

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2016
9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: P. Yendell, B. Donohue, M. Walker, E. Gott, D. LeFeber, I. Coyle, H. Grant
 ABSENT: D. Babbitt Henry, I. Davis,

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

Action Item(s) To Be Reported

1. AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: AVON NURSING HOME, CONESUS LAKE NURSING HOME, PT PROFESSIONALS OF LAKEVILLE AND WYOMING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign the following contracts for the Livingston County Department of Health, according to the terms designated, subject to review by the County Attorney and County Administrator:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Avon Nursing Home 215 Clinton Street Avon, NY 14414 For: Hospice Care	1/1/16-12/31/17	Current Daily Hospice Rates

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted ?</i>
Various 3 rd Party Payors	Varies - Dependent on Payor	Yes X No

Director's Comments: This contract will provide Hospice care within the Nursing Home setting.

Conesus Lake Nursing Home 6131 Big Tree Road Livonia, NY 14487 For: Hospice Care	1/1/16-12/31/17	Current Daily Hospice Rates
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<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted ?</i>
Various 3 rd Party Payors	Varies - Dependent on Payor	Yes X No

Director's Comments: This contract will provide Hospice care within the Nursing Home setting.

PT Professionals of Lakeville 3506 Thomas Drive Lakeville, NY 14480 For: Physical Therapy Services	1/1/16-12/31/17	\$75 Inclusive Visit Rate \$35 Reimbursable, Non-Direct Patient Care Expenses
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<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted ?</i>
Various 3 rd Party Payors	Varies - Dependent on Payor	Yes X No

Director's Comments: This contract will provide Physical Therapy Services for Hospice clients.

Wyoming County Health Department 5362 Mungers Mill Road Silver Springs, NY 14550 For: Integrated Breast, Cervical & Colo-rectal Cancer Prevention	4/1/16-3/31/17	Grant \$35,684.00 COLA \$2,862.00
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<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted ?</i>
New York State via Wyoming County	0%	Yes X No

Director's Comments: This contract will provide funding for the Cancer Services Program.

Ms. Rodriguez reviewed each of the contracts for approval.

Motion: Mrs. Donohue moved and Mr. Gott seconded to approve the foregoing resolution Carried.

Ms. Rodriguez distributed her 2015 Annual Report to the Committee. The report will be on file with the Clerk of the Board.

Informational Item(s) Written Only:

- Community Health Assessment updates - all MAPP assessments are complete, prioritization meeting was held with the following priorities identified: Chronic Disease and Mental Health/Substance Abuse.
- National HIV Testing Week media and outreach campaign implemented including display table at Government Center.
- Staff Training Day was well attended and well received: Community Health Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan update, Annual Report provided including Extra Mile winners, Performance Management / Quality Improvement training and update re: current projects.
Revising Violence Prevention Community Toolkit to be distributed countywide in October.
- Coordination MRC Challenge Award to decrease falls among seniors by expanding Home Safe Home (fall assessment and minor modifications) and increase knowledge regarding Emergency Preparedness; partners include Lifespan, Noyes Health, Office for the Aging and EMS.
- LCDOH Annual Report distributed at Genesee Valley Health Partnership / Community Health Assessment Prioritization meeting, mailed to local libraries, given to BOH and BOS members and will be on LCDOH website.
- Environmental Health, with assistance from other DOH staff, has conducted two of six scheduled free rabies clinics for the year. This year we have changed the locations for three of the clinics, including Avon, Dansville and Nunda, in an effort to provide enhanced services. Next season we are moving towards the implementation of an electronic database that will result in shorter wait times and less staffing requirements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Gott and seconded by Mr. LeFeber that the Committee adjourn and reconvene and All Supervisors, County Administrator Ian M. Coyle, Clerk of the Board remain present. Carried.

Mrs. Donohue moved and Mr. Gott seconded that the Committee reconvened in regular session. The following report was presented.

The Human Services Committee having met in Executive Session, hereby reports as follows:

No action taken.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING – SUE DAVIN (1 ATTACHMENT)

Pre-approved Informational Item(s) To Be Reported

1. Transition to new Statewide Client Database/Upcoming Challenges
Timeline/Planning/Staffing/Business Associate Agreement

Ms. Davin reported that the required OFA Public Hearing will be July 27 at 10 a.m. at the Mt. Morris congregate site. There were about 24 people at last year’s public hearing. Sept. 26-27 NYSOFA is coming to the office for their annual review. Ms. Davin explained some of the challenges coming up over the next few weeks – the NYSOFA is transitioning all 50+ counties to a common client database and from Aug. 7-Sept. 15 will be a go-dark period where they will not be able to enter anything into the new client database. During that time they do have contingency plans in place. Sept. 15 the new system will be going live and the information received during the 6 week go dark period will need to be input. She has two provisional caseworker assistant employees that took the test in April that may not be reachable on the list. She also has three people going on leave between Aug.-Oct. It is difficult to have temporary help for these positions during this time. The new system is in the health commerce system, which is a web based portal of NYSDOH and is partnering with NYSOFA on the NYCONNECTS no long door so the state DOH is contracting the state OFA and then the State OFA is contracting with each individual area OFA for this project. Because some of the information is protected health information the State DOH is having a business associate agreement with the State OFA and they are having a business associate agreement with us. The Senate appropriations bill eliminated the state health insurance information programs, which is Highcap for us. She is flabbergasted that

they eliminated that program. Congressman Collins office has called her and he knows the value of the program. They have been doing some advocacy with the senior clubs and social media. The farmer's market voucher distributions started last week. They continue to see high volume in terms of calls. Three of the six staff have completed the case management certificate program through Boston University and three more are almost through. The deadline is September. There was discussion on the matter of balance training program. Caledonia and Avon are the only sites Lifespan is willing to do at this time. She is trying to get more locations. She is hoping to offer the program at a congregate site at least once per year.

Informational Item(s) Written Only

1. Program Summary Report for January-May 2016:

Congregate Meals:	11,965 meals (compared to 9,645 same period 2015)
Home Delivered Meals:	22,099 meals (compared to 22,515 meals same period 2015)
Case Management:	656 units (compared to 603 units same period 2015)
Nutrition Education:	1,950 units (compared to 1,695 units same period 2015)
Transportation:	2,336 units (compared to 2,001 units same period 2015)
Caregiver Services:	236 units (compared to 225 units same period 2015)
Personal Care Level II	1,483 units/24 people (compared to 1,650 units/28 people 2015)

2. Program Updates:

SHIP funding cut in Senate Appropriations Bill (federal) – these are the dollars that support the HIICAP program (see attached). Insurance issues were top issue for seniors in Livingston County. A state and federal advocacy effort is underway to restore funding. Chris Collins' office reached out to say this is on their radar and he understands the importance of this funding.

The Senior Nutrition Program will distribute **Farmers Market Vouchers** to **Livingston County residents, 60 years of age and older, who meet these guidelines:**

1) Currently receive or are eligible to receive SSI, Section 8 Housing Subsidy, or Public Assistance, OR 2) Monthly income (includes Social Security, Pensions, Retirement, Interest & Dividend Income, Unemployment Benefits and Wages - total household income) is below the following:

Individual \$1,832 per month; **2- Person Household** \$2,470 per month; **3- Person Household** \$3,108 per month

DISTRIBUTIONS: * Vouchers distributed at

Avon Senior Nutrition Site, Avon Village Building, Tuesday through Friday, 10-11:30am only (from 6/28/16 – 7/29/16)

Dansville Senior Nutrition Site, 5 Chestnut Avenue, Dansville, Monday through Thursday, 10-11:30am only, (from 6/28/16 – 7/28/16)

Mount Morris Senior Nutrition Site, at the VFW, 3 Elm Street, Mount Morris, Monday through Thursday, 10 am-12 pm only (from 6/28/16 - 7/28/16)

Nunda Government Center, Massachusetts Street, Tuesday, July 5 • 2:30-4:00pm

Springwater Town Hall, 8022 S. Main Street Wednesday, July 6 • 9:30-11:00am

Dansville Farmers Market, Maple Street, Friday, July 8 • 11:30am-1:00pm

Country Lane Apartments, (Upper South Street Senior Housing) 600 Country Lane, Geneseo, Friday, July 8 • 1:30-3:30pm

Leicester Town Hall, 132 Main Street, Monday, July 11 • 1:30-3:00pm

Lima Farmers Market (corner Rts. 5 & 20 & 15A), Tuesday, July 12 • 3:00-5:00pm

Geneseo Farmers Market, Center Street @ Main Street, Thursday, July 14 • 4:00-6:00pm

*Voucher supply is limited.

Available until all vouchers have been issued

Public Hearing: July 27, 2016 10 am at Mt. Morris Senior Nutrition site

Annual Evaluation (NYSOFA): September 26-27, 2016

Case Management Certificate Program (Boston University): Three staff have completed; three more are in the process; everyone is on pace to complete in advance of the deadline

DSS Adult Services staff presented at the 3 Senior Nutrition sites during the week of June 13th in conjunction with World Elder Abuse Awareness Week

Home Safe Home program to kick off July 2016

Matter of Balance Training scheduled for 7/15/2106; 10 individuals to be trained to be coaches; the goal is to expand availability of this Evidence-Based program in Livingston County

Powerful Tools for Caregivers class will be offered at the Goodwill in Geneseo beginning on Tuesday August 23rd for six Tuesdays, 1 – 3:30 PM; respite may be available for loved ones. For information or to register call Noyes Caregiver Resource Center at 335-4358.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – DIANE DEANE

Action Item(s) To Be Reported

1. AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING CONTRACT FOR THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES: GENESEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign the following contract for the Livingston County Department of Social Services, according to the term designated, subject to review by the County Attorney and County Administrator:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Genesee Community College	8/1/16-7/31/17	\$323,818.00
One College Road Batavia, NY 14020		

For: This contract provides for a large part of the training our staff receives, including training provided by the County ITS Department to DSS staff.

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted ?</i>	
State Training Cap	0-5%	Yes	No

Mrs. Deane reviewed the annual contract for staff training expenses. They get very low local shares, so they try to put as much training as possible under this contract.

Motion: Mr. Gott moved and Mrs. Walker seconded to approve the foregoing resolutionCarried.

2. AMENDING A PORTION OF RESOLUTION 2016-158

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2016-158 authorized the Commissioner of Social Services sign various contracts for the Livingston County Department of Social Services, and

WHEREAS, resolution 2016-158 referenced Education Enterprise of NY Foundation as a funding source, and

WHEREAS, Education Enterprise of NY Foundation has changed their name to Education Success Foundation necessitating a revised resolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services is hereby authorized to sign the following contract for the Livingston County Department of Social Services, according to the term designated, subject to review by the County Attorney and County Administrator:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Donated Funds Agreement	N/A	\$54,142.00

For: Agreement authorizing DSS to accept donated funds from private sources to provide the local share of Preventive Services.

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted ?</i>	
Education Success Foundation	0%	Yes	No

Mrs. Deane explained that the company name was changed so this is simply an amendment changing the name.

Informational Item(s) Written Only

1. Status Reports

- a. Statement of Appropriations, Expenditures & Balances (Monthly) (May)
- b. Statistics (Monthly) (May)

	<u>May</u>	<u>% Change from Jan</u>
Temporary Assistance Cases (TA):		
Family Assistance	319	-1.85%
Safety Net	355	0.57%
Total	674	-0.59%
 Medicaid Cases (MA):		
Community	2959	-5.58%
Chronic Care	239	-5.53%
Foster Care	158	9.72%
SSI	1279	0.24%
Total	4635	-3.58%
 Livingston County Citizens receiving some form of Medicaid service:		
NYSOH	3643	
Livingston County DSS	8237	
Total	11880	
 Medicaid Managed Care Individuals (Monthly Premium):		
These Individuals are included in above TA\MA.		
Managed Care	5508	-3.23%
Managed Long Term Care-Community	49	6.52%
Managed Long Term Care-Nursing Home	39	254.55%
Total	5596	-2.66%
Food Stamp Cases:	3258	-3.01%
Child Care Cases:	178	-3.78%
 Protective Services for Adults (PSA):		
<u>Financial Mgmt</u>	50	
<u>Home Mgmt</u>	47	
<u>Personal Care</u>	18	
Level I	5	
Level II	9	
Level I pending	4	
<u>Guardianship Cases</u>	4	
Awaiting discharge	3	
Pending	0	
Assessment assists	105	
 Preventive Services:		
<u>Probation caseload</u>	63	14.55%
	36	50.00%

<u>School based consults</u>	176
<u>School based active</u>	3
<u>TASA (Case Management for Pregnant/Parenting Teens) Active</u>	7

Child Protective Services (CPS):

New Assignments	65	
Foster Care	81	
Foster Children - DSS Custody	59	9.26%

2. Employees hired, resigned or retired in June:

Shannon Videtti	Promoted	Caseworker Trainee	Mt. Morris	6/5/16
Samantha Mordenga	Hired	Caseworker Trainee	Lakeville	6/6/16
Mary Kate Murphy	Retired	Caseworker	Dansville	6/28/16

Kate had 30+ years of service to the County & DSS

3. The Department received a \$2,000 donation from the Children’s Protective Association to fund camperships for those who do not qualify for funding in other categories.

MOTION TO CHANGE THE AGENDA

Mr. LeFeber moved and Mr. Gott seconded to change the agenda order.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – RYAN SNYDER

Action Item(s) To Be Reported

1. AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING CONTRACT(S) FOR THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT: NATIONAL WAR PLANE MUSEUM & EXPERIENCE WORKS

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign the following contract(s) for the Livingston County Department of Workforce Development, according to the term(s) designated, subject to review by the County Attorney and County Administrator:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
National Warplane Museum 3489 Big Tree Lane Geneseo, NY 14454 For: Facility use contract for Fall Job Fair	9/15/16 only	\$0
Experience Works 306 East 6th Street North Platte, NY 69101 For: Senior Community Service Employment Program	7/1/16 – until terminated	\$0

Mr. Snyder explained that the first contract is for the job fair. Although the Dansville site is ideal, they continue to get feedback that is not centrally located within the County. They have toured the National Warplane Museum and they have offered to hold the job fair there for free. Experience Works is a work experience program for seniors, providing paid work experience.

Motion: Mr. Gott moved and Mrs. Donohue seconded to approve the foregoing resolution Carried.

2. AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES COUNCIL: CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, NICHOLAS NOYES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, CHANCES AND CHANGES, INC., GENESEO PARISH OUTREACH, INC.

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to

sign the following contract(s) for the Community Initiatives Council, according to the term(s) designated, subject to review by the County Attorney and County Administrator:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Catholic Charities of Livingston County 34 East State St. Mt. Morris, NY 14510	10/1/16-9/30/17	\$50,750.00
Geneseo Parish Outreach Center, Inc. 4520 Genesee St. Geneseo, NY 14454	10/1/16-9/30/17	\$35,916.00
Chances and Changes, Inc. P O Box 326 Geneseo, NY 14454	10/1/16-9/30/17	\$30,000.00
Nicholas Noyes Memorial Hospital 111 Clara Barton Street Dansville, NY 14437	10/1/16-9/30/17	\$10,775.00

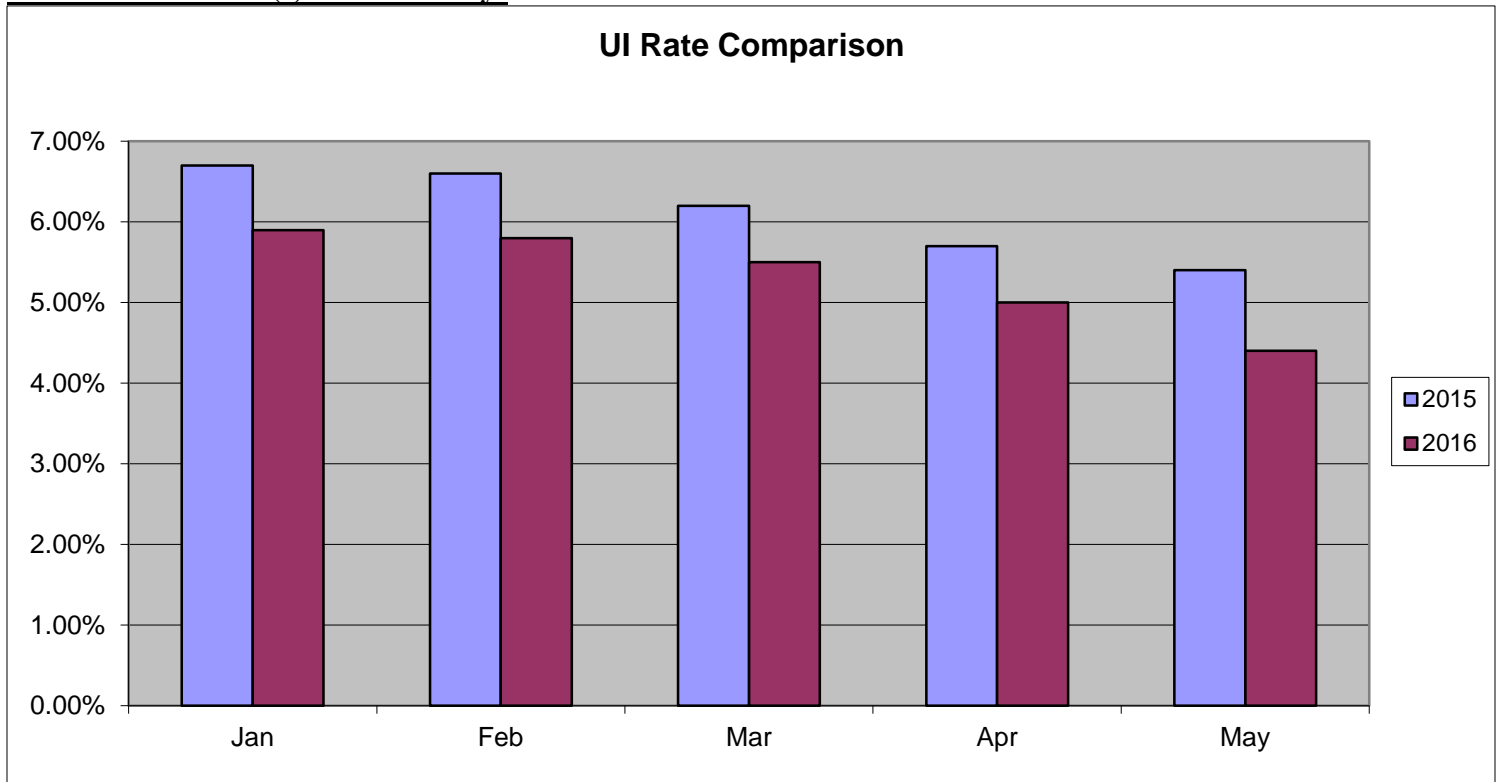
For: The provision of services to income eligible County residents.

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
Community Services Block Grant	25%	Yes X No

Director's Comments: Local share consists of in-kind services from County and delegate agencies. Mr. Snyder explained that they have reviewed and ranked the proposals received and these were the contracts that were approved. They were asked to expand some of the services offered. All of the contracts went down 3-5% from last year allowing the department to do a little more this year.

Motion: Mr. Gott moved and Mrs. Walker seconded to approve the foregoing resolution Carried.

Informational Item(s) Written Only:



2. Office of Workforce Development Activity Report

Activity	May 2016
Counselor Assisted Appointments	87
Adults/Youth in Training	36
Adults/Youth Earning Credentials	28

Employer Recruitment Events	5
Adults/Youth in Paid Work Experience	13
Workshop Attendees	60
PA Clients Employed	76
PA Clients in Work Experience	44
PA Clients in Education/Training	17

3. Program Updates

Job Fair - Planning is underway for a Job Fair this September at the National War Plane Museum in Geneseo.

