

Health & Human Services Committee

March 28, 2023

Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Anthony Doldo, Legislators Allen Drake, John Peck, Jeremiah Maxon, Frances Calarco, Steel Potter, Corey Grant and Board Chair William Johnson

Others Present: Legislators Robert Cantwell, Philip Reed, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, and Robert Ferris, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Office for the Aging Interim Director Louise Haraczka, Community Services Director Tim Ruetten, Public Health Service Deputy Director Steve Jennings, DSS Commissioner Teresa Gaffney, Veterans Service Agency Director David Pavey, Real Property Tax Services Director Roxanne Burns, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Doldo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor however no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the February meeting, as written.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending a Resolution and Authorizing an Agreement for Provision of Services to Elderly of Jefferson County and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements for the Provision of Services to Combat the Negative Impacts of Opiate Use and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck and seconded by Legislator Calarco. Mr. Hagemann stated that this is the beginning of the opioid settlement money coming into the County and cautioned that the amount will differ between companies due to the nature of the settlements being over different periods of time. Tim Ruetten explained that it is impossible to plan effectively, and it isn't practical to start programming, because these are not sustained funds. Working with the licensed providers in the community already doing this work, he said there were a few meetings on how best to apply the money that would be meaningful and make an impact long term. He briefly outline each of the initiatives in the resolution:

- Samaritan Medical Center (\$430,000) for an expansion that will bring the Emergency Department's behavioral health wing to a total of 12 locked beds (4 padded and 8 regular) and to start a program where Emergency Room physicians can use Medication Assisted Therapies for Opioid Use Disorder patients until they can get into an opioid treatment program or SMC addiction services;
- Transitional Living Services (\$325,000) for 2-4 staff members over a 2 year period at the Pine Street facility to make sure the 18 bed Single Room Occupancy program is fully staffed and is a success as that will provide long term help to

- alleviate/reduce the homelessness issue in Jefferson County; and Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (\$5,000) as the fiduciary of the Jefferson County Suicide Prevention Coalition who will use the funds for marketing and swag to be handed out at conferences, fairs, etc.

Mr. Hagemann added that these funds have to be used for specific purposes as outlined in the settlement and more information will be forthcoming next month about future funding to be allocated by the County, and by the Community Services Board. Mr. Ruetten answered questions of legislators, and there being no further discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2023 County Budget to Accept Funding for Veterans Peer Support (P2P) Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2023 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements with NYS Department of Education Approved Agencies for the Provision of Special Education Services for Preschool Children with Disabilities and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements and Establishing Rates for Provision of Related Services in Connection with the Program for Preschool Children with Disabilities and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting Climate and Health Adaptation Funding, Authorizing Agreement and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck and seconded by Legislator Grant. In answer to questions Mr. Jennings advised that they are putting together educational materials relative to Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in order to reach out to people who recreate in the Perch Lake area where EEE was found, as well as for the Amish in that area. He said they have gone door to door in the past to educate the Amish and will again if they have to. There was one confirmed EEE case last year, and one in 2020. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

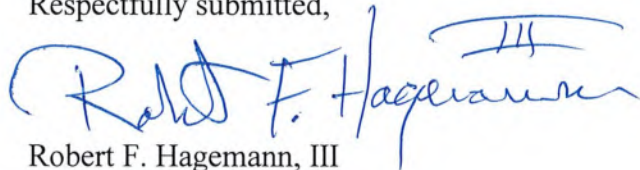
Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting Strengthening U.S. Public Health Workforce Funding and Authorizing Agreement in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting Funding for Community Medicine and Paramedicine Programs and Authorizing Agreement in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Mr. Hagemann advised that the last resolution on the agenda was being pulled as more information was being put together, and it will be brought forward next month.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Calarco and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a distinct "III" at the end.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board