

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023  
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Peter V. Tuohy, Chairperson  
Michael Amo, Mike Anagnostakis, Janet Sutherland, Laurie R. Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: Katherine E. Bonelli, Chairwoman  
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator  
Betsy N. Abraham, Esq., Legislative Counsel  
Steven M. Neuhaus, County Executive  
Alicia D'Amico, Director of Operations and Cost Control  
Carol C. Pierce, Esq., Deputy County Attorney  
Anthony Cardoso, Assistant County Attorney  
Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health  
Dr. Alicia Pointer, Commissioner of Health  
Lisa K. Lahiff, Deputy Commissioner of Health  
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center  
Donna Strecker, Director of Finance, Valley View Center  
Langdon Chapman, Commissioner, Human Resources  
Kerry Gallagher, Commissioner of Finance  
Samantha Sweikata, Commissioner of General Services  
Erin Sztendor, Budget Analyst

Mr. Tuohy opened the committee meeting at 4:03 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Ehlers and Luján, who were absent.

Ms. Tautel moved request to create one (1) additional Outpatient Clinic Director, Grade 17, and abolish one (1) vacant Mental Health Assessment Team Director, Grade 17, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Ms. Miller explained that the new Outpatient Clinic Director will manage both the Mental Health Assessment Team and satellite clinics.

Mr. Tuohy asked if the position would be filled from within the department. Ms. Miller replied yes.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved request to accept and appropriate New York State OASAS (Office of Addiction Services and Supports) funding to support Independent Living's Recovery Community Center programs, \$79,760.00, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Motion carried. All in favor.

On the agenda was a Department Update from Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health.

Ms. Miller addressed the committee and highlighted several key points in the update that was emailed to legislators. September is "National Recovery Month", and this year's tagline is "Hope is real. Recovery is real." International Overdose Awareness Day is August 31, 2023, a day that honors and remembers lives lost to overdose and the stigma faced by many. The Department of Mental Health has joined the Orange County Sheriff's Office in the development and operation of a Threat Assessment Management Team (TAM) and the team will be in Albany this week for training. The Monroe Woodbury School Satellite Clinic is doing well, Goshen is ready for start-up this school year and Highland Falls is next and they will be applying for New York State Office of Mental funds to assist with startup expenses. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Walk for Orange County is scheduled for September 24, 2023. The link for more information and to register for the event is as follows:

<https://supporting.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=9379>

Mr. Tuohy asked for the number of satellite clinics in schools. Ms. Miller replied that they have seventeen satellite clinics in eight school districts.

Mr. Amo asked Ms. Miller to define "doing well". Ms. Miller replied that they are integrated into the district, receiving referrals, and providing support to students.

Mr. Amo asked if they have any outcome measures with respect to attempted suicides. Ms. Miller replied that they have data with the last report showing the average number of sessions per student over twenty as compared to the national average of referred therapy sessions at one. Suicide is a separate issue as they have a Suicide Prevention Task Force. Dr. Pointer, the Department of Mental Health and the Medical Examiner's Office are working on creating a Fatality Review Team that will look at drug overdose deaths and suicide deaths.

Mr. Amo emphasized that process data is important, but he would like to hear how the clinics are doing and what the negatives were prior to the implementation of satellite clinics in schools.

Ms. Miller responded that their clinics collect performance-based and person-based data and metrics can be pulled from that data to help with staff improvement.

Ms. Tautel moved to request supplemental appropriation for proposed Capital Project No. 130 in the 2023 Capital Plan to replace the blast chiller freezer. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$47,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved to request supplemental Appropriation for proposed Capital Project No. 129 in the 2023 Capital Plan to continue with residential unit refurbishments. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$40,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Motion carried. All in favor.

On the agenda was the monthly financial report on Valley View.

Ms. Strecker explained that for July 2023, IGT funding was at zero and they have no new information on when they could receive a payment. Other revenues were at \$19.5 million. Personal services were at \$11.687 million, equipment at \$52,139.00, contractual at \$5.119 million, employee benefits at \$10 million and serial bond interest at \$49,369.00. Their census for July was 64.20%. Medicaid utilization was at 72.16%, medicaid (HMO) at 2.07%, medicare at 13.64% and private pay at 10.40%.

