

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, April 15, 2024 - 10:30 AM

JoePete Wilson, Chairperson
Charles Harrington, Vice-Chairperson

Chairman Wilson called this Human Services Committee to order at 10:50 a.m. with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Matthew Brassard, Chris Clark, Robin DeLoria, Derek Doty, Shaun Gilliland, Charlie Harrington, Kenneth Hughes, Steve McNally, Jim Monty, Cathleen Reusser, Favor Smith, Matthew Stanley, Davina Thurston, Michael Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson, Meg Wood and Mark Wright.

Department Heads present: Angie Allen, Linda Beers, James Dougan, Judy Garrison, Mike Mascarenas, Terri Morse and David Reynolds. Krissy Leerkes was excused.

News media: Sun News – Alana Penny

WILSON: We'll call the Human Services committee to order and first up is Terri Morse, Mental Health.

MORSE: We are just making a switch for today we will get back to our regularly scheduled next month. You have my report in front of you I just wanted to highlight two or three things for you I feel should be done. I wanted to just remind you of the Community Conversation Events that are going on this week and next week Tuesday night is at the Elizabethtown School, Thursday night is in Schroon Lake, next Tuesday night is in Willsboro and the following Thursday is in the Ticonderoga Elementary School so hopefully you can join one of those events. We've got a great line up of panelists and you will recognize at least one or two of them from your community I'm sure.

I wanted to also bring to your attention that Homeward Bound is going to be presenting at the Human Services Committee meeting at the June meeting so you will get more updates about what they are doing in your communities and can ask them all kinds of questions. I was checking out their website the other day and they are doing some really cool things for Veterans in Essex County so we want to get and update from them.

Also wanted to bring to your attention there's somewhat of a correction in my report about an initiative called Credible Mind. Linda Beers brought Credible Mind to our attention gosh, maybe eight months ago and through NYSCHO and actually it was through the national version of Public Health and Essex County has been looking at that and Linda and I are looking at that together to promote in the County. I looked at this with my colleagues as Directors of Community Services but through conversation with Linda we thought it would be kind of more effective for Essex County to initiate it without doing it on a regional approach but what Credible Mind is, is an opportunity for individuals to gain access to evidence based information in regards to how to live a more healthy lifestyle while Essex County Mental Health has people on their waitlist this is an opportunity for us to connect individuals with resources while they are in a waiting pattern so we are going to be rolling it out to the schools so that schools will have opportunity and access to this and also then for all 38,500 residents and there will be bill boards, all of this will be funded by either opioid settlement funding, BRIEF coalition may fund it, Linda has some money; to kick it off it will be funded by other resources. Any questions about that initiative or anything else?

Okay I'm going to go to resolutions then and I have one carryover resolution. This is in relation to that Homeward Bound Veterans Program that we're doing so we've got some funding that we want to carryover because we got an extension from the Office of Mental Health in waiting for

some of the initiatives to be approved by them so we had to push that money out and now have to do a carryover.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$188,726.48, CARRY OVER 2023 JOSEPH P. DWYER VETERANS FUNDING. Doty, Brassard

WILSON: Any questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries. Thank you.

MORSE: And I have two resolutions regarding the Community Services Board, Dr. Kristin Mack will join our Alcohol and Substance Abuse subcommittee for a term from 3/13/2024 - 12/31/2025, and then also Cheryl Blanchard will participate in the Developmental Disabilities subcommittee from 4/10/2024 – 12/31/2025.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE DR. KRISTIN MACK FOR A TERM EFFECTIVE 3/13/204 – 12/31/2025 AND CHERYL BLANCHARD AS A MEMBER TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE FOR A TERM EFFECTIVE 4/10/2024 – 12/31/2025. Wright, Hughes

WILSON: Any questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries. Thank you.

MORSE: That's it for me today.

WILSON: Any questions for Terri? Alright thank you.

MORSE: Thank you. Hope to see on Tuesday or Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m.

WILSON: Social Services, Angie Allen.

ALLEN: Before I start I just want to extend a thank you for everyone that joined me last Monday and my staff in placing out the pinwheels afterwards as Mike can probably speak to this there were times it was just he and I out there with a screwdriver breaking up the dirt and stuff so the staff really are commenting that they do feel the support of the board and I think that's a great relationship that has been building momentum over time and it seems like it's being sustained so great appreciation for it. Shaun, for you to lend me your reading glasses you know, that was appreciated. It takes a village and definitely I feel like we are coming together and my staff are reporting the same thing so thank you.

