



# Onondaga County Legislature

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## WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE 2020 TENTATIVE BUDGET HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS – SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 DEB J. CODY, CHAIR

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. May, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Ervin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Ryan

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chairman Knapp, Mr. Burtis, Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, Dr. Chase, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. McBride, Mr. Bush, Mr. Bottrill; see attached

Chair Cody called the meeting to order at 11:22 a.m.

**Social Services – Department of Economic Security:** (4-66) Sarah Merrick, Commissioner; Brian Lynch, Director of Administrative Services; Taviot Jackowski, Budget Analyst

Ms. Merrick:

- Provide all mandated services: Temporary Assistance (TA), SNAP, HEAP, Child Care subsidies for low income families, Child Support & Medicaid
- Approximately 1 in 5 residents in Onondaga County get 1 or more services
- Supports County Executive McMahon's focus on reducing poverty
- Focus in 2020 on launching Two Generation Reduction Initiative – 300 cases where head of household under age 25 with 1 or more children; impacts ~1,000 individuals
- Take comprehensive approach looking at mother's educational level; ways to get her on employment pathways to move out of minimum wage jobs and support family successfully
- Part of that is building economic assets, social capital, addressing health issues and mental health issues; making sure children are taking advantage of early childhood development opportunities and older children successful in school
- Going to work on noncustodial fathers and other family members having impact on these generational poverty families
- Excited about resources in 2020 budget to move out of box of traditional way of providing TA
- Last nuance - people move off TA and come back; felt need to build transitional period with coaches supporting them
- Another part of the budget is County Executive's commitment to Early Childhood Alliance - half is in this budget (half in Children & Family Services budget) - working on improving quality of infant and toddler child care at centers, group family centers and informal providers
- Looking to launch various interventions to improve quality of service providers; in turn improve educational outcomes of children; only 40% of kids prepared for kindergarten; need to start very early to prepare them
- Rest of budget focuses on innovative ways – launched pilot with Lyft and worked with Economic Development
- Lyft will allow the department to get with employers not able to get engaged, because they were not on bus lines or had hours after traditional bus hour routes; excited with pilot to expand number of employers to hire TA clients
- Piloting with Brophy, Giovanni Foods and Loretto
- Finally, continue to address homelessness in community; proud of how the County treats and serves homeless
- Onondaga County is the only county across the state that has successfully reduced homelessness year after year
- DSS has multiple approach including a single point of entry; determine if homeless, and if they can avoid eviction; make sure they are members of community and have strong connections
- Work to house homeless or reach out to other parts of state and country to see where they can get stable housing
- Few that do not have connections will go into shelter system; have active process of working with staff and lengths of stay, staff going to shelters to ensure homeless get services needed
- County Executive highlighted Higher Ground - get connection with most hard to reach homeless in community

Chair Cody asked Ms. Merrick to expand on the Early Childhood Alliance (ECA), what they do, and the increase in the line. Ms. Merrick answered:

- ECA focuses on various aspects on getting young children (infants to 5) prepared for school; 1 aspect is childcare

- Many children spend 6-10 hours a day in day care centers; how prepared kids are in those centers is not up to quality that is necessary to be ready for Kindergarten
- It costs around \$14,000 - \$16,000/yr to put child in infant care; no parent can afford that; subsidy system only pays for fraction of cost; to increase quality of care is to support over and above what current federal and state systems provide
- Pilot idea to infuse more money into select group of providers and target skill level of educators in classrooms, group, family and informal
- If provider standards equivalent to a teacher in public school, then that in turn will improve readiness of children
- Targeting settings that take 95 - 100% of subsidy children, which includes most at risk kids

Mrs. Ervin stated they are doing a wonderful job, and the second floor is looking good. Mrs. Ervin stated for the record that they have to do something about child care, because if she is a single mother working a second shift job with no family support or child care, then she cannot take the job. They have to figure out some way to get off time child care provided in the day care program. It is very critical to the folks that they want to take off the rolls of public assistance. Mrs. Ervin would like this to happen and knows four people in her church that could work if they had the child care. Ms. Merrick commented that she has a note, and it is something that ECA and the County will look at.

