

Minutes

Human Services Committee

December 11, 2019, 5:15 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Rankin, Whitford, Pavlock

Members Absent: Wilfong, O'Connell

Others: Tampio, Ames, Dennison, Schuyler

Vice Chairwoman Rankin called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (10/16/19)

MOVED by Legislator Whitford, SECONDED by Legislator Pavlock

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time

Mrs. Schuyler: Thank you for taking the time to come to this important Human Services Committee meeting this evening even with the weather. We have important business to do.

Proposed Resolution - Confirm Appointment - Chautauqua County Health Board

Mrs. Schuyler: Dr. Tom Erlandson is up for reappointment. He's currently the President of the Board of Health and we're asking that he be reappointed.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: Any comments or questions? I know he's certainly done a great job and well qualified.

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Agreement with Ontario County for Juvenile Detention Facility Services

Mrs. Schuyler: Ontario County has a non-secured juvenile detention program with a facility. This agreement would allow us to utilize there facility if a child needed to be placed

there in a non-secured bed. This has the rate that we would pay per day if we did send a child there so we would not pay that unless we send a child there. But this will give us an option of a place to go.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: How often is this utilized, would you think?

Mrs. Schuyler: It depends on the children that come into care and need this level of service. With the Family First Preventive Services Act that goes into effect, for us, will be September of 2021 but that's completely reforming Child Welfare practice and financing. The focus will be on preventive services, intensive 24/7 evidenced based services that have to be in a Federal clearing house. The push is to get away from congregate care so children are not unnecessarily removed from their families. We will be having to do our utmost to keep children within the community, whether that's in a Foster home, therapeutic Foster home, but away from congregate care settings such as non-secured detention facilities. Hopefully we're going to see less and less usage of this if we are able to make the reforms that we need to make here. But, this is in place in case we need it. It's an 8 bed facility so with this already in place, if the child does need to go, we will be prepared to be able to send a child there.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: It's great to have the option.

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes, and Ontario County is closer than a lot of other places that we send children to.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: Where is Ontario County?

Mrs. Schuyler: Geneva area. About 3 hours away.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: Any questions or comments?

Legislator Pavlock: This is a similar rate to the other counties in what they provide?

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes, the other facilities, yes, for non-secure.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: Anything else? All those in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Amend Chautauqua County Department of Health & Human Services
2019 Budget for Increased Child Care (Foster/Institutional) Costs

Mrs. Schuyler: If you remember from our budget discussions early on we were seeing an increase in the cost of Foster care and institutional care services. This again goes back now to the reforms we're trying to make or going to have to make with the Family First Preventive Services Act to keep kids out of institutional care. But currently we are over budget in the Foster Care/Institutional Care line of our budget. Fortunately, we are under budget in the Safety Net and

Family Assistance areas so we are asking to move money around between accounts to cover the Foster Care shortfall with the Safety Net and Family Assistance overage.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: The net result is?

Mrs. Schuyler: Even. It's just moving money around. If you recall I said at budget time it is kind of sad with the state of our current economy and job market, we're doing much better when it comes to getting people to work, the people on public assistance rolls but sadly our Child Welfare costs and greatly attributed to the opioid epidemic and all the substances that are out there has increased and made up for anything that we could have seen to the good on that side.

Legislator Whitford: Isn't the actual costs itself or is it the increase in enrollment?

Mrs. Schuyler: For us locally, it is an increase in the length of stay for children that are in these settings. We have a lot of children in care, we have a lot of kids in what we call higher level of care so they have more profound mental health, even substance abuse issues that are keeping them in a congregate care setting or without any resources in the community or family to bring them back to. For instance last evening, one of our caseworkers sent an email out to the Children of Family Services Division because we have a 17 year old youth who's in a facility on the other side of the State and has no family, has no resources and probably be one of those kids that ages out of Foster care sadly but if very developmentally delayed. So probably be looking at some sort of facility forever. But, she had a Christmas list so sent a list out and within an hour, I think the staffed had all rallied and gotten everything on the list and then a whole lot more for the caseworker to take with him when he goes and visits this child during the holiday season.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: It's sad but I think that's wonderful.

Legislator Pavlock: Do we anticipate this for next year's budget? The difference is this –

Mrs. Schuyler: We tried to. We did increase the Foster Care side on the budget for 2020.

Legislator Pavlock: Enough do you think, based on how this year came out?

Mrs. Schuyler: I hope so. You know when we do the budgets for early in the year, there are so many unknowns that we have and with the pressures that we were under at budget time, I hope so.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: You can't tell. When it comes up you need to take care of it.

Mrs. Schuyler: With the Family First Preventive Services Act we already have to start trying to come over to that way of thinking of keeping kids in the community versus putting them in congregate care settings.

Legislator Pavlock: Why is there so much excess funds in the Safety Net part?

Mrs. Schuyler: That was based on trends and I think a lot of it goes back to our current economic status. People have jobs and they are working. You look at our public assistance reports, really we have a and I think Statewide, we're almost down to the population that was left on public assistance are those that are exempt from work activities. Like our participation rates across the State have gone down. They are what they are, we in our County have many more people that are exempt from the work activities than who have to do the work requirements (*inaudible*). We have a high population of disabled in our County and I think it's favorable to see this happening because on that public assistant side, we're under budget for what we thought we would need in those areas and that's a great thing but I just wished we weren't seeing what we're seeing on the Child Welfare side of the world because it will have a backlash. We're going to see impacts of this for years to come.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: The good news is we have the money to cover it.

Mrs. Schuyler: Yea, wouldn't be this nice of a conversation being over \$2 million dollars over budget (*inaudible*)...

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: Any other questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – To Accept New York State Department of Health 2019-20 Award to Support Nurse Family Partnership

Mrs. Schuyler: This was a surprise. We received a – we were told it was a one-time Senate award for our Nurse Family Partnership that we have. There aren't a lot of Nurse Family Partnership programs across the State. Our program is doing very, very well. We've got really good outcomes so this additional funding, \$45,455, is being sent to us from the State. So we would like to accept it. It does decrease the use of unassigned fund balance by \$35,020 and also decreases, we get 36% State aid on salaries only so that's why the State aid revenue is showing to go down. But we're taking that \$45,000 and putting it directly on our nurses salary and fringes. It very much helps to make that program whole. It's a good thing.

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: Any questions or comments? Another bit of good news. All those in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: Anything else you want to talk about while you are here?

Mrs. Schuyler: No, I don't think so. Any questions for me?

Legislator Whitford: I believe 4-H canceled their presentation.

Mrs. Schuyler: I really can't do a robotic presentation, it wouldn't be good.

Discussion – STORY Robotic Presentation (4-H Youths)

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: This was officially cancelled right hopefully to be rescheduled at some other time.

Other

Vice Chairwoman Rankin: Anything else we need to bring up?

MOVED by Legislator Pavlock, SECONDED by Legislator Whitford to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (5:32 p.m.)

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