In terms of my report I really want to do a celebration if you don't mind. We did have two adoptions in March which is amazing. There was actually a teenager who was 17 who has been in our system since she was the age of 14 and she was actually adopted by someone that works for Essex County. I'm not going to identify the department but we don't find that. We don't find that. Usually everyone wants a baby right? We have a couple of those if you would like any but anyways. Please don't put that in the paper. (laughter)

And then the other one was a little girl who is in second grade, she's actually in my son's class who actually the adoptive parents really built a relationship with the biological grandparents that live in Pennsylvania so they've been able to foster that relationship and I think that's something important too because it brings family and family together so those were really two things that I

wanted to celebrate. In my world there's not a lot of positive things. This past weekend was not a great, positive weekend my staff were out until 7 o'clock, seven different staff, three different places out again Saturday morning so these celebrations are the most important things we can bring and I'd like to make sure they're on the record.

And there's just one correction to my report. I'm happy to report that today we have another staff so we're down from 13 full time to 12. Again, small celebrations. Do you have any questions?

WILSON: Anything for Angie? Okay thank you very much.

MASCARENAS: Angie, next time we visit – indigent burials.

ALLEN: Yes.

MASCARENAS: You and I will talk about that on the side.

ALLEN: We are all set, just waiting for you.

MASCARENAS: I know.

WILSON: Alright Public Health, Linda Beers.

BEERS: Good morning. Thank you. It was a fabulous eclipse, it was great. I enjoyed every bit of it and Public Health we did a lot of detailing on that as well.

I would also just echo Credible Mind that we're doing with Terri Morse. I just wanted to tell you more it's a population based platform and it has mental health things in it but it's about if you're struggling with your son and he can't do his homework you can get on this platform and there's videos and YouTube and all kinds of wonderful opportunities to learn without just going to the internet and not sure what you get is accurate so it's a new platform, it's being launched across the United States with really, it's just another tool in the arsenal even if you had a troubled employee you could say, hey, why don't you log in to Credible Minds and there might be some things that talk to you about stress. There's tests and quizzes or surveys that you do on yourself and then if you score it will tell you hey, here's some opportunities to learn for yourself some things that you could do to help yourself or your child. I'm looking forward to launching that with Terri.

My report is as follows, I don't think I really have anything that I want to call out specifically but I do want to call out colorectal cancer and our two PSA's if you haven't seen them Krissy Leerkes did an amazing job with our own Dr. Mary Halloran here at CVPH it aired on t.v. shows, they followed Jeopardy and they were NASCAR in case you caught one of them. They had unbelievable responses and it was really a huge success so nothing speaks more than people from this county talking about the loss of a loved one from that.

So without further ado, I'm just going to go right into my resolutions. I'm going to do the first one which is to defer unused revenue from prior year DSRIP. You might remember that it was Medicaid allotment look at how much money we got. We really did well \$748,856.72, still in the coffers in the county and we'd like to move it forward into 2024.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$748,856.72, CARRY OVER 2023 DSRIP FUNDS. Brassard, Hughes

WILSON: Any questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries. Thank you.

BEERS: We are going to defer the unused revenue from this year's R&R that's another Medicaid reimbursement of \$26,786.94, into the next year.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,786.94, CARRY OVER 2023 RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION FUNDS. Doty, Wright

WILSON: Any questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries. Thank you.

BEERS: If I did it right you should have two resolutions, I'm not sure I did but I'm going to just tell you about them. One was to apply for and accept. It's Adirondack Foundation Birth to Three. Birth to Three offered us money. We are doing as you are well aware our Baby Steps to Bright Futures which have been a phenomenal program where we do, the only county in New York State I will tell you that the universal newborn visiting is picking up traction and New York State Department of Health has asked to be a PILOT with us and they are doing a PILOT program in the Northern and Western regions using our program to do it. We copied that program from New York City so again I tell you, they are looking to show this program that worked in New York City was PILOT in upstate New York and that the surge exists and that going into somebody's home and naturally being with the mom after they have a baby is not the same as a phone call, it's not the same as telehealth, it's not the same and so it has been really, really successful. Adirondack Foundation recognized that and they offered us \$10,000 so we're going to take their money so I would like to apply for and accept funds for \$10,000 from Adirondack Foundation.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT ADIRONDACK FOUNDATION BIRTH TO THREE (BT3) FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00, FOR SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL HOME VISITING PROGRAM DATA AND TRACKING EFFORTS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SAME. Wood, Brassard

WILSON: Any questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries. Thank you.

BEERS: The other one is MRC STTRONG. MRC stands for medical reserve corp. and we have a grant for \$12,100.00, we have for a small county one of the largest MRC's which we stood up over and over again during Covid with an unbelievable amount of medical people and so \$12,000.00.

- *Clerk's note – the resolution requested above was previously authorized in resolution #28 of February 5, 2024 and resolution #57 of March 4, 2024, so the resolution authorized should read as follows:*

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO AMEND RESOLUTION #57 OF MARCH 4, 2024, TO DELETE ITEM #5, AS IT IS A DUPLICATE OF RESOLUTION #28 OF FEBRUARY 5, 2024. Wright, Doty

WILSON: Any questions? All in favor aye, any opposed – motion carries. Thank you.

