

Health & Human Services Committee

April 26, 2016

Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair John Peck, Legislators Michael Docteur, Allen Drake, Robert Ferris, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Anthony Doldo and Chairman of the Board Scott Gray

Others Present: Legislators William Johnson, Michael Montigelli, and Daniel McBride, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, County Attorney David Paulsen, Office for Aging and Veterans Service Agency Director Peter Fazio, Mental Health Coordinator Tim Reutten, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Brian Molongoski, 7 News Reporter Mae Roberts, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Peck called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to speak.

Public Health Director Ginger Hall advised that the Public Health Preventive Services Team had been nominated and chosen to receive the Public Health Works! Honor Roll Award. This award is annually given by the Commissioner of the New York State Health Department to recognize individuals or teams of individuals in local health departments for the vital work being accomplished to improve public health. Chairman Peck presented awards to the following Preventive Services Team members: Lisa Bast, Jessica O'Hara, Jeffrey Leiendecker, Patricia Barton, Deborah Foisy, Cathleen Biggs, Debra Siver and Faith Lustik (who was not in attendance).

The Committee approved the minutes of the March meeting, as written.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution amending the 2016 County Budget for Office for the Aging relative to the Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Doldo and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution amending the 2016 County Budget for Community Services relative to Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution authorizing agreement with the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization for telehealth services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Fitzpatrick and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution authorizing amended agreement with Allscripts for the purchase of an interface between Allscripts and HealtheConnections and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislator Doldo and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution authorizing agreements with emergency medical services (EMS) agencies relative to Jefferson County Public Health Service and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Fitzpatrick. Legislator Nabywaniec arrived at the meeting.

There was considerable discussion concerning parameters and protocols of the program, and the role of the pilot EMS agency and other EMS agencies in the County. Ms. Hall advised that the actual practice of EMS agencies visiting Public Health clients has been discussed for some time, however there was no funding available until now. Ms. Hall said the EMS agency would visit the Public Health patient on days when Public Health was not scheduled to be there and if needed, would report issues to Public Health so they can make an extra visit in order to avoid an emergency room visit or a hospitalization. Patients with pulmonary function issues (COPD), congestive heart failure, pneumonia, and diabetes would be targeted. Also, if needed, an ambulance would be called for transport to the hospital.

Ms. Hall said the pilot EMS agency (TIERS) only has a Certificate of Need (CON) for the towns of Clayton and Orleans, however there may not be enough clients in those two towns to fill the approximate 30 patient program. To that end, Ms. Hall will meet with Lee Burns Director of the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems, New York State Department of Health in Albany to see if it is possible for TIERS to go outside of their CON only with regard to their duties as an extension of Public Health. During the Ebola outbreak when a Public Health nurse was needed at the border to take temperatures, TIERS had permission to go outside their CON to provide this service only as an extension of Public Health, so they are hoping that will be the case with the pilot program also. All other EMS agencies were notified at that time that TIERS was performing this service as an extension of Public Health.

For the pilot program TIERS will use a "fly car" or an everyday vehicle that has the agency clearly marked on it to visit patients, they will not be in an ambulance. If TIERS finds a patient in distress who is outside their CON, they will call whatever agency has the CON for that area to respond. Legislator Nabywaniec pointed out that Guilfoyle has a CON for the whole County and wondered why they were not being used. Ms. Hall said she was only made aware that two agencies applied for the DSRIP funding for this program and Guilfoyle was not one of them; Public Health was not involved in soliciting EMS agencies to apply for the DSRIP funding, the FDRHPO did that outreach, the funds are administered directly to the agency and do not go through the County, and it is a set rate program.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the most important point is that the pilot program will be beneficial to the patient and to Public Health in terms of the home health care program, and agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

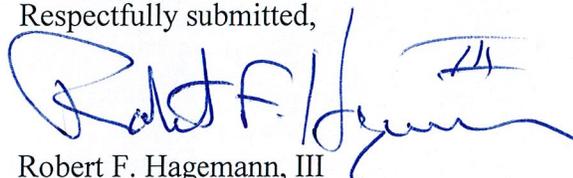
Chairman Peck introduced a resolution authorizing agreement with the Lewis County Public Health Agency for cancer services program outreach and education services in Jefferson County and amending the 2016 County Budget in relation thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Fitzpatrick and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Administrator Hagemann reminded Committee members that for the months of June and July the parking lot at the Department of Social Services will be undergoing renovations so alternatives for parking and entering the building have been identified.

Chairman Peck reported that April 30, 2016 is Prescription Drug Drop Off Day at many area pharmacies, and reminded Committee members that outdated or no longer used prescriptions can be dropped off in the lobby area of the Public Safety Building every day during lobby hours.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Docteur and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "H".

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board