Mr. Tuohy asked if they had any news on IGT funding. Ms. Strecker replied no, but it was included in the State Plan Amendment, but the amount and release is still unknown. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the federal government must come to an agreement on the upper payment limit.

Mr. LaDue addressed admissions from 2019 to present and in May of this year they had 22 new admissions, 24 in June and 25 in July as compared to May of 2019 at 29 new admissions, 29 in June and 32 in July. The issue is not census and referrals but the inability to reopen another unit because of staffing and the new nursing home minimum staffing requirements. They report every month that their census is around 64% and while they have had a decent number of new admissions they also have discharges and deaths.

Ms. Sutherland asked if the new admissions were short-term residents. Mr. LaDue replied primarily, yes.

Ms. Sutherland asked what the average stay is for a short-term resident. Mr. LaDue replied between 30 and 35 days.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if they were maxed out on the number of new residents that can be admitted because of the number of employees and the minimum staffing levels at Valley View. Mr. LaDue referred to the minimum staffing report and while they are making it it's not by much and for the second quarter of 2022 they made it by .25 hours, the third quarter by .23 hours, the fourth quarter by .25 hours and the first quarter of 2023 by .25 hours.

Mr. Anagnostakis commented that there is a difference in census as they are down by four or five percentage points this year versus last year.

Ms. Strecker explained that they are strategizing on how to get through the next six months, and they look at everything including census and payor source. Their Medicare revenues are their higher paying revenue source and are based on the complexity of residents coming in. When New York State issued the minimum staffing requirements it did not take into consideration case mix and the complexity surrounding certain residents with comorbidities who require more hours of care.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked when the next evaluation would be done on case mix.

Mr. LaDue replied that the state is changing their methodology and they will be attending a webinar tomorrow.

Mr. LaDue added that there are two staffing metrics in nursing homes; the New York State Law on minimum staffing and the five-star rating which considers census, actual hours, and case mix. However, New York State did not take that into consideration as their formula is strictly based on staff hours splashed against census. For the first quarter of 2023, Valley View was the only facility in Orange County with over one hundred beds that met the New York State minimum statute. As a whole the industry cannot meet minimum staffing, but some facilities are not concerned with that.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if those facilities were being penalized. Mr. LaDue replied, yes, but they would rather pay the penalty and take the risk. This shows the mindset of for-profit facilities versus non-profit facilities.

Mr. Amo asked if the Medicare data is for skilled bed and rehabilitation. Mr. LaDue replied yes, but primarily rehabilitation.

Mr. Amo asked if the closed units are for skilled beds. Mr. LaDue replied that one closed unit is short-term.

Mr. Amo commented that when they are looking at 64.20% in census that percentage is based on 320 beds. They are trying to do the right thing but if they cannot fill the beds because of staffing they should subtract them and get a new percentage on the beds they are using.

Mr. LaDue added that instead of making the law punitive why not provide a bonus for facilities that are meeting the standard.

Mr. Anagnostakis agreed and because they closed beds and do not have the staff for those beds, they are not actually part of the facility anymore. What is part of the facility are the beds and staff they have, which is an occupancy of about 92%.

Mr. Amo emphasized that Valley View is doing the correct thing because they know they cannot deliver the highest quality of care because of staffing.

Mr. LaDue added that they are contemplating a discussion with their accountants about decertifying beds. There could be incentives for them to do it and they may be able to negotiate. However, they must consider the capital component as they receive a higher rate if the facility is a 300 and above bed facility.

On the agenda was a Department Update from Laurence LaDue, Commissioner of Valley View.

Mr. LaDue addressed the committee and highlighted several key points in the update that was emailed to legislators. Valley View's census on August 21, 2023, was 63.61%. For July, they had 25 new admissions and 22 discharges. They still have three units closed due to staffing issues and are admitting short-term rehab residents. Hiring nursing staff continues to be their top priority and a full-time LPN and RN started last week. Valley View CHHA census is 14. They had 9 new admissions, 5 discharges and conducted 168 therapy treatment sessions in July. They have two COVID positive staff members. They received approval from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) for their Plan of Correction for their nursing home survey and CHHA survey. They submitted all their nursing home Plan of Correction documentation putting them back in compliance.

