

Health & Human Services Committee
November 8, 2023
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Anthony Doldo, Legislators Allen Drake, John Peck, Frances Calarco, Steel Potter, Corey Grant and Board Chair William Johnson

Others Present: Legislators Robert Cantwell, Philip Reed, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, James Nabywaniec, and Robert Ferris, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Ashley Durham, Office for the Aging Director Bethany Munn, Public Health Director Steve Jennings, DSS Commissioner Karen Marcum, DSS Housing Director Jillian Redder, Probation Director Kristine Maloney, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Doldo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered Privilege of the Floor however no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the September meeting, as written.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2023 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Mental Health Programs and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for Provision of Related Services in Connection with the Program for Preschool Children with Disabilities and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for the Provision of Services Relative to Opioid Settlement Fund and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Members to Jefferson County Public Health Service Health Services Advisory Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Members to Jefferson County Public Health Service Professional Advisory Committee and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Peck and

there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Re-Appointing Members to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending Agreement with Onondaga County for Provision of Certain Professional Services to the Medical Examiner's Office and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements for Provision of Certain Professional Services to the Medical Examiner's Office and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with Samaritan Medical Center for Use of Facilities to the Medical Examiner Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements for Use of Facilities for Professional Services to the Medical Examiner's Office and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant and seconded by Legislator Calarco. In response to questions County Administrator Hagemann advised that these contracts are not new as the Medical Examiner always needs back up, but are being utilized more because the Medical Examiner position is vacant. Public Health Director Steve Jennings agreed, saying the Medical Examiner's Office has had arrangements with these contractors for at least the last few years so they had a back up. Because we currently do not have a Medical Examiner he said all autopsies are being divided between Onondaga County and Lourdes Hospital in Binghamton, noting that Lewis and St. Lawrence counties are also sending their autopsies to these places.

With regard to filling the Medical Examiner position he said Public Health is having discussions about different scenarios from recruitment to fill the Medical Examiner position, to a more regional approach for a collaborative effort with other municipalities to share the service so there is enough work for one person; however he has not spoken to contiguous counties about this issue yet. He said it is really an acute situation statewide and across the country, and they will be thinking of solutions and ideas and bringing them forward to Administration. He related that years ago the Medical Examiner program received State Aid, however that went away. He said there is some discussion about aid coming back, particularly with regard to all the opioid overdose cases because it is a Public Health problem, but it is only discussion at this point. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with Carthage Area Hospital for Laboratory Services in Connection with the Public Health Service Diagnostic and Treatment Center and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with DUFLO SPRAY-CHEMICAL INC Relative to Aerial Spraying to Mitigate Eastern Equine Encephalitis and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Establishing Compensation for Temporary Professional Employees Employed in Connection with the County Rabies Program Vaccination Clinic and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2023 County Budget Relative to Public Health Department Accounts and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreements with Universities, Colleges and Other Schools for Clinical Education Programs in Health Professions and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Amended Agreement in Relation to Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity to Enhance Detection, Surveillance, Case and Contact Investigation and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending 2023 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue from the Auction of Unclaimed Property and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

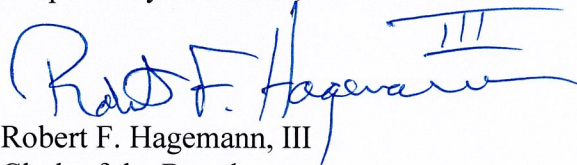
DSS Housing Director Jillian Redder provided the Committee with an update on housing programs/transitional housing at 140 High Street and 661 Factory Street, and reported that the Salvation Army Warming Center is now open from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily, seven days a week and will remain open through the end of April, 2024. She outlined other community supports and services that are available at Emmanuel Church (daily dinner meals) and the

Watertown Urban Mission.(small scale drop in center M-F 8:30 - 4:30) noting that funding has been approved to support additional hours, security and staffing for the drop in center for seven days per week which is in the planning and preparation stage.

Ms. Redder identified future projects she is working on including setting up a Housing Advisory Committee with members identified and the first meeting to be held at the start of 2024. The Committee will first bring back the recommendations from the previous Steering Committee regarding the Emergency Response Procedure and Trailer so they can respond to housing crisis and emergency situations quickly and readily; and looking at Pallet Shelters. The Committee will also discuss the potential for project improvement/increased support to existing housing within the area that was brought forward recently. Ms. Redder answered questions of legislators related to the programs and homelessness. Legislator Peck thanked Ms. Redder and said we are in a much better place to help the homeless this year due to everyone's efforts, and her being able to focus solely on this issue. Legislator Nabywaniec said what a difference a year makes and thanked Ms. Redder, Commissioner Marcum, Administration and Chairman Doldo for their efforts and hard work that went into our progress so far noting that there is a lot of good momentum to keep this issue moving in the right direction. Chairman Doldo thanked Ms. Redder and said it is a huge difference from one year ago, people have a place to get a good meal and lay their heads at night and have access to other resources. He related the success story of an individual he brought to DSS to meet with Ms. Redder and she was able to help him with resources to get his life back on track.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Grant and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name and three vertical lines to the right of the name.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board