

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Peter V. Tuohy, Acting Chairman
Michael Amo, Mike Anagnostakis, Kevindaryán Luján, Janet Sutherland,
Laurie R. Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Michael D. Paduch, Minority Leader
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Harold J. Porr, III, Deputy County Executive
Irina Gelman M.D., Commissioner of Health
Christopher Ericson, Deputy Commissioner of Health
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center
Donna Strecker, Director of Finance, Valley View Center
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Mr. Tuohy opened the committee meeting at 4:07 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who joined in via-telephone, although not permitted to vote.

On the agenda was the monthly report on Valley View.

Mr. LaDue addressed new business. He explained that there was a 1% cut to all medicaid providers effective immediately resulting in a deficit of \$300,000.00 in medicaid revenue for 2020. Governor Cuomo will be presenting the proposed budget today and they are hoping that there will not be any additional cuts to nursing homes or medicaid providers. They are close to opening their out-patient rehabilitation, but the New York State Department of Health must come in to survey the area. They finally have an EMR contract in place for the CHHA bringing the start of that endeavor closer and they have two large projects that have gone out to bid: the boiler room and Couser builder HVAC.

Mr. Tuohy asked if they are looking at ways to backfill the projected cuts to medicaid. Mr. LaDue replied not currently as they are hoping the out-patient rehabilitation and the CHHA, once it is up and running, will provide the facility with some additional revenue. While there are additional expenses related to those programs, they believe the revenue will offset the expenses.

Ms. Strecker explained that for December 2019, the results are preliminary as they have several accounting transactions related to year-end that are being processed with this report dated January 11, 2020. IGT funding remained at \$7.2 million but they anticipate a payment for October 31, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for approximately \$2.2 million and other revenues were at \$42 million and \$3.8 million in additional revenues that have not yet posted to the general ledger. Currently 60% of their revenue is attributed to billings under the medicaid program and/or approximately \$30 million, 28% is revenue attributed to medicare billings and/or approximately \$13 million and 6% at private pay and/or \$2.5 million with the remaining percentage from other

insurance billings. On the personal services side, personal services were at \$21.8 million, equipment purchases at \$122,757.00, contractual at \$11 million; however, they have a few large entries that have yet to hit contractual along with the charge for county services which will be done before they finalize the year, employee benefits were at \$17 million; however, \$18.5 million was budgeted and based on discussions with their budget analyst Gretchen Riordan, what was actually expensed versus what was budgeted was better and something they have seen countywide.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if they were seeing a 7% reduction countywide on what was budgeted. Ms. Riordan replied that while health insurance rates came in lower, every employee has a different retirement rate so she cannot state that it would be a 7% reduction countywide.

Ms. Tautel asked for a copy of the report as they closeout the year. Ms. Riordan replied that it would be a difference in the rates that were budgeted. There are a multitude of rates that come in at different percentages and they can get that information to the committee.

Ms. Strecker added that the occupancy rate for December was at 92.79%. Medicaid utilization was at 65.93%, medicaid (HMO) at 13.23% and medicare at 15.31% and today's occupancy is at 92.46%.

Mr. LaDue added that one of their short-term units is closed due to the norovirus.

Mr. Tuohy asked for the number of patients it affects. Mr. LaDue replied that it was 30 bed unit and they cannot accept admissions until after the time period in which no symptoms have been displayed.

Ms. Tautel asked for the current number of occupied beds. Mr. LaDue replied that he would get that number to the committee.

Mr. Amo asked about the increase in medicaid and decrease in medicare. Ms. Strecker replied that they have more people transitioning from medicare to medicaid.

Ms. Tautel moved request to accept and appropriate Funds from the Minisink Valley Central School District paid to the Orange County Department of Health for the purchase of a Phonak Roger Inspiro FM Transmitter and accessories. The Orange County Department of Health originally purchased the Phonak Roger Inspiro FM transmitter and accessories as an AT Device per the IEP of a child in the Preschool Program, \$2,096.42, seconded by Mr. Luján.

Ms. Tautel asked for a description of the device. Mr. Ericson replied that it is to help the student hear better in the classroom.

Ms. Sutherland clarified that the student is equipped with an earpiece and the teacher with a microphone.

Mr. Paduch asked for the original cost of the devices. Mr. Ericson replied that he did not have that information but would get it for the legislature.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who joined in via-telephone.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked about the coronavirus. Dr. Gelman replied that the outbreak first occurred in Wuhan City, Hubei Province China with confirmed cases in South Korea, Japan and Thailand with one confirmed case in Washington State. Dr. Gelman addressed the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) statistics and methodology on the coronavirus and its close connection to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and transmission from animal to human and human to human and is most common amongst animals.

Ms. Tautel asked about the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and is it tracked. Dr. Gelman replied that it is a respiratory virus that can be serious in infants and older adults and it is tracked by their epidemiologist.

Mr. Luján thanked Dr. Gelman and County Executive Neuhaus for organizing the upcoming free Influenza Vaccination Clinic at the Department of Health Office in the City of Newburgh on Monday, January 27, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. He recently lost a close friend to complications from the flu and encouraged everyone to get informed, be proactive and get vaccinated against the flu.

Dr. Gelman explained that the predominant elevated viruses are Influenza B and Influenza A and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC's) influenza forecasts suggest that national influenza activity will remain elevated for several more weeks. They continue to recommend everyone six months of age and older get vaccinated for influenza.

Mr. Paduch asked for the statistics on those that received the flu shot but have died from the flu. Dr. Gelman replied that they primarily vaccine breakthrough rates are steady with approximately 3% who received the vaccination are then exposed to that strain and still succumb to the disease.

Mr. Ericson added that they start pushing the flu vaccine in September before it actually hits as it takes approximately two weeks from the time of the flu shot to when the vaccination takes effect.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if the last pandemic was in 1918 with 15 million deaths, would that be equivalent to between 22 million to 24 million by today's standards and does a pandemic normally hit around every hundred years and are there any national programs that monitor these disease well in advance of a pandemic starting. Dr. Gelman replied that the World Health Organization monitors activity and ensures that information is disseminated adequately among infectious disease physicians.

Dr. Gelman added that they have seen an increase in lead poison cases and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs).

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.