

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: MENTAL HEALTH

DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS McDEVITT
SEEBER

OTHERS PRESENT:

ROBERT YORK, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR GIRARD

SUPERVISOR SIMPSON

CHARLENE DIRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. McDevitt called the meeting of the Mental Health Committee to order at 11:01 a.m. and noted there were no prior Committee Meeting minutes requiring approval.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Robert York, Director of the Office of Community Services, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. York introduced himself and provided a PowerPoint Presentation of an overview of the Office of Community Services and the Community Services Board; *a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. York informed the shared administrative office for the Office of Community Services for Warren and Washington Counties was located at 230 Maple Street in the City of Glens Falls and the space was leased from the Warren-Washington Association for Mental Health (WWAMH). He advised the Office had 5 employees, including himself; Cynthia Wasson, Office Specialist; Megan Johnson, LCSW, Deputy Director, Clinical; Harry Carlson, MPA, Deputy Director, Fiscal; and Lisa Coutu, LCSW, Program Analyst.

Mr. York mentioned the Office of Community Services was regulated by and received funding from the following State agencies: the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH); the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (NYS OASAS); and the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (NYS OPWDD). He explained the Office of Community Services was organized by the New York State Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) Article 41 which dictated the following requirements of them:

- ▶ directs local governments to either provide or arrange for preventative, rehabilitation and treatment services for the mentally ill, the developmentally disabled and those suffering from the disease of alcoholism and substance abuse;
- ▶ requires the establishment by the County of a Local Governmental Unit (LGU) given authority in accordance with Article 41 to provide or arrange for local services;
- ▶ requires each LGU to have a Community Services Board of 9 to 15 members for Counties with a population of less than 100,000;
- ▶ requires the direction and administration by the LGU of an annual local comprehensive planning process and the Local Services Plan for Warren and Washington Counties was posted on the County websites; and
- ▶ requires each Community Services Board to have separate sub-committees for mental health; alcohol and substance abuse; and developmental disabilities.

Mr. York advised some Counties were direct providers of the services but Warren and Washington Counties arranged for the services through contracts with local not-for-profit agencies. He pointed out the Office of Community Services was the LGU given the authority to provide or arrange for local services by both Warren and Washington Counties. He added there was an Intermunicipal

Agreement between Warren and Washington Counties for the sharing of one administrative office, the Office of Community Services. He advised the Office of Community Services employees were employed by Warren County but the costs for administration of the Office, including salaries, were divided equally between the two Counties through an annual chargeback to Washington County. He noted Warren and Washington Counties were unique within New York State because they were the only Counties which had a formal Intermunicipal Agreement for these shared services. He informed Warren and Washington Counties had Separate Community Services Boards consisting of 9 members each. Mr. York noted the Warren and Washington County Community Services Boards met jointly on a monthly basis, with the exception of the month of August. He pointed out both Warren and Washington Counties were Non-Chartered Counties for which the Community Services Boards were policy making boards. He mentioned in Chartered Counties the Community Services Board was an advisory board to the Director of Community Services. He commented each Community Services Board Member served a four year term and the Community Services Board Officers were appointed for two year terms. Mr. York explained that although the Warren and Washington Counties Community Services Boards met jointly and their business mirrored each others, each board acted separately on individual issues. Mr. York stated MHL Article 41 required that members of the Community Services Board have backgrounds and/or interests in one of three disciplines: mental health; alcoholism and substance abuse; or developmental disabilities. Mr. McDevitt pointed out that Kimberly Brayton, JD, Ph.D. was Chairman of the Warren County Community Services Board and had been a forensic psychologist who had worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He opined there were some talented and professional members on the Board. Mr. York said they tried to retain a mix of professionals and important stakeholders on the Board.

