

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HEALTH SERVICES

DATE: JULY 24, 2015

---

---

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL  
CONOVER  
FRASIER  
TAYLOR  
MCDEVITT

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING WESTMOUNT HEALTH FACILITY:  
LLOYD COTÉ, ADMINISTRATOR  
REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH:  
PAT AUER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES  
SHARON SCHALDONE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOME CARE DIVISION  
TAMMIE DELORENZO, CLINICAL & FISCAL INFORMATICS COORDINATOR  
TAWN DRISCOLL, FISCAL MANAGER  
ROBERT YORK, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD  
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER  
DAVID STRAINER, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT  
TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT  
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*  
SAMANTHA HOGAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

---

---

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Health Services Committee to order at 10:35 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Health Services 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 Health Services 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 to ratify the actions of the Chairman in authorizing a contract agreement with Emily Russom to provide occupational therapy services. Mr. Sokol interjected that he believed a resolution to this effect had been approved at the July 17<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and Sarah McLenithan, *Deputy Clerk of the Board*, confirmed this was correct. *Note: The contract agreement with Emily Russom for occupational therapy services was authorized by Resolution No. 356 of 2015.*

Moving on, Ms. Auer requested approval of the 2014 Annual Report for Warren County Health Services which had been distributed to the Committee members prior to the meeting. She noted this report was an annual requirement of the New York State Department of Health (*NYSDOH*) and would be uploaded to the County website upon approval.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization for an agreement with Children's Development Group, to provide special education preschool services to include preschool multi-disciplinary evaluations, itinerant therapy services and integrated classroom services in a form approved by the County Attorney.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the

request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Ms. Auer requested an agreement with the NYSDOH to allow Warren County Health Services to continue as the sponsor agency for the Women, Infant and Children Nutrition (WIC) Program for the term of October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2020 for a total projected amount of \$2,507,745, as well as to authorize acceptance of funding for the first year of the grant (*October 1, 2015 - September 20, 2015*) in the amount of \$501,549, in a form approved by the County Attorney.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer then requested approval of out-of-State travel for Tammie DeLorenzo, *Clinical and Fiscal Informatics Coordinator*, to attend the Delta Health Technologies 2015 National Customer Forum on September 14-17, 2015 in Altoona, Pennsylvania at total cost not to exceed \$742. She noted that the cost of the convention was \$399 and the anticipated lodging costs were \$297; she added that they would also need to provide reimbursement to Ms. DeLorenzo for the cost of any meals not covered by the conference, up to the GSA (*Governmental Standards Administration*) rate of \$46 per day, upon submission of receipts. She pointed out that Ms. DeLorenzo would drive a Health Services Fleet vehicle to the conference. Finally, Ms. Auer advised she were also requesting authorization to waive the requirements of the Travel Policy pertaining to the GSA rates as the hotel room rate was \$99 per night, while the GSA lodging rate was only \$83 per night.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to authorize the out-of-State travel requested for Ms. DeLorenzo, as well as to waive the requirements of the Travel Policy concerning the GSA rate for said travel, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing to the next agenda item, Ms. Auer presented requests to backfill the following positions which were vacated due to resignation:

- Registered Professional Nurse, (*Grade 19, Annual Salary \$42,719*); and
- Part-Time Infant Feeding Advocate, (*Grade 3, Annual Salary \$25,193*)

Mr. Dusek advised he had reviewed both of these positions with Ms. Auer prior to the meeting. He apprised that the Infant Feeding Advocate position was fully funded through the WIC program and the cost of the Registered Professional Nurse position was reimbursed through patients insurance coverage.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request to fill both of the aforementioned positions and refer same to the Personnel Committee for reporting purposes. *Copies of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position forms are on file with the minutes.*

Proceeding with the agenda review, the Information for Discussion/Review section was outlined, as follows:

**Emergency Response and Preparedness Activities** - Ms. Auer advised agenda Attachment #1 represented the monthly report which included information for the months of June and July. She noted there was not much to report for these months because there had been no Emergency Preparedness meeting in June.

