

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**November 21, 2023**

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

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Phil Hathway; Thomas Osborne; Josh Leviker; and Ian Gilbert; County Manager, Ryan Piche; County Treasurer, Eric Virkler; Human Resources Director, Caitlyn Smith; and County Attorney, Joan McNichol.

Chair Legislator Virkler called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

Legislator Virkler moved to accept the October 17, 2023 minutes, seconded by Legislator Nellenback, and carried.

**Community Health Improvement Plan update – Ashley Waite, Public Health Director**

Ashley Waite began by reviewing the Priorities which were Adult Obesity, Childhood Obesity, Adult Cigarette Smoking, Adult Binge Drinking, Suicide Mortality, and Hospitalizations due to falls. Healthy Eating & Food Security Intervention includes two initiatives. The Fruit & Vegetable Prescription Program update is that at least two organizations in Lewis County have signed on as a healthcare partner, however Public Health has encountered barriers to prescriptions being written, accessing the nutrition education, and the lack of a year-round producer. The Congregate, Home-Delivered and Evening Meals program update is that Lewis County OFA has seen a 28% increase in total meals (home delivered and congregate) so far this year compared to 2022 and a 54% increase since pre-Covid.

Physical Activity Intervention includes three initiatives. 14-Week Program to a Healthier YOU! Update is that 6 students in BOCES Transitions Classroom completed the 14-week program in Spring of 2023. Staff will be returning to the classroom in the Spring of 2024 for a second cohort. Complete Streets update is the Lewis County has adopted a Completed Streets Policy. Barton & Loguidice is currently finalizing a Complete Streets Plan that will include conceptual recommendations for 11 hamlets/villages in Lewis County. These will be shovel ready projects when funding is available. Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program (CSPAP) update is that BRCS is implementing some components of this program and Public Health is actively working with other schools as well.

Chronic Disease Management Interventions include two initiatives. DSMP, CDSMP, Walk with Ease, Tai Chi for Arthritis and DPP update is that Public Health continues to accept physician and self-referrals for these programs. Referrals are lacking despite provider education and ease of referrals in EMR. They are each offered 1-2 times per year, pending interest. Public Health is trouble shooting how to increase

referrals. Healthy Together update is that Public Health applied for a grant to fund implementation of this program. They were not awarded the grant funding but have included the cost of implementation in their 2024 budget so they can begin in 2024.

Well-Being, Mental & Substance Use Disorder Interventions include two initiatives. Sources of Strength update is that this program is being implemented at 3 out of the 5 schools in Lewis County. A 4<sup>th</sup> school has completed their staff/advisor training and should implement in 2024. Getting Ahead (Bridges out of Poverty) update is that there are 37 graduates in Lewis County to date and 11 more set to graduate in January 2024. This has been a huge success in Lewis County.

Suicide Prevention Interventions include four initiatives. Zero Suicide & Zero Overdose update is that Credo has adopted a policy and procedure that was board approved and being implemented accordingly. Lock & Talk Virginia update is that Public Health is actively engaged in this work. There has been 200+ materials distributed in collaboration with the Lewis County Sportsmen's Club at the Lewis County Fair. Gatekeeper Trainings update is that it is offered regularly, Youth Mental Health First Aid had 10 attendees and ASIST had 12 attendees. There is one new ASIST trainer in Lewis County. Postvention update is that it has been active since January 1, 2023. The Traumatic Loss Team has engaged with approximately 10 loss survivors this year through their two active responses.

Other Interventions include Home Hazard Removal Program (HARP). The update is that during the exploration of HARP Public Health ran into barriers, so they pivoted to SAIL which is Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) because it is teachable either seated or standing and doesn't require an occupational therapist. Legislator Dolhof questioned what can be done to facilitate even more success in the Bridges Out of Poverty program, Ashley responded that most of the people who take the class end up referring others and several County employees have taken it as well. Ryan Piche pointed out that the Complete Streets initiative will be good for everyone, and the County is spending a significant amount on the program.

Employee Benefits Fair – Caitlyn Smith, Human Resources Director

Caitlyn explained that the Benefit Fair this year was just for county employees and didn't include the hospital. There were flyers sent out on a different vendor each day leading up to the event. In total there were nine vendors that attended, prizes were given out, items were raffled off, and ideas are already being thought of for future events. The Retirement Presentation was given to about 20 employees and it was for those getting ready to retire.

The following draft resolutions were reviewed:

1. Authorizing cash transfer and partial re-payment of indebtedness to Lewis County Health System under the 2018 MOU with an immediate transfer of \$2,500,000.00 from fund balance, additional \$1,000,000.00 payments toward the outstanding balance in

2024 and 2025, and the debt balance will continue to be reduced by crediting the county with the annual Administrative Cost Allocations for 2023 and thereafter.

AYE   5              NAY   0  

2. Amending Compensation Plan with reference to Public Health to create an Early Intervention Services Coordinator, full-time, at Grade 24 (\$22.81-\$26.75/hr.) through February 2, 2024.

AYE   5              NAY   0  

3. Authorizing annual agreements between Lewis County Department of Social Services and the County Law Department for legal services and representation in Family Court matters, Child Support Enforcement proceedings, and services for collection and recovery matters in the following not to exceed amounts: \$178,153.00 for Family Court matters; \$76,708.00 for child support enforcement proceedings; and \$36,382.00 for collection and recoveries services.

AYE   5              NAY   0  

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Chartrand moved to adjourn at 3:02 p.m., seconded by Legislator Nellenback and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board