Ms. Tautel moved request to accept and appropriate funds from the New York State Department of Health for the Long COVID-19 Initiative for the period 5/1/2023-2/15/2024, \$35,528.75, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Dr. Pointer explained that the grant is from the New York State Office of Minority Health and looks at long COVID-19 effects on minorities in Orange County including their ability to access resources and the long COVID-19 resources they have locally.

Mr. Touhy asked about other long COVID-19 groups. Dr. Pointer replied that there are resources available and over the last two months the New York State Department of Health, New York State Government and the Federal Government have started to investigate long COVID.

Mr. Amo asked for their status on COVID-19. Dr. Pointer replied that rates are increasing based on wastewater data and reports from their health care providers. The county currently has no variants of concern, but they will watch it closely as variant XBB is of interest.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if the spread of COVID-19 was random across the county or are there hotspots. Dr. Pointer replied that over the last few months there have been hotspots and information was provided to school superintendents, hospitals, long-term care facilities and Mayors and Supervisors in that area but rates are low as compared to the past.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if Orange County has seen any cases of the new COVID-19 variant BA.2.86. Dr. Pointer replied no, they are only seeing the XBB which has been prominent in the county for a few months, but they are keeping a close eye on any new variants.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked about the number of deaths contributed to COVID-19. Dr. Pointer replied that they do not have the data on that because it is not being tracked as well as in the past. Hospitalizations for COVID-19 have been stable even with the increase in wastewater.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel moved request to accept and appropriate funds from the New York State Department of Health for the Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program for the period 4/1/2023 – 3/31/2024, \$25,563.00, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Dr. Pointer explained that this was in preparation of the anticipated Ukrainian refugees; however, they received a smaller number of refugees than expected and the funding can be used for any refugee and/or asylum seeker.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved request to accept and appropriate funds from the New York State Department of Health for the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA) grant program for the period 4/1/2023 – 3/31/2024, \$97,198.00, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Mr. Tuohy asked how often compliance checks are conducted. Dr. Pointer replied that in 2022, they conducted 238 compliance checks by minors and 368 compliance checks by adults. This grant year began on April 1, 2023, at in that first quarter they conducted 177 compliance checks by minors. They are seeing an uptick with youths buying flavored vapes and they are trying to stay on top of it to ensure that no one is selling things they shouldn't.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked about the status of the FDA potentially banning menthol cigarettes. Dr. Pointer replied that New York State had looked to do it in this year's budget, but it did not go through. This is not the first time this has come up on the federal level; however, for a variety of reasons it tends to get stalled.

Mr. Anagnostakis commented that he heard if this came to fruition, they would potentially have menthol capsules that the customer could break into cigarettes.

Dr. Pointer responded that this came up with flavored vapes which are banned in New York State and they not only banned flavored vapes with nicotine but flavors that are meant to be used with nicotine.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved request to create nine (9) Transporter (ME's Office) positions, Grade 6. Also request the title of Per Diem Transporter (ME's Office) be created. The salary range for the Per Diem will be from \$21.00 – \$25.00 per hour, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Mr. Tuohy suggested the request be tabled for one month to allow Dr. Pointer time to put everything together.

Dr. Pointer replied that she could, but she is available if they have any questions.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if this passed at the Personnel and Compensation committee meeting. Mr. Tuohy replied no.

Chairwoman Bonelli stated that there was a thorough discussion at the Personnel and Compensation committee meeting; however, it failed due to lack of information that legislators

requested. She appreciates that Dr. Pointer came to this committee with additional information, and she should have the opportunity to provide some insight but if it is tabled, she will be unable to speak.

Dr. Pointer explained that they were recently informed that at the end of 2023, the Funeral Directors Association will no longer provide decedent transport for the Medical Examiner. These are deaths that are either unnatural, suspicious, or unexplained as determined by the Medical Investigators in consultation with the Medical Examiner. In 2022, they had 514 decedent transports, and they are on schedule for about 550 for 2023. This has been done by funeral directors in the past at a cost of \$250.00 per transport but a role they have declined to do in the future and were informed a few months ago that as of January 1, 2024, they will no longer be taking on this role.

