

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
June 20, 2023

Present: Lisa Virkler, Chair; Andrea Moroughan, Vice-Chair; Richard Chartrand; Jessica Moser and Jeffrey Nellenback.

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Phil Hathway, Thomas Osborne and Ian Gilbert; County Manager, Ryan Piche; County Treasurer, Eric Virkler; and County Attorney, Joan McNichol.

Chair Legislator Virkler called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

Legislator Virkler moved to accept the May 16, 2023 minutes, seconded by Legislator Moser, and carried.

LCHS Project update – Jerry Cayer, LCCHS CEO

Jerry Cayer, LCCHS CEO handed out the Capital Improvement Oversight Committee Monthly report to each legislator. Each report contains an Executive Summary; Critical Issues; Schedule; Meeting minutes; Safety; Potential Change; Budget; Photographs; and Architect Report. The Executive Summary is a high-level overview of the project written by the Project Manager, Michael Nuffer. The current Critical Issues are electrical switches that have not been received but should arrive by the end of July and an EEMS panel that should have arrived by May 23rd but hasn't. The project is on schedule with a completion date of early 2024. The report includes a breakdown of major work activities by bid package since the last report and upcoming work activities.

The meeting minutes are of the LCCHS Construction Progress meetings which include all the prime contractors, General Contractors, and LCCHS Management Team. The Safety section gives a reflection on safety issues. Potential Changes lists all changes from the scope of the project for everyone to review and discuss. The Budget sections shows actual costs, allowances, contract amounts, how much funding has been committed to date, and the original base bids. The photographs show interior and exterior work being done. Finally, the Architect report is an overview of any critical issues, job changes, schedule, coordination of owner equipment, and photographs of progress.

Jerry reported that it is likely that they will be able to begin performing surgeries sometime in August, however it is all pending on when the Department of Health can come out and do the final inspection. Everyone has worked hard since kick-off of this project and so far, they have met both budget and deadlines to date. The supply chain seems to be the only ongoing issue. There is a new General Surgeon that is returning to Lewis County and further recruitment is happening for other positions. Legislator Hathway questioned how recruitment for maternity was going, Jerry responded that he does have a candidate and is continuing to move

forward slowly. Legislator Virkler voiced her opinion that recruitment isn't only about the money it is also about the location and work life balance available. Jerry Cayer pointed out that Lewis County is within 4 driving hours of many places and need to do a better job of expressing that.

Ashley Waite reported that rabies exposure has started out with higher number than normal this summer, seeing it in the ER and at Public Health. Just a reminder that if you encounter a wild animal, please leave it alone. Also, bats typically fly in August, so it is good to be aware of that. There have been no positive animal cases yet, however if there is one a press release will go out. Another reminder with bats is that if you catch a bat, please notify public health so they can test it. Joan McNichol pointed out that there has also been an uptick with ticks, warning people to be aware.

The following draft resolutions were reviewed:

1. Authorizing agreement for per diem nursing services with WorkFit Medical Staffing, PPLC under the medication-assisted treatment (MAT) plan for incarcerated individuals suffering from substance abuse disorders at a rate of \$75.00 per hour.

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2. Appointing Carla Hellinger of Lowville, NY, as the new Office For the Aging Director retroactive to June, 26th 2023 for a salary of \$70,027.

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Ryan Piche, County Manager pointed out that the County is responsible for executing certain programs through Community Services in order to get OASAS funding. The County contracts out with different agencies to fulfill the program requirements. There will be an RFP sent out to see what agencies have interest in executing these programs.

At 2:59 p.m. Legislator Virkler moved to enter executive session regarding the financial history and future of a particular corporation, Lewis County Health Services, concerning their 3-year Strategic Priorities, seconded by Legislator Moroughan, and carried.

At 3:57 p.m. Legislator Virkler moved to enter regular session, seconded by Legislator Nellenback, and carried.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Virkler moved to adjourn at 3:57 p.m., seconded by Legislator Nellenback and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board