

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 15, 2012

PRESENT:

**Elizabeth Young, Chairwoman
Edward Cross
Arthur Bassin
Ellen Thurston**

ABSENT:

**Matt Murell, notified
William Hughes, Jr., notified
Richard Keavney, notified**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Gary Flaherty
Paul Mossman
Kary Jablonka
Jessica Shufelt
William Fisher
Ronald Knott
Sarah Sterling
Lynn Kutski
Michael Williams Riordon
Patrick Grattan
Paul Czajka**

PRESS: 2

Chairwoman Young called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

YOUTH BUREAU: J. Shufelt

NYS OCFS Update:

**2012 funding: the amount has not been received yet; J. Shufelt is expecting an approx. cut of 25%.
2011 Program Annual Assessments: this is the summer program in the towns, which has to be into the State by March 16th.**

2012 Census Update:

Decrease in the youth population & its effect on 2012 funding for Columbia County agencies and municipalities: this has gone down from last year, under the age of 21 decreased from 17,134 to this year 15,578.

Youth Leadership Award Ceremony/Louis A. Pierro Recognition: This has been scheduled for March 15, 2012 @ 6:00 PM at the Hudson Elks. Invitations will go out to all Supervisors.

Resolution Request: Authorization to fill the part-time Clerk/Typist position due to retirement, motion by E. Young, seconded by E. Cross, carried.

FAIR HOUSING: W. Fisher

Update on the Poster Contest, this is for 3rd and 4th grades.

Proclamation is needed for Fair Housing Month, which is in April.

VETERANS: G. Flaherty

He thanked all the committee members for their continued support.

Latest County Statistics: right now there are 5,685 Veterans in Columbia County. The Columbia County Van Service transported 94 Veterans having appointments in Albany. 4 weekly Pick up schedules were completed by the Van Drivers. The office responded to 158 phone calls, assisted 49 visits to the office and 85 mailings including One (1) Application for a Presidential Memorial certificate. G. Flaherty and staff attended a committee meeting for the Honor-A-Vet program.

Upcoming Job Fairs: This is scheduled for May 3rd; a law has passed for employers who hire Veterans receive a \$7,500.00 tax credit. More information will follow.

2012 Outreach: G. Flaherty stated he is continuing with mail-outs and continues to let Supervisors know they can invite him to the Town Board Meetings.

2011 Annual Report: G. Flaherty will present next month to committee.

Military draw down: over 100,000 soldiers attended

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: K. Jablonka

Program Updates

NYS Budget: There was a \$17,000.00 Funding Increase for Home Services and lost \$28,000.00 in the Weatherizing program.

Senior Citizen of the Year: this will happen in May, working with the Advisory Council, more information to follow.

Volunteer Recognition Event: this is scheduled for May 24th @ the Greenport Town Park, updates will be coming.

TRIPP Center: (Philmont Bldg) K.Jablonka went over a list of about 18 items with R. Pinto to prioritize the most important things to be done, realizing they will be at this site for some time.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES: P. Mossman

Program Update

Pending Applications: Information was distributed pertaining to the Monthly Caseload Comparisons, Activity Report, Pending Applications, Community Medicaid and Chronic Care Medicaid, also Snapshots of the monthly homeless totals. This was reviewed prior to the Presentation form Maranatha Human Services Inc.

Resolution Request: Authorization to fill the following vacant, budgeted positions, effective March 15, 2012, One (1) Principal Social Welfare Examiner, GR 16, base salary \$50,225.00 and to fill any vacancies created due to promotion to this position, vacancy due to retirement, motion by E. Thurston, seconded by A. Bassin, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary, if approved forward to Finance.

One (1) Part-time Assistant Social Services Attorney, FPE, 60 hours, base salary \$42,664.00, waiving the Step reduction and full medical benefits available as of the date of hire, vacancy due to resignation, motion by A. Bassin seconded by E.Cross, carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.

Emergency/Temporary Housing Presentation from Maranatha Human Services Inc.

This is a non-for-profit organization cited two (2) locations, one in Livingston, it is a five (5) acre, and one in Hudson for the housing of both singles and families. They informed the committee that have been working with P. Mossman for over a year and "What we have been developing is a model that would allow us to facilitate transitional housing on an emergency basis. In Livingston, the organization is looking to purchase under a foreclosure. The site could accommodate 13 individuals and after expansion up to 30, and was attractive to the group because of its lack of neighbors. However, while at the time Maranatha located the property, it was on the market, it is now still in the middle of a foreclosure with a couple in the midst of divorce and its immediate availability is in question. They said the Bank of America has said it would work to try and help secure the property with the agency. They felt pretty confident the money was there, just as long as the county was

willing to pay for the operation accommodations to facilitate that kind of program. Coley stated “we did have some offices who were working with the couple who one of them had given their permission, so we are in the process of doing that. The City of Hudson location of Warren Street, which has the 7 apartment units, is in pretty good shape and that would be used to house families. The owner wants to now try and put the bldg. on the market, it was kept off the market, but due to him selling a neighboring property for \$375,000.00 he is ready to put this bldg. on the market. Due to all of this happening, P. Mossman will meet with Maranatha and go over the proposals, present numbers, monthly expenditures, etc. and the Committee decided to have a Special Committee mtg. on March 7th @ 5:00 PM to advise on how to proceed.

A motion to move into EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:28 PM by E. Young, seconded by A. Bassin, motion carried.

REASON: to discuss certain personnel

A motion to return to REGULAR SESSION at 6:40 PM by E. Thurston, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn at 6:43 PM by E. Thurston, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE:

Elizabeth Young, Chairwoman

Matt Murell

William Hughes, Jr.

Richard Keaveney

Arthur Bassin

Arthur Bassin

Edward Cross

Ellen Thurston