



Onondaga County Legislature

DEBORAH L. MATURO
Clerk

J. RYAN McMAHON, II
Chairman

KATHERINE M. FRENCH
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: 315.435.2070 Fax: 315.435.8434
www.ongov.net

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE 2019 TENTATIVE BUDGET HEALTH DEPARTMENTS – SEPTEMBER 21, 2018 BRIAN F. MAY, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Jordan, Mr. Plochocki, Mr. Knapp, Mrs. Ervin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Ryan, Ms. Williams

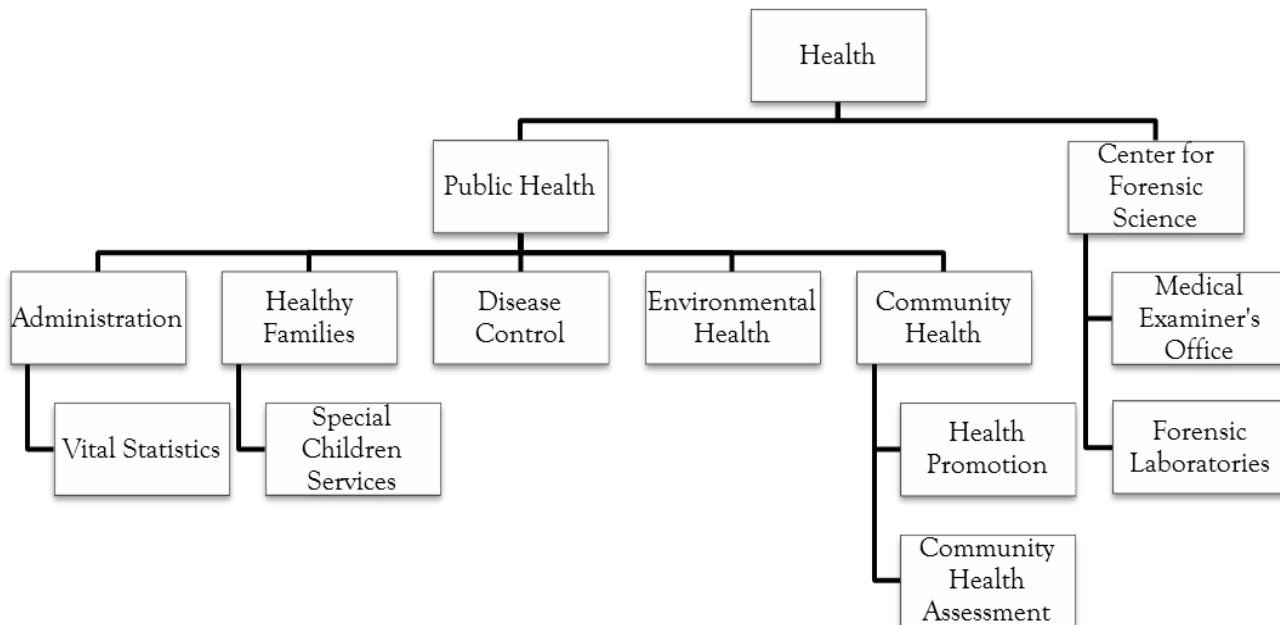
ALSO PRESENT: Chairman McMahon, Mr. Burtis, Ms. Cody, Dr. Chase, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. McBride, Mr. Bush; see attached

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

Health Department: (4-33) Dr. Indu Gupta, Commissioner; Michelle Mignano, Deputy Commissioner; Kristi Smiley, Administrative Officer for Financial Operations

Chairman May acknowledged Health Committee Chairman Burtis for getting Dr. Gupta in front of the committee to discuss the business and services provided to the community, and for how he has brought that information back to the Legislature. Dr. Gupta thanked Chairman Burtis for his support.

D43 - Health Department



Department Mission

To protect and improve the health of all Onondaga County residents

Department Vision

A community of partners working together for the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all

Department Goals

- All residents are free of preventable communicable disease
- All residents live in safe and healthy homes
- All residents are prepared and ready to respond to public health emergencies
- All residents have access to and utilize appropriate health services
- All babies born in Onondaga County are healthy and supported
- Health disparities are eliminated in Onondaga County
- All community partners and the public engage in dialogue to address public health challenges
- All OCHD staff are well prepared and equipped to meet public health challenges and community needs

Human Services - Section 4 Page 28

Health Department Funding Adjustments

The following funding adjustments from the FY 2018 are necessary to support the FY 2019 program:

Appropriation Adjustments

- **Personnel**

Net Personnel funding increased by \$617,879 due to salary and wage adjustments

- **Supplies & Materials**

Increased by \$110,268 due to purchase of tablets for EI service coordinators, lab tests newly conducted in house in the Bureau of Disease Control (previously conducted by an outside lab) and additional supplies for the Forensic Laboratory needed to meet the Judicial Directive for felony trials

