

Health & Human Services
September 24, 2013
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair James Nabywaniec, Legislators Michael Docteur, Robert Thomas, Michael Montigelli, Michael Astafan, John Peck, Anthony Doldo, and Chairwoman Carolyn Fitzpatrick

Others Present: Legislators Philip Reed, Allen Drake, Barry Ormsby, and Scott Gray, Deputy Administrator Michael Kaskan, County Attorney David Paulsen, Information Technology Director Gregory Hudson, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, Public Health Planner Steve Jennings, Mental Health Coordinator Tim Reutten, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Daniel Flatley, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Nabywaniec called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor.

Liz Daugherty, Clayton, NY, and 24 year County employee in the Department of Social Services (DSS) expressed disappointment that there was no follow up on an email she sent to some of the legislators regarding the job description for the DSS Commissioner. Specifically she said the posting for the job was not dated and when posted it only allowed for 7 days to apply instead of the typical 10 days. She expressed concern that the decision of the legislators was made prior to the posting even being made because three of the four applicants have already been told that they were not selected. She said the direction of the department has been questioned since Patty Connelly was Commissioner, morale in the department is low, and encouraged legislators to take a good look at the applicants as many people are expressing serious concerns.

The Committee approved the minutes of the July meeting, as written.

Public Health Director Ginger Hall and Public Health Planner Steve Jennings made a power point presentation to the Committee concerning data they collected from different sources about drug overdose and narcotic use in Jefferson County. The team that gathered the data and analyzed it was the EMS Director, the Medical Investigator from the Medical Examiners Office, Steve Jennings and Ginger Hall. Data sources included: County Fire & Emergency Management Department, NYS Department of Health (DOH), Samaritan Medical Center, Regional EMS Council and Guilfoyle Ambulance. Ms. Hall indicated there were limitations in the data related to the way calls are tagged at the Dispatch center when they come in (i.e. a respiratory distress call might still be an overdose); hospital and emergency department data is limited to SMC because they experience the highest data so it was felt that was a good indication of community activity; and Deputy Sheriff first-on-scene data could only be obtained for the Medical Examiner cases, all other responses are not captured.

Mr. Jennings went over findings from the local data for the following categories:

- ▶ total overdose/incident calls 2011-2013 (projected) broken down by percentages

- ▶ in the City vs. non-city residents, and responding agencies to these calls;
- ▶ totals of naloxone administration broken down by who administered it;
- ▶ total drug overdoses for the hospital emergency department broken down by suicide and self-inflicted vs. accidental poisoning and if the drug was an opioid or other substance;
- ▶ total hospital inpatient stays for all drug overdoses also broken down by suicide and self-inflicted injury or accidental poisoning and whether it was an opioid or other substance
- ▶ hospital inpatient and emergency department data for all drug overdoses broken down by zip code (13601);
- ▶ total drug overdose deaths from 2008-2012 and a further breakdown by manner of death, location of death, lethal toxicology (opioid vs. other drug), first responder on scene.

Of particular note was that overdose/poison incident calls are typically slightly higher in the City of Watertown vs. the rest of Jefferson County; the Sheriff's Department responded to 17.8%, and 19.3% of out-of-City incidents for overdose/poison incident calls in 2011 and 2012; Guilfoyle Ambulance provided a majority of the naloxone administrations in the County; drug overdose inpatient/emergency department patients in 13601 zip code increased 10.6% from 2011-2012, outside the City area decreased 54.4% for that time period; there was an 80% increase in overdose deaths from 2010 (10) to 2011 (18) but a 12.5% decrease from 2011-2012 (16); while the City of Watertown makes up 22% of the total population it makes up 50% of the overdose deaths in the County; a majority of drug overdose deaths in the County are attributed to opioids and a majority of the cases are found to be deceased on the scene; the Sheriff's Department was on-scene in 2 and 3 cases for overdose deaths in 2011 and 2012.

Ms. Hall reported that drug overdose is the leading cause of injury death in the United States and to address the high rates of opioid drug overdose deaths, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) is encouraging the establishment and implementation of community-based opioid drug overdose prevention programs. These programs will include training and providing naloxone to potential overdose witnesses, and evaluation of the impact of these programs. She stated that drug overdose is also the leading cause of injury death in New York State and legislative steps have been taken to make it legal for non-medical persons to administer naloxone to another individual to prevent an opioid/heroin overdose from becoming fatal, and to establish I-STOP/PMP (Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing - Prescription Monitoring Program) registry containing data about controlled substance dispensed to individuals, reported on a real time basis; requiring health care practitioners and permitting pharmacists to access such registry before prescribing or dispensing additional such substances; and requires that prescriptions be transmitted electronically from practitioners to pharmacists.

She advised that current NYS legislation is pending that would establish an emergency opioid overdose prevention pilot program whereby police agencies and certain public high schools could administer naloxone to persons who have overdosed on an opioid, and provides for administration of naloxone pursuant to the opioid overdose prevention program. Further NYS DOH approval is pending to provide a pilot program for basic life support (BLS) level EMS

providers to administer naloxone, and if approved naloxone availability will be substantially increased in communities throughout the State and would be administered by emergency medical professional first responders.

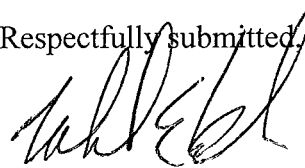
Chairman Nabywaniec, committee members and legislators thanked Ms. Hall and Mr. Jennings for the well done and professional presentation and their time in putting this information together as it was greatly appreciated. Discussion ensued among Committee members and legislators present concerning the information provided. Following discussion it was the consensus of the Committee at this point not to take specific action but do more networking to see what the comfort level of legislators is for adopting a program. He said it appears that the State may approve legislation and NYS DOH may approve programming that will take care of the issue. Ms. Hall advised that she was not aware of a specific timeline with regard to NYS DOH approval for the pilot program and there is a meeting scheduled for October 2nd, but she was not aware if that item will be on the agenda.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution amending the 2013 County Budget relative to mental hygiene/Community Services and authorizing amended agreements with Credo Community Center in relation thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislator Astafan and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution amending the 2013 County Budget in relation to the Department of Social Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Astafan and seconded by Legislator Thomas. Legislator Doldo questioned what type of upgrades will be made. Mr. Kaskan advised that it pertains to the call center and it will give them more ability to route calls to the next available call person, and it will make calling DSS a smoother process for clients. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

There being further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislator Astafan and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Kaskan
Deputy Clerk of the Board