Mr. Jordan said All Other Expenses has a net increase of roughly \$136,000 due to state chargebacks for employment verification and asked for elaboration. Ms. Merrick replied:

- System called TALK – company under umbrella of Equifax; required to verify employment information on any client that applies for any benefit; use all day every day; NYS contact with Equifax; price goes up, state passes to county

Mr. Rowley asked if there are any unfunded positions in this budget, and Ms. Merrick responded yes; approximately 20. Those are all standard title lines within the budget, which allows them to fill needs in other program areas by switching the funding around. It's operational flexibility. Mr. Rowley asked if they unfunded any positions to fund the four new funded. Ms. Merrick said no; these are four new positions directly related to the Generational Poverty Reduction Initiative, which will be a specialized team. Mr. Morgan interjected that there are two unfunds to help offset those. Mr. Rowley asked if all four are for the initiative including the Executive Deputy Commissioner. Ms. Merrick replied no. She is asking to have two Executive Deputy Commissioners, which is to promote the Current Director of TA that oversees four out of the six programs, and 220 employees. Mr. Morgan stated that there is a specific offset for that position. The ask is to create and fund an Executive Deputy at a grade 37 and unfund a Special Assistant to the Commissioner at a grade 35. It will be one for one. There is a file that shows all personnel activity by department. Mr. Rowley's understanding is that they have it for this department, but no one else. Mr. Morgan said it is for every department in the County for the budget (any creates, advance steps, funds or unfunds). Mrs. Lesniak replied to Ms. Cody that the Legislature has what positions are being affected, but not all the unfunded vacants in the County. Mr. Morgan explained it is specific to what is happening in each department in this budget, and they are working on a master list of all unfunded positions.

Mr. Rowley asked what Analytics is. Ms. Merrick explained:

- Programs available to take massive data they have, map it and hone in by address; look at effectiveness of programs, then match need on map overlaid by where programs are
- Also says what is or is not effective - redirect resources to next hot spot
- Need few staff that can manipulate the data; takes time and expertise; create small team to serve DSS and Children and Family Services (CFS)

Ms. Rooney commented that it will not only serve those two departments; it will be available across the County. Various departments are requesting it when they see the capability of the data. Mr. Rowley asked if it was built by a contractor, and Ms. Rooney replied that it is off the shelf software. This is a way to measure the impacts of the investments made (i.e. implement employment program in a neighborhood, then can look at unemployment rate to see if it has gone up or down). Ms. Rooney said she would be happy to give a demonstration, and Mr. Rowley said he would like to see it.

Mr. Rowley said the \$850,000 in Transfer to Grants will be used for interventions, and asked if it involves personnel. Ms. Merrick responded yes; focusing on enhancing and increasing the quality of select child care providers, centers, family and informal (infant and toddler care). It is all local dollars.

Mrs. Abbott-Kenan said the pilot and ECA are vital, and she agreed with Mrs. Ervin's comments about the need for off hours child care. She asked that, during their conversations regarding these programs, they remember the rural poverty issues as well. A lot of times it's transportation. Across the county there are subsidized day care programs, private churches and nursery school programs, but people cannot get their children there.

Dr. Chase wanted clarification on the Safety Net and Family Assistance funding moving to Adult and Long Term Care. Ms. Merrick explained:

- Responsibilities are not moving; it is a matter of where funding lies; another NYS mandate
- June of this year – Office of TA and Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) issued new administrative directive on how to pay for domestic violence shelter services; significant change
- Previously all clients going to domestic violence shelters were required to fill out TA application; DSS would review app and determine eligibility; if eligible, would pay bill from Vera House
- Since June, state made it clear that clients are no longer required to submit TA application; County required to pick up 100% of costs for anyone that has been sheltered by domestic violence shelter
- Now have 2 tier system: (1) clients who apply for TA - encourage them to apply to be able to look other services families might be eligible for like SNAP and Medicaid; (2) clients that opt out of applying
- Clients that apply and are eligible, will continue to pay out of Family Assistance or Safety Net lines
- The client share portion will be paid out of Adult and Long Term Care's line – Title 20
- For those that do not apply, Vera House will submit a bill and County will cover all costs out of Title 20 line
- Will continue to administer and serve anyone presenting with domestic violence; staff is properly trained and have system to protect them, while keeping identity confidential; not shifting that responsibility to Adult and Long Term Care
- State passed new regulation changing what is to be covered, and what dollars can cover the costs
- Only shifting money - best guestimate on proportion of people going to Vera House that will opt out of applying for TA
- Monitoring closely, but first year is baseline for future budgets

