

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 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  
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator  
Rob Sassi, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Harold J. Porr, III, Deputy County Executive  
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center  
Irina Gelman M.D., Commissioner of Health  
Christopher Ericson, Deputy Commissioner of Health  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Mr. O'Donnell opened the committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Tuohy moved request to accept funds from New York State Department of Health for the Performance Initiative Award in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the period 5/1/19 – 12/31/19. Also request the funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 be appropriated into the operating budget, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved request to accept funds for the Migrant Health Services Program from the New York State Department of Health in the amount of \$299,700.00 (\$59,940.00 annually) for the period 10/1/19 - 9/30/24. Also request first year funds in the amount of \$59,940.00 for the period 10/1/19-9/30/20 be appropriated into the operating budget, seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Dr. Gelman explained that the initiative is to provide access to high quality culturally and linguistically appropriate health care, social support services, translation and transportation to reduce barriers and to improve the health status of migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families. During this grant year they had a Community Health Worker for five months during the growing season. There were 581 migrant and seasonal farmworkers at 39 camps and 10 packing houses were served.

Mr. Amo asked if they check for the legal status of migrant workers. Dr. Gelman replied no.

Mr. Amo asked for clarification that if they were illegal that they would still serve them. Dr. Gelman replied that as far as they are concerned their status is unknown.

Ms. Tautel asked if this individual works with Alamo Health Center at Goshen. Dr. Gelman replied yes, very closely.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if they have seen anything significant. Mr. Ericson replied that the program has been in existence for years and is a conduit between the workers and public health.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved request to accept additional funds from the New York State Department of Health for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant in the amount of \$72,000.00 for the period 9/1/19 – 8/31/20 to be used for the Opioid Crisis. Also request the funds be appropriated into the operating budget, seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Mr. Ericson explained that last year this became part of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant and to be used toward the Opioid Crisis. Of the \$72,000.00, \$20,000.00 will be used to support the call takers at the recently established Mental Health Hotline with the balance used to support a staff person who will conduct the academic detailing, visit physician offices, education and coordinate Buprenorphine training.

Mr. Tuohy asked about the recent acknowledgment that opioid addiction can occur as soon as five days. Dr. Gelman replied yes, if the individual is predisposed.

Ms. Tautel asked if this must be renewed annually. Mr. Ericson replied that while it is a five year grant, they must resubmit their budget annually.

Mr. O'Donnell asked about the base salary of \$25,000.00 and what did the individual do prior to this grant. Dr. Gelman replied community outreach.

Mr. Ericson added that the community outreach program is primarily grant funded and they are constantly moving people to various programs based on funding and initiatives and putting their efforts toward those programs.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if they would be doing this without the grant funds. Mr. Ericson replied not at this level.

Mr. O'Donnell pointed out that they are taking \$42,000.00 from the grant and putting it towards an existing county employee but could the funds have been utilized in a different area with respect to the opioid crisis.

Mr. Tuohy asked how the \$20,000.00 for the hotline would be used. Mr. Ericson replied that it would go toward the hourly time of staff taking those phone calls. Each phone call must be justified as the data is stratified from the phone calls.

Mr. Sassi asked when they started to receive this grant. Mr. Ericson replied that this is the second year but the first full year of receiving the funds. He added that once the three digit number is live they will have a better gage on how to track the opioid calls and could eventually increase the funds they receive based on need. The 911 center is prepared for the implementation by adding staff for those phone calls.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. LaDue addressed new business. The New York State Department of Health recently conducted their survey which was approximately 22 months since the last survey. The official report should be received shortly with deficiencies, but he will report the findings of the survey at a future meeting. The survey was new this year and much more in depth with them physically speaking to residents. In addition, Valley View had fourteen students participate in the summer youth program which was a nice experience to both the residents and students.

On the agenda was the monthly report on Valley View.

Mr. LaDue explained that county taxation remains at zero and other revenues were at \$22.3 million. On the personal service side, personal services were at \$12.6 million, equipment at \$48,000.00, contractual was at \$5.1 million and employee benefits at \$10.7 million and serial bond interest at \$80,312.00.

Mr. LaDue added that the occupancy rate for July was at 93.82%. Medicaid utilization was at 61.43%, medicaid (HMO) at 14.85%, medicare at 15.61% and private pay at 6.5% and today's occupancy was at 92.93%.

Mr. Amo asked about the decrease in medicare. Mr. LaDue replied that it is down slightly from last year. In his opinion, it could stem from them having long-term residents that have converted to medicare days after a hospital stay but he would actually have to drill down to determine it.

Mr. Amo asked if it was a developing trend. Mr. LaDue replied that he would hope not.

Ms. Tautel referred to the survey and those residents that are incapacitated and cannot speak for themselves. Mr. Due replied that they are required to see the resident and then make a determination.

Mr. Tuohy asked about the status of the CHHA. Mr. LaDue replied that they sent out an RFQ for the Electronic Medical Records (EMR) which is their biggest hurdle. They had two EMR's that they wanted to utilize; however, both companies would not adhere to Orange County's requirements with respect to contracts.

Mr. Tuohy moved resolution requesting the New York State Commissioner of Health to adjust the Medicaid Transportation reimbursement fee schedule for Orange County, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Mr. Amo explained that Orange County has little to no involvement and when it was brought to his attention that Orange County was receiving significantly less than the surrounding counties, he contacted Assemblyman Karl Brabenec. Based on the information he received the comment from the New York State Health Department was that Orange County never asked for an increase. In his opinion, they should send up the resolution and ask them to look at the disparity as it is crippling some of the transportation services in the county.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.