**Status of Referrals** - Sharon Schaldone, *Assistant Director of Patient Services*, advised agenda Attachment #4 reflected a detailed referrals report and she noted that for the last six months, the reportings had been consistent with the prior years figures.

**Update on Animal Control Situation** - Ms. Auer pointed out agenda Attachment #5 which consisted of the Rabies Program Report which provided a breakdown of animal bites by town for the months of April-June of 2015. She noted that the Report reflected an increase in animal bites, which she said was typical based on the fact that animals were outside more in warmer months as opposed to cooler ones.

**Reports of Expenditures, Revenues, Overtime and Per Diem Use for 2014** - Tawn Driscoll, *Fiscal Manger*, advised agenda Attachment #2 included the Report of Revenues and Expenditures for 2015 as of July 21, 2015. She advised the Public Health Division had received a new Ebola grant in the amount of \$38,000 which was noted in this Report; she stated that this allowed them to bill a voucher in the amount of \$16,575 for testing equipment against the grant. Ms. Driscoll commented that the department's salary expenses were up \$20,923.97 over the prior years figures and she advised this increase was attributed primarily to payouts required for three retirements.

**Revenue and Expense Comparison Report for 2014 vs. 2015** - Ms. Driscoll advised agenda Attachment #3 provided the Revenue and Expense Comparison Report for 2014 vs. 2015 which showed current expenses for the preschool program to higher for 2015 as compared to the same period for 2014; however, she said, she felt these expenses would level out once anticipated payments were received. Ms. Driscoll pointed out that the current revenue figures reflected were slightly below those recorded for 2014, and she explained this was because she had not yet been able to close reporting for the month of June and therefore those figures were not included in this report.

Referring to the Rabies Report, Mr. McDevitt, pointed out that 11 bites by non-vaccinated dogs had been reported for the City of Glens Falls and he questioned how this statistic was determined. Ms. Auer explained that when a domestic animal bite incident occurred, the City Clerk inquired to check on the rabies status of the animal involved. She further explained that in the instance of a bite by an unvaccinated animal, a quarantine period was required at the end of which the animal was vaccinated.

This concluded the Public Health portion of the Committee Meeting and privilege of the floor was extended to Robert York, *Director, Office of Community Services*, who distributed copies of the Mental Health agenda to the Committee members; a *copy of the Mental Health agenda is on file with the minutes*.

Commencing the Mental Health agenda review, Mr. York noted his agenda consisted of departmental updates, which he outlined, as follows:

**Deputy Director-Clinical Vacancy** - Mr. York advised a good response had been received to the posting of the vacant Deputy Director-Clinical position and he said they intended to commence interviews during the following week.

**Peer Services** - Mr. York stated that the Office of Community Services contracted with People, Inc. to provide peer mental health support services which were provided by individuals who have, or have dealt with, mental illness to assist individuals in need. He advised crisis respite was another of the services provided by People, Inc. and he noted that they had purchased a house in the City of Glens Falls to provide overnight respite care; however, he said, there were some zoning issues that needed to be resolved before these services could be made available.

**Community Services Board Resignation** - Mr. York apprised that Michael Homenick, Ph.D. had resigned from the Community Services Board after 30 years of service; he acknowledged Dr. Homenick's hard work and dedicated service to the Community Services Board over the past 30 years and thanked him for same. Mr. Sokol suggested that Dr. Homenick be invited to attend

the August 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting so that his service could be recognized by the entire Board of Supervisors.

**Potential NYS Office of Mental Health Funding for Counties** - Mr. York explained there was a potential for funding to be received from the New York State Office of Mental Health and Mental Health Services which would allow for new opportunities in regard to children's mental health services. He noted that if this funding was received, the Office of Community Services would need to create another position with new duties associated with providing mental health services for children.

Mr. Sokol questioned whether the vacant Deputy Director-Clinical position would be filled prior to the next Health Services Committee meeting and Mr. York responded affirmatively.

This concluded the Mental Health portion of the meeting and privilege of the floor was extended to Lloyd Coté, *Administrator of Westmount Health Facility*, who distributed copies of the Westmount agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the Westmount agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing his agenda review, Mr. Coté presented a request for a new agreement with VNA Homecare Options, LLC to provide additional managed Medicaid provider services through Fidelis. He advised this would not affect current residents, but rather only new residents entering Westmount after execution of the agreement.