Dr. Pointer presented the committee with a copy of the letter from the Orange County Funeral Directors Association, an email from the Orange County Funeral Directors Association and a breakdown of the positions needed. She went on to address several questions that were asked at the Personnel and Compensation meeting. 1) What kind of deaths require transport? They are violent deaths, criminal deaths and unexplained deaths; 2) Did the funeral homes notify the county in writing that they would be discontinuing this service? Yes, a copy of the letter they received was provided along with an email to legislators; 3) Were funeral homes offered more money to continue to provide this service? The email states that the Orange County Funeral Homes were not asking for more money. They did meet with them in person after receiving the letter and they started the in-person meeting with the same sentiment that they were not requesting more money and sited age, lack of available staff and few Funeral Home Directors; 4) Whose responsibility is it to provide decedent transportation to the Medical Examiner's Office. It is the Medical Examiner's authority to remove and transport the decedent, so it is therefore the county's responsibility; 5) The overall approach being taken on this issue. An RFP will be issued for contracted services, and they are optimistic that the RFP will be of interest to a contractor; however, they realize that as of January 1, 2024, this service will no longer be provided by the funeral directors, and they need to ensure they have another solution in place. This could entail contractors that reply to the RFP and/or other contracted employees but they need as many options available as possible which is why they are asking for these positions; 6) Can anyone provide decedent transportation. There is no law that the transporter has to be the Medical Examiner or a licensed Funeral Director, but the RFP does have some requirements such as an appropriate vehicle, license to drive and the handling of decedents in a respectful manner; 7) The number of positions needed. Nine positions are needed, they would be county employees and have county vehicles.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if a current contract was in place, if so, when does it expire and were they being compensated. Dr. Pointer replied that a contract was not in place, and they were being compensated by transport. The Funeral Directors Association as a group decided that they would no longer offer this service and they are grateful that they are giving them until the end of the year.

Ms. Tautel asked how a homicide and/or suspicious death would be handled regarding the chain of evidence, and their qualifications. Dr. Pointer replied that other than age qualifications, they will need to have a clean driver's license and a respectful attitude. This is a physically and emotionally challenging job and it will be made clear on the expectations and challenges.

Legislator Sutherland left the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Ms. Tautel asked if they would be trained by the Medical Examiner in how to properly handle decedents and the qualifications needed. Ms. Lahiff replied that these deaths would initially be responded to by a Medical Investigator from the Medical Examiner's Office. That person in consultation with the Medical Examiner or physician would decide as to the need to go to the Medical Examiner's Office or not. In cases where evidence needs to be kept the Medical Investigator will take control of logging it in and ensure that it is appropriately transported. They will also follow the transporter to the Medical Examiner's Office; however, they will not be with the body the entire time. If necessary, any evidence would be collected at the scene which is what is currently done if a funeral home picks up a decedent in this type of situation.

Mr. Tuohy asked if all the requirements would be addressed in the RFP. Dr. Pointer replied yes, the RFP states that they must have an appropriate vehicle and the vehicle must also be approved.

Mr. Amo pointed out that if they are County employees, they will train them.

Dr. Pointer responded that it would be on-the-job training with their very experienced Medical Investigators.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked about the time frame for decedent pickup. Dr. Pointer replied that in many cases bodies need to be picked up right away and depends on where the death occurs. In many cases if the death occurs at a hospital the hospital will kindly keep the body until it can be picked up. The need is slightly higher during the day because hospitals can hold on to the body until the daytime when more staff are available. If a death happens anywhere else in the county, the pickup is more urgent, within sixty minutes.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked for the number of deaths in Orange County in 2022. Dr. Pointer replied that she did not have the number with her.

Mr. Anagnostakis commented that based on the 550 estimated deaths for 2023 it would be about 1.5 deaths per day, and he does not understand why they would need more than one vehicle.

