

Minutes

Human Services Committee

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 5:15 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Tarbrake, Lemon, Whitford, Wilfong

Member Absent: Rankin

Others: Tampio, Himelein, Chagnon, Gustafson, C. Lis, Schuyler, Crow, Dennison, Porpiglia, D. Swanson

Chairman Tarbrake called the meeting to order at 5:23 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (2/15/17)

MOVED by Legislator Whitford, SECONDED by Legislator Lemon.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time.

Local Law Intro. 3-17 – A Local Law Amending Local Law 7-90 Providing for a Management Salary Plan for County Officers and Employees (Re: Physician)

Mr. Porpiglia: We are asking for a salary setting on the management plan for the position of physician. The Department of Mental Hygiene services have an opportunity to hire a physician that would fulfill their Medical Director status or position. They currently operate under a waiver from the State and I'm looking at Kathy for support here but I just want to set the table on how it came about. When it came to our attention, our salary range for physician doesn't come anywhere close to meeting the recruitment need, in this case. That range has sat there for years because there really wasn't a need. We had physician employed by the County that salary has been well below the needs. It's been on a small percentage. Right now it's at 40% in the Department of Health and Human Services so there really hasn't been a need to keep up with the market. Now we have that need to address program in Mental Hygiene. So we do ask for your consideration and the range that we are asking for is to take it from the \$50,902 minimum to \$101,803 maximum, to \$90,000 minimum to \$205,000 maximum. We feel as though we've looked at the market and we think that this is an appropriate salary to meet the needs of the department. I know that either Kathy or Director Brinkman has had conversation with the

potential recruit in this case and we can satisfy the recruitment need if this range is approved. I don't know Kathy, if there is anything else, if you want me to get into the program.

Ms. Swanson: The position is for (*inaudible*) piece of it and with all the new drugs coming out like vivitrol and suboxone, we really need to be stepping up our game to meet the needs of the community and this doctor will allow us to do that. He'll also write policies and things like that that will take effect. He is much needed. As Mr. Porpiglia said, we're on a waiver right now from OASIS because it is a required position.

Chairman Tarbrake: OASIS is the controlling body of the State right, that controls the mental health side of things for the counties?

Ms. Swanson: Yes.

Chairman Tarbrake: I just want that to be clear with everyone here.

Ms. Swanson: We did budget for it so it is in our budget.

Mr. Porpiglia: I believe it can be stated that it is a no local share cost situation. Dr. Brinkman presented that at a previous meeting. It is all service (*inaudible*), claims, cost reimbursement, so there is no cost of local share with this position.

Legislator Lemon: How long ago was it last addressed? Do you know?

Mr. Porpiglia: I can't tell you. It's been there so long, we only moved it up as you have approved the flat salary increases. I couldn't tell you for sure. It's been over 20 years, I would say. Again, there wasn't a need. The range that was there accommodated the County's needs for the physician that we hired on a small percentage basis. It was never 100%.

Chairman Tarbrake: Any other discussion or questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Amend Chautauqua County Health & Human Services 2017 Budget for Rollover of Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program 2016-2017 COLA

Ms. Lis: This is for a COLA which it sort of sounds like an additional adjustment we get every year on top of our grants. Those COLA's, they usually have a year of April 1st to March 31st. So, we budget for it and the only one that we are talking about right now is April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, which was budgeted in 2016 because that where the majority of the year falls which we have until March, 2017 to actually spend it. So that is what happened. In order to have this money in our budget to be able to be spent, we are carrying it over and also carrying over the revenue that goes with it so there is a zero budget effect. The main item being bought here is one of those hands held lead testing tools. We have one that is extremely old. So that is basically what this is for.

Legislator Lemon: Does this have to do when I had to have Brian Metler(?) come to my house and test for my grandson?

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes and the XRF gun, we call it, it's a machine that you aim it on the walls or wherever, inside or outside.

Legislator Lemon: It will be an updated one.

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes and the grant will pay for it. It's just moving the money from 2016 to 2017 so we can spend it.

Chairman Tarbrake: Any other questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Amend Chautauqua County Health & Human Services 2017 Budget for Rollover HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Funding

Ms. Lis: This is a three year grant and there is really no restriction on how much to spend in each year so we just budgeted a third in the first year. We didn't spend anywhere near that much. The group that we work with would have been CHRIC to do the work and it just didn't happen so we are not losing that money. (*Inaudible*) are ramping up so we're just carrying that over into the current year as well.

