

STEUBEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.

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

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE:	Carol A. Ferratella, Chair Paul E. Van Caesele	K. Michael Hanna, Vice Chair	Aaron I. Mullen
STAFF:	Jack K. Wheeler Brenda Scotchmer Patty Baroody Gary Smith Tammy Hurd-Harvey	Christopher Brewer Lynn Lewis Lise Reynolds Darlene Smith Nate Alderman	Jennifer Prossick Aura Lee Jefferds Jennifer Galvan Bill Caudill
LEGISLATORS:	Scott J. Van Etten Hilda T. Lando Nicholas D. Pelham	Kelly H. Fitzpatrick Wendy Lozo Frederick G. Potter	Jeffrey P. Horton John V. Malter
ABSENT:	James Kuhl		
OTHERS:	Mary Perham Elisa Tobia		

Secretary's Note: James Kuhl attended via Zoom, however, not under the Extraordinary Circumstances exemption.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2023, MEETING MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

III. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Community Services

1. **RFP – Veterans Peer-to-Peer Support Program** – Ms. Lewis stated they received State funding to provide veteran peer services. They issued an RFP and received one proposal from Veterans One-Stop Center of Western New York, which is an agency with a lot of experience. The Peer-to-Peer Support Program will provide social activities and community services to ease the transition from the military to civilian life. They will hire a full-time peer with a vehicle and they will be located at the Veterans Service Agency. This individual will engage with the community and we will link the peer to a veteran and link the veteran with any services needed. Veterans One-Stop Center of Western New York provides this service in Erie, Niagara, Livingston and Yates counties and also assists Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties.

Ms. Lewis recommended awarding the RFP to Veterans One-Stop Center of Western New York. This will be a one-year contract for \$100,000 with an option for renewals, contingent upon receiving State funding. Mr. Wheeler commented this program is grant funded and having the option to renew is good. This funding seems as though it will remain active in future budgets.

Mr. Hanna asked will this individual go into the Jail to meet with veterans? Mr. Smith replied this program can be tailored to fit our needs and the State did not give us any specific guidelines. We can develop the program the way we need to. If our big need is to go into the Jail, we can do that. Our main goal is not to put them in a clinical setting.

Mrs. Lando asked is the \$100,000 for the individual and the vehicle? Ms. Lewis replied the funding includes the full-time position, vehicle, equipment, travel expenses, etc. Mrs. Lando asked will there be referrals to other organizations? Mr. Smith replied yes.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I am the fiduciary for several local veterans and a lot of times any that need help definitely slip through the cracks. The services are desperately needed and it is nice to have someone they view as a peer to call them to help.

Mr. Mullen asked for more details including when the contract will start and what the plan for the program is. Mr. Smith stated pending approval, we will enter into the contract and hire the individual. They would like to hire a veteran or someone well-versed with the veteran community. Mr. Mullen commented I am in support of the general idea. Is there a document that explains how this will work? Mr. Wheeler explained this will need to go to the Full Board and we can send you the actual proposal. They would hire the individual with input from Mr. Smith and Ms. Lewis. This will be a contract employee that will meet with veterans where they are at. Ms. Lewis explained once they hire a peer, that individual will engage with the local community and agencies to determine where the need is and get referrals to connect with veterans.

Mr. Mullen asked could you also give an example of what this program looks like in the other counties? Mr. Smith stated last year when the State funded each county, they started at \$100,000 and larger counties such as Erie and Suffolk received more. Mr. Wheeler stated the grant is population based. Counties our size are getting \$100,000 and the more populous counties are getting more funds.

MOTION: AWARDING THE RFP FOR THE VETERAN PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM TO THE SOLE BIDDER, VETERANS ONE-STOP CENTER OF WESTERN NEW YORK AND AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR \$100,000 TO PROVIDE THIS PROGRAM MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE.

Mr. Hanna asked will this peer report to you? Mr. Smith replied yes, they will be under our oversight. Mr. Malter asked do you have any projections as to the number of veterans you will serve under this program? Mr. Smith replied I don't know at this time. From what I have heard from Livingston and Yates, they started their program six months ago and see about 30 veterans at their events.

Mr. Mullen commented he will vote against this at this time because he does not understand the program well enough.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: MOTION CARRIES 3-1 (MR. MULLEN OPPOSED), Resolution Required.

B. Public Health

1. **Preschool Contract** – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to enter into a preschool contract with April McGonigal, Speech-Language Pathologist at a rate of \$70.00 per session and \$35.00 per group session.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A PRESCHOOL CONTRACT WITH APRIL MCGONIGAL, SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AT A RATE OF \$70.00 PER SESSION AND \$35.00 PER GROUP SESSION MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

C. County Manager

1. **Opioid Settlement Funds** – Mr. Wheeler stated this is a discussion point for you to ponder and he is not necessarily requesting action today. We have already received \$500,000 - \$600,000 in direct settlement funds. Last month the Legislature accepted the State portion that was allocated to counties and that was another \$600,000 for 2023. To structure a work plan for these additional funds, he would recommend staff, with your direction, develop an RFP to put out for services providers/agencies to provide proposals to address the opioid crisis.

