

## HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

January 19, 2010

### Present:

Richard Keaveney, Chairman  
Lawrence Andrews  
Arthur Bassin  
Jeffrey Braley  
Jesse DeGroot  
Edward Cross  
Patrick Grattan  
Elizabeth Young  
Bart Delaney, Jr.  
William Hughes, Jr.  
Robin Andrews  
William Hallenbeck, Jr.

### Also Present:

Becky Leader, Deputy Clerk  
Gail DiCosmo, Clerk  
Nancy Winch  
Michael O'Leary  
Peter Mullins

Press: 1

Chairman Keaveney called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. and asked the new Supervisors to introduce themselves.

### Health Dept.: N. Winch

Nancy spoke of a request by the staff at CCDOH for a monthly or bimonthly breakfast meeting with Health Committee members to discuss any issues that are too lengthy for Committee meetings. The meeting would serve as an orientation to Public Health. The meeting could follow the DSS meeting. N. Winch will contact Supervisors to see what they think.

H1N1 disease rates are low. We have no reported cases at this time. Immunization clinics are scheduled at schools to complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose for children 9 and under. We are holding clinics at CCDOH at 325 Columbia Street, for seasonal and H1N1. They have given 8,500 doses of H1N1 and 3,500 seasonal doses this flu season.

N. Winch handed a copy of the Community Health Assessment and Municipal Health Services Plan. The plan is completed and submitted to NYSDOH. Data is from 2005-2007. Noted that there are not enough dentists that except Medicaid in the county.

The BT Coordinator position is still vacant. It is a critical position and there is no one to complete the work. One candidate declined the offer due to the salary. Concerns mentioned about bringing this to Budget and Salary because of the hiring freeze. Decided that if people continue to decline the position due to salary, it will have to go to Budget and Salary Committee for review at a future date.

Resolution Request: Award contracts for Transportation of Children with Special Needs in the Early Intervention and Preschool Services Program. Whereas, it is necessary to bid the transportation of Children with Special Needs in the Early Intervention and Preschool Program for the period from January 4, 2010-June 18, 2010; and Whereas, the following companies are the lowest responsible bidders: Cossackie Transport, Inc, 250 Mansion St, Cossackie, NY 12051 – Routes 10 & 11, motion by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by E. Young, motion carried.

Resolution Request: Accept Capacity Building for Public Health Partners grant. Whereas \$34,000 is being allocated to Columbia County for 8/1/09 through 3/31/2010 for Capacity Building for Public Health Partners from the NYS Department of Health and, whereas a contracted project coordinator and assistant will carry out work plan in cooperation with community partners for the term of said grant and, whereas, expenditure account A04057004000 and revenue Account A03457 have previously been established for said grant in 2010 budget setup, therefore be it resolved to accept said funds in the amount of \$34,000 (Contract #T-025609) and authorize contracts with a project coordinator at \$24/hr for 588 hours and an assistant at \$20/hour for 196 hours between August 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010. No budget amendment needed, motion by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by E. Young, motion carried.

**Resolution Request:** Accept ATUPA & Children with Special Health Care Needs Grant renewals. Whereas a revenue and expenditure accounts were previously established for funds from the NYS Department of Health and whereas funds are again being allocated to Columbia County for 10/1/2009 – 9/30/2010, therefore be it resolved to accept said funds as described in Schedule A and authorize the Public Health Director to sign said contracts. No budget amendment needed. Noted that amount of ATUPA grant is \$35,826, motion by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by W. Hallenbeck, Jr. motion carried.

**Resolution Request:** Increase home care per visit charges. Whereas, the current Medicaid reimbursement rates for Nursing and Physical Therapy home care visits are being limited to current charges; and Whereas, projected costs are expected to be greater than current charges; and Whereas, certified home health agency accountants have recommended the following increases to home health charges: 1) Registered Nurse: from \$175 to \$180 per visit; and Physical Therapy from \$115 to \$120 per visit, effective 1/1/10. Therefore be it resolved to increase Registered Nurse charge from \$175 to \$180 per visit and increase Physical Therapy charge from \$115 to \$120 per visit effective 1/1/2010, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by B. Delaney, Jr., motion carried.

**Conference Request:** PRI/Screen Training in East Syracuse, NY on March 24, 2010 this training will allow this RN to continue to do PRI/Screen Assessments on patients who may be eligible for nursing home placement. One attending at a total cost \$228.00, motion by J. DeGroot, seconded by L. Andrews, motion carried.

**Conference Request:** NYSAC Legislative Conference in Albany, NY on February 8, 2010. There are two workshops. 1) EI reimbursement schedules, what changes can be expected. 2) Up-date on the Preschool Medicaid settlement with Federal Govt. and NYS and what is in it for Counties. Total cost \$125.00/conference, \$20.00/meals, \$75.00/travel, motion by E. Young, seconded by W. Hallenbeck, Jr., motion carried.