Mrs. Schuyler: We're basically a pass through. The local government needs to apply for these funding and we have worked with CHRIC for several years to implement the lead hazard abatement program so it's up to CHRIC to get this going and go out and actually do the lead abatement in the homes which they have been identified.

Legislator Whitford: At the end of the three year grant, say we're under (*inaudible*) all the time, so what happens then?

Ms. Lis: Then you would probably lose the remainder. I don't believe there is any extension for it. I could find out. I'm not sure.

Mrs. Schuyler: We have received extensions in the past. There has to be work plans and budgets submitted to the State for approval and they will be identified and abated and then they are slated to have that work done. There have been times, where whether it's been actually the weather or something else that's put the schedule behind and the State has allowed an extension in order for those housing units to be completed.

Legislator Whitford: Is it reoccurring grant then?

Mrs. Schuyler: I believe there is just one three year cycle that we have not had this grant. We have benefited from, I can get the numbers for you for sure, but I think that it is over \$10

million dollars in the time that I've served as Public Health Director that has come into the County for lead abatement. Back in 2009, the City of Jamestown, 14701 zip code, was declared a high risk for childhood lead poisoning and since that time, we've really received a great deal of support from the State to help abate those issues. The housing stock in the County is old and that means that there was a lot of lead based paint that had been used and (*inaudible*) even capsulated or new siding, new windows, then we have a lot of issues with lead poisoning and then we see the impact of that down the road in Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education program, and developmental delays. Lead poisoning is really a very silent, silent problem.

Ms. Lis: I apologize for (*inaudible*), I wasn't sure.

Mrs. Schuyler: That's o.k., you are still new with this budget but we've been working with CHRIC on this for many years in getting our application in.

Ms. Lis: My first time with the HUD one and I wasn't sure what they would do at the end. We would try and extend.

Mrs. Schuyler: They have been nice to us and let us extend in the past. We have never lost any of the grant funding before.

Chairman Tarbrake: Any other questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Amend Chautauqua County Health & Human Services 2017 Budget for Corrected Federal/State Grant Funding Percentages

Ms. Lis: These grants, it's the one for the Maternal Infant Child Healthcare?

Mrs. Schuyler: Community Health Collaborative.

Ms. Lis: And the Immunization Action Plan grants. We always treated them as 100% federally funded and I'm not sure for how long that has been. When you get grants through the State, they are supposed to tell you what programs they fall under and how much money is State and Federal. The State doesn't tend to put that in the paperwork and you have to kind of have to ask and someone never asked, I guess. So, when I was looking at this at the end of the year, because we have to report our Federal revenues especially so they can be audited properly, I called around and I got the information so we corrected last year's breakdown and we are setting up the budget so that when we do the CHRIC breakdown in 2017, it will match up.

Chairman Tarbrake: Any questions or comments?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Adjust Accounts for Jail Health Services

Mrs. Schuyler: Because we began talking at budget time about the potential to transfer the provision of jail house services from the Office of the Sheriff to the Office of the County Executive, specifically under the Public Health Division of the Health & Human Services, we have moved forward along that line and are now prepared to ask for your support in making that happen. In order to provide and of course with the New York State Commission of Corrections, the jailhouse services from 6:30 in the morning to 10:00 at night, 7 days a week, including holidays, we are asking for the transfer of the accounts that have been set up in the budget underneath the jail to be now set up under Health & Human Services. That includes staff, so any of the nursing staff, we know where to contract for the Medical Director and physician assistant service. We now have our own Nurse Practitioner and Medical Director as well as any contracts. That includes the contract for mental health services, dental services, any ancillary testing services and such that go on. All of that now will be coming under the Department of Health & Human Services in this proposal. We are requesting an updated staffing model. I truly believe that the Sheriff's office has been understaffed when it comes to being able to provide adequate medical services in the jail. So, we are asking for 4 full time nurses, 2 part time registered nurses, 2 full time Licensed Practical Nurses, 2 part time Licensed Practical Nurses and one full time health aid. In the past, the jail has budgeted for 5 full time registered nurses. So that is a change in the number of FTE's. The State Commission of Corrections in the past would not permit licensed practical nurses to be utilized at the jail because of our oversight and knowledge and appreciation of scope of practice for licensed professionals. They are willing to allow us to have licensed practical nurses, really saves us a lot on the cost because a licensed practical nurse doesn't cost nearly as much as what a registered nurse costs but needs to function under the supervision of a registered nurse. We're looking to improve the medication distribution that currently goes on with Correctional officers in the facility as well. So we are asking and you will see there, the use of the unassigned fund balance to help us implement what we feel will be a much more robust jailhouse program. I do realize - it's not very often (*inaudible*) come and asked for a lot of fund balance to ever be used for anything but I think in order for us to really truly implement the program that needs to be done, this is what is going to be required. We could very well come in under budget for this year because we don't have all of these positions filled currently so there is already a lag in being able to get up to snuff to where we need to be with staff but the State Commission of Corrections is breathing down our neck quite heavily about getting the appropriate staffing levels in place as well as the appropriation processes in place which includes medical records, filing, shredding, contracts, documentation. We have several citations that we are working diligently to address. Clerical staff support is something that never existed. So you've had registered nurses doing everything from scheduling appointments and filing and transcribing orders and everything. So really administering a health program the way it should be administered which I've said to the Sheriff, that's no - I don't mean that as a slap to the Sheriff in any way, shape, or form. They have done the best they can but I think when it comes to administering a health program, you should have a Health Care Administrator to do that. Looking at the scope of programs that Health & Human Services covers, we look not only at medical, mental health, but also the social determinants of health. Making sure people have a primary care provider when they are discharged. If they had Medicaid benefits, temporary assistance if that is needed. If they have housing, they have a job, all of - jail medical cannot be looked upon in a silo. I do truly believe that down the road we're going to be able to save money in a variety of forms throughout our community if we do a much better job of taking care of our inmates than we have. And maybe, I'm hoping to set up some alternatives to incarceration for

