

Health & Human Services Committee
January 26, 2021
Minutes

Members Virtually Present:

Committee Chair John Peck, Legislators Allen Drake, James Nabywaniec, Jeremiah Maxon, Robert Ferris, Corey Grant, Anthony Doldo

Others Virtually Present:

Legislators Robert Cantwell, William Johnson, Philip Reed, Daniel Mc Bride, Patrick Jareo, and Frances Calarco, County Attorney David Paulsen, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs and Information Technology Director Gregory Hudson, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, EMS Director Paul Barter

Others Present:

Board Chair Scott Gray, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Peck called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He advised that the meeting is being conducted under the extraordinary circumstance of a public health emergency (COVID-19), and under Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1; without permitting public in-person access to the meeting, authorizing the meeting to be held partially or completely with members appearing by remote conference call or similar service, and the meeting is being live streamed via the web and recorded, including the participation of the members appearing by remote link.

The Committee approved the minutes of the November 4, 2020 and December 1, 2020 Committee meetings, as written.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2020 County Budget Relative to Mental Health Programs and Authorizing Amended Agreements in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget to Reappropriate Federal medicaid Administration Reimbursement for the Community Services Department and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget to Reappropriate Funds for Veterans Peer Support (P2P) Program and entertained a motion. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion the Committee agree to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget to Reappropriate DSRIP Funding for Community Services Department and entertained a motion for consideration. A

motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Authorizing the Jefferson County Public Health Service to Utilize Volunteer Assistance, Locate Testing and Vaccination Sites, and Obtain Sundry Services in Connection with COVID-19 Pandemic Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Changing the Membership and Terms and Appointing Members to the Jefferson County EMS Advisory Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec and seconded by Legislator Ferris. Public Health Director Hall advised that separating the Fire & EMS Advisory Boards is a good thing as they are very distinct services and are very strong departments. She said EMS is being asked to have more involvement in County, Regional and State activities and there needs to be an advisory board to help them evaluate these changes not only within the department, but also in the community in terms of how those changes will interact and impact other entities. She asked EMS Director Barter to elaborate on the need for the EMS Advisory Board.

EMS Director Paul Barter advised that EMS is simply overwhelmed with the amount of changes coming out of Albany not only due to Covid but prior to that, their whole academic roles have dramatically changed. He said programs they are involved with or will be involved with are: implementation of integrated healthcare once it passes the State Legislature; community paramedicine program which will take a tremendous amount of work involving business leaders and insurance agents because it is a billable type of service when it comes to fruition; the ET3 Program (emergency triage, treatment and transport) which is in effect because of Covid and also has an insurance component that will require policies, procedures and quality assurance issues that will need to get established; the educational curriculum by itself has been completely turned around; their current mutual aid plan is up for renewal, they are also involved in the Fort Drum mutual aid and Fort Drum wants to change some of their parameters; retention and recruitment of volunteers; Just in Time training program (vaccinator programs, testing programs, etc.), core sponsorship is coming up for renewal; current policies and procedures for their office are from the 1990's and need to be updated; assistance for deputy coordinators (in the 5 zones in the County) in terms of policies and procedures need attention; and Preceptor Program to train pre hospital and clinical providers that will involve hospital liaisons as well as law enforcement. He said with a staff of two (he and Chris Singleton) they need guidance and input from people in the community in order to effectively deal with all the issues. The Fire Advisory Board is very active and knowledgeable on fire issues, but they need people who are more knowledgeable in terms of EMS issues, and the suggested members are nurses, health care providers, insurance people, business owners etc. who can provide that guidance.

