

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**(REMOTELY)
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kevin W. Hines, Chairman
Thomas Faggione, Kevindaryán Luján, Rob Sassi,
Joel Sierra, Kathy A. Stegenga, John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Leigh J. Benton, Legislator
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
James D. O'Donnell, Legislator
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Dr. Irina Gelman, Commissioner of Health
Brendan R. Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services
Carl E. DuBois, Sheriff
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff
Anthony Mele, Corrections Administrator, Orange County Jail
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Chairman Hines opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Commissioner Casey and Dr. Gelman addressed the committee with an update on COVID-19.

Dr. Gelman stated that as of today, Orange County has a total of 10,237 COVID-19 positive cases, 428 fatalities, 919 were tested yesterday, and a total of 41,086 people have been tested. As this is progressing the test positive percentage keeps declining, but everyone needs to keep in mind it is also a factor of proliferation of testing; therefore, as testing becomes more available, the criteria is a little more lax. Some may have heard about the pediatric Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C) which is a condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. We do not yet know what causes MIS-C. However, we know that many children with MIS-C had the virus that causes COVID-19, or had been around someone with COVID-19. MIS-C can be serious, even deadly, but most children who were diagnosed with this condition have gotten better with medical care. Out of that small percentage, a lot have no complications. She then moved on to discuss the State's metrics and how the county can move forward to the next phase. One metric the county did not currently meet is the 14-day hospital death because it must be fewer than five deaths per three-day average, but we are moving closer to meeting the metric each day. The secondary

semi-metric is contract tracers which the county is working on in order to meet the standard. Lastly, the county's epidemiologist was able to stratify some of the data. In terms of the confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group in Orange County are as follows; birth to 17 years of age is 4%, ages 18 to 44 is 44%, ages 45 to 64 is 35%, ages 65 to 74 is 8% and age 75 and over is 7%. Overall, for Orange County as of May 12th, we have been overwhelming predominantly in the younger population. She reiterated this is for COVID-19 positive residents and they have not stratified data of deaths just yet, but it will be forthcoming.

Mr. Hines asked Dr. Gelman how many pediatric cases are in Orange County.

Dr. Gelman replied as of two weeks ago, a public health alert was sent to all providers as this is when this first emerged, and they are just gathering the data. She stated they are tracking it.

Mr. Hines clarified that the county does not have any pediatric cases and asked Dr. Gelman if she suspects there are none or if she hasn't heard about it yet.

Dr. Gelman stated they have not heard about it yet.

Mr. Hines then asked if the pediatric syndrome is transmitted the same way which would be through droplets.

Dr. Gelman replied the pediatric syndrome is essentially a syndrome that is a result of contracting COVID-19, so they would have contracted through droplets that have been passed on from an individual who is symptomatic or COVID-19 positive.

Mr. Casey gave the committee a brief update regarding Emergency Services. He stated they are in good shape with PPE because thankfully Orange County took an aggressive position on it. They are still hoping to continue moving supplies through the building and are in the process of packaging individual "hot spots" in Newburgh and Middletown. Regarding the Contract Tracer Program, the State came out with a metric of 30 per 100,000 residents which means 100 to 110 for Orange County, but it was recently changed to 350 which put us in a bad spot. He took the course as well as 35 others in the 911 Building and a few municipalities. It is a number the county must try to get too even though it is not easy.

Dr. Gelman added in terms of epidemiological risk factors for PPE, the highest risk was direct contact with COVID-19 (29%), but as far as healthcare workers which typically would be in the higher risk category, they only accounted for 4%.

Mrs. Bonelli asked Dr. Gelman if she is surprised by the number of COVID-19 cases on the specific age ranges.

Dr. Gelman replied yes, the prevalence among the 18 to 44 age range and 45 to 64 age range is atypical. Typically, it is the older aged percentage.

Mr. Lujan commented that he saw there was a lot of information on the virus distributed and being translated. He has been working with a few groups in the City of Newburgh to distribute PPE and would be happy to collaborate in any way to help disseminate bags of information. In addition, they are running out of hand sanitizers, but have a lot of masks; therefore, it would be helpful to get more for the seniors.

Dr. Gelman responded that she will have Community Health Outreach get in touch with him.

Mr. Lujan reiterated that he would be happy to help in any way.

Mr. Vero thanked Mr. Casey for the masks and sanitizers for his district because there are several people still struggling to get some.

Mr. Casey stated they are currently in a good position when it comes to supplies. It is a testament to the county's willingness to spend money. They are aware the State would help a little, but not all the way.

Ms. Stegenga moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate 2020 Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding – Local Solicitation for the purchase and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to First Responders and correctional agencies in Orange County, \$58,008.00, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Casey explained this is a grant opportunity that came from the Justice Department in the middle of this pandemic to purchase PPE and sanitizers; therefore, they will use the funds to purchase additional supplies and one or two fogging sanitizers as well as the supplies that go with it.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved to discuss the Corrections Report, seconded by Mr. Sierra.

Mr. Mele stated as of this morning the facility headcount was at 367, of that 91 are ICE detainees and 84 are Marshals. The total revenue to date is \$3,548,541.00.

Mr. Hines asked if the jail remains COVID-19 free.

Mr. Mele replied yes, there have not been any cases.

Ms. Stegenga moved to discuss the Sheriff's Report, seconded by Mr. Hines.

Undersheriff Jones explained that all activities are down due to all of the restrictions within society, pistol permits will begin again next week and antibody testing within their membership has begun.

Sheriff DuBois pointed out that Middletown Medical will be doing the antibody testing.

There was a brief discussion between the Sheriff, Undersheriff and committee members regarding law enforcement and when and how they should wear masks while on duty.

Mr. Lujan moved to adopt a resolution of the Orange County Legislature in support of New York State Senate Bill No. 5459 and Assembly Bill No. 6215, seeking to amend New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1203 in relation to accessible parking space requirements for persons with disabilities and enforcement of illegal parking, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Hines stated that Legislator Kulisek brought this to his attention and it passed unanimously at the Rules Committee meeting yesterday. This request is regarding handicap parking and people parking too close to the cars. As for private parking lots, the allegation is that law enforcement does not have the ability to tow or ticket because they do not have jurisdiction unless the private landowner asks the police to be involved. He added this resolution will make it automatic.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.