Dr. Pointer addressed the decedent transport staffing needs and the need for 24/7 coverage and if they were to use only county staff and it does not account for vacation, sick leave, or a hybrid model of contracted staff and county staff.

Chairwoman Bonelli pointed out that they were notified of this issue years ago but when COVID hit many things fell through the cracks. She applauds Dr. Pointer and her staff for addressing this and reminding everyone that this is a backup plan and if the RFP works then all of this was for naught. This failed by a 4-3 vote at the Personnel and Compensation committee meeting due to outstanding questions and in all fairness, this could be brought back to committees next month with the additional information and by that time they could have results from the RFP. It was suggested that this be tabled for one month and that may be prudent at this time. But they need to understand that they have to do something.

Mr. Tuohy asked that all the information provided by Dr. Pointer be provided to all legislators in preparation for next month's meeting.



County Executive Neuhaus addressed the committee and stated that Dr. Pointer has presented a great proposal because this could be a crisis in the making. In his opinion, let the proposal go through and if they must make changes mid-year they will. He has the utmost confidence in what they have proposed, and he understands the uncertainty because this is not their business, and this has never been done since the county was founded.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked how this is handled in surrounding counties. Dr. Pointer replied that no county has a perfect solution. Some hire contractors, some use funeral directors, some use autopsy assistants, or medical investigators but in those counties that was a condition of being hired. She cannot guarantee that their investigators and/or autopsy assistants are willing and/or physically capable of doing it. They have discussed the possibility of changing job descriptions for new hires in the future and to incorporate it moving forward. Despite all of that no county has said they are satisfied with what they have as they still have issues with delayed response time, increased workers compensation and funeral homes just dropping the service on a month's notice.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked how much those funeral directors are paid. Dr. Pointer replied that it is more than they are paying their funeral homes at between \$400.00 and \$500.00.

Mr. Tuohy asked for clarification that the RFP would be going out this week. Dr. Pointer replied yes.

Mr. Tuohy asked if the options were to vote on it as it is today or table it and bring it back next month. Legislative Counsel Abraham replied yes.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked for a point of information that nothing would prevent them from going back to the Personnel and Compensation Committee with a revised proposal. Legislative Counsel Abraham replied that she does not foresee that happening as this is a very specific request; however, if it is changed, it could go back to the committee.

Mr. Tuohy commented that in fairness to the Personnel and Compensation Committee they could table it and vote on it next month if it does not hold up the RFP.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if they had considered contacting individual Funeral Home Directors. Ms. Lahiff replied that they could respond to the RFP.

Ms. Tautel stated that it should be voted on today otherwise it will not be voted on again until October. The positions would need to be posted and interviews conducted, which takes about 60 days from the job posting to when the person is working in that department. If delayed, they could be without the ability to handle the situation come January 1, 2024, and she does not want to take that chance. This is uncharted territory, and she understands the additional expense and budget process and if they have a county employee handling the remains of a loved one it should be under their quality control.

Mr. Amo agreed with the County Executive, and they have seen where they do not get anyone from an RFP and/or they get three people they don't like and are stuck. If nothing is in place on January 1, 2024 could the County Executive put an emergency order out and hire people quickly, possibly. He would hate for them to lose this opportunity and come December 31<sup>st</sup> they have no

one. They need a safety net and if it passes this committee and goes to the floor, they have an option.

County Executive Neuhaus responded that yes, he could use his emergency powers in January, but it would not be efficient as emergency bids would need to be done. He agrees that they should move forward with the RFP, but they should not delay this request and let Dr. Pointer, who is the professional do her job.

Mr. Tuohy asked for clarification from Dr. Pointer that \$1 million is budgeted and \$2 million is not needed based on yesterday's Personnel and Compensation Committee discussion. Dr. Pointer replied that they can do it with nine people and a per diem person for the times when someone is on vacation or sick.

Mr. Anagnostakis agreed with the County Executive that they have a top commissioner and with Mr. Amo that they could get this done 30 to 60 days from now. He expressed his concerns that minimum calculations get them well over \$500,000.00, \$600,000.00 or \$700,000.00 and who would put a bid in for \$135,000.000. The bidders now have information that will put the County and County taxpayers at a disadvantage. He is willing to wait a month and have the RFP go out, wait on responses, and do this request a month or two from now.

