

**ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2020**

Members present: Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Mr. Steven Schreier, Mr. Jim Winkler,  
Mr. Bob Thome Jr. and Ms. Stephanie Sowatzka

Staff: Ms. Mary Rideout, Ms. Tammy Javenkoski, Mr. Joel Gottsacker,  
Ms. Heidi Chavez and Ms. Megan Mode

Public: Ms. Tamara Feest and Ms. Debbie Meye

**1. Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:**

The regular meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee was brought to order at 1:00 p.m. by Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Chairperson. The Chairperson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws. Motion by Mr. Jim Winkler, seconded by Ms. Stephanie Sowatzka, to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Minutes of Social Services Committee – July 28, 2020:**

Motion by Mr. Jim Winkler, seconded by Ms. Stephanie Sowatzka, to approve the Social Services Committee minutes of July 28, 2020. Mr. Winkler questioned rewording of LRES jurisdiction in #5 and Ms. Mary Rideout explained why it was correct the way it was. Mr. VanRaalte also informed of a change he had made to the minutes prior to the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Public Comment:**

None.

**Veterans Services:**

**1. Veterans Service Office 2019 Annual Report:**

Ms. Tammy Javenkoski presented the highlights of the 2019 Annual Report and ~~advised the Committee to let her know if there is anything else that she should be~~ presenting to the County Board. Ms. Javenkoski stated the benefits Oneida County veterans received increased by 9.1% in 2019. The net cost to run the department was \$130,176.00 after receiving a \$10,000.00 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs. Veteran's benefits have increased every year since Ms. Javenkoski started as CVSO, and have almost quadrupled since that year, 2006. The big event in 2019 was the multi-county Veterans Benefits Expo, where over 200 people signed in. There will be another one in April 2021, depending where the COVID pandemic is at, at that time. The DAV van is a free service to Oneida County veterans and is coordinated by the Veterans Service Office. Use of the van saved over \$4,000.00 in County dollars, as veterans who use the van do not get paid mileage to travel on their own. Discussion was had on veteran population decreasing but benefits increasing, Rate of Return and that percentage, as well as passenger days for the DAV van. Ms. Javenkoski noted it

## **Social Services:**

### **1. 2021 Social Services Budget Hearing and Approval:**

Ms. Mary Rideout provided many documents to the Committee for their review. Ms. Rideout went over the charts first, including out-of-home care costs (which shows the wide variance in the out-of-home care budget over the last 21 years, the highest being in 2001) with a projected large increase again for 2020. The out-of-home care costs are what drive the Department's budget. The next chart showed Social Services surpluses and deficits, showing mostly surpluses over the years, as the Department did a lot of prevention efforts after 2001. The last chart shows County Tax Levy that is budgeted compared to Net County Tax Levy.

Ms. Rideout went over the very detailed budget document, which shows how the Department manages all accounting. Ms. Rideout informed Ms. Heidi Chavez was able to balance the budget due to an additional, unexpected \$12,000.00 Children and Family Aids Allocation. Questions were raised and discussion was had on some increases in different expenditure accounts.

The Supplemental Information Form was presented, which explains what the Department is doing for efficiency measures and where the problem areas are. Ms. Rideout noted she will add the increase in out-of-home care costs from 2017-2020 of %147. This document lead into a long discussion on where a cut of %5 could be made to County Tax Levy. Ms. Rideout and Ms. Chavez presented a list of all areas thought of to cut the \$97,439.00 (%5). Motion by Mr. Bob Thome Jr., seconded by Mr. Steven Schreier, to present the Finance Committee with the reduction of 0.4 FTE Account Technician position and 1.0 FTE Social Work Position by combining Social Services and the ADRC, with the balance taken out of the out-of-home care budget. Mr. Alan VanRaalte, aye; Ms. Stephanie Sowatzka, aye; Mr. Steven Schreier, aye; Mr. Bob Thome Jr., aye; Mr. Jim Winkler, nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Ms. Stephanie Sowatzka, to approve the 2021 Social Services Budget as presented. Mr. Alan VanRaalte, aye; Ms. Stephanie Sowatzka, aye; Mr. Steven Schreier, aye; Mr. Bob Thome Jr., aye; Mr. Jim Winkler, nay. Motion carried.

### **2. GovPay Contract Approval:**

GovPay is similar to a credit card company and provides another option for non-custodial parents to make Child Support payments. Assistant Corporation Counsel Mike Fugle reviewed the contract, made recommendation for change and GovPay accepted and sent the new contract promptly. A total of 36 other counties in the state use this company. The payer pays the fee associated with the transaction. Money does not come into Oneida County; it goes directly to the Trust Fund and is distributed to the custodial parent. The Department will still track the payments, as well as the ability to track in the KIDS payment system.

Motion by Mr. Jim Winkler, seconded by Mr. Steven Schreier, to approve the 2020 financial/statistical reports, vouchers and audit of payments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Public Comment:**

None.

**8. Agenda Items for Future Meetings:**

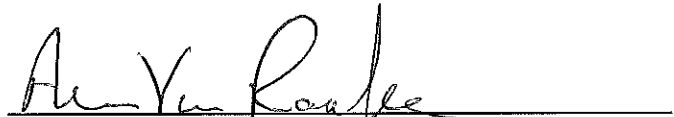
Results of Public Hearing

**9. Adjourn:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Alan VanRaalte to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room.



Mr. Bob Thome Jr.



Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Chairperson

Date: August 25, 2020