Mr. Conover asked how often was the contract renewed and Mr. Coté responded that it was renewed annually; however, Mr. Coté added, the contract rate could fluctuate based on the benchmark rates established by New York State, which were built into the contract.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing, Mr. Coté presented a request to authorize execution of a Medicaid Revalidation Enrollment Application and to submit the required fee of \$553 for same. He explained this action was necessary to participate in the computerized Provider Enrollment Claim Ownership System (PECOS) associated with the Medicaid program.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Mr. Coté requested authorization for Alissa Gallo, *Registered Nurse*, to attend PRI and Screen Training at the Albany Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Albany, NY on September 29 & 30, 2015.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the travel request. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the Information for Discussion/Review, Mr. Coté reviewed the staffing levels provided in the agenda, advising there were still vacant positions that needed to be filled, such as a Nurse Manager position and a few per diem positions. He noted that currently, four staff members were out on disability, two of which were due to pregnancies. Mr. Coté recalled that at a prior Committee meeting he had reported on a number of resignations and he advised all of those positions had been filled. He noted Betsy Henkel, *Fiscal Manager for the Department of Public Works - formerly the Fiscal Manager*

for *Westmount Health Facility*, was doing a great job of continuing to assist with financial work for Westmount.

Mr. Coté apprised the ICD-10 would be coming out on October 1<sup>st</sup>; he explained this was basically an expanded diagnosis project which would increase the diagnoses from 10,000 to 70,000. He said Kendra Raymond, *Westmount MDS Nurse*, had undergone training to make sure that Westmount was cooperating appropriately and she would be working with Hudson Headwaters Health Network to ensure all necessary steps were completed properly.

Finally, Mr. Coté shared that Westmount Health Facility had received a four out of five star rating according the Federal nursing home rating standards, making Westmount the highest ranked nursing home in the area. Mr. Coté stated all the credit for this rating was due to the staff who continued to do an excellent job of caring for residents at Westmount.

Mr. McDevitt congratulated the Westmount staff for the wonderful job they were doing and he commented that they should be proud of this recognition.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Paul Dusek, *County Administrator*, who spoke about the status of the sale of Westmount Health Facility. He explained the majority of the sale process had been completed, aside from achieving NYSDOH approval and award of the required Certificate of Need. Mr. Dusek stated he had hoped the matter would be included on the agenda for the NYSDOH's July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, but it was not. He assured the Committee this was not due to any negative factor, but rather because the item had not met the specified deadline to be included on the July 23<sup>rd</sup> agenda; he noted that a process such as this was one that took time to complete. He advised he had spoken with Amir Abramchik, *Chief Operating Officer for Centers Health Care*, and was given the contact information for the consultant being used by Centers Health Care for this transaction. He said he was informed by the consultant that Centers Health Care was fully committed to the purchase of Westmount Health Facility and that the application to NYSDOH was had been submitted as required and that all signs were positive from his prospective; he added that the consultant had indicated they hoped to hear something by September. Mr. Dusek stated although the anticipated sale timeframe had delayed by a month or two, the sale could still be completed by the end of 2015, and if not by then, definitely by February of 2016 at the latest.

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, advised he would like to share information in regards to Centers Health Care's Northwood Home in Moravia, NY. He stated in the latest survey completed, 16 deficiencies had been found at this Home; he added that these deficiencies, in addition to the 30 others found at another of Centers' homes in Corning, NY, could be the reason for the NYSDOH's delay in addressing this matter. With respect to the four out of five star rating awarded to Westmount, Mr. Whitehead opined Mr. Coté was being too modest in attributing all of this success solely to the Westmount staff as he felt the rating had a lot to do with the Administrator's performance. He also noted that in the past, Kenneth Rozenberg, *CEO, Centers Health Care*, had indicated he awarded bonuses to staff that had good ratings, but also advised that staff reporting was used to establish ratings; therefore, he concluded, he felt this was not an accurate rating system.

As there was no further business to come before the Health Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Samantha Hogan, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board