Mr. York stated the Local Services Plan was required annually by the three State agencies: NYS OMH; NYS OASAS; and NYS OPWDD. He noted the Local Services Plan was developed through the three sub-committees. He said the Mental Health, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and Developmental Disabilities Sub-Committees provided venues for service/system planning; implementation and coordination of local services; provider collaboration; information sharing; and multi-stakeholder problem solving. He said the sub-committees were comprised of Community Services Board Members, LGU staff, service providers, service recipients and family members. He noted the sub-committees met at least quarterly throughout the year and County Supervisors were welcome to attend any of those meetings. Mr. York reviewed the list of Warren County's contract agencies through the Office of Community Services noting the total for all 2014 contracts was \$2,548,989. Of that total, he continued, the amount funded by Warren County was \$45,678 with the remainder covered by State Aid. He pointed out some of the agencies were contracted for a single service while others provided an array of services. He noted each of the agencies had an individual website and the addresses were listed in the PowerPoint Presentation.

Mr. York reviewed the list of additional responsibilities of the LGU, as follows:

- ▶ fiscal management and reporting related to the management of State Aid contracts;
- ▶ Single Point of Access (SPOA) Process - a referral process for certain high end services, such as care coordination and residential services which had limited resources;
- ▶ Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program - also referred to as Kendra's Law, allowed for outpatient commitments so certain individuals related to non-compliance of treatment and dangerousness who could be court ordered to complete outpatient treatment;
- ▶ Certificates of Need/Expansion of Service Approvals - work completed in conjunction with the State when agencies were interested in developing new services;
- ▶ overall system coordination;
- ▶ emergency removals (MHL 9.45 "pick-up orders) - gave authority to the Director of Community Services to remove people from the community when they were an imminent danger to themselves or others;

- ▶ Coordinated County Disaster Mental Health Team - had trained approximately 26 Master's level clinicians from various agencies on disaster mental health;
- ▶ SAFE (Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement) Act reporting - when an individual was deemed to be likely to engage in dangerous behavior, physicians and clinicians were required to report it through the SAFE Act portal and the Director of Community Services would either approve or disapprove the report before forwarding it to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services; and
- ▶ active involvement with various regional healthcare planning structures and initiatives to lower costs and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health and behavioral health care systems and improve outcomes for the residents of both Counties.

Mr. McDevitt informed that within the last year Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties had qualified for a grant for in-home psychiatric care for children and families and he requested further explanation. Mr. York explained this was a contract the Office of Community Services had with Parsons Children and Family Services to provide crisis in-home services on a short-term intervention basis. He said the Office of Community Services was trying to find more ways to provide crisis services to divert families away from emergency room use and over reliance on hospital use and other high cost services. Mr. McDevitt asked for comment on the heroin addiction issue which he pointed out was a National problem. Mr. York stated the Office of Community Services was part of a task force, along with the Council for Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, the District Attorney's Office and the Probation Department, in attempting to find ways to raise awareness and put forward a message of hope to families dealing with this issue. Mr. McDevitt reported there had been two community forums on heroin addiction: one at the Hudson Falls High School which had been well attended and the other was the showing of a film entitled "Anonymous People" at Crandall Library in the City of Glens Falls.

Continuing, Mr. York requested the appointment of Maureen Schmidt, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS), to the Warren County Community Services Board for a term commencing November 21, 2014 and terminating December 31, 2017 to fill the unexpired term of Suzanne Wheeler, the former Commissioner of the DSS, due to retirement.

Motion was made by Ms. Seeber, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to appoint Maureen Schmidt to the Warren County Community Services Board as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 21, 2014 Board Meeting.*

Mr. York requested to amend the 2014 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$6,880 to reflect the receipt of NYS OASAS funding for the purchase of equipment and supplies and upgrades to the computers as recommended by NYS OASAS during the recent certification site visit.

Motion was made by Ms. Seeber, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2014 County Budget as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

As there was no further business to come before the Mental Health Committee, on motion made by Ms. Seeber and seconded by Mr. McDevitt, Mr. McDevitt adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist