

Minutes

Human Services Committee

October 16, 2019, 5:15 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Wilfong, Whitford, O’Connell, Pavlock Rankin,

Others: Tampio, Ames, Dennison, R. Ludwig, J. Hogg, J. Kolassa, L. Howlette, M. Blackmore, J. Martin, K. Curtin, V. Cummings, M. Reynolds

Chairman Wilfong called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (09/18/19)

MOVED by Legislator Rankin, SECONDED by Legislator Whitford

*Unanimously Carried*

Privilege of the Floor

*No one chose to speak at this time*

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Proposed Resolution - Mental Health HEALing Communities Study

Chairman Wilfong: Is there anyone to speak to that.

I’m Rachel Ludwig with the Department of Mental Hygiene. On behalf of our department I am here to – actually there are four that are very similar. We have had some additional funding come into our department and I’d like to just present each of them and it’s extra dollars for the 2019 budget so this is different than what was in the 2020 budget. This is actually for this year’s budget.

The first one is the HEALing Community Study. It’s funded by Columbia University. So Columbia received a Federal grant and Chautauqua County for 2019 is receiving \$15,000 of that grant. So we’re requesting to amend out 2019 budget.

Legislator Rankin: To amend it by the increase of the grant money.

Ms. Ludwig: Yes

Chairman Wilfong: Any questions?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution - Mental Hygiene Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) RCORP-Implementation Grant

Ms. Ludwig: This is a million dollar grant over three years but for 2019, we are requesting to amend our budget for \$83,621 and it's an increase.

Chairman Wilfong: Any questions?

Legislator Pavlock: Is this increase for employment or what type of resources is the money being used for?

Ms. Ludwig: It's for staffing and community awareness. So I think it's public awareness like events and materials. They have a few community forums and they are going to do a couple of more in 2019. It's really around the opioid and substance abuse challenges and they are trying to do neighborhood specific work. I know that's a challenge getting out into the community to hear from the public. That is what I have seen so far but I know that there is a staffing position that would be maintained with this funding.

Legislator Rankin: What does that mean, getting out in the community?

Ms. Ludwig: So they have done some community events where they've had materials that is sort of like a survey, focus group. We've done some, at organizations, so at the Mental Health Association, there was one there. There was an event I think with the Salvation Army in the north County. Trying to combine with things that already exists to get information from different groups that might not have the opportunity to give feedback.

Chairman Wilfong: Any more questions?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution - Mental Health SAMHSA Expansion Grant/Tapestry

Ms. Ludwig: This one is closest to my heart and the Project Director for this grant. For this year we are requesting to amend our budget with an increase of \$150,000 for the 2019 budget. We were awarded a 4 year, \$4 million dollar grant but for the 2019 budget, it would be \$150,000.

Legislator Rankin: I'm wondering, these grants that you are looking at, are they in addition to what we have had before (*cross talk*) expanding the budget.

Ms. Ludwig: Yes.

Legislator Rankin: How could you turn that down.

Chairman Wilfong: A lot of free money hitting the table, nice.

Ms. Ludwig: Yes, this was kind of an unexpected one so we're really happy to have this opportunity. We didn't budget for it because you know, kind of high hopes but we got it.

Chairman Wilfong: Any more questions?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Acceptance of New York State OASAS Funds for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Ms. Ludwig: We serve, our department, as a pass through for the long term residential program at the UPMC Chautauqua site. This year we're asking our budget to be amended with an increase of \$462,000. The funding came from the New York State Office of Alcoholism Substance Abuse Services. Again, unexpected funding that we're really pleased to have. It will be a total of \$700,000, but the rest will be in 2020.

Legislator Rankin: I know a lot of these grants you have to use them for specific purposes but I'm thinking about the budget process we just got through. When you are getting these additional funds, would it be able to offset anything else to create a savings in any other department?

Ms. Ludwig: I don't know if this one in particular would because it's specific for this long term recovery center. I know that the plans have been in the works for quite some time and they were able to secure a site and then there was concern about getting the funding and I think the State then came in and made up the difference. So I'm pretty sure they were able to secure the site and then obtain the programming because of the State support. So I think that it was unanticipated funding but the State was able to put that through.

Legislator Rankin: I know they are specific about how they want the funding spent. I wished I had asked that question about all the other grants. Was it the same kind of thing, it's wouldn't afford us any savings anywhere else, the grants?

Ms. Ludwig: I think it's a great question. I think that we try to share staff whenever we can so I know there are, for some of the grants, there is an in-kind expectation but it's usually done through our own department. We don't get extra funds in our salaries or anything. So, that's a great question. I can ask Pat Brinkman to bring that answer back to the committee and I think it's a good one to ponder.

Legislator Rankin: Thank you.

Chairman Wilfong: Any other questions?

Legislator Rankin: Congratulations on the grants.

Ms. Ludwig: Thank you so much.

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Motion - Proclaiming October 2019 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Chautauqua County

Chairman Wilfong: Is there anyone to speak to that?

Legislator Rankin: Well I requested this. It's actually late in the month for this but I think it's a really important issue and there have been events throughout the month in different parts of the County to help support awareness and understanding that domestic violence is not acceptable so I thought it would be great if the Legislature did this. I know that (*inaudible*) domestic violence awareness in Jamestown at their march, that George Borrello had declared it awareness month for the County. What I would like to do is back that up in the Legislature to be able to say that we support the awareness this way. I proposed this.

Chairman Wilfong: Thank you Elisabeth.

Discussion - Code Change – Office for the Aging

Other

Chairman Wilfong: Is there any under “other”?

Legislator Pavlock: Move to adjourn.

Legislator Rankin: Second.

*Unanimously Carried (5:34 p.m.)*

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,  
Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk/Lori J. Foster, Sr. Stenographer