Mr. Tuohy called the motion.

Motion failed 3-1 with Legislators  
Amo, Tautel and Tuohy voting  
voting in favor and Legislator  
Anagnostakis voting against.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if the RFP would still go out. Ms. Lahiff replied yes.

Mr. Tuohy asked Legislative Counsel Abraham how they could get this back to committees since it did not pass. Legislative Counsel Abraham replied that it failed in both the Personnel and Compensation and Health and Mental Health committees, but she would do some research to see if it can go before another committee.

Mr. Anagnostakis echoed his previous sentiments that the request could be reworded and brought back to the committee.

Legislative Counsel Abraham responded that if revisions are made to the legislative request, then yes it could come forward again as long as it is not the same legislative request.

Ms. Tautel asked if it could go to the floor as a consent resolution. Legislative Counsel Abraham replied no.

Langdon Chapman, Commissioner of Human Resources requested permission to speak before the committee.

Mr. Tuohy granted Mr. Chapman's request.

Mr. Chapman commented that based on the current discussion it appears that they would prefer to discuss this further at next month's committee meeting. He suggested they move to reconsider the vote to bring the matter back to committee then move to table for one month based on Robert's Rules of Order criteria.

Legislative Counsel Abraham clarified that they could make a motion to reconsider the vote and would require all four committee members present to vote in favor. They could then make a motion to table for a specific time frame and all four committee members present would have to vote in favor for it to pass.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked when the RFP would go out and when responses are due. Dr. Pointer replied that the RFP would be going out next week and they anticipate responses being due within 30 days.

Ms. Tautel made a motion to reconsider the vote on a request to create nine (9) Transporter (ME's Office) positions, Grade 6. Also request the title of Per Diem Transporter (ME's Office) be created. The salary range for the Per Diem will be from \$21.00 – \$25.00 per hour, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel moved to table a request to create nine (9) Transporter (ME's Office) positions, Grade 6. Also request the title of Per Diem Transporter (ME's Office) be created. The salary range for the Per Diem will be from \$21.00 – \$25.00 per hour, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Motion carried. All in favor.

On the agenda was a Department Update from Dr. Alicia Pointer, Commissioner of Health.

Dr. Pointer addressed the committee and highlighted several key points in the update that was emailed to legislators. INFECTIOUS DISEASE: Pertussis outreach is being conducted. They are in the final stages of updates to Tzim Gezint- culturally informed publication that provides education about vaccine-preventable diseases. The Orange County Department of Health will be running an ad campaign encouraging childhood vaccinations. EPIDEMIOLOGY: The Orange County Health Summit will be held on October 12, 2023 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at SUNY Orange. They have completed three Healthy Hour Podcasts on YouTube. HEALTH EQUITY: The Orange County Department of Health was OCDOH was recognized as an "Age-Friendly Public Health System" by the Trust for America's Health. "This recognition is based on your leadership and commitment to the health and well-being of the older adults in your service area, as demonstrated by the completion of the AFPHS action plan and based on the AFPHS 6Cs Framework." Lastly, the Orange County Department of Health and the Orange County Human Rights Commission are collaborating on outreach and resources at local libraries during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Ms. Tautel moved resolution appointing Anjana Poonthota, MD to the Board of Health of Orange County Health District, pursuant to Sections 343 and 344 of the Public Health Law and Section 7.04 of the Orange County Administrative Code, seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Chairwoman Bonelli explained that she is asking that Dr. Poonthota be appointed to the board to fill the recent vacancy of Dr. Pamela Murphy.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Report to the Orange County Legislature, Katherine E. Bonelli, Chairwoman, by the Valley View Advisory Committee (On file in Clerk, Legislative Office).