those people who are arrested who really have fragile medical conditions because right now, I feel that they are being inappropriately housed at the jail.

Chairman Tarbrake: What was talked about in Public Safety also was this could keep us out of some law suits that could (*inaudible*) with poor health and abuse, whatever you want to call it. So it could come back and save us money in the long run.

Mrs. Schuyler: There is a lot of risk and liability to the County. The County is responsible for the provision of the jail medical services. There is no way around it and if the State Commission of Corrections comes in and cites you and makes recommendations and they are not followed, something bad happens to an inmate, then that is all on the County. That means potentially millions of dollars in law suits. Not to mention what that does to the people impacted whether it be the inmate, their family, friends, but also the staff that is left behind knowing that they wish they could have done a better job.

Chairman Tarbrake: The nurse practitioner hasn't been employed there before?

Mrs. Schuyler: The Sheriff had contracted with a physician assistant so the physician assistant had been providing some hours. We're looking by utilizing the nurse practitioner that we have, who actually has experience as a Correctional nurse and a Public Health nurse, and now as a nurse practitioner, the continuity of care and being able to provide a more comprehensive care, if an inmate comes in as the Sheriff had spoken to earlier, they are screened at a certain level and they could be required to have a 24 hour watch, one on one until a medical evaluation can occur. If that happens right now, our nurse practitioner can go over and do that. Where that is going to save a Correctional officer having to be assigned one on one and that means overtime for the jail. I think we talked about it at budget. I realize this is a big hit to my Health & Human Services budget. There is no way around it and yes the Sheriff's budget will look better but that is not what we are about here. We are about looking at the County budget as a whole. Our responsibilities and our cost as a whole and we have to start doing a better job with that. Not looking at departments in a silo and really looking at how we can overall improve things. I think that really is – knowing that that is the goal here, I think this is going to get us in that direction.

Chairman Tarbrake: Any questions or comments? I think that we're upgrading to the modern age where if you improve an inmate's health, they could possibly shorten their time in jail and that affects the financial side of things. Housing inmates is a big deal in this County.

Mrs. Schuyler: The cost that we spend on so many other things when that inmates get out of jail whether it's Medicaid, public assistance, child welfare, mental health, OFA, all these impacted. No one is in a silo.

Chairman Tarbrake: The unassigned fund balance number is a big number but I think it will be well spent. All in favor?

Mrs. Dennison: We do have an amendment?

Clerk Tampio: It was amended in Public Safety and you do have the amended version to sign.

Chairman Tarbrake: Why don't you explain to us the amended version to people that are here.

Mrs. Dennison: The second to the last WHEREAS clause, the resolution says, should move the funds from the jail "account" to the Health Department "account" and it should read, move from the jail "department" to the new "department" under the Health Department. (*Inaudible*) budget is currently in a number of accounts.

Chairman Tarbrake: So we are voting on the amended version. All in favor of the amended version?

Unanimously Carried

Other

Chairman Tarbrake: Is there any other for Human Services? Motion to adjourn.

MOVED by Legislator Whitford, SECONDED by Legislator Lemon and duly carried the meeting was adjourned. (5:47 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Kathy K. Tampio, Clerk/ Lori J. Foster, Deputy Clerk/Secretary to the Legislature