

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mike Anagnostakis, Chairman
Michael Amo, Joel Sierra, Kathy Stegenga, Janet Sutherland, Laurie R. Tautel,
Peter V. Tuohy

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Harry Porr, Director, Operations and Cost Control
Donna McCarey, Deputy Commissioner of Human Resources
Jennifer L. Roman, D.O., Orange County Medical Examiner/
Acting Commissioner of Health
Christopher Ericson, Deputy Commissioner of Health
Kerry Gallagher, 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
Colleen Grogan, Chief Budget Analyst
Irina Gelman, DPM, MPH, PhDc

Mr. Anagnostakis opened the committee meeting at 4:00 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 was absent.

Mr. Amo moved request confirmation of appointment of Dr. Irina Gelman as Commissioner of Health of the Orange County Department of Health with an annual salary of \$140,000.00. This appointment is effective July 16, 2018, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Porr introduced Dr. Irina Gelman to the committee. He explained that the search for a new Commissioner of Health resulted in six candidates with only two having their master's degree in public health. After the interview process it was determined that Dr. Gelman would be a perfect fit for Orange County and her name was submitted to the New York State Health Department and her credentials reviewed.

Dr. Gelman addressed the committee and thanked them for this opportunity.

Mr. Anagnostakis noted that at previous meeting he was given the opportunity to ask Dr. Gelman extensive questions and he was quite impressed.

Mr. Amo added that he also participated in Dr. Gelman's initial interviews and in his opinion, they have a great opportunity to bring someone into the county who would focus on public health and prevention and the opiate addiction crisis.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if they had any input on the salary. Legislative Counsel Reed replied that under the management plan a grade system was established with the County Executive determining the salary within that range.

Mr. Porr added that the salary range could go up to \$161,000.00.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked for the previous commissioner's salary. Mr. Porr replied \$157,000.00.

Ms. McCarey clarified that the range was from \$98,000.00 to \$161,000.00.

Chairman Brescia thanked the executive side for including the legislature in the interview process as the Chairman, three party leaders and statutory Chairmen of the Health and Mental Health and Personnel and Compensation committees participated.

Mr. Amo asked if Dr. Gelman would be a full-time Commissioner of Health or continuing her private practice. Dr. Gelman replied that she would be devoting her full attention at being the Commissioner of Health. However, she does practice once a month on a part-time basis in a nursing facility outside of Orange County where she sees between thirty and forty patients for wound care.

Mr. Amo asked if that contract would continue. Dr. Gelman replied possibly, if allowed.

Mr. Amo stated that because they have a nursing home it would be good to have a commissioner with experience in geriatric care. He would not have an issue with her continuing that work so long as it does not interfere with her duties as the Commissioner of Health.

Ms. Tautel asked if she was on rotation with other physicians. Dr. Gelman replied no, it was on a consultation basis and she is not on call at the facility.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if Dr. Gelman had a vision on what she would like to accomplish in her new position. Dr. Gelman replied that there are short-term and long-term goals. With respect to long-term goals they would like to move forward with accreditation because eventually local health departments will need to be accredited.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked that besides the prestige, does the accreditation provide any added benefits? Dr. Gelman replied that in the future the state may require it and while, many local health departments in New York State are not accredited; many other states health departments are accredited.

Dr. Gelman added that they would also be looking at how they approach prevention, education and the opiate crisis in a more team wide method as a department.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if Dr. Gelman sees any challenges here in Orange County that she did not have in her previous position in Fulton County and how would she address those

challenges. Dr. Gelman replied that while it may not be a challenge she would say environmental issues.

Messrs. Sierra and Tuohy and Ms. Stegenga welcomed Dr. Gelman to Orange County.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved request to abolish Grade 17 Alcohol Clinic Director, full-time and create Grade 6 Account Clerk, full-time and Grade 6 Senior Clerk, part-time, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Ms. Miller explained that the Alcohol Clinics have been closed for over a decade; however, the position was carried over and occupied in the jail clinic. They no longer need an Alcohol Clinic Director and would like to abolish the position and create one (1) Grade 6 Account Clerk, full-time and one (1) Grade 6 Senior Clerk part-time due to the expansion of their clinics.

Ms. Tautel asked if alcohol counseling was offered in another manner. Ms. Miller replied that in an Office of Mental Health Licensed Clinic they must meet the eligibility criteria; however, many of those people have a substance abuse diagnosis with supportive counseling offered.

Ms. Tautel asked if any of this was offered for those without a mental illness diagnosis. Ms. Miller replied that they could go to any number of licensed operations throughout Orange County.