Health Care Forum & CNA Recruitment - A forum is being planned for mid-August to recruit candidates for an October CNA Training Program at the County Nursing Home.

Summer Employment - New worksites this summer were established at Quinlan's Pharmacy, Water & Sewer Authority, Zion House and the National War Plane Museum. 30 youth are participating in unpaid work readiness training at GCC prior to receiving summer employment. 10 additional youth are beginning career exploration at Genesee Valley Education Partnership.

Manufacturing Day - The second annual Livingston County Manufacturing Day is being planned for September.

CENTER FOR NURSING & REHABILITATION – FRANK BASSETT

Pre-approved Informational Item(s) To Be Reported

1. FINANCIAL/OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

- a.) Occupancy- As of June 28, occupancy was 99.0%. Year to date occupancy is 96.70%. There was a hospice patient death yesterday and an application this morning. You will see total Medicaid payer's days is down to 3.6% and managed Medicaid continues to increase each month. Very pleased with Medicare days continued growth.
- b.) Cash Flow – The CNR's Cash Flow Report as of June 27 reflects \$11,248,471.00 in reserves.
- c.) Universal Settlement – The CNR will receive \$336,389.00 in July as the 2nd payment under the agreement reached with the NYS DOH. Hereafter, payments of the same amount will be issued annually in the next 3 state fiscal years.
- d.) IGT – No information regarding CMS approval of the State Plan Amendment has been received. As of yet, there is no clear schedule for release of these funds. Bonadio & Co. was unable to include IGT non-operating income in the 2015 audited financial statements for lack of state guidance. This is anticipated to be between \$6.6-\$6.8M.
- e.) Budget Variance – The April 2016 budget variance reports will be distributed and discussed at the committee meeting. This was before the occupancy gains in May and June. You can see where budget was \$8.34M and we have revenues of \$8.4M. We have some really good controls in place on the expense side. Adult Day Care is doing well and running a high occupancy at this point at 75%. The average rehab and facility PPS rate remains very strong at \$458.72 for May. The case mix index is calculated twice a year by the minimum data sets that we submit. The case mix index is what drives the rate. Admissions have been increasing over the last two months for rehab.
- f.) 2015 Audited Financial Statements – Bonadio & Co. is concluding audit activities and will present the statements to the HS Committee at the August meeting. He received the drafts last Thursday and would like to review them before presenting at the August Human Services Committee meeting.

Mr. Bassett distributed the committee packets for review and discussion. This is the second year in the Quinlan contract and we are still seeing significant savings. Mr. Bassett presented the required annual Memorial Fund balance report. The State updated its website two weeks ago reflecting deficiencies and complaints and we had 13 standard and 4 life safety citations over the last four years. This is less than the state average of 35. There were a total of 34 complaints and of that, we self-reported greater than one-third of those complaints. Not one of those complaints resulted in a deficiency. The State complaint average is 42.

