

COUNTY TRANSITION OVERSIGHT PANEL

FINANCIAL WORKGROUP

4/18/2024

MEMEMBERS PRESENT: Tamara Feest, Mary Rideout, Heidi Chavez, Tina Smigielski

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Kate Gardner, Sandra Wentz, Darcy Smith, Mike Duening, Jason Rhodes

OTHERS: Jeri Driscoll

1. **Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Financial/IT Work Group was brought to order at 11:30 a.m. by Mary Rideout.

2. **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by Tina Smigielski, seconded by Darcy Smith to approve the Agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

3. **Public Comment:**

No public present.

4. **Develop a work plan:**

- Budget – We need to get State funding and allocations. DHS is indicating that they can't get it to us until September or later. Mary Rideout has a meeting with DHS the first week of May and she will discuss this timeline. Mary Rideout will continue to work on that. DHS states that they need the Resolution from each county. Will have to check with Forest to ensure they were sent.
- Payroll – Have a Staffing Work Group that is working on payroll, employee benefits etc. Discussion regarding what liability Oneida County is taking on with banked benefits. It would be the same with pension liability. Oneida County is absorbing the staff and Vilas/Forest will contract with Oneida. Will need to figure the accounting with that and the contractual agreement. Corporation Counsel will be working on and we have to figure out the fiscal end of things. Recommend the Staffing Work Group make a recommendation and what benefits they will be bringing over and then bring to this committee for execution. This will give the picture of where we are at the end of the year.
- Vilas feels that we need a seamless transition and then each county can assess at a later time if they want to bring programs to each county. Staff may be contracted but may be based in Vilas/Forest County. They would have space in Vilas/Forest County but would be an Oneida county employee. Face to face hours are needed also for mental health. This may have to happen through attrition or new hires. This group needs to figure out how we stay within the current budget.
- The big cost is mental health hospitalization. Each county will have to discuss and have some reserve as these can be very costly.
- Tribal issue – met with Theresa Steinmetz, Kelly Day and others from DHS. There are a couple of ways for the Tribe to be involved. Tribes could contract directly with Oneida County. The Tribe

is interested in providing some of their own service. They are unable to do the full range but they are interested in the crisis portion. They want to take on more but will be over time. Kelly D. needs to go back and discuss with the tribe to get an idea of where they want to go. The next meeting is in June and would probably need some of the fiscal people at this meeting as well to understand the process. Mary would also like to be at this meeting.

- The group will also need to consider run-out of 6-12 months, similar to a merger. Could have an independent person who does this for expenses incurred before 2025. This person would determine if expense could be written off, COBRA benefits, etc. There are things that will come up, something to think about it. Might be nice to have someone that is not a county employee or an LTE that is here for 6-9 months. Independent person would process payments for HSC, vendors, W-2, 1099 etc.
- A question came up of who owns the information. Mary will be getting clarification from the Department of Health Services. Mary Rideout's viewpoint it is already Oneida, Forest and Vilas Counties information. Tamara Feest is concerned about substance use records. We will need to work with legal and the State office to ensure records are handled appropriately.

Technical Walk-Through:

- Peggy and Jason Rhodes will be doing walk through on April 24. They will be looking at fire walls, phone system, switches, and looking at compatibility. Tamara Feest stated that she could do the walk through at 2:30 that day. Jason Rhodes will check with Peggy and let everyone know if that time works. This would just be the Timber Drive location. Jason Rhodes will let Heidi Chavez know if 2:30 works for Peggy and she will let Tamara Feest and others know.
- No major projects are projected to occur this year.

Audit/Single Audit:

- Are we going to have an outside group with run-out or county? If county would have LTE. Feel it should be the County and let's start planning. Need to have Keith Haselton part of this discussion. Like to know how it is handled now.
- The last pay period would be December 8, and ends December 21st and payed December 27th. Details need to be worked out. There are a number of ways we can handle year-end payroll. This will require more discussion.

IT Plan:

- Nothing this year. Got removed from the Budget. Would like to know what they were. Tamara Feest will get this information for Jason.

Electronic Health Record:

- Transfer of Ownership: Will start discussion with DHS and see if any other examples. Most consolidations are county to county. Chad, Vilas Corporation Counsel believes that it is transferrable.

Meeting Frequency: Monthly for now. Fall – bi-weekly. Once staffing figured out then meet more frequently – Oneida County.

Next meeting 3rd Thursday of each month through August at 10:00 a.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at the Oneida County Courthouse.

If anyone has any agenda items send them to Mary Rideout. Meeting adjourned.

Chair Person

Date: April 18, 2024

DRAFT