Chair Cody asked Ms. Merrick to speak to the market rate increase for daycare. Ms. Merrick said:

- Every 2 years, state required to survey all child care providers and determine average cost of care charged
- State takes 1 year to process; approximately 1 year ago June, they announced new market rates
- Crosses multiple county budget years; factoring in new market rates; increased across board; anticipated increase

Mr. Bush asked if there is any benefit or obligation to discussing the background and objectives of the Lyft program in a written form the Legislature could digest. Ms. Merrick replied:

- Would be happy to send over description, more details about objectives
- Pilot program - hoping to get 50 TA clients employed, or improve their employment situation
- To clarify, it is only for TA clients; part of federal mandate is that when someone receives TA, they also receive help getting employed; DSS offers fully funded child care and transportation
- DSS will play concierge roll, and schedule the Lyfts; great segue to have employers play same roll to (partially) underwrite transportation costs

**Department of Adult & Long Term Care Services:** (4-80) Lisa Alford, Commissioner; Barry Beck, Deputy Commissioner; Pete Headd, Deputy Commissioner for Aging; Lisa Farewell, Accountant

Ms. Alford explained the funding adjustments:

### ***Department of Adult and Long-Term Care Services Funding Adjustments***

*The following funding adjustments from the FY 2019 are necessary to support the FY 2020 program:*

#### ***Appropriation Adjustments***

##### ***▪ Personnel***

*Net Personnel increased \$61,183 due to salary and wage adjustments and for the creation of an Information Aide to support Veterans Services.*

- Information Aide – created due to passing Local Law No. 1-2019; increased amount of burial applications processed; also increase in time sensitive benefit claims and veteran follow up claims for reimbursement

##### ***▪ Contractual Expenses Non-Govt***

*Increased \$82,384 due to contract increases for flags for Veterans Cemetery, Vera House, CNY Services and Contact Community Services*

- \$4,000 for American Flags for graves at Veterans Memorial Cemetery; \$10,000 for Best Practice Elder Abuse Prevention Training at Vera House; \$65,947 for Community Resident Single Room Occupancy Beds at CNY Services for persons with mental illness; \$6,653 for direct services salary enhancements for contact community services

- **Professional Services**

*Increased \$1,000,000 due to a change in regulation in how Domestic Violence Services are provided*

- Ms. Merrick explained the rationale for the change due to NYS regulation on how domestic violence services will be provided and paid for; effective 4/1/19; clients no longer required to fill out TA application

- **Travel & Training**

*Increased \$10,142 for parking costs and the annual Mental Health Conference*

- **Transfer to Grant**

*Increased \$254,000 for additional funds for senior nutrition programs*

- \$130,000 for congregate meal program; needed due to 20% increase in prices in 2019 from primary meal provider; 85,000 meals/year; \$124,000 for home delivery meal program due to rising number of clients; in-home Meals on Wheels
- 21% increase in clients served in 2018 versus 2017; clients are frail, living in poverty, minorities and veterans; many at high risk, so it's cheaper to keep healthy and at home, versus other costly care

**Revenue Adjustments**

- **Federal Aid – Health**

*Increased \$1,660,409 due to the shift in funding for Mental Health for alcohol and substance abuse from State Aid*

- **Federal Aid - Social Services**

*Decreased \$172,571 due to a reduction in Title 20 funding for Adult Protective Services*

- **State Aid – Health**

*Decreased \$1,617,272 due to the shift in funding for Mental Health for alcohol and substance abuse to Federal Aid*

- **State Aid - Social Services**

*Increased \$829,072 due to additional Title 20 funding to support the Adult Protective Domestic Violence program moved from DSS-ES, and an increase in funding for Adult Protective and Resource Center due to loss of Federal*

Ms. Alford responded to Chair Cody that her budget is state, local and federally funded.

Mr. Jordan asked Ms. Alford to elaborate on the change in the domestic violence services, and Ms. Alford referred to Ms. Merrick's response earlier. Persons going to a domestic violence shelter used to be required to fill out a TA application, but as of this year, that is no longer a requirement. Funding for those that opt out of filling out the application will be through Title 20, which is a different reimbursement rate. Family Assistance is a 99% reimbursement rate, Safety Net is a 29% reimbursement rate, and Title 20 is a 50% reimbursement rate. This year will be a baseline for determining those that will, or will not, fill out the TA application. Mr. Morgan commented that there will be a commiserate reduction in Family Assistance and Safety Net that will move over to Adult and Long Term Care. The belief is that filling out a TA application is a barrier to get to a safe environment for some, so the thought process might have been that giving people a choice would take down that barrier. The families need the assistance, which means the County has to abide by the changes.

Dr. Chase said Van Duyn is showing employee benefits of \$3.5 million and asked if those are retirees. Mr. Morgan answered that the County has to continue to fund legacy costs related to Van Duyn. This includes retiree health care costs, workers compensation costs and debt service for projects completed while the County owned it. Those costs will be continual until retirees are no longer here, the workers comp cases run out, and the debt service is satisfied. Van Duyn moved into the general fund in 2019, because there is no fund balance left in the Van Duyn special revenue fund.

Mr. Bottrill thanked the commissioner and staff on all that they do. Mr. Bottrill stated that there is an awareness of mental health and asked if the department(s) is keeping pace with mental health cases. Is the budget also in line with these cases? Ms. Alford responded:

- Historically many persons received services (i.e. at mental health institutions); many persons need services and support in community

- Have seen that services and community based supports have not kept pace with the needs in the community - not in beds, but various housing options
- Increase in number of persons institutionalized and incarcerated with mental illness – see mental health services provided in jails; received funding recently for mental health services and substance use services in jails
- Continue to work with community partners to look for ways to partner; not just rely on state funding
- Number of clients with mental illness has increased in Adult Protective Services
- Look for ways to provide support for staff that work with clients who have mental illness
- Received NYS grant for mental health for older adults with mental health and substance abuse issues
- First in state that received waiver to provide Health Telepsychiatry - issues of isolation and people not willing to leave homes; waiver to serve those at home
- Work with Liberty Resources for mental health services; Aurora to serve those with sensory issues; Helio to serve older adults with mental health issues
- Continues to be a challenge to serve number of persons and have community based options; not only opioid issue
- Mental health and supporting those in the community that struggle; regardless of income - urban and rural issue
- CPAP facility at St. Joe's – not the only one; various community based options (including CPAP); work to have mobile crisis units to have group address persons in community with mental health crisis
- Want to support with mobile crisis and respite for families, supportive housing; have not talked about increasing CPAP beds - want to make sure there are other options before the hospital option

Mr. Bush wanted clarification on the positions in the Veterans Office, as he is concerned they are short staffed. He also wants to know how the veterans will be taken care of in the community. Ms. Alford responded:

- Current funded positions: fulltime Director, fulltime Assistant Director, (2) 103 positions including a part-time Information Aide and part-time Clerk, and fulltime Veterans Service Officer position; 3 fulltime and 2 part-time
- Requesting fulltime Information Aide; opening for fulltime Veterans Service Officer - not all fulltime positions occupied; in process of filling Veterans Service Officer position
- Part-time Information Aide requesting to be fulltime is to address the additional work for burials, and the position will also be checking if the veteran is eligible for other services
- Agency partners with organizations within the community; want to have all positions filled and continue to do outreach

Ms. Alford replied to Mr. Bush that the staff does a lot of outreach, they participate in various fairs and activities in the community, and they do presentations.

**Department of Children & Family Services:** (4-89) Richard Gasiorowski, Commissioner; James Czarniak, Deputy Commissioner of Child Welfare; Jennifer Parmalee, Deputy Commissioner of Child Mental Health; Amy McCluskey, Director of Youth Bureau; Damian Pratt, Director of Juvenile Justice; Philip Britt, Deputy Director of Financial Operations

Mr. Gasiorowski:

