

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2022

The Health & Human Services Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 via Zoom.

Members Present: J. Shaw (Chair) C. O'Brien, M. Hilderbrant, M. Kaminsky, K. Beebe

Members Absent: None

Others Present: D. J. Reynolds, R. Weslar, K. Myers, M. Whalen S. Ryan, A. Martin, M. Tanzini, J. Scott, Legislature; J. Garnar, M. Ponticiello, C. Wagner, C. Whalen; County Executive; J. Knebel, OMB; N. Williams, J. Sullivan, B. Ravas, K. White. DSS; M. Whitcombe, OFA; S. Medina, Health Department; R. Behnke, County Attorney; A. Aranov, B. Sanford, WPRNC; C. Dutko, Elections; E. Gartenman, Assigned Counsel; P. Taylor-Vuolo, WSKG Public Media; L. Wickens-Alteri, K. Servis Capital Health Consulting; D. Johnson, WPRNC Advisory Board; R. Blizard, V. Gialanella, D. Thorpe, Residents.

The Health & Human Services Committee meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:03 PM. Mrs. Beebe made a motion to move the agenda, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien

The Chair requested all renewals, which include Resolutions #18-19, #22-26 and #28-36 be grouped together and voted on in a single vote. Mr. Hilderbrant made a motion to consider the Resolutions as one vote, seconded by Mrs. Kaminsky. The vote to consider the Resolutions as one vote carried, Ayes-5, Nays-0. The resolutions grouped together carried, Ayes-5, Nays-0.

The Committee took the following action with regard to the matters before it:

#17 [RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE BROOME COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU ADVISORY BOARD](#)

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#18 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE FLEXIBLE FUNDS FOR FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET AND RENEWING THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE BROOME COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND RISE FOR 2022-2023](#)

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#19 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE HOMELESS CODE BLUE PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET, AND RENEWING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA, THE YWCA, THE YMCA AND A-1 COURTESY CAB TO ADMINISTER SAID PROGRAM FOR 2021-2022](#)

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#20 [RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH VARIOUS HOTELS/MOTELS FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR 2022](#)

In response to a question from the Committee, DSS Commissioner Nancy Williams stated that there has been some difficulty serving the homeless population during Code Blue, which allows any homeless individuals the opportunity to stay in a shelter/hotel if the temperature dips below 32 degrees. An additional hotel was contracted to help meet demand. Ms. Williams stated that some clients do not follow the rules while at the hotel, creating more challenges for placement. Regarding a question about housing minors who are homeless, Ms. Williams stated that homeless individuals who are under 18 are not permitted to stay at hotels, but if they are with their family, the family can stay in a hotel. Ms. Sullivan

stated that any youth that comes to DSS in need of benefits will be matched up with a case worker to establish a plan for assistance. In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Williams both stated that the removal of the eviction moratorium has caused an uptick in calls to DSS for assistance, but residents who are enrolled or have applied for the Emergency Rent Assistance Program cannot be evicted for nonpayment of rent. Legislator Weslar stated that he's been advised of issues regarding the quality of homeless shelters in Broome County and Ms. Williams stated she would look into the situation. In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Williams stated that more affordable housing is needed and gave credit to the Broome County Land Bank for undertaking a project to serve extremely low-income individuals. Ms. Williams stated that the Southern Tier Homeless Coalition's annual point in time count report, which tabulates information about how many people are homeless on a given day, will be available in the near future and the findings would be shared with the Legislature. Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#21 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CHILDREN'S HOME OF WYOMING CONFERENCE (CHOWC) FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE YOUTH ALTERNATIVES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2022

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#22 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#23 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#24 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#25 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE YOUTH TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT AND PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#26 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE ENHANCED WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#27 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH VARIOUS VENDORS TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ELC-COVID-19 SCHOOL TESTING GRANT FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR 2022

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#28 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE EXPANDED IN-HOME SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM (EISEP) GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#29 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#30 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE WELLNESS IN NUTRITION (WIN) PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#31 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE NEW YORK CONNECTS EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT (E&E) PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#32 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE UNMET NEED PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#33 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION AND COUNSELING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT, ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET AND RENEWING AN AGREEMENT WITH ACTION FOR OLDER PERSONS, INC. FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#34 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF CAREGIVER RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#35 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#36 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF CONGREGATE SERVICES INITIATIVE (CSI) PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#37 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO AN AGREEMENT WITH REGIONAL CARE NETWORK, LLC FOR TEMPORARY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS FOR THE WILLOW POINT REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER FOR 2022

In response to a question from the Committee, WPRNC Administrator Adam Aranov stated that 25 staff members comprised of LPNs and CNAs would be needed to operate the rehabilitation unit. Mr. Aranov also mentioned that Regional Care Network is a staffing agency he has utilized in the past.

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#40 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PERSONNEL CHANGE REQUESTS FOR THE WILLOW POINT REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER

In response to a question from the Committee,

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#47 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE BROOME COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COUNCIL

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#55 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH HEALTHPRO HERITAGE LLC FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS OF THE WILLOW POINT REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER FOR 2022-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#61 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE WILLOW POINT REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER

In response to a question from the Committee, OMB Director Jerome Knebel provided information that indicated that WPRNC received \$2,101,561.21 of CARES funding in 2020, plus an additional \$940,925.70 in 2021.

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

The Chair introduced Lisa Wickens-Alteri & Keith Servis of Capital Health Consulting along with Chairwoman of the Willow Point Advisory Board Denise Johnson to address the committee regarding the Willow Point Rehabilitation & Nursing Center.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. O'Brien seconded by Mrs. Kaminsky. The meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.