

**Herkimer County Legislature**  
**Committee on Human Resources and Ways & Means**  
**Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, May 29, 2020**  
**Via Teleconference**  
**Follows Administration/Veterans' Affairs and Ways & Means**

**Persons Attending:**

Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. (Chairman, Human Resources/W&M committee member)

Raymond Smith (committee member, both)

Peter F. Manno (Human Resources committee member)

Gregory Malta, Sr. (Human Resources committee member)

Mark Gaworecki (Human Resources committee member)

Robert J. Schrader (Human Resources committee member)

Patrick E. Russell (Chairman, Ways & Means)

Kurt J. Ackerman (Ways & Means committee member)

Raymond Johnson (Ways & Means committee member)

John P Stephens (Ways & Means committee member)

Vincent J. Bono (Chairman of the Legislature)

James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator

Brandy Serow, Sec. to County Administrator

Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney

Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer

Steve Billings, Personnel Officer

Kristen Snyder-Branner, Director of Community Services

Christina Cain, Director of Public Health

Kathy Fox, Director of Office for the Aging

(Non Committee Members Signed In)

Legislator Bob D. Hollum

Legislator William E. Keeler, Sr.

Legislator John L. Brezinski

Legislator Ray Donley

Legislator Peter J. Campione

**Absent:**

N/A

Mr. Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:47 a.m.

**Items discussed:**

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

1. Discussion on Child Psychiatrist in Mental Health
2. Other

**HUMAN RESOURCES AND WAYS & MEANS:**

3. Accepting grant and authorize Chairman to e-sign for Healthy Families Grant in Public Health
4. Accept additional funding for COVID-19 in Public Health and budget amendment
5. Accept funding for the CARES Act and create new accounts in Office for the Aging
6. Other

**Committee Vote Record:**

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

Mr. Shaw stated “Number one is discussion on Child Psychiatrist in Mental Health. Is Kristen on the phone?”

Kristen Snyder-Branner stated “Yes. This is just a communication and the opportunity to discuss that our child psychiatrist, Dr. DeStefano, who has been with us since 1991, is going to be retiring at the end of June. We’ve known about this for quite some time. He gave us 3 or 4 months’ notice. We were unable to secure another child psychiatrist. We need to change the population served at the clinic to be 18 years old and up and then those individuals’ ages 5 – 17, the Neighborhood Center is going to be opening up a Herkimer office. They are already in four of our schools in Herkimer County and they will be servicing the people that we need to discharge. So some of them will be going to them but we’ve also given them the option to go to Community Health and Behavioral or Cuba counseling or any other area place. I don’t expect this to impact revenue or staffing. Dr. DeStefano was here two days a week so there would be lost revenue with the visits he was providing but also we were paying him \$140 something an hour so I don’t think it’s going to have a huge impact.”

Mr. Shaw asked if anybody had any questions.

Mr. Malta asked “Is there a saving for the County that way?”

Kristen Snyder-Branner responded “I think it’s going to be about even. We don’t have to give the Neighborhood Center any money. They are operating on their own so they are coming in, they are seeing people out of their clinic but we are not giving them any money. We are just not seeing children at this location anymore.”

Mr. Schrader asked “So we wouldn’t be giving any reimbursement whatsoever, right Jim?

Mr. Wallace responded “That’s correct.”

Kristen Snyder-Branner stated “The Neighborhood Center, their child psychiatrist I don’t even think is in New York State. They do Tele psychiatry which we do not.”

Item #1 – No vote taken. Discussion only.

Item #2 – N/A

**HUMAN RESOURCES AND WAYS & MEANS:**

Mr. Shaw stated “Number three, accepting grant and authorize Chairman to e-sign for Healthy Families Grant in Public Health. Christina, you have the floor.”

Christina Cain stated “Thank you very much. So this is just our annual Healthy Families Grant. It’s stable at the same amount as last year and based on that we are still continuing to serve the same number of families which is in the 85 to 125 range. We can have a capacity of 82 to 105% at any given time.”

Mr. Shaw asked if there was any discussion.

Item #3 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Manno for Human Resources and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Johnson for Ways & Means, Item #3 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution.

Mr. Shaw stated “Number four accept additional funding for COVID-19 in Public Health and budget amendment. Any discussion?”

Mr. Manno asked “Where is this funding coming from?”

Mr. Shaw responded “New York State Office of Children and Family Services.”

Mr. Manno said ok.

Item #4 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Schrader for Human Resources and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Russell for Ways & Means, Item #4 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution.

Mr. Shaw stated “Number five, accept funding for the CARES Act and create new accounts in Office for the Aging. Any discussion?”

Item #5 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Manno for Human Resources and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Johnson for Ways & Means, Item #5 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution.

Mr. Shaw asked if there was anything under other. With no response he asked for a motion to adjourn.

At 10:54 a.m., on motion of Mr. Schrader, seconded by Mr. Malta, the Human Resources Committee adjourned.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.