

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019
4:00 P.M.**

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

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Leigh J. Benton, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Harry Porr, Acting County Executive
Irina Gelman M.D., Commissioner of Health
Christopher Ericson, Deputy Commissioner of Health
Michael Ventre, Deputy Commissioner of Health
Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center
Colleen Grogan, Chief Budget Analyst
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Mr. O'Donnell opened the committee meeting at 4:33 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator Tuohy who arrived at 4:34 p.m.

Ms. Sutherland moved resolution creating the
"Orange County Legislative Valley View Advisory
Committee", a special committee of the Orange
County Legislature, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Chairman Brescia explained that they are seeking to create a seven-member advisory committee to develop the property at Valley View in order to make it even more profitable than it has become. The committee would consist of Legislators James D. O'Donnell, Michael Amo, and Michael D. Paduch, a representative from the County Executive's office, the Commissioner of Valley View, Real Property Tax Director or designee and CSEA member Rosemary Kukys from Valley View. He would recommend that James Burpoe, Commissioner of General Services be invited to the meetings and to look at a possible pharmacy due to his past experience with group homes.

Legislative Counsel Reed added that a few years ago preliminary discussions were held with the Town of Goshen Supervisor and other local officials on an amenable plan that would be pursuant to their zoning laws.

Chairman Brescia suggested the committee meet on the same day as the Health and Mental Health committee.

Mr. Amo asked for clarification on who the committee would report to. Chairman Brescia replied that they would report to the Health and Mental Health committee which is the oversight committee for Valley View.

Legislative Counsel Reed stated that the resolution would be amended to read: ...to make recommendations to the Health and Mental Health committee.

Mr. Amo commented that they are doing this because they are committed as a county to their county nursing home. In his opinion, the only way they will survive as a county nursing home is to bring in supportive components in order to thrive.

Legislative Counsel Reed added that when the land was being developed and they were making additions to the residential care facility, the county had a developer put in the Hearthstone Apartments with the theory being to develop it and make it into a community.

Chairman Brescia added that the chair of the committee would be Legislator James D. O'Donnell.

Mr. O'Donnell asked that Legislative Counsel Reed make the appropriate changes to the resolution. Legislative Counsel Reed replied that she would.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Touhy moved request to accept and appropriate \$204,914.00 in New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) funding for 20 Supportive Housing Beds effective 4/1/19. seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved request to accept and appropriate additional funding in the amount of \$101,806.00 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, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Dr. Gelman addressed the measles outbreak and presented the committee with a handout on the projected cost of the 2018-2019 measles outbreak in New York State (see original minutes). In Orange County they currently have 33 confirmed cases, Rockland County has 233 confirmed cases, New York City has 523 confirmed cases, Westchester County has 17 confirmed cases, Suffolk County has 1 confirmed case and Greene County has 1 confirmed case. Since the beginning of the outbreak period on November 8, 2018, Orange County has administered 7,831 doses. At a recent New York State Association of Health Officials meeting the major discussion was on raising immunization rates and eliminating non-medical exemptions. Legislation has been brought forth by Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A. 2371) and Senator Brad Hoylman (S. 2994) an act to repeal subdivision 9 of Section 2164 of the Public Health Law relating to exemption from vaccinations. They discussed the impact that the outbreak has had on local health departments and the numbers provided in the handout only reflect the impact for local health departments but not to medical providers, hospitals and the community. The figures presented are based on the costs of the

2013 measles outbreak in New York City. Orange County currently has 33 confirmed cases at approximately 5,547 hours with a cost range of \$247,308.00 to \$660,000.00 with a possible total cost impact range of \$5,793,021.00 to \$15,460,000.00 to New York State. She is addressing the projected costs because time spent on the outbreak activities could affect the staffing efforts of their already highly inflexible budget and something she has attempted to relay to senators and assemblymen they met with. The personnel time spent on the outbreak activities clearly detracts from their other vital community protecting activities resulting in an impact to the population at large. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) numbers across the 24 states affected by the outbreak is 880 confirmed cases with New York State accounting for the majority of the outbreak.

Dr. Gelman added that the New York State Department of Health has reduced the guidelines for blood lead levels to 5 micrograms per deciliter versus the previous 15 range. This will impact the number of cases to their current staff ratios with a projected increase of approximately 225 cases countywide. Even though this is not expected to start until the fall they are looking at expanded staffing and budgeting needs. Nationwide there are approximately 400 households with children being exposed to high lead levels and approximately 500,000 children ages one through five with blood levels above the 5 micrograms per deciliter.

