

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2023

The Health & Human Services Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: J. Shaw (Chair), M. Hilderbrant, L. Augostini, M. Whalen, K. Myers

Members Absent: None

Others Present: R. Weslar, A. Martin, C. Hall, M. Tanzini, J. Scott, Legislature; M. Ponticiello, County Executive; G. Bucciarelli, OMB; C. Fedor, Health Department; L. Esposito, M. Nichols, OFA; N. Williams, K. White, T. Bailey, DSS; V. Gialanella, Resident.

The Health & Human Services Committee meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:32 PM. Mrs. Myers made a motion to move the agenda, seconded by Mr. Whalen.

The Committee took the following action with regard to the matters before it:

#1 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS) GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#2 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS STATE OFFICE FOR AGING (SOFA) PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#3 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CAREGIVER SUPPORT INITIATIVE PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#4 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE THE HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION AND COUNSELING PROGRAM (HIICAP) STIPEND GRANT FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING, ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH ACTION FOR OLDER PERSONS TO ADMINISTER SAID PROGRAM FOR 2023-2024

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#5 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE STAP ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2023-2023

The title of the Resolution was corrected to reflect the accurate term of 2023-2024.

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#6 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH COORDINATED CARE SERVICES, INC., TO ADMINISTER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S NEW YORK STATE HEALTH CORPS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM GRANT FOR 2021-2023

In response to a question from the Committee, Catherine Fedor from the Health Department stated that this is an extension of the contract with Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI) to match a grant extension authorized by New York State. Ms. Fedor stated that these positions are typically held by recent master's degree graduates. Ms. Fedor will submit a memo detailing the roles and responsibilities of the Health Corps Fellows.

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#7 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE RENTAL SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM (RSP) GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, ADOPT A PROGRAM BUDGET AND RENEW THE AGREEMENT WITH THE YWCA OF BINGHAMTON/BROOME COUNTY TO ADMINISTER SAID PROGRAM FOR 2023-2024

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#8 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH MOTEL 6 AND LRM ASSOCIATES INC D/B/A LAQUINTA FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR 2023

In response to a question from the Committee, DSS Commissioner Nancy Williams stated that the rates related to this resolution are \$80 for Motel 6 and \$75 for LaQuinta.

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#9 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PERSONNEL CHANGE REQUEST FOR THE OFFICE FOR AGING

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#10 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PERSONNEL CHANGE REQUESTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#15 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE BROOME COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU ADVISORY BOARD

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#32 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PERSONNEL CHANGE REQUEST FOR DSS

In response to a question from a Committee, Kyle White from DSS stated that these adjustments will result in a cost savings of around \$10,000.

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#37 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CREDENTIALING OF MEDICAL STAFF AT THE BROOME COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#38 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION PIPELINE PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ADOPTING A REVISED PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2014-2023

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#39 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#52 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH IDENTOGO FOR ELECTRONIC FINGERPRINTING FOR EMPLOYEES OF WILLOW POINT REHABILITATION & NURSING CENTER FOR 2023-2024

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

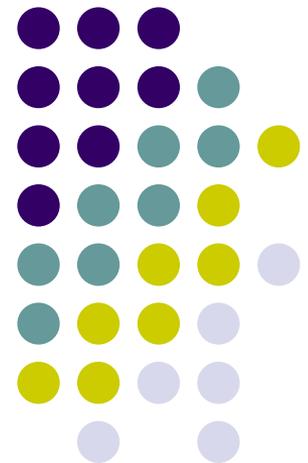
The Chair introduced Aging Services Program Coordinator Lucia Esposito from the Office for Aging to present on OFA's role to assist seniors with long-term care options (see attached).

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Whalen seconded by Mr. Hilderbrant. The meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM.

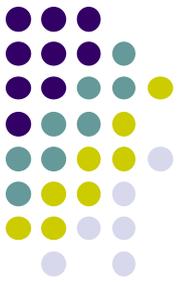
NY Connects of Broome County

Presentation by:
Lucia Esposito

Program Coordinator at Office for Aging

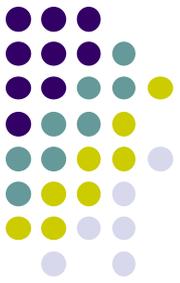


Who does the Broome County Office for Aging serve?



