

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Crowley & Gouldman

Wednesday

April 17, 2024

(Immediately Following the Protective Meeting at 6:30PM)

The meeting was called to order at 7:06PM by Chairwoman Sayegh who requested that Legislator Gouldman lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Gouldman and Chairwoman Sayegh were present. Legislator Crowley was absent.

Item #3 – Acceptance of Minutes – March 18, 2024

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 – Discussion/Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act Educational Activities/Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel

Chairwoman Sayegh welcomed Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel and Environmental Health Director Shawn Rogan.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel stated ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act) is New York State law which falls under Environmental Health. She stated a portion of fines collected based on tobacco compliance issues for under-age sales get put back into educational programming for prevention based on tobacco and vape sales. She stated fines have increased over the past year and there is more money for prevention education.

Environmental Health Director Shawn Rogan explained that Putnam County has an education-based approach to our jobs. He stated stores are going to extreme measures to sell these products because of how lucrative it is. He stated a business with multiple locations was fined approximately \$20,000 cumulatively, which is unheard of in Putnam County, and they subsequently lost their tobacco license.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel stated she met with community partners such as the Youth Bureau, Sheriff's Office, local law enforcement, educators in school districts to come up with goals and strategies. She stated we plan to use fine money to sponsor local educators, both in schools and community organizations, to attend on-line training called "Not On Tobacco", which is youth vaping and smoking cessation program, evidence-based program through the American Lung Association. She explained this program would be offered at no cost to youth and have youth participate through incentives.

Environmental Health Director Shawn Rogan explained vaping is becoming big money and leading into other illegal activities. He stated the Office of Cannabis Management goes in like

SWAT teams in other counties and Putnam County has health inspectors going into similar situations. He said Putnam County is still safe. He explained we are asking the State to be our advocate and take it from the Health Department and put it onto law enforcement. He stated in some counties police attend with the inspectors.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel noted that they post on the Health Department website when businesses are in violation and also post previous violations.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated it is sad to see fines so high. She applauds the Health Department in all they do. She stated Nicotine is so highly addictive and it is hard to quit.

Environmental Health Director Shawn Rogan noted that the Town of Patterson passed a law that smoke shops cannot be located within a certain distance of schools.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if it is the same license for vaping and tobacco.

Environmental Health Director Shawn Rogan answered they are separate licenses and the vendor would lose both licenses as well as their lottery license if they are a gaming facility.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if owner is responsible for their employees.

Environmental Health Director Shawn Rogan stated with tobacco rules the owner is responsible for the violation because the owner is responsible for training the employees. He explained they can take approved State training which has to be taken in advance of violations.

Legislator Nacerino thanked the Health Department for being proactive and stated concern since we do not know the health effects of vaping for this generation.

Legislator Ellner asked if student assistance programs are still available.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel stated we use a program in partnership with The Prevention Council called “Escape the Vape”, which uses an escape room simulation that works best with middle school students and this has been utilized in several school districts.

Legislator Ellner expressed concern over the “food trucks” used for vaping sales that are seen in New York City.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked everyone for the discussion as it was very educational.

**Item #5 – Discussion/Co-Responder Team & Dual Recovery Coordinator/Social Services
Commissioner Sara Servadio**

Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio introduced new Deputy Commissioner Nicolle Maguire. She stated Dual Recovery Coordinator Lauren Johnson joined the Department of Mental Health as of March. She said May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

Dual Recovery Coordinator Lauren Johnson stated Dual Recovery role is a brand new position in Putnam County, focusing on integration of Mental Health and Substance Use at a system level and a consumer level, providing support and education to providers and businesses on how to provide services to those diagnosed with co-occurring disorder and to families and individuals who are consumers. She stated this role will oversee Opioid Settlement Funds awardees and keep them accountable to the objectives outlined in the RFPs. She said they will be resurrecting the Co-occurring System of Care Coalition which is focused on co-occurring disorders and utilizing different agencies and organizations throughout Putnam County. She stated the Mental Health Forum is taking place on May 21, 2024, will be a half day forum and will be utilizing a keynote speaker from the Opioid Response Network and also include several panelists.

Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio stated that Dual Recovery Coordinator Lauren Johnson has been spending time with different law enforcement agencies, start pushing into schools, updating website, developing the program and spending time with Dual Recovery Coordinators in surrounding counties.

Chairwoman Sayegh asked about working together with the Sheriff's Department.

Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio stated they started to identify individuals where the call for service may involve substance abuse.

Chairwoman Sayegh asked if they will go out on calls.

Dual Recovery Coordinator Lauren Johnson answered absolutely, and the response is based on the person's needs.

Chairwoman Sayegh said she is excited about this position, it is needed. She stated she has been to co-occurring conferences in the past.

Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio introduced the Co-Responder Team (CRT) which consists of Sheriff's Deputy TJ Ward, along with a mental health worker in DSS. She stated it is up and running since February. She said total engagement since the program started in February – February 29, March 55, so far in April 41, total so far 125 engagements with the CRT. She stated the CRT identifies people with mental health issues.

Sheriff's Captain Michael Knox stated Deputy Ward was selected since he has a background as a combat veteran which helps in any engagements with veterans that occur. He explained the process of how the CRT responds.

Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio introduced Deputy TJ Ward. He gave an overview of a typical day for the CRT. He stated they go over the past 24 hours, making phone calls, gathering information, and monitoring radios for active calls. He stated the calls come from 911 Center, direct calls, and/or agencies request them at a scene. He said follow up occurs with hospital, family members, social workers.

Legislator Gouldman asked if someone is on call 24/7.

Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio answered no, day time right now.

Legislator Gouldman asked if there is an issue on Saturday night does it wait until Monday.

