she has provided information on the SNAP Program (Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program). The benefits that came about as a result of COVID ended yesterday, February 28th. She stated the Food Bank of the Southern Tier sent out their 2022 annual report. They saw an increase for services of 68 percent for the entire region and there are concerns about what the loss of the supplemental SNAP benefits will do.

Mr. Van Etten stated we recently attended a meeting in Corning and Ms. Muller did a very good job. We cannot be selective in who we provide services to. We have to serve everyone. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated agreed. I think in most people's hearts we don't want homeless people. Everyone deserves a meal and a roof over their head, however, there is a point in time when we have to recognize the program and work together on it. She stated she has significant concerns about the food benefit. It might be good for a Chairman's Meeting to have the Food Bank come in and explain the process. She stated she is being told that when people go to the food bank that they have to take what they are given without having a choice. What percentage of that goes into the garbage? I don't understand the logic and we need to understand that process more as well. Mrs. Ferratella stated her understanding is that some food pantries will allow them to take what they will use while others will give individuals what they have.

E. Community Services

1. **Steuben County Opioid Committee Request for Opioid Settlement Funds** – Ms. Lewis introduced Connie Terry and Brandon Beuter from the Steuben County Opioid Committee. Ms. Terry stated we have 32 members on the committee from all over the County. They are tireless and are committed to attacking the opioid epidemic in the County.

Ms. Terry stated the main goal of their proposal is to expand their current programs into the more rural areas of the County that are not currently being served due to limited funding. We also would like to grow several successful projects that were initiated during the past two years. We want to engage in prevention and harm reduction and educate people about the opioid crisis everywhere. Our group analyzes a lot of data and we follow OD mapping. There have been 46 overdoses since January 1, 2023. The national opioid database shows that our rate in Steuben County is higher than average for overdoses and that was a little shocking.

Ms. Terry requested a total of \$23,133 in opioid settlement funds to purchase the following:

Updated Curricula – evidence based curriculums that include workbooks, activities and support for instructors in the event trainings are needed.

Educational Media Projects – purchase six media billboards; three of which to be placed along I-86

Narcan Wall Units - purchase of 50 emergency wall units. NYSDOH provides the Narcan at no cost, so we will provide the Narcan for the units as long as that continues. The Sheriff's Office has one unit and Bath Dental and Dansville Dental each have a unit in their lobbies and will train their staff.

Medication Disposal Packets - purchase 1,000 packets. Biggest challenge is to teach people how to dispose of unused/unwanted drugs responsibly and safely. Mr. Beuter stated they have partnered with end-of-life facilities; if loved ones pass, the families are responsible for disposing of the medications. The majority of adolescents are introduced to opioids in their own medicine cabinets. We are trying to tackle the problem from all areas.

Medication Lock Boxes - purchase 34

Pill Bottle Locks - purchase 200

Beverage Coasters - purchase 3,000 with opioid specific messaging. Ms. Terry commented six out of every ten pills that are purchased on the internet contain Fentanyl and binders. We would like to have area bars in Corning and Bath hand these coasters out during the holiday season between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Fentanyl Test Strips - purchase 6,000. These strips will be provided to law enforcement if they need them. Mr. Beuter stated with the beverage coasters we want to educate people that Fentanyl is in everything and this is something that touches all communities in the County. The test strips will allow people who are using illicit substances to know they are possibly ingesting a lethal dose of Fentanyl. These strips will also be useful for Law Enforcement in different situations to test substances for their own personal safety.

Ms. Banik commented this additional funding will help with the expansion of what the County funds and help us to continue those programs. This is critical because the Drug Free Communities grant does not allow us to attack the opioid epidemic. We are seeing an increase in youth opioid use. In 2021, 1 percent of 10th and 12th graders and .1 percent of 8th graders were self-reporting use. They are also reporting that the medication is coming from family and friends homes. Additionally, they are also reporting that prior to athletic events they are taking pills before games so they don't feel an injury if it occurs. In Steuben County, 1 percent of 12 graders are using as compared to the national average which is .03 percent.

Mr. Kuhl commented you show in your budget \$0 for training. There needs to be more budgeted in training for you as you prepare for these programs. I support these programs and want to make sure you have them and the money to cover the costs to support these expansions. Ms. Banik stated we will have funds after 2024. We are in year nine of the Drug Free Communities Grant and that funding will go away after 2024. They provide training at no cost and this year we had \$187,500 in in-kind service. When we do the trainings at no cost it helps with our current grant funding.

Mr. Kuhl stated in your budget you have \$0 budgeted for public awareness/donations. Would you be interested in supporting your new efforts with community education/awareness with additional funding with the Opioid Settlement Funds? Ms. Terry commented we can move money in our budget around to different areas. With the billboards, we can take that out of our advertising line. Ms. Banik stated the money they are requesting is specifically for the Opioid Committee, not the Steuben Prevention Coalition. Ms. Terry commented she was trying to be conservative.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked how accessible is the Narcan in the emergency unit? Ms. Terry replied you just have to open the box. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented the overdose numbers just scratch the surface. She asked can we track the number of Narcan doses brought in to the County by any agency? Mr. Wheeler stated he would like to say yes, but would need to work with Public Health and the NYS Department of Health. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented that might provide a more accurate description. She stated her thought with having the Narcan boxes on the street corner; if you see someone having a problem and you go to get Narcan and the box is empty. I feel you need to be more aggressive. Mr. Beuter stated the Narcan units are being put in monitored locations; they are within eyesight of someone. They will monitor the units and make sure they are filled. Ms. Terry stated she and Mrs.