Legislator Ferris appreciated the presentation, said Legislator Cantwell will be a good addition to the Advisory Board and he will support the resolution. Legislator Doldo asked why there were no discussions at Fire Advisory Board meetings on the subject of separating the two boards prior to the decision being made; he missed one meeting and that is when the discussion and decision happened. Mr. Barter said it came up for discussion and he made a presentation at the September Fire Advisory Board meeting and it ended up being voted through, that was not necessarily his intention

but that is what happened. He said there were conversations among individuals before that time who were supportive and that is why a presentation was made. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented with Legislator Doldo opposed.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Accepting Donation on Behalf of the Department of Social Services and Amending the 2021 County Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue from the Redlich Horwitz Foundation for Child Welfare Virtual Casework and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator Ferris. In response to questions Mr. Hagemann related that this is a private, national foundation and we have received money from them before. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2021 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue from NYS Office of Children and Family Services for Safe Harbour: NY Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Amending the 2020 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the NYS Office of Children & Family Services and Authorizing Amended Contractual Youth Program Agreements in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Doldo and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution Authorizing 2021 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the NYS Office of Children & Family Services and Authorizing Contractual Youth Program Agreements and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck thanked Public Health Director Ginger Hall for all her hard work on behalf of the County. He said we have had 19 deaths this week which is very heartwrenching and we obviously need to keep ourselves and our community vigilant of the virus. He asked Chairman Gray if there were any updates on the protocols and roll out of Covid vaccines.

Legislator Ferris said he had a citizen call him and inquire if Jefferson County was going to release demographic information on the Covid-19 deaths like Onondaga County does - not who or where they are, but ages, gender, etc. Chairman Gray said it is the second request to come through for that kind of information, and there have been preliminary discussions about it and it is under review, but we do not want to arrive at any degree of this information being acceptable on any level.

With regard to vaccines Chairman Gray advised that there are 1,575 doses scheduled for the County this week to be shared by Public Health, Kinney Pharmacies, and Samaritan Medical Center.

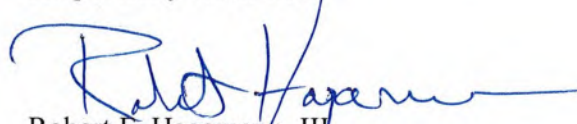
He said none of the allocated vaccines can be freely moved around between the providers very easily as it is a very tightly controlled process that requires approvals for reallocation, and then consideration of where the second doses will go. Chairman Gray explained the complicated breakdown for how vaccines are allocated from the 250,000 doses the State receives weekly down to counties according to the percentage of population by category (1a, 1b, etc.), factoring in pharmacies and hospitals also receiving vaccines for the percentage of groups they are vaccinating. He said multiple systems are used by Public Health for ordering, reporting, etc. for the vaccines and it is all controlled by the State.

Concerning the need for a more simplified process, he said there has been preliminary work done by Public Health Director Ginger Hall and Andy Short of Samaritan Medical Center on a locally run collaborative, streamlined effort to administer vaccines; short of that, we would accept a State run site in Jefferson County. The locally run concept is moving through consideration by the State for approval to a pilot program. Public Health Director Hall said each provider is using the same amount of resources for a very small amount of vaccine and it would be more efficient to combine efforts. She said the State is rigid on what populations Public Health can vaccinate and they would need to open that up then the pilot program can begin. Chairman Gray said right now it is a scattered approach to register for a vaccine according to which group (1a, 1b, etc.) you belong in. If the local collaborative concept is approved, you would only need to go to the NYS Health Department website to register for a State site, or to the Public Health website (or make a phone call) to register for the collaborative site for the other groups.

Legislator Maxon felt if a decision is to be made concerning releasing Covid-19 demographics it should not be made by staff or the Chairman of the Board, it is a discussion that should happen at the Health & Human Services Committee level and then the full Board, and it is information the public needs to know and we should consider reporting. Legislator Doldo asked if our doses include Fort Drum personnel. Chairman Gray said Fort Drum is not included they are part of a separate federal program that covers military members, dependents, retired military, and contractors inside the gates of Fort Drum who can all be vaccinated on Fort Drum.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Doldo seconded by Legislator Maxon and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board