- **Special Children Services**

Net Special Children Services funding increased by \$1,141,005 due to rate increases, increased child counts and transportation costs

- **Maintenance, Utilities and Rent**

Net decrease of \$25,835 as a result of moving Healthy Families into the Civic Center

- **Professional Services**

Increased by \$370,959 for contract Pathologists due to current vacancies

- **All Other Expenses**

Increase of \$12,473 as result of new cleaning and trash removal costs at the old Metro Water Board site now housing part of Environmental Health

- **Travel & Training**

Increased by \$43,135 due to parking costs for the relocated Healthy Families staff at the Civic Center

- **Furn, Furnishings & Equip**

Increased by \$85,000 to reestablish an equipment replacement program for the Medical Examiner's Office and the Forensic Laboratory, for items such as a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer, genetic analyzer, and a 3D imaging for cartridges and bullets

- **Automotive Equipment**

Increased \$51,858 to purchase two vehicles that have been decommissioned

Revenue Adjustments

- **Federal Aid**

Net federal aid increase of \$66,562 due to increased Special Children Services expenses

- **State Aid**

Net state aid increased by \$530,435 due to increased Special Children Services expenses

- **County Service Revenue**

Net county service revenue increase of \$47,879 due to increase in EI case management revenue and fee collections

- **Service for Other Governments**

Net service for other government's increase of \$356,928 based on increased Special Children Services revenue and increase in MEO services from other municipalities

Human Services - Section 4 Page 35

Talking points were not provided for the record.

Mr. Burtis thanked Dr. Gupta for her presentation. Dr. Gupta is a great leader with a high demand for service, which has brought accreditation to the department; congratulations to Dr. Gupta and the department. Mr. Burtis would like to talk about the quality improvement, as well as the MEO being awarded accreditation for another 5 year term. Also, Mr. Burtis would like to discuss the adjustments showing an increase of \$85,000 for the MEO, and the Service for Other Governments increase of \$356,000 for the MEO. Dr. Gupta:

- Implemented a robust quality improvement program in the Health Department; performance based department; meet quarterly to evaluate; based on the data, they try to improve those services
- Increase of \$85,000 in equipment line – MEO and Forensic Lab are scientifically driven; work to support law enforcement; facts need to be there; one piece of equipment replaced with grant dollars
- Looking to support equipment; at end of maintenance agreement

Ms. Mignano answered the question regarding revenue increases stating that it contains three factors: additional revenue from contracts with other municipalities for the MEO as they continue to expand services, additional Medicaid dollars for Preschool, and some slight increases for permit fees for Environmental Health. Dr. Gupta added that each line is to make the department efficient. If the performance is better, there is a better return on investment.

Mr. Jordan thanked Dr. Gupta for her presentation. There is an increase of \$110,000 in Supplies and Materials, and it references “lab tests newly conducted in house in the Bureau of Disease Control (previously conducted by an outside lab)”. The department is also showing an increase in Professional Services of \$370,000, and Mr. Jordan asked for an elaboration. It seems the line would go down, not up. Dr. Gupta responded:

- Supplies and Materials - Bureau of Disease Control does services for STDs; contract with Quest Lab, who does lab tests for lead and other areas
- Portion of it is in-house; client comes in, specimen seen under microscope, opportunity to do direct service in real time
- Implementation of electronic medical records; trying to increase efficiency
- In-house can reduce some dollars because it's cheaper; reduce time client comes to front desk, then to nurse or doctor
- In first year - line assigned for lab is shifted; put few thousand in; learning curve for next year with supplies
- Professional services - contract Pathologist; MEO has 2 Pathologists, including Dr. Stoppacher; looked for total of 4; still need contract pathologists at this time

Ms. Smiley added that the increase in Professional Services is deceiving. In the 2019 budget, they salary saved two Pathologist positions, and moved those dollars into the Professional Services line in the amount of \$470,000. If that was not there, it would be down \$100,000.

Mr. Jordan commended the department in their list of accomplishments and the number of programs, and asked how the programs are administered (i.e. home visiting). Dr. Gupta responded:

- Healthy Families does various things including home visiting done by Public Health Nurse, Community Health Worker and Social Worker
- Goal to make sure pregnant women and/or children that need services are connected to care providers as well as other social services; focus on areas with high level of poverty
- Teen mothers - focus on prenatal care, screening for depression or other medical problems that need attention; will have healthy baby and healthy mom

- Connect women to WIC program or Department of Social Services
- Special Children Services – provides support for children from birth to 2 years old with Early Intervention, and 3-4 years old with Preschool; these children may have a developmental delay
- Social determinacy of health: where one lives, where one plays, type of environment – all effect one's health
- Ensure identifying by screening, and connect to services including physical therapy, speech therapy, behavioral therapy
- All important for these children to ensure best health as they grow
- WIC provides nutrition, including breast feeding support, which helps obesity (chronic diseases); lot of things that impact the health of pregnant women, children and families; if they are healthy, it's better community health
- Clinics done for immunization for preventable infections; home visiting is connecting people to health care providers; also working with electronic case management system, and Healthy Connection
- Increase of \$1.1 mil in Special Children Services include rates set by NYS; state reimburses by child

