

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mike Anagnostakis, Chairman
Michael Amo, James D. O'Donnell, 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
Irina Gelman M.D., Commissioner of Health
Christopher Ericson, Deputy Commissioner of Health
Michael Ventre, Deputy Commissioner of Health
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center
Donna Strecker, Director of Finance, Valley View Center
Colleen Grogan, Chief Budget Analyst

Mr. Anagnostakis opened the committee meeting at 4:20 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. O'Donnell moved request to accept and appropriate New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services funding for Regional Economic Community Action Program, Inc. (RECAP) one time increase for the purchase of two (2) replacement vans, \$73,931.00, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Motion carried. All in favor

Mr. Tuohy moved request to appropriate fifth year funds, \$25,000.00 from NYSDOH for Migrant Health Services Program Grant for the period of 10/1/18 - 9/30/19, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Dr. Gelman introduced Michael Ventre as the new Deputy Commissioner of Health.

Dr. Gelman explained that the purpose of the initiative is to provide access to high quality health care, social support services, reduce barriers to access and to improve the health status of migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families.

Mr. Ericson added that the program has been in existence for several years with outreach and connection to farmers and farmworkers essential.

Dr. Gelman stated that there were 602 migrant and seasonal farmworkers at 39 camps and 10 packing houses for this grant year.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked about any recent flu cases and reported tuberculosis cases. Dr. Gelman replied that they have no official reports from the Department of Health, but they would follow up and bring them the latest information from their clinics.

Mr. Ericson added that the Department of Health would be conducting their annual flu shot clinic to county employees.

Ms. Tautel asked about the new influenza vaccine (Flublok) for individuals with an egg allergy. Dr. Gelman replied that while it has been cleared by the FDA it is not officially available.

Mr. Amo asked about the vaccine for the elderly. Dr. Gelman replied that the flu clinic would recommend the dosage.

Mr. LaDue addressed a question that was raised by Mr. Cheney at a previous meeting with respect to the 10-year capital plan for 2019. In 2018, they had \$3.2 million in capital projects, however; in 2019 that number will be significantly higher at \$11 million. They have discussed establishing a policy with the Department of Finance on how the remaining fund balance should be spent going forward.

Mr. Anagnostakis commented that during his tenure as a Legislator the \$11 million capital projects budget would be the highest he has seen.

Mr. Cheney expressed his appreciation that Mr. LaDue would be meeting with the Department of Finance to develop a policy. He would assume that they would evaluate what the facility needs and what to spend the funds on in order to determine what has to be taken from those funds.

Mr. LaDue replied yes.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if the \$11 million for 2019 would cover everything in the foreseeable future. Mr. LaDue replied that they try to prioritize annually and because they currently have extra money they could project out a little further.

Mr. Cheney reflected on the importance of a policy that would appropriately and rationally spend funds while looking at the long-term balance on what is disbursed.

Mr. LaDue agreed.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if they would have the ability to spend the \$11 million and/or the need to spend \$11 million because the ability seems to be high at over \$50 million.

Mr. Cheney remarked that the question is how much they would need to keep in reserve.

Mr. Anagnostakis commented that while they have been spending more over the last two years it came from their fund balance.

Mr. LaDue added that it is a work in progress as the county does not have a policy on how the fund balance should be spent.

Ms. Grogan explained that they are looking to have a certain amount that cannot be touched just like with the general fund and it would not just be capital projects but anything that is determined that fund balance would be used for. Meeting with the Department of Finance and having those thresholds set with best accounting practices would be the first place to start.

Mr. LaDue replied that an RFP has gone out for auditing services and whoever is chosen from the RFP would help to formulate the policy.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if Mr. LaDue was referring to their annual audit group. Mr. LaDue replied yes, and it is important that they receive their input.

Mr. Anagnostakis suggested that once the policy has been established that Mr. LaDue come before the Health and Mental Health committee for a full presentation.

Mr. LaDue agreed.

Mr. LaDue addressed the CHHA.

Mr. LaDue explained that they have an upcoming interview with a candidate for the Deputy Commissioner position, however; if that does not work out additional advertising may be needed for the position.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if this was hindering the timetable for the CHHA to move forward. Mr. LaDue replied yes.

Mr. Amo asked if the salary was a deterrent. Mr. LaDue replied no, the salary is very good, however; people are fighting for the same RN management candidates.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if people were applying. Mr. LaDue replied yes, but many are not qualified as they need a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree which is the mandate for the person in the position.

Mr. Amo asked if that was a county or Civil Service mandate. Mr. LaDue replied that it was a medicare regulation.

Mr. O'Donnell moved resolution to amend the scope of approved Capital Project (Valley View) No. 145 to allow for the upgrade of hardware information technologies. Capital Project No. 145, Resolution No. 154 of 2010, was originally earmarked for computer software upgrades in the amount of \$225,000.00. seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. LaDue explained that the original \$225,000.00 was earmarked for a Reliable Computer System upgrade and the accounting software that the facility uses. The original software update will not be needed as an RFP would be going out to merge their electronic medical record, billing software and menu software onto one platform. In addition, the funding for the upgrade phone system is time sensitive as it has already been bonded.