Informational Item(s) Written Only

1. Reports - Absenteeism, Mandation, FMLA, Payroll Performance, Work Related Injuries, Quality Measures, Report Card
 2. Advanced Training Initiative Grant – The CNR has developed a preliminary schedule for PROCARE to conduct grant funded training. Pathways to Leadership will be conducted in July. The training focuses on how the customs, resources and values of an organization can be transmitted through strong leadership, management and communication skills in a way that also promotes retention of nurses and the CNA's they supervise. The grant of approximately \$305,000.00 will also enable offering training in the following: Electronic Dementia Guide for Excellence (EDGE) Training, INTERACT Stop and Watch.
 3. EHR - Reliable Health Systems continues to transition the CNR's electronic health record (EHR) and other program files from the CNR's server to a cloud-based platform. The implementation schedule for enhanced care planning, electronic medication administration record, computerized physician order entry, and progress notes is anticipated to be fully in place by the end of 2016. New Network Switches, Data Access Points, Laptop Computers, Maintenance Agreements, etc. have been ordered as part of the EHR project.
 4. Psychological Services – The CNR is exploring a Telepsychiatry option with UR Medicine, Geriatric Psychiatry Division, as a means of meeting the need for resident psychiatric consultation. The region has a significant shortage of Psychiatrists, especially those willing to serve a geriatric population. The goal of participation would be to foster behavioral interventions as an alternative to pharmacologic interventions. Services would be rendered through video conferencing.
 5. Flooring Project – ProCarpet has not yet completed correction of all required punch list items. Clark Patterson Lee remains involved. Final payment will be withheld until all outstanding project matters are resolved to the County's satisfaction.
 6. Bathing Suite Door Project – Clark Patterson Lee has approved submittals for the project material orders have not yet been placed. Correction of the existing conditions is required by December 30.
- Dining Services Production and Delivery Process Changes – Effective June 20, Morrison Senior Dining implemented changes in food production and food distribution to effect quality improvements in palatability and resident satisfaction. Food will be produced in four batches and distributed to each Household just before the scheduled meal service. This “just in time” approach should preserve food quality by avoiding degradation of textures in vegetables and meats by eliminating long holding periods.
- Medical Transportation – The NYS DOH issued a Dear Administrator letter dated June 16 providing notice that with passage of the 2016/17 New York State Budget the Department will be revising the reimbursement regulations, retroactively effective April 1, 2016, to reflect the removal of medical transportation as an allowable cost reimbursable through the Medicaid rate. It is the intention of the Department to have nursing home resident medical transportation for fee-for-service Medicaid residents arranged through the State's transportation broker. Residents enrolled in a MLTC plan are to have medical transportation arranged for by their plan. This is a very problematic development given the resource gaps for transportation services in our rural community as well the ability of any transportation provider to accommodate the volume required and the 24-hr readiness to provide transportation services. Director Bassett will update the Committee on implementation planning at a future meeting.
- UR Medicine Collaboration – Director Bassett has arranged a meeting at the CNR on July 6 with Dan Parr, Program Administrator for the UR Medicine Geriatrics Group and Mike Sullivan, Director of Social Work at Highland Hospital. The intent of the meeting is to discuss avenues for possible programmatic collaboration.
10. Livingston County United Way – At the June 16 Final Result's Celebration the Livingston County Employee Campaign was presented with an Award of Excellence Plus.

VETERAN'S SERVICES AGENCY – JASON SKINNER

Preapproved Informational Item to be Reported:

Mr. Skinner reviewed the CVSOA(County Veteran Service Officer Association) survey results for the Committee. This method has worked well in the past to outline every county in New York State and how they approach and provide veteran transportation. They have partnered with the VFW, the American Legion 271 and the annual airshow for a Big Band Dance fund raising event. Mr. Skinner explained that the VFW is a not-

for-profit and all funds will go through them for this event. The funds raised will be used to help gain and retain more volunteers.

Informational Item(s) Written Only

I have recently returned from Syracuse. I was in training for the 3rd week of May for the American Legions accreditation. I now have one more step in the accreditation process and I will officially be a representative of the American Legions power of attorney. I hope to have the VFW's Accreditation by January of next year in order to fax directly to VA processing centers in order to expedite claims, save on paper, and postage. The VFW also supports electronic filing if we have the ability to connect using specific software that will save us \$400.00 a year in license fees. Once I have another organizations accreditation early next year I hope to be able to submit all pensions electronically to the VA to streamline and track the process much better. As it stands the ability to submit claims in this way is not recognized by the American Legion. The unfortunate part of this is that I will have to take another training that all other accrediting bodies recognize.

A new signed law allows all Veterans with the ability to buy up to three years of service towards retirement in NYS-Rules for Receiving Military Service Credit Under Article 20 (RSSL)

Eligibility

Veterans must:

- Have been honorably discharged;
- Have at least five years of credited service in the Retirement System;
- Have not received credit for this service in any other public retirement system in New York State; and
- Apply for and purchase military service credit prior to retirement.

The release of the Commission on Care report has spurred a largely divided view on Veterans Health Care. This report has been 20 years in the making. Many people will see this assessment of the VA as a recommendation to privatize the VA. This report was started many years before the Phoenix Arizona crisis caused legislation called the Choice act of 2016. In two years, the VA has spent \$2 Billion by not seeing Veterans at VA medical centers under that program.

