

Present: Legislator Lawrence, Stein, Ferrando, Young, Bausch, Torrey, DeJaneiro. Also Present: County Manager Gsell, Assistant County Manager Landers, Health Department Director Pettit, Susan Conklin and Michael Eula, History Department & Records Management Officer, Veterans Services Director William Joyce and, Office for the Aging Director Pamela Whitmore, Office for the Aging Services Administrator Ruth Spink, and Social Services Commissioner Eileen Kirkpatrick, Human Resources Director Anita Cleveland, Daily News Reporter Paul Mrozek and The Batavian Reporter Howard Owens.

Chair Lawrence called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM in the Legislative Conference Room. The minutes of the August 4th, 2014 meeting were approved upon motion of Legislator Stein seconded by Legislator Young.

Susan Conklin requested a grant acceptance/budget amendment from the Local Records Management Improvement Fund to provide financial support to purchase fire-resistant file cabinets as part of our Disaster Management Plan.

This was referred to the Ways and Means Committee with recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion by Legislator Ferrando and seconded by Legislator Stein. (RESOLUTION #1)

Public Health Director Paul Pettit presented an agreement with Western New York Clinical Information Exchange, Inc. (dba HEALTHeLINK) of Buffalo for review and approval. The agreement will allow electronic transmission, storage and sharing of health information among participating providers of health care services.

A motion was made by Legislator Ferrando and seconded by Legislator Young to approve the funding agreement and to recommend this item for placement on the next Legislature Agenda. This passed with a unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION #2)

Next Paul Pettit provided the Committee with an affiliation agreement with SUNY at Cortland for approval effective August 13, 2014. Interns will be able to benefit from opportunities of practical work.

A motion was made by Legislator Stein and seconded by Legislator Young to approve the agreement and to recommend this item for placement on the next Legislature Agenda. This passed with a unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION #3)

Paul Pettit requested renewal of a contract for provision of paratransit services for the Early Intervention and Preschool Supportive Health Services Programs with Genesee County's NYSARC. The one-year contract services at various rates effective September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015.

A motion was made and seconded by Legislators Ferrando and Young, respectively, to approve the request and to recommend this item for placement on the next Legislature Agenda. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion. (RESOLUTION #4)

Lastly Director Pettit requested approval by the Committee of a service agreement with P<sup>2</sup> Collaborative of WNY which will allow for a collaborative effort to promote health in WNY through the development of mental health and substance abuse services asset map.

A motion was made and seconded by Legislators Stein and Ferrando, respectively, to approve the request and to recommend this item for placement on the next Legislature Agenda. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion. (RESOLUTION #5)

Director of the Veterans Service William Joyce provided an Agency Review to the Committee. An update of the claims was provided. Decreasing the current waiting time to 125 days is the goal of the Buffalo Regional Office. Currently the County's office has provided client services to 5922 veterans. The recent development of the National Cemetery located at Indian Falls Road and Route 77 in the Town of Pembroke has a project completion time frame of 2016. The agency is involved with the Veterans Mentorship Program. The program assists veterans who have been arrested. Director Joyce is continuing to network with other VSOs and to continue communication with various Veterans Departments nationwide.

Director of the Office for the Aging Whitmore informed the Committee of an opening on the Advisory Council. Casimier Czamara, Executive Director for the Batavia Housing Authority is recommended for the vacancy.

This was referred to the Ways and Means Committee with recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion by Legislator Ferrando and seconded by Legislator Stein. (RESOLUTION #6)

Director Whitmore discussed the succession Planning and grant funding with the Committee. NY Connects/BIP regarding long term care has emphasis on identifying Medicaid clients and those with income above Medicaid levels. Personnel who would provide screening in the office and other labor intensive tasks have informed Director Whitmore of their plans of retirement within the next 12-18 months. The lack of coverage in many areas that would provide aide to seniors is a concern. Funding for positions is slated to end in late 2015. State and federal funds to cover expenses for the program were discussed.

The Departmental Review was provided by Director Kirkpatrick. Basically the DSS budget appears on track. State and federal funding was discussed. The Medicaid caseload appears stable, but a 28% decrease in FH Plus individuals who now have benefits through the Exchange was off-set by the increase of new enrollees to Medicaid. Child care caseloads have increased. There was information provided regarding expensive foster care services and adoptions of foster children. The turnover of caseworkers this past year has been problematic. Future staffing changes due to Medicaid admin takeover is also being considered. The vast majority of supervisory and management staff will retire in the next 3-5 years. An update of select DSS mandated programs was provided which included Preventive services, Child Protective Services,

Home Care Services, Foster Care and Residential Placement Services, and Juvenile Justice Placements.

Lastly, Director Kirkpatrick requested approval of a Salary Schedule Amendment due to a significant extra workload because of a vacancy in another management position and at times absent personnel.

This was referred to the Ways and Means Committee with recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion by Legislator Ferrando and seconded by Legislator Stein. (RESOLUTION #7)

County Manager Gsell had nothing further to report.

The next Human Service Committee meeting will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014. At motion to adjourn was made by Legislator Ferrando and seconded by Legislator Stein at 5:59 PM.

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Annie Lawrence, Chair  
Human Service Committee