

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: James D. O'Donnell, Chairman
Michael Amo, Mike Anagnostakis, Kevindaryán Luján, Laurie R. Tautel, Peter V. Tuohy

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Rob Sassi, Legislator
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
Donna McCarey, Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources

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 the exception of Legislator Sutherland who was excused.

Mr. Luján moved to request supplemental appropriation of 4th year funds from the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute for the Disease Intervention Services for the period of 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020, \$225,000.00, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Dr. Gelman explained that they have seen significant increases in STI's in Orange County with a 75% increase in the number of HIV cases in Orange County from 17.2 per year from (2011-2015) to 26.3 per year (2016-2018). However, surrounding mid-hudson counties have not seen similar increases. In addition, Orange County's chlamydia rates are higher than the mid-hudson rates and have significantly worsened or remained the same from 2011 to 2016. The highest rates of chlamydia are in females ages 20-24 years at 2806.8 per 100,000 population and 15-19 years of age at 2045.7 per 100,000 population. The provisional data for 2019 are as follows: 284 cases of gonorrhea an increase of 17.8% from 2018 which impacted 20-29 year old's and of the 284 cases, 59.2% were male, 1,713 cases of chlamydia a 9.5% increase from 2018 that impacted 20-29 year old's of which 65.8% were female, 121 cases of syphilis a 63.5% increase from 2018 that impacted 20-39 year old's of which 83.5% were male and a 250% increase in pregnant women from 2018 to 2019. Lastly, in 2019, there was one congenital syphilis death, the first congenital death in over 20 years in Orange County.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked why Orange County was seeing such a drastic increase. Dr. Gelman replied that some are being contributed to the more prevalent use of Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV in high risk populations and the U=U Initiative. In addition, they are screening at a higher rate with new screening mechanisms in place along with provider education. They understood last year that they would see a spike in the first and consecutive year and they are working with New York State and providers to address this issue and contributing factors.

Mr. Luján asked if there was something they could be doing better with respect to awareness and support. Dr. Gelman replied that they are working on several collaborative programs with providers and local schools on safe-sex and education outreach.

Mr. Tuohy asked if they foresee collaborating with SUNY Orange and New York State. Dr. Gelman replied yes, it was included and identified as a priority area in the Community Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.

Mr. Amo asked for the cost to county for treatment under the medicaid program. Dr. Gelman replied that she would look into that information.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel moved request to accept and appropriate funds from the New York State Department of Health for the Performance Incentive Initiative Award for the period of 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020, \$41,914.00, seconded by Mr. Luján.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel moved request to accept and appropriate funds from the National Association of County and City Health Officials for the Medical Reserve Corps Operational Readiness Award for the period 2/1/2020 – 1/31/2021, \$7,500.00, seconded by Mr. Luján.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy asked Dr. Gelman for an update on the Coronavirus.

Mr. Anagnostakis commented that one of the World Health Organization leaders thought that the Coronavirus would become a pandemic and that 40% to 70% of world population would catch it with approximately 2% death rate and what does Dr. Gelman think the chances of that occurring are. Dr. Gelman replied that the chances are slim, and the outbreaks seem to be localized with epidemics being widespread. A pandemic requires that there is sustainable transmission globally and there are currently 73,424 cases of which 1,874 deaths with 46,668 in mild condition, 11,795 in critical condition and 72,438 of the 73,424 remain in China. There are 936 confirmed cases outside of China spread over 29 countries with 5 confirmed deaths in Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, France and the Philippines and that is where the pandemic currently does not come into play. With respect to deaths from 0-9 years of age there were none, for 10-39 years of age there were 0.2%, for 40-49 years of age there were 0.4%, for 50-59 years of age there were 1.3% with 80% of the deaths being over the age of 60 with 75% having preexisting co-morbidities.

Mr. Anagnostakis stated that because the symptoms mimic the flu, how would someone know if they have the Coronavirus. Dr. Gelman replied that they would have to be screened by their medical provider and of the 15 confirmed cases in the United States all had traveled to the Wuhan Province. Anyone traveling from that region would be quarantined and locally they have 7 residents under voluntary isolation. They have syndromic surveillance and are the first county in the state to

issue guidance to all colleges and K-12 schools to ensure they receive notification on any staff or students that has traveled and they were able to identify four residents that the CDC and/or the New York State Department of Health did not notify them of.