- \$87.9 mil budget request to fund operations to support children and families throughout County in child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, school based initiatives and community supports through Youth Bureau
- Budget increase in appropriations by ~\$4.8 mil with \$2.9 mil in revenue offsets; requesting local increase of \$1.9 mil
- Major drivers of increases include implementing phase II of RTA taking affect next week; increased costs in foster care; costs associated with opening the group home; \$660,000 in support of Early Childhood Alliance (ECA)
- State and federal changes continue to effect landscape on how dept. does business and assist children and families
- Regionally there have been 5 foster care facilities closed or repurposed with more on the horizon
- As agencies shift from cognitive care to home based services, the remaining beds become more expensive and harder to get youth into them; especially those youth with higher needs
- Budget proposes County run foster home; impacted population is older youth in foster care system; County will have facility where staff will intensely work with them in the community to support transition home, or out of care
- In addition, DCFS continues to work on strategies to prevent children and families from having to access child welfare or juvenile justice, make investments in schools, alternatives to detention, supporting kinship placement and supporting programs to prepare children for kindergarten
- Look forward to working with the Legislature, County Executive and the team at DCFS to engage children, youth and families to be safe, secure and successful at home, in the community and at school

Chair Cody asked how many children the foster care home will hold, and Mr. Gasiorowski responded ten youth.

Chair Cody wanted to know how many 16 year olds were arrested this year in relation to Raise the Age (RTA). Mr. Pratt answered that at the end of August it was ~224, which includes misdemeanor level offenses, or offenses initially prosecuted through the Youth part of Criminal Court. In addition, there have been ~120 adolescent

offender arrests (16 year olds being charged with felony offenses), and those arrests were allegedly perpetrated by 85 unduplicated youth. Chair Cody asked if there is any out of area youth housed at Hillbrook. Mr. Pratt answered that they are a regional partner, but the manner on how out of County youth is housed has changed over the course of the year. Today Hillbrook is operating with a census of 17 young people who all reside in Onondaga County. The daily average is around 25, but they stopped taking out of County youth to accommodate the youth anticipated to see with the second phase of 17 year olds. Year to date, Hillbrook has housed 28 of this new classification of adolescent offenders as of the end of August.

Mr. Jordan asked for an explanation of the revenue decrease for State Aid – Public Safety of \$432,704 due to the mix of RTA eligible kids in the juvenile detention center. Mr. Pratt responded that 16 and 17 year olds charged initially through criminal court with cases moved to family court, or that originate in family court, are reimbursed 100% by NYS. There has been a dramatic reduction in family court youth under the age of 16 that have been detained through the expansion of alternatives to detention. As of today, Hillbrook has four family court involved youth that are not 100% eligible for reimbursement. It is at the traditional rate of 49%. Anticipate that with the larger population of RTA youth, there will be a lower percentage of youth that do not meet the 100% criteria. Mr. Britt commented that when RTA came out, there was not much to go on. The estimation was 70% of the youth would be 100% reimbursed. With the experience of monitoring the population, there was a slight reduction of that percentage in the 2020 budget. Mr. Jordan asked if there are fewer kids going to Hillbrook, or is the reimbursement per child less than what they anticipated. Mr. Britt replied that the estimate for 2019 was higher than the actual.

Mr. Rowley stated there are 30 new authorized positions with 11 due to RTA and 13 due to the new foster care home, and he asked if they are all funded. Mr. Gasiorowski answered yes. Mr. Rowley asked what the timing is on the new foster home, and Mr. Czarniak responded that OCFS is the oversight body that needs to provide the operating certificate for the County to run the home. Currently they are meeting with them to put all the policies and best practices together. Mr. Czarniak is hopeful to have it submitted for the last quarter of this year and opening first quarter next year. Staff and training is working concurrently with that timeline. Mr. Rowley asked if there will be renovations needed for the structure, and Ms. Rooney answered yes; go live January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Rowley asked what the capacity of Hillbrook will be when the renovations are done, and if they expect RTA to bring a lot more than the 17 youth currently housed. Mr. Pratt answered:

- Currently Hillbrook has 32 beds - (4) 8 bed units; renovations will provide an additional 8 bed orientation unit and 2 separate 5 bed units; equaling 18 more beds for a total of 50
- Studied justice center trends with 16 and 17 year olds; cross referenced with NYSOCFS projection for what the County's detention needs would be
- Always served as regional partner; Hillbrook 1 of only 6 facilities (outside of NYC) in NYS
- Settled on 50 being operationally needed to support Onondaga County youth, as well as serving as regional partner
- Stresses are state wide - direct result of not having adequate detention beds