#### **Mental Health :** M. O’Leary

**Resolution Request:** Title Change for Deputy Director/Clinic Director. After discussions with Human Resources and Civil Service it is decided that a more appropriate title be created that reflects the current responsibilities. There will be no salary change, motion by R. Keaveney, seconded by R. Andrews, motion carried.

**Resolution Request:** Appointment of Deputy Director for Administration. This Department seeks to abolish the *Acting Deputy for Administration* position and fill the vacant Deputy for Administration position at the 2010 budget base salary of \$65,684. A study of salaries of comparable titles in not-for-profit agencies with whom this Department contracts as well as other county Local Governmental Units reveals a significant disparity. Noted that the salary is currently around \$53,000, motion by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by W. Hallenbeck Jr., motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary.**

**Resolution Request:** Create and fill Community Mental Health Nurse position. The Mental Health Center requests the creation of a Community Mental health Nurse position. Over the past several months the waiting list for services has continued to grow. As the only licensed mental health clinic in the County, the demand exceeds there capacity, in particular for nursing services. Noted that the salary for this position is \$58,046 and that it is in the budget. There are currently 140 people on a waiting list until March. They are only seen if it is a crisis. They are currently booking 20 intakes per a week. Motion by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary.**

**Resolution Request:** Hire .2 FTE Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. Resolution 396-2008 authorized the creation of Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner item. The position has remained vacant despite repeated attempts to recruit. This Resolution adjusts the salary to the 2010 budgeted amount of \$86,453.00. Prior to this, this position was hired as a contracted consultant. The proposed Resolution seeks to fill .2 FTE at a proportional rate. This matter has been discussed with Human Resources and originally presented to the Health/Mental Health Committee on 7/13/09. A salary study was conducted involving other county operated clinics. Recently they have found an interested candidate. This resolution would relieve the demand on doctor’s hours, motion made by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by E. Young, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary.**

**Resolution Request: Psychiatrist Salary Adjustment.** Resolution 27-2009 authorized the creation of 2.5 FTE Psychiatry items. Prior to that date, these services were obtained through contract. This topic was presented to the Health/Mental Health Committee on 7/13/09. As a follow-up a salary study was completed. Additionally, this matter has been discussed with Human Resources. The present Resolution seeks to maintain the salary for Board-eligible physicians at \$146,565 and set salaries of \$159,250 for Board Certified, \$174,395 for Board Certified and Board eligible in Child Psychiatry. These stated salaries are for 1 FTE. Less than 1 FTE should be proportional in salary and benefits. There was discussion regarding the salary change. It was noted that this is in the 2010 budget, motion by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by E. Young, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary.**

**Resolution Request: CCSI Fiscal Consultant Contract 2010.** Resolution 216-2009 provides for contracted consulting services from Coordinated Care Services, Inc. This Department has been very pleased with the quality of these consulting services and would like to renew this contact through 2010, motion made by B. Delaney Jr., seconded by L. Andrews, motion carried.

**Resolution Request: Amending Res. No. 191-2009 to include the dollar amount authorized for Jail Services Contract with Twin County Recovery, Inc.** It amends the resolution to make the program last 18 months rather than the 12 months it is currently stated to last, motion by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by W. Hallenbeck, Jr, motion carried.

**Resolution Request: To increase petty cash account.** Because of the recent decision on the part of the County to pay bills monthly as opposed to every other week, the authorized case management petty cash account is quickly depleted. This Resolution seeks to increase the account from three-hundred dollars (\$300.) to five-hundred dollars (\$500.) R. Keaveny checked to see if M.O'Leary discussed this with Diana Neceda, motion by E. Cross, seconded by E. Young, motion carried.

**.2 Request: Purchase of lap top computers.** As a means to promote productivity and because of limited office space, the Mental Health Center's Case Management requires the ability to write progress notes as needed in various locations. This request is for the purchase of three laptop computers, costing no more than \$1,800 each. Funding exists in the 2010 budget through Federal Salary Share. It is one hundred percent federally funded. Noted that \$1,800 is the maximum price for a computer, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by L. Andrews, motion carried.

Next month they will hold a department presentation. As an orientation for new members, an overview presentation will be provided regarding the Department of Human Services/Mental Health Center.

**Conference Request: "Why Try" Program, on January 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> in Owego, NY with one attending at a total cost \$300.00,** expense will be covered through the Mental Health Juvenile Justice Grant.

**Conference Request: Treating Tobacco Dependence in Mental Health Settings on March 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in New Brunswick, NJ at a total cost of \$ \$683.00 for tuition and mileage, both Conference Forms,** motion by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by W. Hallenbeck Jr., motion carried.

Chairman Keaveney asked if there was anything further to be discussed. M. O'Leary stated that he has a web address for a Mental Hygiene plan that he will be sending to the Supervisors.

W. Hughes asked for a suicide report. M. O'Leary said that in 2008 the County was off the charts with 20 suicides. For the year of 2009 there were 9 or 10 suicides in the County, which is still high.

With no further business a motion to adjourn at 4:51 PM, motion by B. Delaney Jr., seconded by W. Hughes Jr, motion carried.