- **Client ages**
 - ❖ Direct Services are mainly 60+
 - ❖ Some programs age 55+
 - ❖ Serve caregivers and family members of any age
 - ❖ Our Information and Assistance is provided to anyone of any age through our NY Connects Program

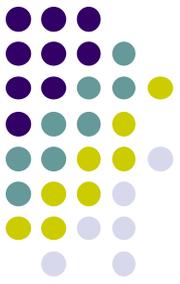
A Profile of Seniors in Broome County (per 2020 Census)



- Total # of residents in BC – 198,683
- Total # of residents 60 and over: 53,523 = 1 in 4 people residing in BC are seniors – BC average is higher than state and national averages; People 60 and over make up 26.9% of BC population, 23.4% of the NYS population and 23.3% of the national population
- 54.8% of BC senior population (60+) is comprised of females, 45.2% of males

Age	2000	2010	2020
60-64	8,711	11,641	14,216
65-74	16,073	15,668	21,241
75-84	12,182	11,539	11,739
85+	4,576	5,637	6,327

NY Connects Overview



- NY Connects is provides **Information, Assistance and referrals** for Long Term Services and support for people **of any age and regardless of their income.**
- NY Connects staff help individuals navigate complex system of services in our community by:
 - Providing Information and Assistance
 - Coordinating with and referring to other agencies
 - Providing Application and Enrollment assistance for public benefits
 - Providing Person Centered Assistance/Options Counseling for cases that require multiple follow ups and assistance that spans over a longer timeframe
- Individuals can reach NY Connects by phone, online or in person
- Individuals can also review resources online by visiting:
<https://www.nyconnects.ny.gov/>

NY Connects of Broome County Operation



- Current staffing: 5 caseworkers who cover phones 5 days a week
Full time Coordinator who provides programmatic oversight
- Staff are able to make home visits (207 visits in 2022) or meet clients at other community locations including OFA
- Staff training: average training of 6+ months; behavioral case management course & Options Counseling class; weekly in services to learn about community resources
- All calls are answered by a person who then transfers to other staff; Majority of calls are returned same day or next business day
- Part time nurse is available to assist with home visits and support staff who are dealing with difficult cases
- NY Connects staff work closely with OFA staff member who oversees the Elder Abuse & Outreach program and provides preventative assistance (993 clients served through the EAO program at OFA in 2022)

NY Connects in 2022



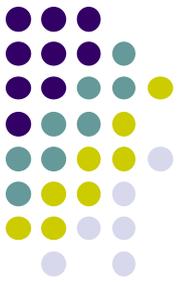
NY Connects staff had **over 17,000 contacts** with individuals (phone calls, home visits, walk ins).

87% of contacts were with people 60+.

Top 5 Reasons people called (in order of most called about topics)

- 1. Home Based Services** (39% of calls – home health care, housekeeping, personal care, home delivered meals etc.)
- 2. Consumer/Caregiver services** (37% of calls – respite options, case management, consumer/caregiver advocacy)
- 3. Financial/Legal/Health Insurance** (25% of calls; tax prep, financial benefits, legal services, Medicare & Health insurance)
- 4. Housing** (21% of calls; utility payment assistance, housing options, housing issues)
- 5. Transportation** (13% of calls; OFA minibus/BC Lift; medical)

Trends as reported by NY Connects Staff



Recently reported trends observed by staff post the COVID 19 Pandemic:

- Lack of affordable and safe housing
- Barriers accessing housing (poor credit, criminal records, access issues, security deposits, previous history of hoarding)
- Mental health issues (calls from family members unable to take care of the individuals they are calling about; calls from clients who need to be connected to the UHS Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program CPEP)
- Increase in number of call from people 55-65 who have complex needs



NY Connects Case Examples

NY Connects staff received a referral from Meals on Wheels for a gentleman in need of finding affordable, handicapped accessible, and safe housing. He was recently released from a hospital.

NY Connects staff made a home visit and observed the following issues:

- Substandard housing: client rented a room that on some occasions lacked water and heat. He used a space heater in the winter to stay warm. There were other people in the residence who stayed up all night and he was unable to get a good night's rest.
- Unsafe housing: The house where he was living was not suitable for someone in a wheelchair due to having 3 front steps and no wheelchair ramp. Client couldn't safely get to the bathroom in his wheelchair.
- No income: Client had no income and had previously been in jail.

Assistance through NY Connects included:

- Application for SSI
- Assistance with applications for Senior Housing
- Food & Water delivery

Outcome: Client lived in senior housing in the City of Binghamton for a year and recently passed away.



NY Connects Case Examples

- NY Connects received a referral for a 71-year-old woman who needed an assessment for services. NY Connects staff conducted a home visit and learned that:
 - The client lost her husband three years ago, moved into an apartment and rarely left her residence.
 - Client was able to do her own personal care.
 - Her apartment needed cleaning, and her friend helped with some of it.

NY Connects staff identified the following concerns:

- Limited income of \$656/month
- No working phone in her home
- No other ID was present other than her SS card
- To apply for benefits client needed a copy of her Birth Certificate

Assistance provided from NY Connects staff:

- Contacted Vital Statistics in another county to obtain a birth certificate for her by helping her obtain and complete the application.
- Assisted her in getting a Sherriff's photo ID.
- Assisted her with applying for an Assurance cell phone.
- Enrolled her in the Meals on Wheels program
- Applied for Senior housing



Questions?

- NY Connects contact info

