

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019  
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: James D. O'Donnell, Chairman  
Kevindaryán Luján, Janet Sutherland, Laurie R. Tautel, Peter V. Tuohy

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
Michael D. Paduch, Minority Leader  
Thomas J. Faggione, Legislator  
Paul Ruskiewicz, Legislator  
Rob Sassi, Legislator  
Kathy Stegenga, Legislator  
John S. Vero, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Irina Gelman M.D., Commissioner of Health  
Michael Ventre, Deputy Commissioner of Health  
Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health  
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center  
Donna Strecker, Director of Finance, Valley View Center  
Deborah Slesinski, Deputy Budget Director

Mr. O'Donnell opened the committee meeting at 4:10 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with exception of Legislators Amo and Anagnostakis who were absent.

Ms. Sutherland moved request to accept and appropriation one-time Medicaid Administration dollars for the first year of the Orange County Crisis Hotline expansion, \$550,000.00, seconded by Mr. Luján.

Ms. Miller presented the committee with a handout on the Orange County Crisis Services draft workflow (see original minutes). These funds were earned based on services provided to medicaid clients with the funds being used for first year funding of the Orange County Crisis Hotline expansion. The hotline will open April 1, 2019 and staffed 24/7 with volunteers and employees that will work separately but collaboratively with 911 call takers.

Ms. Tautel asked if volunteers would still be needed at the new crisis call center. Ms. Miller replied yes, they would support professional staff.

Mr. Luján agrees that this will be a fantastic tool for the county.

Ms. Miller explained that the additional \$45,000.00 that the Department of Health recently received will go toward this expense and will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved request to accept and appropriate fourth year funds from the New York State Department of Health for the Healthy Orange Schools and Communities grant for the period 10/1/18 – 9/30/19, \$197,609.00, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Motion carried. All in favor.

On the agenda was a discussion on policy changes with rabies exposure treatment and payment policies with Medical and Veterinarian Facilities.

Dr. Gelman explained that letters were sent to their community partners specifically veterinarians and medical providers that deal with post exposure prophylaxis for rabies. Prior to the letters being sent they reviewed their policy on reimbursements, medicaid policies and queried all counties in New York State in order to estimate costs moving forward. These payment changes are set in line with medicaid reimbursement rates and the new fee structure going into effect January 1, 2019.

Ms. Tautel asked about the number of flu cases. Dr. Gelman replied that they have approximately 80 reported cases.

Ms. Tautel asked if a town appoints the Orange County Department of Health as their medical office would an inter-municipal agreement be needed. Dr. Gelman replied typically, yes.

Mr. Ventre explained that they would check into the need for an inter-municipal agreement and get back to the committee.

Mr. O'Donnell asked that Dr. Gelman provide the committee with an update on the morgue at next month's meeting.

Ms. Tautel requested they could receive flu statistics at next month's meeting.

Mr. LaDue addressed new business. Tessy Joseph, Deputy Commissioner for the CHHA started the first week of January and with the chairman's permission they will bring her to an upcoming meeting.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested that Ms. Joseph come to the March committee meeting.

Mr. LaDue added that their preliminary year-end audit work is underway with the auditor's on-site March 18, 2018. They received a supplemental payment of nearly \$950,000.00 for the quality pool revenues from New York State and they anticipate an IGT payment in March.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how they fared last year with respect to the quality pool revenue. Mr. LaDue replied that they did not have the information but would bring it to next month's meeting.

On the agenda was the monthly report on Valley View.

Ms. Strecker explained that for December 2018, they have received just under \$8 million in IGT funding as of January 15, 2019 and other revenues were at \$42 million. On the personal services side, personal services were at \$21 million, equipment purchases at \$83,566.00, contractual at \$11 million, employee benefits at \$17 million and serial bond interest at \$157,000.00.

Mr. O'Donnell asked for a breakdown of overtime expenses for the last five years at next month's committee meeting.

Ms. Sutherland asked about flu cases at Valley View. Mr. LaDue replied that they have no confirmed cases, but they had confirmed cases of norovirus with one of the units having to be shut down for approximately one week.

Ms. Tautel asked about the negative \$32,000.00 under Debt. Ms. Strecker replied that she would look into it and get back to the committee.

Mr. Tuohy asked about the progression of the various projects at Valley View. Mr. LaDue replied that the water filtration system contract is close to be finalized, the HVAC project at the Cousar building will be going out to bid shortly, the two boiler room projects are currently with the Department of General Services and should go out to bid soon but part of the work will be completed by a NYSERDA vendor.

Ms. Strecker added that the occupancy rate for December was at 94.14%. Medicaid utilization was at 51%, medicaid (HMO) at 24.08% and medicare at 16.18% and today's occupancy is at 96.08%.

Mr. O'Donnell asked Mr. LaDue to organize a tour of Valley View for Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. and that all Legislators be invited to attend.

Mr. O'Donnell asked for a breakdown of the various programs at Valley View. Mr. LaDue replied that they currently only have the nursing home but by the end of May the CHHA should be in place and they are also working on an outpatient rehabilitation license which in the end will offer three lines of service.

Mr. O'Donnell asked what effect that would have on current residents. Mr. LaDue replied none.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.