

Minutes

Human Services Committee

September 19, 2018, 5:15 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Wilfong, Whitford, Rankin, Pavlock

Member Absent: O'Connell

Others: Tampio, Ames, Chagnon, Schuyler, Lis, Dennison, Brinkman, Anderson, A. Abdella, Wells, K.Geise

Chairman Wilfong called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (8/15/18)

MOVED by Legislator Whitford, SECONDED by Legislator Rankin

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time.

Proposed Resolution- Indemnification Agreement with Genesee County for Services Performed Under Integrity Partners for Behavioral Health IPA, Inc.

Ms. Brinkman: For those of you that were on this committee back in 2017, I came before the committee talking about the fact that six of our counties in the western part of the State had come together to form an independent practice association so that we could mobilize our resources and engage in contracts with the MCO's because bigger is better. It also ensured the future of mental health services in our rural area. Since that time, we have been joined by eight other counties. There is now fourteen of us. After we did that resolution and we proceeded to form the IPA, the State released an opportunity for those collaboratives to be funded. So, we were awarded a significant amount to develop the infrastructure to support the integrated independent practice association. However, the State chose to funnel the money through the managed care companies as a PMPM enticement. When Fidelis, which is the organization all of upstate is dealing- because there is multiple of these collaboratives all over the State, was getting ready to contract with each of us they determined that they would only contract with the lead entity, which was Genesee County. They kind of changed the rules on us in mid (*inaudible.*) This has been the case for every other IPA that was formed as a part of the response to this collaborative invitation. Genesee County, thank goodness,

was willing to step up and is willing to sign that contract with Fidelis so we could proceed to do the important work of the IPA as long as they were indemnified against any potential takebacks by the feds. Our attorneys for the IPA have said that there is very little risk if we perform as our work plan suggests. In terms of what the liability of Chautauqua County would be, it's hard to determine exactly at this point because we wouldn't know the amount of the takeback. The maximum is \$3.3 million divided by thirty plus partners, so on the high end it's about \$110,000 and on the low end about \$53,000. It's a minimal risk for the great benefit of being able to build this infrastructure that will serve individuals in our rural communities from the Pennsylvania border all the way up to 81 and down to the Finger Lakes. It is a great opportunity for us to work together and leverage our resources. All of our partners are taking this and a number of the counties have signed off on this, so we are in good company.

Chairman Wilfong: So, explain the takebacks. What does that mean?

Ms. Brinkman: It's an outside risk that the feds could come back- it's interesting because Fidelis is concerned about this, the managed care company down state is not worried about it at all. They sign contracts with the IPA's, so they would have signed with integrity partners which meant there would have been no involvement with Genesee County, but because Fidelis has determined that they wouldn't do that- there is the potential that at the worst case the feds could come back and say that the State allocated this money in the wrong way and maybe they shouldn't have done it this way. The award was \$3.3 million and if we divide that by the thirty plus partners the worst is it would be \$53,000. Those are doable figures that we could set aside in the event that this would be to happen.

Legislator Rankin: So, it would be set aside? Just as a safety precaution? This hasn't gone through Audit and Control yet?

Ms. Brinkman: No, I get there tomorrow.

Chairman Wilfong: Any questions?

Legislator Rankin: Can you just remind us a little bit about what kind of things happened with this consortium? What do they do?

Ms. Brinkman: In essence, the State has determined that we will be in a value based environment. We will be contracting with manage care companies and having to demonstrate that they are getting value for their dollar. In addition to that, they will be able to choose which providers they want to contract with. It is very clear that they are unlikely to be contracting with small rural providers. The way that most entities are planning on- their survival plan is to come together and form these independent practice associations. Four of the largest behavior health centers in Erie County came together and formed a network. There is a network in the Finger Lake and several downstate. What the entity will do, in addition to having the covered lives of thousands, it will give us leverage in negotiating rates and services with manage care companies. It will allow us to combine efforts around things like clinical services and data analysis. One of the things value based payment is very heavy on is data. Rather than each one of us having to invent that solution, we will be able to come together- the fourteen counties and all of the provider networks like The Resource Center and Mental Health Association have joined our network, so we will all be able to come together- come to the table and take what could be- for example, upwards of a million dollar investment in technology and spread it across many providers so that we have access to that kind of power. Those are the things that we are going to need to be able to survive going forward.

Chairman Wilfong: OK, any other questions for Pat? All in favor of this resolution please say aye. Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Amend Chautauqua County Health & Human Services 2018 Budget for Increased Handicapped Preschool Education Tuition Costs

Ms. Schuyler: Preschool special education tuition costs are in excess of what we budgeted. The tuition costs are the costs for the physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and behavior therapy that is provided to preschoolers ages three to five in special education programs. We do get reimbursed by the State at 59.5%, which is still a substantial part of our budget. Our expenditures under our (*inaudible*) shares are now projected to be lower than our budgeted amount, so we are requesting to switch the money from the Medicaid account to the preschool education account to cover that.

