

**Members Attending:** Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Acres, Ms. Arquiatt, Mr. Arquiatt, Mr. Burke, Ms. Curran, Mr. Denesha, Mr. Fay, Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Haggard, Mr. Leader, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Reagen, and Ms. Terminelli

**Others Attending:** Ruth Doyle, Dylan Soper, Kelly Pearson, Renee Cole, Steve Button, Jay Ulrich, Dana McGuire, Andrea Montgomery, and media representatives

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Chair Sheridan called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Mr. Arquiatt moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Lightfoot, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Mr. Haggard moved that all resolutions be approved without objection, seconded by Mr. Burke, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Mr. Haggard moved that all Department Heads be excused from the meeting, with the exception of the Emergency Services and Public Health Directors, seconded by Mr. Arquiatt, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Mr. Forsythe moved to approve the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

**3. TELECONFERENCE OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAM PRESENTATION** – Dr. Paul Updike, Medical Director of Substance Use Services, Catholic Health System

#### **4. COMMUNITY SERVICES – JAY ULRICH**

A. Clinic Services Follow Up (Discussion)

B. Modifying the 2020 Budget for Community Services for Funding Received from the Office of Mental Health (OMH) to St. Lawrence County as Pass through Funding to Approved Agencies (Res) – Ms. Curran moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Arquiatt.

Ms. Curran moved to modify the resolution by adding “Authorizing the Chair to sign downstream provider contracts” in the title of the resolution, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Amended resolution carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

C. Authorization to Create New Accounts for Health Home Care and Modifying the 2020 Budget for Community Services (Res) – Ms. Curran moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

## 5. PUBLIC HEALTH – DANA MCGUIRE

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign Contracts for Services for the Preschool Special Education Program in the Public Health Department (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

B. Proclaiming April 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as National Public Health Week (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

C. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Pathologist Dr. Scott LaPoint for the Coroner Program (Res) – Ms. Arquiett moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Arquiett, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

D. Approval of Rates for Related Services for the Preschool Special Education Program (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Update on Coronavirus – Ms. McGuire said she met with the four colleges and the superintendents regarding school closings. The Public Health Department has been advising people about social distancing, and a press release was put out this morning. Ms. McGuire said she recommends peoples stay home as much as possible, and it is also the recommendation of the CDC. Eateries and other establishments are being closed beginning at 8 p.m. this evening. There are twelve (12) people in the quarantine process in St. Lawrence County at this time. There is no specific guidance from the State on how to establish who has traveled from areas of concern, but when the Department becomes aware of individuals who have traveled from specifically mentioned areas, they are tracked. Providers are now able to decide on the testing. There are five criteria for testing: (1) Symptoms, and if you have traveled (2) Approximate contact with someone who has been confirmed to have coronavirus (3) If you are currently in quarantine and you now show symptoms (4) If you have symptoms and tests have been negative for other infections, and (5) Any other situation that cannot be explained. Ms. McGuire said we do have the capability to test individuals who show symptoms and do have a concerns, but do not have the capability to do a general screening for the entire public. There are hopes that more labs come online and the hospitals are able to do more tests. It takes 3-6 days to get the results back when test results are sent to the labs. Notice came from the NYS Department of Health that they are trying to get a New York State testing site.

Mr. Forsythe said he was concerned about the transit buses and the Amish Community who use the buses, and may not know the full impact of the coronavirus. He asked how information is being relayed to the Amish. Ms. McGuire said they are trying to get the information out to the Amish, and the recommendation to stay home so the transit buses would not be used.

Mr. Burke asked Ms. McGuire if the main strategy is containment. Ms. McGuire said no, containment is part of the self-isolation, but the main strategy is social distancing at this point. Mr. Burke said the work that Ms. McGuire did with the schools was very impressive. Mr. Burke asked where the liability was regarding the situation. Ms. McGuire said she did not have an

answer to that.

Mr. Denesha said years ago there was SARS and the Swine Flu and he asked what the difference was from coronavirus. Ms. McGuire said there are seven (7) types of the coronavirus, and she would send information on the differences.

Mr. Leader asked what the time of recovery is for someone who contracts this virus. Ms. McGuire said she would get that information and share with the Board. In general, approximately eighty percent (80%) of cases will be minor.

Mr. Arquiett thanked Ms. McGuire for her efforts and said we are in uncharted waters and she is leading us through this.