Ms. Stegenga asked how long the Alcohol Clinic Director was vacant. Ms. Miller replied four years and the new positions would be covered through revenue.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved request to accept State grant funds from the New York State Department of Health in the amount of \$504,564.00 (\$252,282.00 per year for the Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative program as a 2-year extension to the original grant period (10/1/13 – 9/30/18) and to appropriate the first year of the extension (extension period to the grant is 10/1/18 – 9/30/20), seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked about the status of the grant. Ms. Gallagher replied that year-to-date they have served 80 women with their locations in Newburgh, Middletown and Port Jervis which was an increase over prior years.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked why it was increasing. Ms. Gallagher replied that in 2018 they put a Community Health Worker into their Middletown WIC office. This enabled clients who came in for service they had, the opportunity to meet with one of the Community Health Worker to discuss the various programs.

Ms. Tautel asked if this program works in conjunction with Maternal Infant Services. Mr. Ericson replied that it deals with the WIC program and they have a contract with them to conduct counseling.

Ms. Tautel asked if this grant helps to support that. Mr. Ericson replied no.

Mr. Tuohy asked if women come from all over the county to those locations for services. Ms. Gallagher replied that they are doing a great deal of outreach and they have partnered with Employment and Training, Probation, Head Start, teen shelter and various organizations throughout the county.

Mr. Tuohy asked if they reach out to the municipalities. Ms. Gallagher replied yes.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel moved request to accept and appropriate State grant funds from the New York State Department of Health for the Performance Incentive Initiative Award in the amount of \$65,500.00 for the period 5/1/18 – 12/31/18, seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Ms. Gallagher explained that this was an ongoing award and as with prior performance incentives the funds must be used to support Article 6 eligible services. They will be contracting with the American Lung Association for training of medical providers and to become facilitators and to conduct smoking sensation classes at no cost to the county.

Mr. Ericson added that these funds would also be used to support their Community Health Assessment.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved request to accept and appropriate funds from the New York State Department of Health for the period 7/1/18 – 6/30/19 for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program grant, \$244,266.00, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Ericson explained that they have received the grant for twenty years. The grant supports one full-time employee, two contracted individuals and various items needed to support the services of the Department of Health.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if the amount has increased over the years. Mr. Ericson replied that while it has remained steady over the years it has fluctuated. This grant includes an extra emergency placeholder fund in the amount of \$100,000.00 in case an emergency arises which has never been done before.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. LaDue addressed new business at Valley View. He explained that they would be starting several new capital projects over the upcoming months and he would keep the committee informed on their progress.

Mr. Anagnostakis noted that his understanding was that the audit performed by Horan, Martello, Morrone, P.C. was completed and that it would be presented to the committee next month.

Mr. LaDue replied yes and the financials would be distributed by the end of the week.

Mr. Anagnostakis requested that the one-page summary sheet completed by Ms. Strecker be dispersed to the committee prior to the meeting.

On the agenda was an update on the Valley View CHHA.

Mr. LaDue explained that they have begun the interview process for the deputy commissioner position. The CHHA budget is in place for 2018 and they are currently working on the 2019 budget for both Valley View and the CHHA.

On the agenda was the monthly report on Valley View.

Ms. Strecker explained that for May 2018, there was zero county taxation for the facility, they received \$2.3 million in IGT funding with 50% allocated to 2017, other revenues at \$15 million and although revenues are down they have not received the anticipated \$358,000.00 in ATI funding initiative. On the personal service side, personal services were at \$9 million, average payroll for each pay period was \$795,000.00, overtime for the facility year-to-date was at \$539,000.00 with a slight increase over last year, equipment purchases at \$40,000.00, contractual at \$3.7 million, employee benefits at \$8 million and serial bond interest at \$62,000.00.

Mr. Anagnostakis pointed out that Workers Compensation was at \$1.9 million versus \$2.1 million which shows a continuing decrease over the last six years.

Chairman Brescia requested a line for overtime be added to the monthly report as it needs to be monitored closely.

Ms. Strecker replied that she would add it. She and Mr. LaDue review overtime regularly as a report is generated from Oracle. They look at overtime and nursing hours and compare them to the prior year and then go to the department heads and/or supervisors for an explanation.

Mr. LaDue added that majority of the overtime is in the nursing division primarily the CNA staff and they look for any trends based on the report.

Mr. Anagnostakis noted that if they were to see a large increase it would be reported. Personal services are currently running at an increase of \$30,000.00.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked for the union contractual increase. Ms. Strecker replied 1.5%.

Mr. Anagnostskis noted that he understands Chairman Brescia's concerns and that it should be included in the report. In his opinion, they are doing very well even with a 1.5% increase in salaries.

Ms. Strecker added that the occupancy rate for May was at 92.60%. Medicaid utilization was at 42.76%, medicaid (HMO) at 29.61%, medicare at 17.62% and private pay at 8.96% and today's occupancy is at 93.61%.

Mr. Tuohy asked for a status on the transfer of the CHHA license. Mr. LaDue replied that it was still being worked on. They anticipate it be completed by August, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.