Mr. Wheeler stated with this funding there are generally three main buckets for allowable expenses; prevention, treatment and recovery. We would like to be able, at some point, to issue an RFP and get responses and then allow you the opportunity to consider which programs you would like to fund. The way that is has been done, in my opinion, was not bad or wrong, but our funding at that point was coming in pieces. Now we have a better idea of the funding we are getting and having an RFP would be a better way to go.

Mrs. Lando asked isn't that putting the cart before the horse? We don't know what we want, what we need, or what we should be doing. Could we do a plan of some sort? We have a lot of money coming in and you are just asking people to provide ideas. Mr. Wheeler stated what you could also do is have a special meeting of this committee and invite service providers and stakeholders to provide feedback on the gaps. There are areas where having additional information would be beneficial. With an RFP you would get a good sense of that as well. The providers would be submitting proposals to fill in the gaps. We could certainly do that and we have heard some of that from Dr. Chapman, Ms. Lewis, CASA-Trinity and some of the other providers.

Mrs. Lando stated law enforcement, Public Health and a number of others are involved in this. I don't know what the situation is, but I can guess. Mr. Mullen commented it makes sense for us to be planning, but we should also hear from people with other ideas. We might be missing out on the creativity of others. Mrs. Lando stated that's not a bad idea, but we need to do some work first. Mr. Van Etten commented it is like the EMS work and it might be good to have a study done to look at what services are out there now, look at the problems and come up with a suggestion list of solutions to address those problems.

Mr. Wheeler stated we do have the Community Services Board which has subcommittees and they have a lot of these discussions. There are a number of folks with lived experience that are part of those committees, along with the partner agencies. You could get a tremendous amount of feedback from that, rather than looking for a consultant.

Mr. Van Etten asked Mr. Wheeler what were you thinking as far as an RFP? Mr. Wheeler asked what information would you like heading into that? Having the RFP broadly structured is the key. You have to have your priority areas where you want to invest in. Prevention, treatment and recovery would be the priority areas that you would want to evaluate. The Community Services Board is an advisory board and if you do an RFP you could have them review it as well as rank their priorities.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated first, I believe that we know there is a problem. I don't think we understand or have enough information to understand the full extent of the problem. Having the expert at the meeting last month, they understand their demographic. We have no idea in our County what our demographic is. We have taken \$500,000 - \$600,000 and appropriated that and are not hearing back if that is helping the problem in the County. I agree with Mrs. Lando and we need to identify the problem we are trying to solve. We need to say this is the problem you need to solve and identify the age groups.

Mr. Wheeler stated based on the feedback, he can work with Ms. Lewis to structure some feedback from the Community Services Board first to give you an idea of what they see as the biggest gaps and opportunities for investment. Then we can come back to you and determine if there is anyone else you would like to attend to provide feedback.

Mr. Malter asked are there any time restrictions for spending these funds? Mr. Wheeler replied yes. We are more concerned about the State funding. With our local funding, we have already made investments. With the State funding, they gave us two weeks to develop a draft plan and we submitted that as a placeholder. I would say if you were in a position to make an award within the next three months that would probably be fine.

Mr. Malter asked if you send out an RFP, would that speed up the process? Mr. Wheeler replied it would, but it is a good point for you having baseline information. Mr. Malter asked if we had the RFP could we award based on funding? Mr. Wheeler replied you could do them jointly or in concurrence. Mrs. Lando stated we know what services are out there. What do we do with it and how do we manage it? Mr. Malter commented they need to know the dollar amount allocated to them. Mrs. Lando stated we need to know more information.

Mr. Wheeler suggested that they work with Ms. Lewis and the Community Services Board to get their feedback for next month's meeting. We could ask the Community Services Board Chair, Cora Saxton, to attend. Then you could discuss what other stakeholders you would want to hear from. Mr. Horton stated he agrees with Mrs. Lando and Ms. Fitzpatrick as far as law enforcement. When you are talking about agencies and stakeholders, you have the Hornell, Bath and Corning Police Departments, the Sheriff's Office, AMR, Hornell Ambulance. They can tell you how many overdoses and what they are seeing. These are the agencies that are on the ground and seeing it every day.

Secretary's Note: The committee was in agreement to work with the Community Services Board to obtain additional information and to discuss at the June meeting.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. *Veterans Services* – Mr. Mullen stated he just looked at the email information that Mr. Smith sent about the Veterans Peer-to-Peer Support Program and it talks about what the program looks like and what the grant funds can do. He asked for the Legislative Meeting to have more specific information for the County and he would like to see what other counties have done; he would like to see examples. Mr. Wheeler stated we will email out the RFP and responses received.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS' LAW, ARTICLE 7§ 105.1.F. THE MEDICAL, FINANCIAL, CREDIT OR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION, OR MATTERS LEADING TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL OR REMOVAL OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELEE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELEE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

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

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, May 31, 2023**