Mr. Amo addressed the committee and provided a brief overview of the report. The committee spent over three years looking at how they could use the supplementary property at Valley View to meet the needs of Orange County residents. As a group they came up with the concept of an Intergenerational Continuing Care Campus. It focuses on three areas: HOUSING: The campus must have a range of housing options that would include various ages and conditions. INFRASTRUCTURE: A project of this size must have solid infrastructure in place including water and sewer. The idea of a "Welcoming Center" at the entrance to the campus would direct people to places on the Campus to answer their questions. The building could have space where suppliers of essential long-term care services could interact with individuals in their efforts to plan for a healthy and happy aging process. SERVICES: Services on the campus must be need-specific and adaptive for all residents of all ages. Veterans are an important part of the Orange County family. The campus should collaborate with all veterans' service agencies and groups to develop specific programs for them. Physical fitness for all age levels of need is important to a healthy and satisfied aging. The Campus should include programs that help folks remain healthy and fit as they travel life's journey. The Campus should also include a market for everyday items and a **café that offers healthy meals** and teaches easy ways to prepare healthy meals at home as nutrition correlates with healthy living. Integrating the County's **Meals on Wheels program with the café will help people visiting or living on** the campus to obtain well-balanced meals. A complete range of providers of services should be encouraged to set up shop on the Valley View Campus, e.g., social workers, optometrists, physical therapists, chiropractors, doctors, etc. The goal is to produce a comprehensive Master Plan and Conceptual Plan for the Campus that will forecast the final design and offer a clear vision of the size, scope, function, and image of the proposed project that will benefit Valley View. If they have an active Intergenerational Aging Community that is within walking distance of a skilled nursing facility and rehabilitation center a developer could see the intergeneration between the community and Valley View and support the growth of Valley View. This is not trying to compete with Valley View but to enhance it. This would be a three-phase process. Phase I: An RFP will be needed to select the right expert for this phase. County staff and the **Valley View Advisory Committee** will develop an RFP to select the most qualified individual(s) or team. Phase II: The consultant selected in Phase I will create a Master Plan, the conceptual design and visual image of the Intergenerational Continuing Care Campus. The consultant selected in this phase will help the Valley View Advisory Committee construct an RFP to attract and select the proposer to design, develop, fund, and operate the actual Campus. The proposer or team of proposers will have experience in all the aforementioned functions and the documented ability to successfully develop an Intergenerational Continuing Care Campus.

Phase III: Under the direction of county leadership, including the Health and Mental Committee and the Valley View Advisory Committee they will select the best proposer from all responders. The Legislature with input from County Administration and the Valley View Advisory Committee will guide and approve each step in the roll-out for the Valley View Intergenerational Continuing Care Campus.

Mr. Tuohy thanked Mr. Amo and the Valley View Advisory Committee for all the time and effort put into this.

Ms. Tautel moved resolution authorizing the Commissioner of General Services to issue a request for proposals for development of a master plan for an Intergenerational Continuing Care Campus at the Valley View Center for Nursing Care and Rehabilitation, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Mr. Anagnostakis thanked Mr. Amo and the committee for all their work. There was one sentence in the report that said it best **"to better serve Orange County residents and sustain Valley View Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation."** Because of all the shenanigans that went on ten years ago with two administrations trying to get rid of Valley View they still have people that do not trust what they were trying to accomplish. He has been questioned by constituents and residents on this and he tried to reassure them that no one was going after Valley View, and this shows that they are trying to strengthen Valley View. He would be making the following amendment to hopefully alleviate those conspiracy theories on what is going to happen to Valley View.

Mr. Anagnostakis motion to amend the resolution by adding "and to better serve Orange County residents and sustain Valley View Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation," in the NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, paragraph, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Mr. Amo agreed with the amendment as it makes a great deal of sense.

Mr. Tuohy asked if they were stipulating that this only applies to Orange County residents because Valley View is open to everyone not only Orange County residents. Mr. Amo replied that federal law does not allow them to select people based on their residence and/or payor source.

Mr. Anagnostakis clarified that the statement "Orange County residents" is not directly tied to Valley View but the whole concept is to better serve "Orange County residents and sustain Valley View Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation".

Motion carried. All in favor.

As amended, motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Amo commented that this was a collaborative effort and thanked the leadership, members of the Valley View Advisory Committee, various departments, and Ms. Sweikata.

Chairwoman Bonelli thanked Mr. Amo for his leadership in bringing this forward as it will be a game changer for Orange County.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.