Captain Knox answered no, if something happens on the weekend we will be called in.

Chairwoman Sayegh asked about the follow up process on these calls.

Deputy TJ Ward answered there is follow up with the hospital, family member or social worker.

Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio stated of the 125 engagements only 25 people have ended up in in-patient treatment.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if there is a trend in the time of day these calls come in.

Captain Knox stated it is throughout the day.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated it is a wonderful team.

Legislator Gouldman stated it is needed and effective.

Item #6 – Discussion/Stabilization Center/Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Stabilization Center was first considered in May 2022. She said the previous administration committed 2.5 million dollars to create the Center in June 2022. She stated the Stabilization Center creates 24/7 community crisis hub to address mental health, addictions for adults, children, and families. She said it is a non-acute facility and completely voluntary. She stated people can walk in on their own or be brought in for services and guests can stay up to 24 hours. She stated in July 2022, funds were committed to partner with People USA. She added Putnam Hospital was approached for space, but it did not work out. She said Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio is present along with County Executive Kevin Byrne, Steve Micchio of People USA and members of the Sheriff's Department.

Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio stated that is a great summary.

County Executive Kevin Byrne thanked Chairwoman Sayegh for her words and commitment to the project. He stated a new location has been identified at 1071 Stoneleigh Avenue, Carmel, which is centrally located. He said a lot of work has gone into this. He stated "I wholeheartedly support it." He said this location is ideal and this administration is 100% behind this. He stated he recently communicated, with local stakeholders at the town level such as the Town Supervisor of Carmel, Town Attorney, Planning Board, Chair of the Planning Board, to address any questions and clarify any misconceptions. He stated Councilman Kearns and Legislator Crowley took the offer to visit the Stabilization Center in Dutchess County and did the tour. He stated it has been a long grind, a lot of work has gone into this starting with former Commissioner Michael Piazza and present Commissioner Sara Servadio.

Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio stated the current space was located after the last location did not work out.

Steve Micchio, President of People USA, stated the space is ideal. He said we can separate youth and adults and it will work well for the County and for us. He stated it will be a leased property.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned how do you see the CRT and Dual Recovery Team working with the Stabilization Center.

Commissioner Servadio stated she sees them working cohesively along with the to-be-established mobile crisis team. She said we are working to get the mobile crisis team established in the next few months and the CRT will hopefully have space at the Stabilization Center.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the Sheriff's Department along with the CRT have advanced training in dealing with these types of situations. She asked if this is the team that will be the primary law enforcement response team for the crisis stabilization center.

Social Services Commissioner Sara Servadio answered yes, they will be very involved. She stated these are conversations we need to have. She said for Putnam County we see there being 1 or 2 calls as opposed to other counties, like Dutchess County.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated in a crisis situation there has to be a plan and it has to be known in advance and trained for. She said this is one of her concerns. She questioned any obstacles from opening this facility.

People USA President Steve Micchio stated hopefully not.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if there is adequate parking space.

People USA President Steve Micchio stated plenty of parking in the front, adequate parking. He said it is a private area that cannot be seen from the road.

Legislator Ellner asked how many square feet the building is.

People USA President Steve Micchio answered it is 3800 square feet.

Legislator Nacerino asked is there a zoning issue or is it more of a stigma issue. She stated we need these resources and she hopes it will come to existence.

People USA President Steve Micchio stated it is a stigma issue not a zoning issue. He said he leaves it up to counsel. He stated he has been placing facilities for over 25 years.

Legislator Addonizio stated her total support for the center.

Legislator Ellner asked if the dentist owns the building.

People USA President Steve Micchio answered yes.

Legislator Gouldman suggested marketing the Center to towns, go to their town meetings, and explain about the Stabilization Center.

People USA President Steve Micchio stated he has gone to the towns in other areas where he has opened a center.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated appreciation of all the hard work since May of 2022, excited to be moving forward.

Item #7 – Discussion/Littering Surveillance/Legislator Gouldman

Chairwoman Sayegh introduced Legislator Gouldman to discuss item which was previously discussed in March of 2018. She invited Director of Environmental Health Shawn Rogan to aid in furthering the conversation.

Legislator Gouldman stated ongoing problem with people in the County littering. He said he would like to have the County purchase portable cameras to be relocated in various locations.

Director of Environmental Health Shawn Rogan stated there is great work done by The Arc Mid-Hudson funded through the County for bike trails and county roads, \$40,000 in funding. He stated the program initiated last year where people can scan a bar code and Health Department receives alerts. He said the Sheriff's Department and other police agencies need to be on board as this is not necessarily a Health Department issue. He stated Keep Putnam Beautiful is a campaign that should be used. He said there is no solid waste coordinator right now. He said enforcement is with Town Justices not Health Department since it is a town penal law issue.

Legislator Nacerino stated this needs coordination and need people to step up. She said it would be costly to install the cameras and it needs to be researched. She stated resources are needed.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel stated we need Solid Waste Management Plan that envisions the future and opens up funding through the DEC.

Legislator Gouldman requested Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo speak about legislation at county and town levels on littering.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated on the County level there is Code 177 which is Litter Offense on county roads. He added each town has their own littering ordinance and fee structures, enforcement by Code Officers, law enforcement. He said there is a fee structure for repeated offenses.

Legislator Ellner stated there needs to be a deterrent and it needs to be publicized.

Legislator Gouldman thanked the Health Department for littering equipment he has utilized in the past.

Director of Environmental Health Shawn Rogan recommends community service instead of fines.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this was great discussion.

Item #8 – Other Business – None

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:32PM, Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Temporary Employee Linda Rinaldi.