Smith have talked about giving Public Health the monthly totals out of each box at each location. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated she would also like them to track what they receive in.

Ms. Terry stated all SUNY campuses must have Narcan available. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked why are there so many units at Corning Community College when they are not having overdoses? It seems like a poor use of a resource and not a logical place to put them. Mr. Beuter commented it is an opportunity for people in need to have ease of access for immediate use. This is a do no harm substance. This is similar to having AED's in numerous locations.

Mr. Van Etten stated all of these requests are very reasonable and he would like to see money being spent on educating children before they get into these substances. We also need to educate adults to be more responsible.

MOTION: ALLOCATING \$25,000 IN NYS OASAS OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO THE STEUBEN OPIOID COMMITTEE FOR EXPANDED PROGRAMING MADE BY MRS. FERRATELLA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Opioid Settlement Funding** – Ms. Lewis requested authorization to accept Opioid Settlement Funds from NYS OASAS in the amount of \$585,268.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ACCEPT NYS OASAS OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$585,268 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. KUHL.

Mr. Malter asked will these funds come in all at once? Mr. Wheeler replied this will be received in the State Fiscal Year 2023. This is separate from the Opioid Settlement Funds that the County has already received. This is regional abatement funding that the State, under the settlement, is required to distribute under official programs developed by OASAS. This will be a yearly allocation moving forward and we would expect about \$100,000 annually. Mr. Malter asked what is the timing to spend these funds? Mr. Wheeler replied the County has to develop a draft plan by March 14th. We anticipate the ability to extend the spending of funds. Mr. Malter commented Erie County has a program for the distribution of Narcan. He asked can we get a report of how they determine the success of that program? Mr. Wheeler replied we can work with them.

MOTION: ACCEPTING NYS OASAS OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$585,268 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. KUHL. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. Resolution Required.

F. Personnel

1. **Reclassification – Public Health** – Mr. Alderman requested authorization to reclassify a vacant Senior Clerk position, CSEA Grade D to a Senior Typist, CSEA Grade F.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF A VACANT SENIOR CLERK POSITION, CSEA GRADE D TO A SENIOR TYPIST, CSEA GRADE F IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES MADE BY MR. KUHL. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Reclassification – Public Health** – Mr. Alderman requested authorization to reclassify a vacant Principal Clerk position, CSEA Grade H to a Senior Typist, CSEA Grade F.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF A VACANT PRINCIPAL CLERK POSITION, CSEA GRADE H TO A SENIOR TYPIST, GRADE F IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. KUHL. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

G. County Manager

1. **Professional Recruitment Services** – Mr. Wheeler stated as you all know, Dr. Chapman is retiring and we have a pretty protracted timeframe for recruitment and replacement. He stated he is looking for professional assistance from a recruiting service to help identify and vet candidates. We will still conduct the interviews. He stated that he worked with Ms. Prossick and Mr. Morse on procurement and obtained four quotes for professional recruitment services. He is recommending Pracademic Partners, which is owned and operated by Ian Coyle, who is the Livingston County Administrator. He has done a number of senior level municipal recruitments throughout New York State as well as Virginia. Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to enter into a contract with Pracademic Partners for \$15,000 and to transfer \$15,000 from the Contingent Fund to pay for this.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PRACADEMIC PARTNERS FOR PROFESSIONAL RECRUITING SERVICES RELATIVE TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$15,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$15,000 FROM THE CONTINGENT FUND TO THE COUNTY MANAGER'S 2023 BUDGET TO PAY FOR SAID CONTRACT MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELE. SECONDED BY MR. KUHL.

Mr. Van Etten commented this position is critical enough and so unique that using a professional recruiter is the right way to go.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. Resolution Required.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. *2023 Goals* – Mrs. Ferratella asked Mr. Kuhl to explain his goal for a pilot program with a company for mental health and addiction. Mr. Kuhl stated there is a company that is developing a relatively new program to track mental health and addiction. They incorporate a small watch to use biometric data to notify an individual support or health caregiver if something is happening. It also notifies the user if they need assistance based on data. This can help with intervention so that the user can stave off a bigger event. His proposal is that we look at doing a pilot program with this company. He stated that he and Dr. Chapman met with the company and Dr. Chapman was supportive of this as well. The company is currently serving 2,000 people right now. He would suggest a pilot program of 10. This would require a certain type of individual to agree to wear this and have that technology available to them. The results we learned about are potentially life-saving and this is something that could be incorporated into the structure we already have in place. This is an opportunity to see if adding technology could potentially complement what is being done. Another benefit is that because we are such a large County, it is not always easy for a person to seek treatment right away. This will help them get a caregiver or another support when they need it. He stated he would like to look at the process for issuing an RFP as there may be other companies out there. This is something that we could use some of the Opioid Settlement Funds on.

Mrs. Ferratella stated we learned through communications from a couple of researchers, there is a program that is associated with NYSAC, that really is focused on policy and child and family issues under mental health. This is another suggestion to look at this as we look at our 2023 goals.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELE. SECONDED BY MR. KUHL. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Amanda L. Chapman, Deputy Clerk, Steuben County Legislature

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR****

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office

NO LATER THAN NOON

Wednesday, March 29, 2023