

Minutes

Human Services Committee

**January 19, 2022, 5:00 pm, Legislative Chamber**

**Livestreamed on Facebook**

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Pavlock, Rankin, Whitford, Proctor, Torres

Others: Lee, Zink, Abdella, Dennison, Chagnon, Hernandez, Parker, Lis, Telford, K.Geise, McGinnis, Harmon, Wendel, Feldman, Fiedler, Engstrom, D. Anderson, Aggate, Lawton

***Complete video of meeting can be viewed on the County's Facebook Page***

Chairman Pavlock called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes 12/8/21

MOVED by Legislator Whitford, SECONDED by Legislator Proctor

*Unanimously Carried*

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Pavlock: First Privilege of the floor is there anyone that would like address the committee this evening? And if you do I'd ask that you just come down front, this is where the microphone is and then we can see each other easily also. Come on down if you want to address the committee.

My name is Mel McGinnis from Frewsburg New York. I want to speak to this motion concerning "encouraging best practices to overcome Covid". I look at that and say "who's defining best?" And who determines what is best? Is it best according to the CDC? It best according to Dr. Anthony, I represent science Fauci? Or is it best according to Dr. Mark Malone, Dr. Mark McDonald, Dr. (*Inaudible*)? Who determines what is best? Because the medical field is not on the same page. The government is but those that are independent, those that are being suppressed, those that are being told to hush up, those that being kicked out of a practice. They're not giving the same level of visibility that those in the CDC are. So I'm wondering when I see this "best Covid practices", who defines it? And best according to who? Because the medical field is not on the same page. Second thing I notice is that the person who sponsors this is from a part in which 47% of those who are in their party says the government should track those who are unvaccinated. Whoa. Is that best? The party says 59% in their party, the democrats, favor a government policy requiring citizens remain confined to their homes at all time except for emergency's if they refuse to get the shot. Is that best? 48% of the democrats think the federal government or state government should be able to fine or imprison individuals who publicly question, just publically question the efficacy of the shot. Is that what we are defining as best? I feel like Dennis Prager is right when he says "freedom makes you an adult, freedom makes you an adult". He's right on target. This over sensitized safety first kind of

government keeps people a child. Is the best Covid policy to face mask 2 year olds? Or to give shots to 5 year olds? You see the questions I have as a citizen when I see this encouraging best practices to overcome Covid? Who's doing the defining? Who determines it? Now I don't want to go beyond my time so thank you for giving me the time to express my opinion here.

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you, anyone else wish to speak to the first privilege of the floor? Please come down front.

Hi my name is Cheryl Fiedler and I'm from Ellery. My concerns are also with the motion and I went in a little bit different direction with my thoughts but I think you'll understand when I read this and I am going to go ahead and just read it because otherwise I can get off in different directions. My first point is that this legislative body recently passed a motion reiterating that all elected officials should exercise the respective powers within the bounds of their constitutional authority. Can you point out to me where the authority to force us to wear a mask or take a vaccination is written in our Constitution? This current motion encouraging best practices is a direct contradiction to the motion you passed confirming our Constitution and your oath taken. My second point is that I think that there is a different approach that all of us should investigate. This direction would be regarding therapies and early treatment for this virus. I have many question regarding "Protocols". Monoclonal antibodies have proven to be lifesaving. Why is it allowed for some people and not others? Why the discrepancy regarding the time frame when it can be administered 5 days, 10 days? Do we have an adequate supply here in Chautauqua County? If not, why? I personally know a person who had Covid double phenomena who is thankfully able to get Ivermectin from an out of town source and is now walking on her treadmill. It is listed #4 on the CDC list of treatments. Yet it isn't aloud here, evidently. Why? I also know of a lady in Rochester who got so bad she was on a ventilator. Thought to be on her death bed. Her family had to go to court to get her Ivermectin. She is now home and getting stronger every day. Why did they have to go to court to get it? In 2018 Congress passed the right to try law. Shouldn't we all have that right instead of being forced to accept the "protocols"? And where are the protocols coming from, Albany, D.C.? A good friend of mine recently passed away, I'm sorry I might get emotional, from Covid. She went to Well Care on Christmas Eve when she started to feel ill and according to her son, received no help. When she started to have trouble breathing her husband took her to the ER where she was tested and admitted. Her son doesn't know the specific drugs administered but there was no monoclonal antibodies and they were told it was too late to try Ivermectin even if they could get it. Why, in American do we seem to be under a lottery system in treatments? If you or a loved one ended up in this situation wouldn't you want the best medical treatment?

