

Human Services Productivity Committee

May 20, 2019

PRESENT:

Patrick Grattan, Chairman
Arthur Bassin
Sarah Sterling
John Reilly

ABSENT:

James Guzzi, Notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Angela Rothermel, Deputy Clerk
Ronald Caponera
PJ Keeler
Linda Mussman
Mike McCarthy

The Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairman Grattan.

The committee welcomed Mike McCarthy to the meeting and R. Caponera told the Supervisors that Mike has been with the County for many years and he is very familiar with Human Services in Columbia County. Mike has been working on CFR at the Health Department. The County previously offered the Human Services Clinic to Columbia Memorial Hospital, but the Hospital declined for a few reasons. P. Keeler explained that he does not believe that the Hospital is completely out, as they still want to be involved. R. Caponera explained that he would like to go back and talk to the Hospital, as there are ways around the issues that the Hospital had. He also told the Supervisors that he would like to have Premier come to the next meeting to talk with the Supervisors regarding them taking over the Mental Health Clinic, as the Department cannot just close its doors. He then told the committee that either the Hospital or Premier could do a much better job of running the department and giving better care. There was a lengthy discussion regarding productivity, as Columbia County is running 50% less than Rensselaer County. Currently there are 45 FTE's doing 800-850 units, 1 unit is 45 minutes. .

R. Caponera explained that the Human Services department brings in 3.5 million dollars a year in Clinic, but they are also losing 2.3 million every year on average on salaries and benefits. Human Services has a very high salary and fringe benefits. He then explained that Premier is interested in Columbia County's Human Services department. Mike explained that the long time employees in the Human Services department get paid a lot along with their benefits, which is a reason for the money being lost each year.

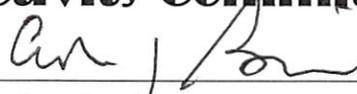
P. Grattan explained to the Supervisors that the Department of Human Services closes every day at 5:00 PM, causing the department to lose patients, as there are no 24/7 services or emergency services. The goal for the Human Services Department is to provide better service and stop the loss of money. Between the hours of 5:00 PM and 8:00 AM, the department is losing out on patients in need of emergency services, which means the Department is losing out on that money. The Department also isn't getting patients in quick enough, due to a long and expensive intake, causing them to search for services elsewhere. Mike explained that the department is running non mandated services and losing money for it. PJ explained that management is the biggest issue and a big part of the productivity issues. The department is not providing the level of care appropriate for 2019. P. Grattan told the committee that they have to look at all their options, due diligence and come up with a plan.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.

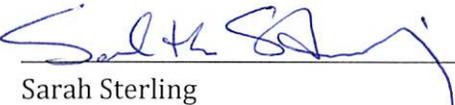
Human Services Productivity Committee



Patrick Grattan, Chairman



Arthur Bassin



Sarah Sterling

ABSENT
James Guzzi



John Reilly