Ms. Smiley added:

- Rates are provider rates; contracted vendors provide preschool services; NYS sets those rates
- Early Intervention (EI) child count up 8 – 12% over last several years
- Preschool - there are additional services for children, and costs are up with providers

Dr. Gupta continued:

- Number of children the department is providing services for has increased steadily over a decade
- People are a product of where they are, the homes they live in, and opportunities they have
- Level of poverty in community, substance abuse, homes going through difficult times – all contribute to health of women and children; make sure working with community partners to impact where these women are, and be supportive
- Child born with disability – they get care, and are provided connectivity to achieve the best health

Chairman May asked for a general breakdown of the rate affect. Ms. Smiley responded that the increase in EI went up about \$200,000 (kid count), and the increase in Preschool is about \$900,000 (rates).

Mr. Knapp said there is a 14 day period for getting in an application for temporary food permits for processing, and it seems that the 14 day period is being ignored. Permits are being delivered the morning of an event. This is not something the workers should have to do, and there has been talk of a possible small penalty for not getting the application in within 10 or 14 days. Mr. Knapp asked if there is anything in the budget about this. Dr. Gupta responded no, but she appreciates the feedback; they will look into it. Ms. Mignano commented that they can work with the Law Department to determine if it is a requirement to be added to the fee schedule, and will get back to Mr. Knapp.

Chairman May asked if Environmental Health is permanently moving to the MWB site. Dr. Gupta answered that they have already moved there, and agreed that it is a permanent solution.

Chairman May asked Dr. Gupta to talk about the opioid epidemic. Dr. Gupta:


- Considered a public health crisis throughout US; 2012 – deaths due to opioids had increased; 2016 peaked
- Last year was first year of decline by over 30%
- Question is why is there an epidemic, and what is the County doing as a community
- Product of fueled increased use of prescription opioids; availability to heroin on corner is cheap, easier and potent
- Started in 2014, 2015 numbers climbing; pre-existing drug task force from DA; reached out to say not law enforcement issue, but public health issue; Dr. Gupta became co-chair of Onondaga County Drug Task Force
- Involvement of physician, medical society, hospitals, educational institution; everyone under same umbrella
- Took CDCs approach for how to address in community - people are dying; families being destroyed
- Addressing crisis by saving lives; Narcan is a lifesaving drug - make sure every community flooded with it; working with hospitals and community based members; watch for those who may overdose
- Make sure there's enough providers; work with community; work with state; increase availability of treatment
- Continue to be at forefront of preventing more people getting addicted
- Involved – report to state with Community Health Improvement Plan and Drug Task Force; providing leadership and engaging in community; no one exempt
- Specific dollars related to opioid crisis in budget - \$35,000 put in for opioid effort; also NYS grant
- Try to make sure when there is a home visit by a nurse, community worker or social worker, questions asked to screen community members to get them connected to correct resources
- Babies born effected by problem; pregnant women consuming opioids
- Onondaga County is the 3rd highest rate in the state for babies being affected

Dr. Gupta responded to Mr. Jordan that in 2016 there were 142 deaths from opioids, and in 2017 there were 91; significant decline. This year they will see what strategies are (or are not working). Currently, the data shows that decreases are not throughout the US. That might mean the Health Department is doing something right.

Mr. Knapp said the numbers are down on overdose, and said Dr. Gupta has taken a personal role in this. She has done a great job raising the awareness level, warning signs, and treatment opportunities. Mr. Knapp thanked Dr. Gupta for her efforts.

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

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE M. MCNAMARA, Assistant Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **WMS Review of 2019 Budget – Health Department**

DATE: **September 21, 2018**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Kathleen Comabo	Health
Melanie Drotar	Fin Ops
Brenda Dano	Health
Elizabeth A Primo	OCHD - HF
Susan Serrao	OCHD
Bridget Lenkiewicz	OCHD
MELANIE DROTAR	OCHD
Mariah Senecal-Deilly	OCHD
Rebecca Shultz	OCHD
Lisa Letterney	OCHD
JEFF TILL	OCHD
Shawn M. Rush	OCHD
Stephanie Waldron	OCHD
Wendy Kurlowicz	OCHD
Debra Lewis	OCHD
Paul Kinder	OCHD
Lisa Green Mills	OCHD
Sharon St. Louis	OCHD
Debbie L. Mickle	OCHD
Cameron Meyers	OCHD
R. STOPPACHER	OCHD

NAME	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
PLEASE PRINT	
Megan Grant	OMB
Aaren Walker	OMB
Anne Marie Donohue	Pers.
Michelle Mignano	OCHD
Kristi Sanchez	Fin Ops
Kathy Lytle	OCPC
Matturo	Controller
Matt Beadnell	controller