Mr. Tuohy asked for the amount of the phone system. Mr. LaDue replied \$137,000.00.

Ms. Strecker explained that the figure is from the last estimate; however, they have been advised by Information Technology that it could be higher depending on the type of phones.

Mr. Tuohy asked how the remaining funds would be used. Ms. Strecker replied that they would have to see where they stand once the phones have been completed and then look at any other technology infrastructures the funds could be used for.

Mr. Amo asked if there was any prior discussion on the phone system at the Health and Mental Health committee. Mr. LaDue replied that the countywide phone system was brought forward by the Department of General Services with Mr. Anagnostakis recommending that Valley View's portion be carved out in order to qualify for the reimbursement as part of their medicaid rate.

Ms. Strecker explained that \$93,000.00 was carved out of Mr. Burpoe's presentation.

Mr. Anagnostakis clarified that at the Ways and Means committee meeting he recommended that Valley View's portion be carved out so that it would qualify for the medicaid reimbursement rate.

Mr. Amo pointed out that no discussion has been made to the Health and Mental Health committee on the phone system and how it would benefit Valley View.

Ms. Strecker added that when they asked for an estimate on the phone system they were told that it would be \$137,000.00.

Mr. Amo noted that he does not know enough about the phone system to vote on it and he would request that a presentation be made to the Health and Mental Health committee.

Ms. Grogan suggested they receive the information from the Department of General Services as they earmarked the funds for the countywide phone system.

Mr. Tuohy asked if the new phone system would replace all the phones in the facility. Mr. LaDue replied yes.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked for clarification that Valley View never put in the request for the phone system, do not know the technicalities and were just told that this was the system the county was getting. Mr. LaDue replied that they heard that the Department of General Services was doing this for the county and asked to be included as their phones needed to be upgraded.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if the Department of General Services looked at what they currently have and agreed that they should be included. Mr. LaDue replied that he was unsure if they did a complete assessment, but they do know the age of their current phone system.

Ms. Sutherland concurred that a detailed presentation was done at the Ways and Means committee meeting.

Mr. Amo reiterated that they did not come before the Health and Mental Health committee which has oversight over Valley View.

Mr. Anagnostakis pointed out that it did not go before the oversight committees of the Sherriff's Department or the Department of Social Services as it only went to the Ways and Means committee.

Mr. O'Donnell asked where the funds were distributed to in January. Ms. Grogan replied that the funds were carved out but not appropriated to Valley View.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if the \$93,000.00 was taken from the General Services Capital Plan and given to Valley View. Mr. LaDue replied no.

Ms. Bonelli asked about the \$225,000.00 in Capital Project No.145 which was established in 2010 and has any computer software upgrades been done within the last eight years. Mr. LaDue replied that they have done software upgrades, but this was specific to the Reliable System which is the healthcare billing system.

Ms. Bonelli asked if they would not be doing this healthcare billing system. Mr. LaDue replied that they would not. They currently have a separate billing system (Reliable), separate electronic medical records (SIGMA care) and separate dietary menu system (GeriMenu). They will be putting all of these services out to bid and to all be on one platform in order for them to communicate with each other. The Reliable System does not offer electronic medical records, so they will not be using the funds to upgrade their software.

Ms. Tautel asked how much of the system would be reimbursement through medicaid. Ms. Strecker replied that they were unsure as this would be the first phone upgrade. Normally the medicaid rate is tied to the percentage of the medicaid population they serve so they will be having the accountants look to ensure what would be reimbursable.

Motion carried 6-1-1 with Legislators
O'Donnell, Sierra, Sutherland, Tautel,
Tuohy and Anagnostakis voting in favor
and Legislator Amo voting against and
Legislator Stegenga abstaining.

On the agenda was the monthly report on Valley View.

Ms. Strecker explained that for August 2018, other revenues were at \$26.5 million. On the personal service side, personal services were at \$14.3 million, average payroll for each pay period was \$780,000.00, overtime for the facility year-to-date was at \$1 million, equipment purchases at \$40,000.00, contractual at \$5.6 million, employee benefits at \$12 million and serial bond interest at \$109,000.00.

Ms. Strecker added that the occupancy rate for August was at 94.32%. Medicaid utilization was at 44.56%, medicaid (HMO) at 27.88%, medicare at 17% and private pay at 9.6%.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked about the decrease in private pay. Ms. Strecker replied that when someone comes into the facility as short-term but then goes to long term and applies for medicaid they are still billed at the private pay rate pending eligibility of medicaid. If and when the individuals are picked up by medicaid they reverse out the private pay rate retroactively and place them into the medicaid rate.

Mr. Tuohy asked for the length of the process. Mr. LaDue replied that each case is different as it depends on the family and/or representative as they must supply a great deal of information with the application for medicaid.

Ms. Sutherland moved resolution designating October 2018 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel moved resolution of the Orange County Legislature recognizing October 15, 2018 as "White Cane Awareness Day," seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel moved resolution of the Orange County Legislature recognizing October, 2018 as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month," seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.