BEERS: I only had one other thing you guys be very cohesive of our rabies clinics our numbers are down and our rabies is up so that's really a concern right? We don't want to put animals down or anything like that. We need to get our pets vaccinated so that in fact they do come across a rabid animal or something bites them they are not quarantined and all of that.

BRASSARD: Have you heard anything about any rabies drops or anything like that?

BEERS: That doesn't come until later on in the year. Shaun really was instrumental in working with the USDA that does that. So, we've been working with them. I think if you saw our press release of the last skunk that was found which was honestly road kill but it was earlier but it was also further north than we've seen in a long time so USDA is not necessarily and I shouldn't say this but worried about Essex County. They are extremely worried about rabies moving north and it's an agreement they've made with Canada so Clinton County has like zero rabies compared to us so that is why is the drops. Vermont increased their on rent for their drops because Vermont on the other side of the pond, we knew that the rabid animals inspectors are going up and down the Champlain Corridor Vermont was successful in getting that done and Shaun, we are all working together to see they're really looking deep into the data. I will just say this, there's not a 100% ethnicity that these really reduce things right? I mean they are dropped from the sky a raccoon has to get it. It only works on the raccoon vector. Last year our bigger vector was a skunk. Our number one is bats that won't help for either one of them. Don't get me wrong I'm all about layered approaches and that everything helps but that is one tool in the arsenal.

GILLILLAND: I did do some research and talked to the USDA I had Congresswoman Stefanik's office on the call as well as our State Senator and Assemblyman. You have to understand this USDA program is a Federal program and they do it here like Linda said to keep rabies out of Canada not to protect the residents locally, the US residents locally so we're kind of benefactor of that when the drops are strategically dropped and set to go across areas of where we have high rabies like Moriah, Crown Point, Ticonderoga and so we kind of put pressure on them. We asked the State. Each drop cost about \$4.00, each bait so when you're dropping fifteen, twenty thousand baits per airplane the costs goes flying up so the State is hesitant to put themselves in even though they once did. They once helped to finance this.

BEERS: We used to go up in the planes. Public Health employees used to go up in the planes and help.

GILLILLAND: So if rabies starts popping up again this summer have your constituents start writing letters because we need a program that protects us not just the citizens of Canada.

BEERS: Well again I just echo, prevention is the other option. If we can't stop it we have to prevent it and prevention is really getting every pet vaccinated, getting your house bat proofed I mean we just have so many issues with people with the bats and literally they are coming in some small opening and trying to get those buttoned up or you will be getting shots.

MONTY: When was the last time they dropped the bait Shaun? It's been a few years.

GILLILLAND: No, they've been dropping bait they just moved it north this last year.

BEERS: They drop every year.

GILLILLAND: They do drop every year and they do go through a year before a research base, they set up, they drop, they check, they trap, they check the ethnicity and stuff and then based on all that data the next year they decide where they are going to drop.

BEERS: Just to be clear, I have never been, fourteen years we rattled this chain I've never seen such a display of the people that Shaun got together, they were the who's who of the CDC were

on the call really talking about it, really being genuine and saying, yeah, we recognize this is a problem again it's a layered approach. This isn't the only answer. This bait drop only works on raccoons and it only works on that vector of rabies a rabid raccoon which we did have a real problem with which is not necessarily our only problem right now and we have the fox issue which isn't as many as raccoons but they are much more aggressive than a raccoon right? Raccoons wander around and die foxes were attacking us.

MONTY: And DEC does tend to take a different attitude on this as well. I had a resident try to get into their home and they had a raccoon that was on the deck at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, wouldn't let them in, they called the DEC and they said, does your husband own a gun? Have him kill it and just go bury it.

BEERS: If there's no human exposure, just to be clear these are animals that live in nature we would of said, if there's no human exposure let the animal wander off in the woods and usually if they are acting that off they are going to pass away very soon and so they go out into the woods and pass away but that is honestly that is the answer. If there is not human exposure we don't want to test every one of them but we are working it the DEC picks up road kill, we do test animals if there's ever any exposure but it's expensive. It's done by their brain we cut their heads off and send them to Wadsworth Lab.

WILSON: Anything else for Linda? Thank you for leaving us with that image. *(laughter)* Alright the Office for the Aging report is here. Anybody have anything else to come before this committee?

WRIGHT: Yeah I have, if I could Mr. Chairman a resolution of condolence to the family of Anthony J. "Tony" Paniccia. Tony attended Ticonderoga High School, graduating in 1954. He then joined the United States Navy and served on active duty from 1955-1957. Tony was an active member in the Ticonderoga community and a strong believer in service. He served as Ticonderoga Village Clerk in the 1960s, was a 17-year member of the Ticonderoga School Board, president and umpire in Ticonderoga Little League for over 60 years, and president of the Essex County School Boards Association.

**RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF ANTHONY J. "TONY" PANICCIA.
Wright, unanimous**

WILSON: If you would forward that information to Judy. Thank you. Anything else? Alright then we are adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this Human Services Committee it was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors