

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
(REMOTELY)**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020  
2:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Rob Sassi, Chairman  
Mike Anagnostakis, Michael Amo, James D. O'Donnell, Janet Sutherland,  
Laurie R. Tautel, Peter V. Tuohy

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator  
Thomas J. Faggione, Legislator  
Kevindaryán Luján, Legislator  
John S. Vero, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Harold J. Porr, III, Deputy County Executive  
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control  
Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health  
Irene Kurlander, Deputy Commissioner of Social Services  
Todd Craner, Fiscal Director, Department of Social Services  
Caroline Marscheider, Fiscal Manager, Department of Social Services  
Ann Marie Maglione, Director, Office for the Aging  
Dina Sena, Fiscal Manager, Office for the Aging  
Kevin Monaghan, Nutrition Program Director, Office for the Aging  
Stephen Knob, Director, Employment and Training Administration  
Christian Farrell, Director, Veterans Service Agency  
Natalie Rostran, Senior Deputy Director, Veterans Service Agency  
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Mr. Sassi opened the committee meeting at 2:01 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Tuohy moved request supplemental appropriation of \$1,514,201.00 in interfund revenue from the Orange County Office of Community Development (Emergency Solutions Grant). The funds were originally received by the Office of Community Development from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. They are passed through the Department of Social Services to implement a homeless prevention program, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

Ms. Miller explained that they are working closely with Director Nicole Andersen in Community Development and have put together a comprehensive plan that involves stakeholders from across the county to address the moratorium on evictions due to COVID-19 which has been

extended through December and possibly into next year. Orange County currently has the lowest homeless numbers in a decade and is related to the eviction moratorium. These funds will be used to help approximately 150 families stay stably housed with none of the funds being used for administrative costs.

Ms. Bonelli explained that both she and Legislator Tuohy sit on the Community Development Advisory Committee and this was thoroughly discussed and agreed upon that this was a great way to utilize these funds. She thanked Ms. Miller and her staff for working with Nicole Andersen, Director, Community Development to execute these funds into the community.

Legislators Tautel and Sutherland requested that they be added as sponsors.

Motion carried. All in favor.

On the agenda were the highlighted important issues from the Department of Social Services monthly report.

Ms. Miller reported that Temporary Assistance and Family Assistance numbers remain low which is related to unemployment benefits; however, they anticipate that when that increased benefit ends, they will see those numbers increase. Although employment numbers are increasing SNAP benefit applications continue to come in and while many do not qualify because of the increase in the unemployment benefit they will see more people become eligible once that benefit ends. Early HEAP benefits have begun even though they continue to close out last year's HEAP season. While Emergency Housing placement numbers have declined because of the eviction moratorium that is only the calm before the storm. They are waiting for New York State's Code Blue funding, but they have been guaranteed that it is forthcoming. Their homeless plan has been submitted to New York State and they rely on those Code Blue funds to cover the expenses related to those services. As of November 19<sup>th</sup>. Orange County's medicaid number is 105,000; however, they will continue to see that number and those expenses increase. They have been closely monitoring their Child Protective Services (CPS) numbers as their referral sources changed with schools not in full session; however, now that schools are back in session they are working with them to provide services and support to their students. Raise the Age numbers remain low and manageable; however, as law enforcement becomes more comfortable with the new process, they may see arrests. The number of children in Foster Care has reduced and they are looking into what that was attributed to. They also have between 25 to 30 children pending adoption because when the courts were closed adoptions were not being processed but they are hopeful that the adoptions will be in place by the end of the year. In addition, they will be providing the committee with different numbers with respect to calculations of children in Foster care to be consistent with the federal mandate that goes into effect September 2021.

Ms. Miller presented the 2021 recommended budget for the Department of Social Services.

Ms. Tautel moved to approve the 2021 recommended budget for the Department of Social Services, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

Ms. Riordan clarified that on page 451, line number 560230, Shift Differential, the amount of \$1.288 million should be in line number 560320, Vac. Austerity Adj. Per Se. While

entering the adjustment, she transposed the numbers therefore the austerity line should be \$2.888 million and not \$1.6 million.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the 2021 Capital Plan for the Department of Social Services, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Knob presented the 2021 recommended budget for the Employment and Training Administration.

Ms. Sutherland moved to approve the 2021 recommended budget for the Employment and Training Administration, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Maglione presented the 2021 recommended budget for Office for the Aging.

Ms. Sutherland moved to approve the 2021 recommended budget for Office for the Aging, seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Farrell presented the 2021 recommended budget for Veterans Service Agency.

Ms. Sutherland moved to approve the 2021 recommended budget for Veterans Service Agency, seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved to approve the 2021 Capital Plan for Veterans Service Agency, seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.