Legislator Rankin: How is the tuition set? Who sets the tuition?

Ms. Schuyler: The State. The State Education Department sets the tuition rates. The State Education administers the program and we pay for it. The counties don't have any say in the administration of the program or the rules that are set. It continues to be one of the main topics of NYSAC.

Legislator Pavlock: The reimbursement rate of 59.5%- how is that calculated? Is it the same for all counties?

Ms. Schuyler: Yes, it is the same.

Legislator Pavlock: I know at least with the schools that the reimbursement rates are based on different variables depending on the needs in that area-

Ms. Schuyler: Yeah-

Legislator Pavlock: I just wondered if it would be different for Chautauqua County compared to a different county.

Ms. Lis: They are all the same.

Ms. Schuyler: When it comes to preschool special education the rate of reimbursement is the same. Individual school districts have different reimbursement rates. Jamestown is 90% and I believe Chautauqua Lake is closer to 50%, as far as the State aid that they receive. When it comes to the preschool education, this is the reimbursement rate for everyone.

Chairman Wilfong: Alright, anymore questions? All in favor of this resolution please say aye. Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Amend Chautauqua County Health & Human Services 2018 Budget for Increased Emergency Aid for Adults Costs

Ms. Schuyler: This is going to sound familiar to the last resolution. Our expenditures under emergency aid for adults are projected to be higher than what we have budgeted this year. Those costs are reimbursed by 50% by the State and because of our overage in the Medicaid account, we would like to request to change the money around in those accounts to account for that.

Legislator Rankin: Due to increased homeless housing costs?

Ms. Schuyler: There could be a variety of things. Diane could tell you more.

Ms. Anderson: They could have utilities that were shut off or any emergency situation like that- they could be evicted, so we would be paying past rent-

Ms. Schuyler: To keep their utilities from being shut off or to keep someone from becoming homeless.

Ms. Lis: It keeps them in their home.

Ms. Schuyler: They have to bring their shut off notice or their eviction notice into the office and we verify that it is accurate and then we pay those costs to keep them from having their utilities shut off or from becoming homeless.

Legislator Rankin: But the biggest reason for this is because of the increase in homeless housing costs?

Ms. Lis: I believe so. There are several pieces to it, but that is something that we have seen a great increase in. It has trended down again but because we have put a lot of attention toward it. Over the last couple of years it has been an increased cost.

Ms. Schuyler: You will see that when we talk about our report.

Chairman Wilfong: Any questions for the ladies? All in favor of this resolution please say aye. Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Amend Chautauqua County Health & Human Services 2018 Budget
For Coroner Equipment Purchases

Ms. Schuyler: Well, as you are fully aware, the Coroner program is now a division of the Department of Health and Human Services and there was no money budgeted previously for equipment for the Coroners. We are requesting that some of our excess money in our social services administrative account be transferred for some essential equipment for them to do their jobs.

Legislator Rankin: That is for iPhones and surface pros?

Ms. Schuyler: In the past, Coroners have used personal equipment. They have used their personal phones and personal computers for County work which could be very confidential information. I really feel that it is much more prudent for County equipment to be utilized for those purposes.

Mr. Wilfong: Any questions for these ladies? All in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Other-

Proposed Resolution- Amend Budget for Renovation of Office Space at 2 Academy Street, Mayville for Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene Administrative Offices

Ms. Brinkman: As you may recall, last year we planned to move from the HRC building to 2 Academy Street and we put through a resolution to amend our 2017 budget to reflect the amounts that we would be incurred in those costs. However, it took a while to get the contracts negotiated and get the bid put out. So, the process was delayed. We did not move into the building until April and consequently, we paid the bills in 2018. So, what we plan to do- the money was deferred in 2017 and what we need to do is move that out of deferred and move it to the 2018 budget to reflect the costs that were actually paid out of this budget.

Chairman Wilfong: There were no additional costs?

Ms. Brinkman: Actually, they came in under budget.

Chairman Wilfong: OK, wow.

Ms. Brinkman: They are beautiful. We are beyond thrilled. The staff morale has improved so much now that we have a better environment- they are not on top of one another, we have a conference room where we can actually have people in for meetings- it was worth every penny. I think we are all much more efficient and effective because of it.

Chairman Wilfong: Any other questions for Pat? All in favor of this resolution?
Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Discussion: Temporary Assistance Report- Schuyler, Anderson and K. Geise

Discussion: Proposed Resolution-“Formation of Chautauqua County Food Policy Council”
-Wells, Schuyler and A. Abdella

MOVED by Legislator Whitford, SECONDED by Legislator Rankin to adjourn

Unanimously Carried (6:06 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia L. Ames, Committee Secretary