

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Hubbard Auditorium, Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 8:30 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator {arrived 8:37 AM}
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
Mr. Jake Brown	Legislator {arrived 8:34 AM}
Mr. Ray Bunce	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:	Mr. Jackson Bailey	County Administrator
	Ms. Elizabeth Myers	Deputy Commissioner (DSS)
	Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk
	Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Chair of Legislature
	Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial

- Mr. Chris Korba noted that the 2024 budget report indicates a return of local share at \$237,000. There are additional expenses that have not yet been encumbered, such as Court Ordered Criminal Care. . There is also some 2024 Fee for Service Revenue that has yet to be collected and will go back to 2024. The main reason for the return is due to salary savings in vacancies, and strong Fee for Service Revenue.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – Invoices for Criminal Psych are expected.

3. New Business

- Remote Work Usage – 4th Quarter of 2024 – There were 13 people that worked remote from October – December.
- Waverly Office – The office is very nice and came in under budget. Legislator Mullen gave credit to Legislator Dale Weston who was the driving force for many years advocating for that office. Legislator Mullen also thanked Lori, Chris & Marte for their work on planning & implementation of the office. Lori & Chris thanked everyone involved in the Waverly office.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the December 3, 2024 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Brown. Seconded by Legislator Mullen. Motion Carried.

4. Personnel

- Catherine Healy, Clinical Program Director, resigned on 1/3/25. There is a resolution to promote Danielle Fabregas to this position.
- Jessica Murphy, Sr. CSW, not retained as of 1/9/25
- Kari Smith, Sr. CSW, Spencer Van Etten Middle School, starting 1/27/25
- Newark Valley school contract changed to Full-Time from Part-Time, and they will be paying \$25,000 instead of \$5,000.
- The clinic has been extremely busy.

5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

- Re-Establish Prior Year 2024 Capital Equipment Funds and Amend 2025 Budget
- Authorize Appointment of Clinical Program Director.

6. Proclamations

- None

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial

- Mr. Denis McCann reported that the 2024 budget Munis report currently shows Public Health 8% over in local share. However, there are still large revenues coming including the 4th quarters State Aid and grant claims. Will still receive Fee revenue into February & March. He noted that fee revenues have been strong and that State Aid reimbursements are higher than they have ever been. He expects to have a return to the local share.

2. Old Business

- Strategic Plan Quarterly Update – 16 out of 24 goals have been completed. Goal on Partnerships is totally completed. They are now able to accept on-line payments for most programs and are making all forms accessible on-line.
- Remote Work – PH has 22 employees eligible to work remote but only about 12-13 work remote regularly. Only some work two days. It continues to be going well and is managed through an internal process.

3. New Business

- Agency Report for December 2024 forwarded to committee. Ms. Vroman shared that their PH nurse has been busy following up with schools & providers on Pertussis cases in the county. It is now considered an outbreak in Tioga County. Pertussis has increased nationwide.
- The Appalachian Regional Commission did conduct an evaluation visit for the mobile dental van. A case study to highlight the success of the dental program will be done.

4. Personnel
 - None
5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
 - Recognition of Albert Knapp's 18 Years of Dedicated Service to Tioga County Public Health
 - Authorize Salary Reallocation Within CSEA Salary Schedule for Public Health Technician
 - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds, Public Health Infrastructure Grant
 - Amend Employee Handbook: Section IV. Personnel Rules; Subsection j. Management/Confidential Benefits; Paragraph II.A. Leave Accruals, Vacation (Part-Time Dentist to receive 5 days of Personal Time)
6. Proclamations
 - None

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial
 - Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that Foster Care continues to run over budget. However, there is Admin savings from payroll. Safety Net and rest of program lines are on target or below. It is too soon for return projections.
 - There was discussion on the reasons Foster Care is over budget. Most cases are from substance abuse in the home. There were 2 recent Juvenile Delinquent placements. One will be a high-cost placement. The Foster Care line in the 2025 budget was increased.
2. Old Business
 - Strategic Plan Update – The items in progress are still being worked on.
 - Remote Work Update – There are 19 employees approved for remote work. Most are in the Children's Service area and a lot are 1 day a week. Several in Mickelle's unit are 2 days a week.
3. New Business
 - Caseloads – See Caseload Summary
During December, Cash Assistance increased 9 cases, with Family Assistance remaining flat and Safety Net increasing 9 cases.
MA-Only increased 16 cases.
MA-SSI decreased 3 cases.
Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 27 to 3,379
SNAP increased 31 cases.
Day Care remained flat
 - Tioga Career Center report is attached. Unemployment rates continue to remain below the State & Federal levels but did tick up slightly in December due to seasonal jobs ending as expected.

- Homeless discussion. The OMH SOS plan covers 3 counties. They have been successful with getting several homeless individuals into rehab. They also provide warm meals several times a week. DSS has added 2 new positions to assist with outreach working with the homeless population. Commissioner Yetter is also working with Economic Development on affordable housing in the County.
4. Personnel Changes
- Cassandra Forrest, Office Specialist II, hired effective 12/2/24
 - Katrina Blinn promoted to Social Services Employment Specialist effective 12/2/24
 - Angela Rodriguez, Social Welfare Examiner, hired effective 12/16/24
 - Jeniene Rathke-Berube, Accounting Associate III, hired effective 12/30/24
5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
- Amend Resolution 437-24 Authorization to Sign Contract (Rate Change)
 - Execute Lease Extension with C&M Real Estate Holdings, LLC for CAC
6. Proclamations
- None

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 8:57 AM.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to enter an Executive Session with Mental Hygiene to discuss a Personnel matter at 8:58 AM. Legislator Mullen motioned, seconded by Legislator Monell to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:04 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services