Chairman Pavlock: I don't mean to cut you too short but we are getting close and we do have some business, thank you. Finish your couple sentences yes.

Ms. Fiedler: At this point wouldn't a wiser effort and motion on all of our parts be to research what can be done to start focusing on life saving therapies and also strategies to strengthen our immune system.

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you and thank you for coming today. Anyone else for the privilege of the floor today?

It's not easy for these people to come before you, I'm afraid. Karen Engstrom, I'm from the Town of Chautauqua. I don't know if you've all seen the news today but England has declared the end of the situation. They have rescinded their declaration of masks and passports and testing etc. That was announced by the CDC, Boris Johnson. I'd like to hand out a document that you may or may not be familiar with. It's County of Cattaraugus and it's their statement similar to the one that was just referred to who (*Inaudible*). I'd like to read a section from page 3 and follow along if you care to because it's quite interesting. It says "the legislature" and this of course is Cattaraugus County, "will encourage the legislature stands as a protector between the citizens of this county and the tendency of governments at state and federal levels to advance into territory not their own and consume rather than secure the liberty's and (*Inaudible*) to the people by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The counties guide and standard will be the Constitution United States and the founding documents upon which our nation, our state and our local communities of Cattaraugus County are built and be at further resolved that Cattaraugus County Legislature hereby expresses its intent to uphold all such rights of the citizens of Cattaraugus County and that public funds, resources, employees, buildings, offices will not be used to restrict such rights or to aid or assist in the enforcement of any unconstitutional restriction of the rights granted under the Constitution or its Bill of Rights and be at further resolved that the Cattaraugus County Legislature recognizing the government must be limited and that the people must be free from unnecessary (*Inaudible*) governmental over reach and intrusions. We think what you do here is very important and we count on you to do what we need to be done and our protection is important to us. It is also true that if you rescind freedom for security, you will have neither. I'm addressing the motion that you are to vote on today, thank you.

Chairman Pavlock: Anyone else to speak at the first privilege of the floor? At this time I'll close the first privilege of the floor and we'll move into our first proposed resolutions.

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Proposed Resolution – Amend 2022 Budget to Implement the Address Isolation/Quarantine Housing Project within the Chautauqua County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Plan Presented by Valerie Lis, Director of Administrative Services and Dianne Anderson, Director of Certification for Temporary Assistance

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2022 Budget Appropriations to Include Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) Workforce and Stabilization Grant Allocation – Presented by Carmelo Hernandez, Director of Community Mental Hygiene

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Motion – Proclaiming February Black History Month

Proposed Motion – Encouraging Best Practices to Overcome COVID-19 – Presented by Breeanne Aggett, HHS Epidemiologist

Discussion – Temporary Assistance Update – Diane Anderson – Presented by Dianne Anderson, Director of Certification for Temporary Assistance, Katie Geise, Director of Chautauqua Workforce Investment Board and Breeanne Aggett, HHS Epidemiologist

Other:

Proposed Resolution - Authorizing and Approving a Settlement Agreement in an Action Relating to the Opioid Crisis (Allergan) – Presented by Steve Abdella, County Attorney

*Unanimously Carried*

MOVED by Legislator Rankin, SECONDED by Legislator Whitford to adjourn.

*Unanimously Carried (6:02 p.m.)*

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,  
Olivia L. Lee, Clerk of the Legislature and Kristi R. Zink, Deputy Clerk