In response to the commission's report the President of AFGE "Union" has called for nationwide rallies in order to make sure that Congress is aware that closure of any VA is not acceptable to the union. AFGE Local 3306 has scheduled its rally for 6/22 from 11AM-1PM and employees are being encouraged to join us at the front gate on Fort Hill Avenue during their lunch break to let our government know that this plan is not an option. I have a copy available for all to read if you would like it.

Many things will be taking place in July. I have set up Veterans Services 3rd in-service for a county office this year. The previous ones were for DSS and OFA. The Department of Veterans Affairs Crisis Line will be joining me in putting on a presentation for the Suicide Prevention Task Force on July 26th. Suicide is an issue among Veterans where there is support. We will be discussing those benefits that can be provided for those who served and are struggling with anything that may be contributing to their situation. To my knowledge, we have had 3 attempted Veteran suicides; one in May which left 4 children without a parent. Since I started, I have helped 9 children, who have lost a parent to an untimely death, apply for pensions. If you recall, I had reported that we had been able to obtain mental health counseling at the VA and a grant to keep her in her apartment for one of those attempts. I am pleased to report that I was able to represent this Veteran to become "Service Connected Disabled". At the 80%, we have applied for "individual employability" and IU pays at the 100% rate with one

dependent. This person will now be compensated at \$36,000.00 per year. She is now a long way from homeless and with 5 months of back pay she can now pay off a lot of bills.

Pensions for aid and attendance are taking much more time to get a VA decision. Our Claimants are getting an automated letter describing their back log of claims at the pension center in Pennsylvania. For all pensions that I have decisions on to date, I have received the maximum monetary award. This would also mean that in 8 months 4 decisions have been made out of the multitude of pensions submitted totaling \$100,000.00 for 4 full aid and attendance pensions for a Veteran. My goal next year is to have \$1Million in aid and attendance and pension claims awarded in fiscal year 2017. That could be done in 40 claims.

I have organized our counties 3rd Veterans outreach event to coincide with the Geneseo Airshow for maximum impact. Veterans outreach during the air show will include:

Veterans will need a discharge for to enroll in health benefits.

Department of Veteran Affairs Health

- Health eligibility specialists will be on hand to assist Veterans to enroll in VA Health Care.
- Counselors will be on hand to explain health benefits.

Department of Veteran Affairs Vet Center

- Veterans can discuss special eligibility for Vet Center services.
- General questions about benefits can be explained.
- Can speak with VA mental health counselors if needed.

NY State Division of Veterans' Affairs

- State benefits representatives will be able to answer questions about state benefits.
- State benefits focus on employment and education.
- Tutorial of the new smart phone app.

American Legion / Ladies Auxiliary

- Will be on hand to explain emergency funds for Veterans families that have children.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

- Will discuss military honors and offer advice on Veteran issues.

Veterans Outreach of Rochester

- Will discuss various Veteran issues.

To compliment that event:

We will have a great time raising awareness for Veterans and the aging's need for volunteer transportation.

Nearly 400 visitors have gone to the veteran's victory dance web site.

Many other counties VSO's have worked in conjunction with Veteran organizations to buy vans and fund their own volunteer based transportation network. In the last two years Orleans County has raised \$17,000. It is my hope to raise awareness and exposure for our many not for profits that have come together to meet the needs.

Please see spread sheet on all NYS County Veterans offices. This spread sheet shows how they address transportation and whether they are under another department like DSS or OFA.

See hand out titled VSOA on transportation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mr. LeFeber and seconded by Mr. Gott that the Committee adjourn and reconvene and All Supervisors, County Administrator Ian M. Coyle, Clerk of the Board remain present. Carried.

Mr. Gott moved and Mr. LeFeber seconded that the Committee reconvened in regular session. The following

report was presented.

The Human Services Committee having met in Executive Session, hereby reports as follows:
No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gott moved and Mr. LeFeber seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele R. Rees
Clerk of the Board