Mr. Rowley supports being a regional provider and asked what the reimbursement is when Hillbrook houses out of County offenders. Mr. Pratt replied that the County receives 100% reimbursement for all out of county youth, and it is claimed directly through NYSOCFS. It is the same mechanism to claim reimbursement for Onondaga County youth. Mr. Rowley asked if there is any anticipated revenue from this due to RTA, and Mr. Pratt responded that they are being cautious. Year one of RTA was based on state projections, and in the first two quarters, Onondaga County was the only county to see a higher volume of adolescent offenders. Mr. Pratt would like to be cautious to be able to support the needs of the County first, and if there is space to house out of county youth, then they will. Mr. Rowley said there is a commitment for full funding on the appropriations side for RTA, but not a full offset of revenue. Mr. Pratt explained that they anticipate 100% reimbursement for any incremental increase associated with RTA including the cost of detainment. Mr. Morgan responded to Mr. Rowley that the offsetting revenue is in the budget. Every dollar budgeted for RTA is supported with revenue under the State Aid – Public Safety line. Revenue still exceeds the appropriations, and Mr. Morgan said they will lay it out for Mr. Rowley. The state is trying to agree on a reasonable method for reimbursing detention costs. Mr. Morgan guaranteed Mr. Rowley they have budgeted for revenue equal to, or more than, what is being spent; per the state. **Mr. Rowley requested a narrative on RTA, and Mr. Morgan agreed.**

Mrs. Abbott-Kenan said she is interested in hearing more about the school based mental health partnerships that they are providing for the five districts, if the districts approach the department, how are they administered, and are there plans to expand it. Ms. Parmalee answered:

- Partnership started in 2007 with funding from NYS to establish school based mental health clinics within City schools
- Pilot to see if it would be effective and very quickly found it was; been working with local area outpatient mental health clinics who are licensed through Office of Mental Health to provide satellites within buildings
- Partnerships grown, and now have 52 buildings covered with mental health clinics including: Syracuse City Schools, Liverpool Schools, Solvay Schools, North Syracuse Schools, Baldwinsville Schools and East Syracuse-Minoa Schools
- Working with other districts as well
- Administered specifically through partnership with County, School District buildings and Office of Mental Health clinic

Dr. Chase stated that Mr. Pratt said only 28 out of the 224 arrests, and 120 felonies, ended up in Hillbrook and asked what happened to the rest. Mr. Pratt explained:

- Anytime 16 year old charged as adolescent offender, their case is heard through youth part of criminal court; same decisions and factors weigh in when it comes to bail, or being held at detention at the time of arraignment
- 28 youth housed out of 85 is a decision the court made of who needed to be held in detention
- Youth part of court oversees all adolescent offender cases, but presumption against detention; decision made depending on circumstances of offense between 6 or 30 days
- Decision of whether case to be held up in county court, removed to probation for opportunity with adjustment services, or removed to family court
- 3 criteria for keeping cases in criminal court – violent felony with significant injury to victim, if weapon used and certain types of sexual offenses
- Low level offenses within adult criminal justice system that individuals are not routinely detained on; (i.e.) possession of stolen property (or credit card) is a felony level offense, but not a risk to public safety
- Of the 17 people in Hillbrook - 7 adolescent offenders (16 or 17 year olds going through criminal court); 2 young people above 16 in juvenile delinquency unit
- Challenge with RTA – always classified youth based on age, maturity, physical size and cognitive functioning
- New legislation forces classification of youth by what court they are going to; highly problematic to have 17 year old youth in family court required (by NYS) to be housed with 13 year old
- Approached state about this and had conversations; will discuss with state more next month; lot of concerns

Dr. Chase asked if there are any more requirements for staff training due to RTA. Also, the understanding is that they are not corrections officers, so what are they doing to ensure the staff is appropriately supported for overseeing the youth? Mr. Pratt answered:

