DSS/OFA/PUBLIC HEALTH/COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
October 17, 2018

PRESENT: Legislators John Lehman, Thomas Osborne, Randy LaChausse, Bryan Moser and Andrea Moroughan entered the meeting at 9:05 a.m. County Manager Ryan Piche, OFA Director Kelly Hecker, Public Health Director Penny Ingham, Director of Community Services Patricia Fralick, DSS Commissioner Jenny Jones, Treasurer Patty O’Brien, County Attorney Joan McNichol, HR Director Chris Boulto. Reporter Nick Altmire entered the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

The meeting was called at 8:30 a.m.

Legislator LaChausse made a motion to approve the 9/19/18 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Lehman and carried.

The following dockets were approved:

1. Authorize State Aid payment to TLS pursuant to NYS Office of Mental Health revised 2013 closeout audit and in accordance with the County Agreement-$59,383.00

2. Appropriate DSRIP funds into the Office for Aging account-$3,000.00

3. Legislator Osborne made a motion to authorize Agreement between OFA and McManus Hotel to provide senior congregate and home meals for 2019 - $8.95/meal

4. Appoint Jenny Jones to Lewis County Opportunities Board of Directors 11/1/18-11/30/21

5. DSS Agreement w/Binnacle Technology Solutions for accounting software support-$2,497.50

6. Appoint Jenny Jones and Jennifer Maracchion to Public Health Services Advisory Committee

7. Public Health Agreement w/Central NY Care Collaborative for DSRIP funds for value-based payment readiness and performance activities-$107,200.00

8. Public Health MOU w/CAPC for Jeff-Lewis Child Care Project for Family Day Care consultant- $40/unit of service

9. DSS Agreement w/Snell Farms Children’s Center for foster care services-Rates set by State

10. DSS Agreement w/Rubenzahl, Knudsen & Associates for psychological services-$2,487.50

11. DSS Agreement w/Elmcrest Children’s Center for foster care services-Rates set by State

DSS Commissioner Jenny Jones discussed U and V Visa endorsements in light of human trafficking, possibly enslaved children, across the border illegally who become victims of a crime. Also can endorse those that may need to assist in CPS and APS cases. Jenny is
designated to execute the visa endorsements that would enable the victim or other person assisting to obtain a VISA.

The Office of Children and Family Services provided car seats that are available for DSS Child Protective Service personnel who identify children that do not have access to proper seats. CPS workers are required to assess safe sleeping and safe transportation for children during home visits. Playpens are customarily provided when a child is found without safe sleeping accommodations.

Jenny has followed up with the State to address the Dayan Street emergency homeless shelter citations. The State agreed to reconsider or waive some of the requirements ie. illuminated exit signs at entrances. However, they are insisting on a structural engineering analysis that the owner refuses to conduct. Ali LaBarge has toured the building with code officers who believe the foundation has somewhat shifted, but is certainly in no danger of collapse.

Security cameras have not been installed at the Dayan Street shelter. The equipment has to be able to record and is expensive. Jenny has requested more time to research viable security options. She understands why the LCOI is reluctant to expend monies for this purpose.

St. Mary's rectory in Glenfield has offered to enter into discussions of that building to determine the feasibility of use for a shelter or other needs. A required inspection by the NYS Office of Temporary Disability will be scheduled. If approved, the option may be pursued.

Legislator Osborne and County Manager Ryan Piche are registered for the Bridges Out of Poverty training on 10/24 and 10/25. Jenny, again, encouraged other Legislators to participate.

Foster care numbers doubled last week for five children aged infant to third grade, two of which required in-patient services at Upstate University. All 4/5 children are now housed through the Children's Home of Jefferson County in a foster boarding home; 1 remains hospitalized.

During the past week, a set of twins who had been in foster care had been released to their mother.

The 2019 Safety Net appropriations are submitted at $300,000. Jenny expects to exceed the 2018 line item allocations by $50,000. She plans to transfer funds from the MMS account to cover that deficit. These are services to persons who are single or a couple without children, many need addiction treatment. They generally require an extended time for recovery and are unable to work. Room and board costs at appropriate facilities average three times as much as standard room and board. Safety Net Program monthly expenditures average $21,000 - $30,000. Ryan Piche said the 2019 appropriation was pared down from $350,000, but if expenses exceed appropriations, thorough review will be conducted to determine the proper level of future allocations.

Jenny then posed a personnel reclassification request for Caseworkers and Grade B Supervisors from Grade 26 to 27 and 32 to 33 respectively. [Attached sheet thoroughly outlines the request]. If approved, these employees would be on same salary grade as Probation Officers (PO's) who Jenny submits deal with the same types and level of issues, while noting that PO's have bullet proof vests. The aggregate dollar increase for all involved employees for 2019 is $1,265.25.
It was strongly noted that union representatives should be advocating for employees during the negotiation process.

Later in the meeting, Legislator Osborne made a motion to reclassify the Caseworker, Grade B Supervisors and Office Manager to Grades 27, 33 and 24 respectively, seconded by Legislator Lehman. The vote: Legislator Lehman voted yeah, but strongly encourages union representatives to advocate for employees during union negotiations. Legislator Osborne voted yeah. Legislator LaChausse voted nay, wanting more information. Chris Boulio would provide him with the past and most recently adopted union contracts.