



Onondaga County Legislature

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES - APRIL 14, 2021 JULIE ABBOTT-KENAN, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Chase, Ms. Cody, Mr. Bush, Mr. Kinne
ALSO ATTENDING: Dr. Kelly, Mrs. Ervin; also see attached

Chair Abbott-Kenan called the meeting to order at 10:44 a.m. *A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Ms. Cody, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

1. **VETERANS SERVICES AGENCY:** Cindy Meili, Veterans Services Outreach Coordinator
 - a. **Resolution Adopting the Onondaga County Veteran Services Agency Logo**



Ms. Meili:

- This is the logo created, designed April of 2020
- Now an independent agency and wanted to create own logo to establish that
- Will help identify agency in the community to veterans, family and service members
- Yellow ribbon on the left signifies all military members in the community - when on leave, VSA will always welcome them back, and will support their families while they are away
- Purple Heart - one of 17 or 18 counties which are recognized as a Purple Heart County, means VSA is recognizing their service and sacrifice, they will never be forgotten for that
- Gold Star – for Gold Star families in the area, will always remember them and are committed to serving their families
- Starting from the top, the branches are in order of service - ends with POW MIA, they are also never forgotten
- Red and White ties into the American Flag
- Onondaga County Seal shows basis for what VSA does, foundation, committed to serving everybody in the County

Chair Abbott-Kenan thanked Ms. Meili for coming.

Ms. Meili:

- Everything is going very well, still the same, there are 3 employees
- Accredited through NYS, Division of Veteran Services, so able to submit claims through NYS

- Have taken test, waiting for Office of General Counsel to approve accreditations nationally
- Getting claims out, doing outreach, and continuing to field the calls
- Taking care of veterans who are falling through the cracks from the big agencies that have specific needs

A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Abbott-Kenan:

- 2 updates: (1) Double Up Food Bucks lobbying email received
- Followed up with Heart Association; wanted to know where the numbers came from
- Girl who originated letter is from New Jersey, so she really could not answer the questions
- Reached out to Ms. Rooney and Ms. Merrick; Ms. Merrick met with Chairman Knapp and members of the group trying to promote this
- Looked it up online - Trumansburg and Ithaca are only ones who have it in this region
- Ms. Merrick said she will look at the response and see if there are any opportunities here; will get a report back on it
- Chairman Knapp will talk to County Executive about it; research is going on; sounds like an interesting program
- (2) Hillbrook - talked about this in session and passed the new positions; wanted to follow up on Education, Legislator Ryan asked a valid question on whether or not there are enough teachers out there
- Want to move one of our meetings and go on a field trip; spoke with Ms. Rooney - in 2 months they might be a little further in the hiring process; might have some residence there and can go on a tour, ask questions
- They are more than willing to access this; it is on the radar – looking at 2 months from now

Mr. Bush asked if anyone has any idea about the pop up clinics they are having. Chair Abbott-Kenan:

- Vaccination clinic - in watching County Executive McMahan’s daily briefing, they picked Baldwinsville
- Do not know about the other pop up clinics; school clinics are having a survey
- They are testing every other Wednesday at Skaneateles School District, because the community responds very well to it; asking for their ages

Dr. Chase:

- Lot are coming from organizations; churches in the area
- Somewhat guaranteed a certain number; it is a big deal to bring all the vaccines, set up, refrigeration
- Very careful about where they go and how much they can give; County Executive is looking at taking it further out
- If legislators have a community or organization, go to Ms. Harris or County Executive McMahan and put in a request
- Schools and a whole lot of others have talked to people having it and they are doing it; good thing with pop ups in the community - can call the church and make an appointment, people really like that; seems like it would be easy
- Dr. Gupta has input, bottom line County Executive office makes the decision
- Have to have a place for set up, social distance, before and after wait period
- If anyone knows of an organization, please reach out

Chair Abbott-Kenan commented that it is tough in rural communities and for seniors, but Ms. Harris and the Executive’s office have been working on it.

A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Mr. Kinne, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
DATE: APRIL 14, 2021

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Yvette Velasco	LAW
Cindy Merz	VSA
Nick Para	Leg.
John DeSanti's	Leg.