Mr. Tuohy asked about the discrepancy between the \$247,308.00 and \$660,000.00. Dr. Gelman replied that they are citing the costs for former outbreaks with the range adjusted to cost of living and inflation and they are still in the middle of the outbreak. In addition, they are seeing an expedient increase since the prior week.

Mr. Touhy asked if the legislature could do anything about mandating vaccinations. Dr. Gelman replied that they have sent out guidance with respect to best practices, infectious disease control and prevention levels to providers and schools. They have also issued two commissioner orders for summer day camps; one for staff immunizations and the other for children. They cannot mandate vaccinations and conditional permits will be issued on the condition that they comply with the commissioner's orders.

Mr. Tuohy asked if they had received any pushback. Dr. Gelman replied no, but they could and if they receive any phone calls, please refer them to her office.

Ms. Tautel asked if a child must be a year old before being vaccinated. Dr. Gelman replied yes, but they are recommending six months and older even though it would not count toward the child's two doses at age one and age four.

Ms. Tautel noted that the New York State Legislature is working on eliminating the religious exemption.

Dr. Gelman replied yes, Assembly Bill A. 2371 and Senate Bill S. 2994; however, the waivers and religious medical exemptions specifically apply to schools.

Ms. Sutherland asked out of the 7,831 doses administered how many were boosters and are they seeing an increase in boosters. Dr. Gelman replied that the 7,831 applies to children. They have seen an increase in titers if the vaccination status is unknown; however, titers are not the best indicator as vaccination records are preferred. Third measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccinations are recommended in geographically pertinent areas and they are seeing issues with insurance companies that they are trying to address on a state level.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if every county provided this information to the New York State Association of Health Officials. Dr. Gelman replied yes.

Mr. O'Donnell expressed concern that the figures in the handout from the New York State Association of Health Officials was incorrect and being provided to County Legislatures across the state. He emphasized that in the future they ensure the information is correct before it is distributed.

Mr. O'Donnell asked for an update on the morgue. Mr. Ericson replied that the contract has been forwarded to the vendor for their signature.

Ms. Tautel moved request approval and appropriation of funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 for a proposed 2019 capital expenditure to upgrade food service equipment (Interfund Revenue), seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Mr. Benton requested the ages of the equipment be made available for the Ways and Means committee meeting.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved request approval and appropriation of funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 for a proposed 2019 capital expenditure to continue upgrading nursing mechanical lifters (Interfund Revenue), seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel moved request approval and appropriation of funds in the amount of \$735,000.00 for a proposed 2019 capital expenditure to replace roof top units (RTU's) that provide heating, cooling and ventilation in the Simon and Glenmere buildings (Interfund Revenue), seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Motion carried. All in favor.

On the agenda was the monthly report on Valley View.

Mr. LaDue explained that they have received IGT funding in just under \$2.8 million for the period of January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 and other revenues at \$11 million. On the personal service side, personal services were at \$7.4 million, equipment at \$3,144.00, contractual at \$2.5 million and employee benefits at \$7.1 million and debt expense at \$53,000.00.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked for the exact amount of IGT funding. Mr. LaDue replied \$2,791,212.00.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if this was the first payment. Mr. LaDue replied yes, for 2019.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if it would be applied to 2018 as the books have not been closed. Mr. LaDue replied that it would be applied to 2018.

Ms. Grogan clarified that because they have not had appropriated surplus in their budget it will never show in the actual column. The Finance Department will keep it as a zero and at year-end they will be drawn against fund balance to cover the difference between revenues and expense.

Mr. LaDue added that year to date medicaid utilization was at 57.51%, medicaid (HMO) at 16.13%, medicare at 16.28% and private pay at 8.89%. The occupancy rate for April was at 93.52%.

Mr. Benton asked if the auditors for Valley View would meet the deadline of May 31, 2019. Mr. LaDue replied yes, and they are expecting the draft financial this week.

Mr. O'Donnell asked about National Skilled Nursing Home Week. Mr. LaDue replied that it was a huge success and thanked those legislators that attended the festivities.

Mr. Tuohy asked about the status of the Valley View Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA). Mr. LaDue replied that they are finalizing the contract for the Electronic Medical Records (EMR), an RFQ will be going out this week for therapists, nurses and any other professionals they may need. They are working on a bid for billing services and have applied for their Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA), it is standards set by federal and state government to ensure proper laboratory testing. Once they have finished the hiring phase it should pick up speed.

Mr. Tuohy asked if they had an idea of when it would be up and running. Mr. LaDue replied that they are hoping for August.

Ms. Tautel moved resolution of the Orange County Legislature designating June 24 through June 30, 2019 as Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.