Mr. Tuohy asked if they had been in contact with Woodbury Commons. Dr. Gelman replied yes.

Mr. Amo asked about vaccine development. Dr. Gelman replied that a vaccine has not yet been developed.

Dr. Gelman added that presently there are no confirmed cases in New York State and no suspected and/or confirmed cases in Orange County. A total of 467 individuals have been tested in the nation with 392 coming back negative, 60 are pending and 15 confirmed cases; however, that does not take into consideration the 14 plus individuals that were evacuated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship. For general information the public can contact the New York State Department of Health at 1-888-364-3065.

Mr. O'Donnell noted that they may never receive the correct information out of China and the Orange County Department of Health is doing everything they can. Dr. Gelman agreed.

Mr. O' Donnell suggested that any further questions be addressed with Dr. Gelman after the meeting.

Mr. O'Donnell asked for an update on the Medical Examiner's Office. Mr. Ericson replied that they are working with the Department of Public Works and an RFP will be going out for an architectural review if the county does not already have an architect on retainer. They will be meeting with the Department of Public Works for a site walk.

Mr. Touhy asked if a location was chosen. Mr. Ericson replied yes, on the Emergency Services property.

Mr. Luján asked about attendance at the recent flu clinic in the city of Newburgh. Mr. Ericson replied that fourteen people attended.

Mr. Tuohy moved request to create new position to support the management of the Home Health Service division, Home Health Care Clinical Manager, Grade 23, seconded by Mr. Luján.

Mr. LaDue explained that they worked with the Department of Human Resources to create this position for the Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) which is moving closer to a start date. In addition to supporting the Deputy Commissioner this person will see patients, complete the Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) and oversee clinicians. This would be in place of the original Account Clerk Position as they will be contracting with a billing service for all CHHA billing.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Anagnostakis who was out of the room.

On the agenda was the monthly report on Valley View.

Ms. Strecker presented the committee with the updated December 2019 financials. On the personal service side, the facility was at \$21.8 million, equipment at \$130,665, contractual at \$13.5 million, employee benefits at \$17 million and overtime at \$1.5 million.

Ms. Strecker explained that for January 2020, IGT funding was budgeted for \$8 million, other revenues at \$47 million and \$3.7 million in additional revenues will be posted to the February general ledger. On the personal service side, personal services were at \$2.5 million, employee benefits at \$1.6 million, contractual at \$183,852.00 and overtime at \$149,588.00.

Ms. Strecker commented that the occupancy rate for January was at 91.94%. Medicaid utilization was at 62.06%, medicaid (HMO) at 10.28% and medicare at 15.91% and today's occupancy was at 91.24%.

Mr. LaDue added that they have seen a higher number of deaths and a few units were closed for a week or so with the flu and norovirus which effects occupancy.

Mr. LaDue addressed new business. They are waiting on review and final approval of the Outpatient Rehabilitation area from the New York State Department of Health.

Mr. Tuohy asked if they would be pre-marketing the CHHA. Mr. LaDue replied that they would not be doing a lot of pre-marketing in the beginning as they need to ensure that the program is running smoothly with in-house referrals before marketing.

Mr. Amo asked if they had received a significant hit on the patient driven reimbursement model that went into effect in October. Mr. LaDue replied no, they actually did better than they anticipated with industry trends showing an increase in reimbursement.

Ms. Strecker added that they have received notification from the Office of Medicaid Inspector General and they have two audits being conducted. The first is a medicaid integrity audit that was last done in 2017 and they are looking at the period of 10-1-19 to 7-31-19 and records related to residents in the medicaid program to see if the facility has been paid the correct Net Available Monthly Income (NAMI), over billings and over payments looking for recoupment. The second is an MDS audit from OMIG which is related to census data and they are looking at two different time periods 1-25-17 through 7-26-17 and 10-25-16 through 2-8-17 on a total of 107 residents which was when they had the increase above the 5% increase in case mix.

Mr. LaDue stated that it could be problematic.

Mr. O'Donnell asked why it could be problematic. Mr. LaDue clarified that it could have potential impact if they do not have the documentation needed to back the score, they could reduce the CMI resulting in a claw back.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how long the audit would take and for them to receive the results. Mr. LaDue added that they would be lucky to receive it by the end of the year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.