

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
November 19, 2024

Present: Jessica Moser, Chair; Thomas Kalamas, Vice-Chair; Vincent Nortz; Josh Leviker; and Barry Lyndaker.

Legislator Moser called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Legislator Moser moved to approve the October 15, 2024, committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Kalamas, and carried.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Authorizing agreement between the Probation Department, the Department of Social Services and Rubenzahl, Knudsen & Associates Psychological Services for sex offender evaluations, counseling services of individuals or families, attachment parenting classes, psychological evaluations, and treatment for juvenile delinquents or adolescent offenders for the term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

AYE 5 NAY 0

2. Authorizing a renewal agreement between Public Health Department, Department of Social Services, and Lewis County General Hospital to provide the services of Shereen Palmer, MD as Medical Director for the Public Health and DSS Departments' programs at a cost not to exceed \$12,000 per year for the term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

AYE 5 NAY 0

3. Authorizing agreement between the Law Department and Department of Social Services for legal services and representation in Family Court Child Welfare Matters, Child Support Enforcement Proceedings and Collection and Recovery Matters for the term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

AYE 5 NAY 0

4. Authorizing agreements between Department of Social Services and NYS Office of Children and Family Services and Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc. for the purpose of providing federal funding in the amount of \$10,567.50 quarterly for an acceptable level of compliance and performance as specified by the Division of Childcare Services for registration and inspection of child care providers; and for the purpose of conducting registration and inspection of family day care and school aged child care providers in Lewis County at quarterly installments of \$10,039.25 upon receipt of a completed Quarterly Registration Review Report from the Division of Child Care Services Regional Office.

AYE 5 NAY 0

County Manager Tim Hunt reported that he had received a proposal from Lewis County General Hospital, that has been in the works for the last couple of months. Currently the hospital is doing well financially, and the health insurance fund is basically upside down right now. An analysis of the last years premiums paid in and costs coming out show the county was covering its own expenses however, the

hospital shows a 2.18-million-dollar deficit. Mr. Cayer is proposing a one-time funding payment of 2.18-million-dollar into the Health Insurance Fund. There will be an Memorandum of Understanding for the record. Going forward the annual cost allocation, which is the time the county spends on hospital activities and tasks will be paid by the hospital directly to the county. In the past it was used as a write off from debt owed to the hospital from the county.

At 1:43 p.m. Legislator Moser stated there would be a 10-minute recess for the presenter to arrive.

At 1:50 p.m. Legislator Moser called the meeting back to order.

Veteran Services update – David Pavey, Director of Veteran Services

Mr. David Pavey introduced himself as the Director of Veteran Services for Jefferson County and the rental for Lewis County. The move up to Human Services Building was good and seems to be worker much better because Social Services is right there. There are 1,571 veterans living in Lewis County. That equates to \$22 million dollars that comes into Lewis County for compensation and pensions benefits. That includes health care and education benefits as well. Year-to-date, data has been tracked for New Money and New Payments. New Payments are monthly amounts of money into the county based on claims that have been filed for just that month. New Money is the total amount of payments from new claims. Retro Payments are payments that would be owed from when the claim is first filed until a decision is made, whether that is 6 months or a year.

The New Money and New Payments are from 162 veterans that have claims filed. Sometimes when a claim is filed the result will be 0% compensation. Hearing, High Blood Pressure, and COPD are good examples of this. The claim is filed, and they can relate the cause to military service, but the disability isn't at a compensable level. Hearing is tough because of the test; a word recognition test is much better. Usually, the worse you do on a hearing test the better chance you have of it being compensable. Any denials go to a higher level for review. Many times, a VA doctors have to use range of motion for injuries and it is important for veterans to talk to the examiner and explain that they may be able to do something for 2 hours but then the next day because of that action it might mean they are laid up for the day.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Moser moved to adjourn at 2:01 p.m., seconded by Legislator Nortz, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board