

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HEALTH SERVICES

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
CONOVER
FRASIER
MCDEVITT

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH:
PAT AUER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES
SHARON SCHALDONE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOME CARE DIVISION
GINELLE JONES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
TAMMIE DELORENZO, CLINICAL & FISCAL INFORMATICS COORDINATOR
TAWN DRISCOLL, FISCAL MANAGER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR WESTCOTT

ROBERT YORK, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS BROCK
SEEBER
SIMPSON
TAYLOR
WOOD

DAVID STRAINER, RESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF QUEENSBURY
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Health Services Committee to order at 10:18 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Pat Auer, Director of Public Health/Patient 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, Ms. Auer presented a request for a new contract with Debbie L. Way, RRT. to provide respiratory therapy services commencing March 23, 2015 and terminating upon thirty days written notice by either party. She explained the current provider they contracted with was unable to provide the services indefinitely due to illness. She continued, since their operating certificate included these services, it was necessary for a provider to be in place.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization to renew contract No. CO29748 with the (NYS DOH) New York State Department of Health to allow for the continued receipt of grant funding for the Children with Special Needs Program for a term commencing October 1, 2014 and terminating September 30, 2017, in the amount of \$55,259 (\$18,419 per year).

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign the HIPPA Business Associate Agreement with Adirondack Health Institute, Inc. as required by the NYS DOH Insurance Programs to allow Health Services to partner in the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program, in a form approved by the County Attorney. She said she had asked Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, to review the agreement prior to the meeting. She said he indicated he was concerned that the agreement did not hold the County harmless; however, he had advised her he would not delay the process.

Paul Dusek, County Administrator, advised he had not spoken to Mr. Auffredou regarding the matter and questioned whether Mr. Auffredou was in favor of moving forward with the agreement. Ms. Auer apprised Mr. Auffredou's only concern was that the agreement did not hold the County harmless. She pointed out the resolution would specifically state "in a form approved by the County Attorney". She said she had spoken to a representative from the Adirondack Health Institute and they informed her that their organization was required to utilize the agreement they received from the State.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize the agreement as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization for an agreement with Merial Inc. to permit the purchasing of vaccine for use of animal vaccinations administered at Rabies Clinics commencing March 23, 2015 in a form approved by the County Attorney. She explained this was the same company they had always purchased their rabies vaccines from; however, she said they recently learned they could purchase the rabies vaccine for half the price. She stated Mr. Auffredou reviewed the contract and drafted an amendment he would like added. She apprised the representatives from Merial Inc. were reviewing the contract; however, she advised, she would like to move forward with authorizing the contract because of the substantial savings it provided.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization for a new contract with the NYS DOH to permit the acceptance of funding for the Ebola preparedness and response activities commencing April 1, 2015 and terminating September 30, 2016, in the amount of \$38,000, in a form approved by the County Attorney. She advised federal funding had been released for all local health departments as long as they complied with the specific contract deliverables and had an approved program budget. She mentioned even if they did not accept the funding they would still be required to perform some of the deliverables.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize the contract as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization for a new contract with Prime Health Choice, LLC, to allow for the provision of various health services and receipt of reimbursement for the services provided, in a

form approved by the County Attorney. She explained this was another managed long term care health plan that would be offered to Warren County residents; therefore, she stated, if their Department did not have a contract with them they could not receive referrals or reimbursements from them.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization for Sandra Watson and Beth Paquette to attend the 37th Annual Conference sponsored by the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Association of New York State from April 26-29, 2015 at the Conference Center at Lake Placid, New York utilizing a County vehicle. She said in previous years the conference was located at a local venue so all WIC employees were able to attend; however, she stated, since the conference was taking place in Lake Placid this year they were only able to send two employees. She added there was no cost to the County, as it was fully funded by the WIC grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested to fill the vacant position of Public Health Nurse, annual salary of \$45,679, due to resignation. She apprised authorization to fill this particular position was granted in July of 2014; however, she said, since the position had remained vacant for over six months, approval was required. She explained they did not fill the position in July because they had enough coverage utilizing the per diem staff; however, the position was funded in the 2015 budget. She continued, since they anticipated two nurses would be retiring later this year it was necessary to have someone on board and fully trained to manage a caseload of patients prior to when these retirements occurred.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and refer same to the Personnel Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to fill vacant position is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer apprised there were no pending items to discuss this month. She stated Attachment #1 referred to the Emergency Response and Preparedness Activities Report, which referred to the activities taking place from January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015. She advised they were preparing for their emergency preparedness exercise on March 12, 2015 from 4:00 p.m to 6:00 p.m. at the Queensbury Community Center. Ginelle Jones, Assistant Director of Public Health Division, added the goal of the exercise was for 500 volunteers to test the clinic's capacity to respond should a disease outbreak occur. She said they were required to provide service at the clinic to 10% of the special needs population which included children, elderly and other groups. She asked the Committee members to encourage their community members to volunteer to participate in the exercise. She commended Dan Durkee, Senior Health Educator, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, on his efforts to organize this drill. She mentioned information regarding the exercise was listed on the County website.

Referring to the Warren County Health Services Patient Evaluation Charts, Sharon Schaldone, Assistant Director of Home Care Division, commented the figures reflected a comparison of

evaluations performed by the CHHA (Certified Home Health Agency) Division for 2013, 2014 and 2015. She reported the figures remained relatively similar to that of last year; however, she said, the overall number of referrals had increased. She stated she was pleased to see they had remained the preferred agency to provide home care services to the residents of Warren County. She explained that the State required patients of acute care centers to be offered a list of home care agencies they could select a provider from. She said she felt the combination of the stellar reputation they have had since 1966 of providing home care to local residents and the fact that many patients had utilized their services before was the reason they remained the preferred provider. She pointed out some of their competitors had questioned whether the local hospitals were providing a list of agencies to patients as required; however, she said, it appeared the hospitals were following the proper procedure. She noted there were two liaisons present at the Glens Falls Hospital that represented their office, which had proved helpful when coordinating referrals.

With regards to the review by the NYS DOH (New York State Department of Health) of their plan of correction for the issues they had identified during their last visit, Ms. Auer apprised although Ms. Schaldone had received confirmation by phone that their plan was approved, no written verification had been received yet. Ms. Schaldone stated she had provided their State reviewer with the revisions they requested on February 19, 2015; however, she said, no formal letter approving such had been received yet. She surmised if there were any issues they would not be permitted to provide service or bill Medicare and Medicaid.

Mr. Dusek mentioned he was aware that their agency had a superior reputation in the community for the care they provided; however, he suggested, placing an advertisement in the local publications periodically to assist them with marketing their agency. He said although he was pleased with the brochures that were distributed and the logo being placed on the health services fleet vehicles, he believed placing an advertisement in the local newspapers would assist them with making the public more aware of the services they provided. He added he felt these advertisements would provide clarification that the home care portion of the Public Health Department was a business enterprise and not a government entity. Ms. Auer interjected that they had recently expended \$4,000 for a whole page advertisement on the Glens Falls Hospital's publication. She said they felt placing this advertisement was worthwhile since they received positive results from the prior years advertisement; and she noted, everyone who received treatment at the hospital received a copy of the publication. Mr. Dusek advised his suggestion related to placing advertisements in the local newspapers such as *The Post Star*, *The Chronicle*, etc., as he felt this would assist them with marketing their services to the community and Ms. Schaldone concurred. She stated she felt placing advertisements in local publications on a regular basis would reduce the misconception in the Albany area hospitals that Warren County had ceased operating their Home Care Division. She commended Nancy McGowan for the superior care she provided to her patients in the North Creek area, as she had received many compliments regarding the care she provided to her patients. She suggested featuring some of their staff members with stellar reputations for the care they provided their patients in the publications.

Mr. McDevitt apprised since providing home care to patients was a competitive market he was fully supportive of advertising. He asked whether Washington County provided home care services and Ms. Schaldone replied in the negative. She mentioned their largest competitors were HCR Certified Home Health Agency and Fort Hudson Certified Home Health Agency. Mr. McDevitt commented name recognition and placing the logos on their fleet vehicles played a major role in marketing their services. Ms. Auer stated they were continuously looking for new ways to market their services. Ms. Schaldone pointed out their liaison was representing them at a health fair today.

With regards to the reporting for the rabies program, Ms. Auer advised they were continuing to work on changes with reporting and how they communicated with the Town of Queensbury. She said she would keep the Committee apprised of the changes being made.

Tawn Driscoll, Fiscal Manager, advised Attachment #2 in the agenda packet was a Budget analysis of the Health Services Department for the 2014 calendar year. She pointed out not many changes had been made since last months report since they did not anticipate receiving the WIC vouchers from the State until April of 2015. She stated she anticipated receiving an additional \$1 million in expenses and about \$2 million in revenue prior to closing out the year.

With regards to Attachment #2A, Ms. Driscoll stated this report was a Budget analysis of the Health Services Department as of February 24, 2015. She said the year-to-date salaries reflected a decrease of \$31,127.28 or 10.24% of the salary to total budget, which was a decrease from last years percentage at the same time period of 11.56%. She noted the year to date figures were actually down by 5.63% or \$1,966.75 due to the fact that the 2014 figures reflected a retirement amount of \$11,256.70, which distorted the figures overall for the year in comparison.

Ms. Driscoll apprised Attachment #3 referred to the Revenue and Expense Comparison of 2015 versus 2014 as of today. She stated overall they had received more revenue and expended less than at the same time last year. She explained the variance in revenue was due to the accrual of the CHHA, LTC and MCH revenues in January of 2015, as they had not closed the January billing as of this time last year.

Mr. McDevitt mentioned there was an article in *the Post Star* regarding the Queensbury School system and poverty in the region. He said the article discussed the negative implications of poverty in society. He stated the article touched on a three million word gap that some children did not hear by the time they reached kindergarten, which related to poverty and family issues. He commented he felt poverty and children impacted by it was a major issue. Ms. Auer pointed out that improvements had been made to the free and reduced lunch programs offered by schools, which made it less obvious to identify children participating in the program.

This concluded the Health Services portion of the Committee meeting and the Mental Health portion of the meeting commenced at 10:39 a.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Robert York, Director, Office of Community 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 presented the following requests to Amend the 2015 County Budget:

- 1) Increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$14,400 to reflect the receipt of COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) pass through funding for Not-for-Profit Agencies to the Warren-Washington Association of Mental Health;
- 2) Increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$6,093 to reflect the receipt of COLA pass through funding for Not-for-Profit Agencies to the Liberty House Foundation, Inc.;
- 3) Increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$6,093 to reflect the receipt of COLA pass through funding for Not-for-Profit Agencies to the Liberty House Foundation, Inc.;
- 4) Increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$4,208 to reflect the

- receipt of COLA pass through funding for Not-for-Profit agencies to 820 River Street;
- 5) Increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$19,799 to reflect the receipt of pass through COLA funding for Not-for-Profit Agencies to the Behavioral Health Services of the Glens Falls Hospital;
 - 6) Increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$1,193 to reflect the receipt of pass through COLA funding for Not-for-Profit agencies to the Council for Prevention, Inc.; and
 - 7) Increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$6,516 to reflect the receipt of pass through COLA funding for Workshop Transformation funds to the Community, Work, and Independence, Inc.

He explained all of the aforementioned requests related to a 2% COLA increase that was included in the State Budget specifically for direct care workers that provided care for individuals with disabilities. He mentioned this was 100% State aid provided by either the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) or the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (NYS OASAS).

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the requests as presented and refer same to the Finance Committee. *Copies of the Requests to Amend the 2015 County Budget are on file with the minutes.*

Mr. York requested authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign the HIPPA Business Associate Agreement with Adirondack Health Institute, Inc. as required by the New York State Department of Health Office of Health Insurance Programs to allow the Office of Community Services to partner in the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program, in a form approved by the County Attorney. He explained this request mirrored the one put forth earlier in the meeting by the Public Health Department.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 20, 2015 Board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mr. McDevitt commended the work performed by the Liberty House.

As there was no further business to come before the Health Services Committee, on motion made by Mrs. Frasier and seconded by Mr. Conover, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board