- They are not corrections officers; made decision to not differentiate staff supervising RTA units versus other units
- Use behavior management system: Therapeutic Crisis Intervention that is evidence based and has worked
- RTA requires creation of Rapid Response Team that responds to crisis situations; having additional staff present and with their training (some internally at Hillbrook, some through OCFS, some with Sheriff's & Probation Depts.)
- Having additional staff addresses increased population; always had some 16 year olds (were 15, but turned 16 while at Hillbrook); significant difference between a 15 year old and 16 year old
- Hillbrook has more young people under age of 16 on serious offenses; (i.e.) Murder II charges - no 16 year old youth on murder offense, but have 3 under age of 16
- Rapid Response Team is used on fairly regular basis; initially team created to differentiate between specialized secure and standard secure detention; want the team to help with overall security including building security
- The team should also circulate through the units; best way to de-escalate crisis is with strong relations with young people - critical role; better response with those they have relationships with versus rolling in with brute force
- Document number of physical interventions that occur monthly and mechanical restraints necessary - one of lowest rates of both in state; disseminate publicly to local partnership on quarterly basis

Mr. Jordan said Supplies and Materials increased by ~\$129,000 due to additional meals and clothing to comply with RTA and supplies for the new Group Home. If the population is down, then why are meals and clothing increasing? Mr. Britt responded:

- Part of RTA meal expense applies to employees and staff if monitoring RTA population – believe those meals would be covered; meals go up certain percentage; incremental costs 100% funded by RTA

Ms. Rooney added that 17 year olds are being admitted starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, so that is included; as well as the costs of the Group Home for food and supplies. Mr. Jordan understands, but said they are showing a decrease in revenues from the state. Mr. Britt explained that it is a decrease from the 2019 budget estimation due to the population with RTA. If 70% of the population was estimated for the 2019 budget (including supplies), but

realized it should be 60%, then the revenue would be reduced. The cost includes feeding staff and population regardless of RTA. They are unsure of the impact of the 17 year olds coming on board next week. Mr. Jordan explained that if they are adding 17 year olds, then revenues from the state should also increase to cover that. They are showing an increase in costs related to the 17 year olds, but a decrease in revenues. Mr. Britt said when they provide the narrative in better detail, it will be a lot clearer, and they will answer any other questions.

Chair Cody asked for a breakdown of the percentage for Raise the Age and the foster care home. Mr. Morgan answered that the total amount in the 2020 budget for RTA is just shy of \$5.7 million, and the total cost of the Group Home from a growth appropriation perspective is \$2.2 million.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JM', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

JAMIE M. MCNAMARA, Assistant Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature



## ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: 2020 WMS BUDGET REVIEW OF Human  
 DATE: September 25, 2019 Services

NAME	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
PLEASE PRINT	
Kathleen Conrado	Health
Rebecca Shultz	Health
Kayn Johnson	Health
Emily Young	Health
Bridget Volz	Health
Tonya Reese	Health
Lisa Green Mills	Health
Anna Amaya	Health
Maria Moka	Adult + Long Term Care
Jason Dean	DMB
Damian Pratt	DCFS
Sandy Miller-Martens	Fin Ops
Jenifer Moss	DSS-ES
Monica Brown	DSS-ES
Sarah Easterly	DCFS
Erin Gessum	DCFS
Sarah Merrick	DSS-ES
Lisa Alford	ALTCs
Brian Lynch	DSS-ES
Kristi Smully	Fin Ops
Jen Robinson	DSS-ES

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: *Wms Review of Human Services*

DATE: *September 25, 2019*

NAME	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
PLEASE PRINT	
<i>Brenda Strzefer</i>	<i>Social Services</i>
<i>Korraine Korkus</i>	<i>Social Services</i>
<i>Steve Sward</i>	<i>Fin Ops</i>
<i>Michael Torrick</i>	<i>Social Services</i>
<i>Richard Gasiorowski</i>	<i>DCFS</i>
<i>Laura Kilburg</i>	<i>office for aging</i>
<i>Joe King</i>	<i>DCFS</i>
<i>Lisa Finrewell</i>	<i>Fin Ops</i>
<i>Judy Nemecek</i>	<i>DCFS</i>
<i>Ana Rosa</i>	<i>DCFS</i>
<i>Barry Beck</i>	<i>DALTC</i>
<i>Mat Kopsch</i>	<i>DALTC</i>
<i>Pete Headd</i>	<i>DALTC</i>
<i>Jean Spot Check</i>	<i>DALTC</i>
<i>Cathleen DeMarzo</i>	<i>DALTC</i>