Mr. Haggard said there are people walking into emergency rooms to be tested and that creates a secondary problem of people who potentially have the virus exposing it to others. He asked what was needed to open additional sites where testing could be done without having people walking into emergency rooms. Ms. McGuire said people should self-monitor their symptoms and if they think they have the virus, they should call first and not just show up at the emergency room. Additional sites are needed, but the way tests are currently submitted, there are not enough labs to cover additional screening at this time. Mr. Haggard said there are two other sources being discussed in the State at this time – mobile testing and drive through testing. He said if testing becomes available on a wider scale, Ms. McGuire should ask for whatever she needed to set up additional sites. Mr. Haggard said the Governor spoke today about additional sites with beds, outside of hospitals, and he feels this will become a math problem if there is a surge of illness. Potential places should be explored in advance, in case of an urgent need. Mr. Haggard asked about Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Ms. McGuire said request for PPE are put in through the New York Response System.

## **6. OFFICE FOR THE AGING – ANDREA MONTGOMERY**

A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Unite USA, Inc., Dba Unite Us, to allow the Office for the Aging to be Listed as a Referral Source on the Unite Us Platform (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Ms. Arquiett, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

B. Authorizing County Department Heads to Sign Confidentiality Agreements with the Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team (E-MDT) to Refer Clients for E-MDT Services (Res) – Mr. Burke moved to forward this resolution to full Board, seconded by Mr. Haggard, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Mr. Haggard made a motion to move on consent of all the resolutions, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

## **7. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

A. Community Services

- Create and Fill Temporary Account Clerk (100100042)

- Abolish Keyboard Specialist and Create and Fill Account Clerk (100100041)
- B. Social Services
- Fill Social Welfare Examiner/TA/SNAP (814000015)
- C. Youth Bureau
- Fill Temporary Secretary I (005100001)

## **8. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – RUTH DOYLE**

Ms. Doyle said she plans to move forward with protecting staff during the COVID-19 epidemic. Currently she has asked Department Heads to provide a plan to reduce workforce in local government by fifty percent (50%). Outside visitors to the jail have ceased and Office for the Aging Nutrition Sites have closed. There will be no travel or hosting meetings allowed at this time. The Department of Motor Vehicles will be open by appointment only starting Wednesday. Courts have shut down and the County is looking at appointments only in its Legal Offices. There may be a time where the doors of County Buildings will be closed. There have been daily calls from the State and New York State now has 950 cases of coronavirus, and 3,820 cases in the United States. Ms. Doyle said if the Board is agreeable, she requests permission to fill additional new hires in Emergency Services and Public Health, if needed. She is researching work from home scenarios. Schools are closed and that presents some folks with day care issues. The IT Staff has been working tirelessly on evaluating the servers, setting up laptops, and transferring telephones calls forward to individuals at home. It is her intention that senior staff would still have an office presence, but would also have the flexibility to work from home as well. Public Health staff will be staggering their work schedules. Alternative phone numbers will be sought to lift the burden from Emergency Services and Public Health. Social Services has communicated with Foster families last week in regards to the latest guidance provided by New York State. Ms. Doyle said the next four (4) meetings of the Board of Legislators could be held by video or teleconference.

Mr. Haggard made a motion to allow the County Administrator to make any and all temporary hires as needed to meet the health crisis during this critical time, seconded by Mr. Arquiett.

Mr. Fay called question, seconded by Mr. Lightfoot, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Ms. Doyle asked if there was any objection to allow staff to work from home. All offices will be open, with minimal staffing.

Mr. Haggard made a motion that the Board of Legislators meet by virtual bases until further notice, seconded by Mr. Arquiett, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

Mr. Acres left the meeting at 7:41 p.m. and returned at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Haggard moved that employees be paid without using accruals on a case to case basis, seconded by Mr. Burke, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS** – There were no Committee Reports

**10. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Forsythe thanked Matt Denner for his work.

Ms. Curran moved to go to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss litigation, negotiation, and appointments, seconded by Mr. Arquiett, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Curran left the meeting at 8:24 p.m., and returned at 8:26 p.m.

Mr. Perkins moved to go to Open Session at 8:31 p.m., seconded by Ms. Curran, and carried unanimously by a voice vote with fifteen (15) yes votes.

**12. ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Sheridan adjourned the March Services Committee Meeting at 8:31 p.m., as there was no further business.