

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

May 16, 2012

PRESENT:

Elizabeth Young, Chairwoman
Matt Murell
William Hughes, Jr.
Richard Keaveney
Edward Cross
Ellen Thurston

ABSENT:

Arthur Bassin, notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Kary Jablonka
Paul Mossman
William Fisher
Jessica Shufelt
Michele Ublacker
Michael Williams Riordon
Richard Scalera
Sarah Sterling
Chairman Grattan
1 Public
PRESS: 3

Chairwoman Young called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

Office for the Aging: K. Jablonka

Program Updates:

Program Management:

Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP): the desire of this program is to keep residents in their own homes, the budgeted amount is \$173,150.00, and they will be spending so far \$212,309.00 dealing with 58 clients. Running approx. \$39,159.00 short. Looking for monies to either transfer funds or making that reference in the 2013 budget. 15 out of 58 clients have no family members.

Project Lifesaver: eight (8) transmitters were distributed to clients on a loaning basis, clients would have to buy the batteries and band, costly approximately \$8.70.

Potential Senior Site Closure- possibly closing the Chatham site.

Performance Measures:

Meals: for the 1st quarter they served over 20,000.

HEAP Applications: processed 1,000 applicants

HIICAP: open enrollment is by hours, 300 hours for support staff serving 4 to 5 locations for sessions on Medicare.

Respite: 17 or 18 cases right now.

Program Development:

LGBT Elder Initiative: K. Jablonka stated 1,000 to 1,600 in Columbia County. He has met with Hudson Pride for discussions.

Advisory Council Development Initiative: this is in operation now, and a very valuable program, there needs to be re-organization, rejuvenate and rebuild, working on it.

Resolution Request:

Authorization to contract with Catholic Charities in an amount not to exceed \$2000 to facilitate a Caregivers Support Group, motion by E. Cross, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried.

Youth Bureau: J. Shufelt

Resolution Request: Authorizing a County Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement for State Aid Reimbursement for Youth Programs in 2012, the amounts have not come in yet, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request: Authorization to enter into an agreement with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to enable the County to receive reimbursement for the operation of Special Delinquency Prevention Programs (Type A and Type B) funds in the total amount of \$11,858.00, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary if approved refer to Finance.

Tennis Grant/Program Update: We are running with Summer Tennis Program with Crellin Park, sharing costs.

Clerk Typist Vacancy: J. Shufelt is meeting with her Executive Comm. on May 21, 2012 and this part-time Clerk Typist will start on or around June 1, 2012.

Fair Housing- W. Fisher

Update on the the poster contest “Houses for Everyone” Awards Recognition at Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center. This was held on April 24, 2012. The posters are on the First Floor at 401 Bldg.

Department of Social Services: P. Mossman

Resolution Request:

Requesting authorization to fill the following vacant, budgeted position, effective June 14, 2012, pending approval of Budget & Salary Review on May 24, 2012 and Finance Committee on June 5, 2012: One (1) Child Support Specialist, GR12, 2012 base salary \$37,668 (Step 1 salary \$32,018). Vacancy due to resignation, motion by E. Cross, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried. Refer to Budget & Salary, if approved, forward to Finance.

Resolution requesting authorization to advertise for and enter into an agreement to contract for legal counsel(s) to assist in the prosecution and defense of appeals relevant to Social Services operations, this is paid on a per-diem basis, the hourly rate is \$175.00 with a 10% courtesy, motion by R. Keaveney, seconded by M. Murell, carried.

NYS DOH TAKE OVER – MEDICAID ADMINISTRATION – UPDATE

The law was passed and notice was given 120 days from April 1, 2012 form letter that the State Health Commissioner to, P. Mossman stated he would ask for a MOU with the Health Department to transfer some of the Administration duties to the state. More information on the Law is pending. In 2018 the State will take over totally. Districts have not been defined yet; the State will create 1200 more positions and filling 130 this year. This should also be a savings for DSS.

PURCHASE OF 25 RAILROAD AVENUE:

The employees have come to terms that they will be staying at 25 Railroad Avenue. The staff has asked for the Board of Supervisors to address the Leaks, Air System, and the wear and tear on i.e. carpets, etc. To make the DSS bldg. more efficient. The Board of Supervisors will work with employees to get the building in “Good Working Shape”, and strategic planning is needed.

HOMELESS SERVICES:

RESPONSE TO RFP: The proposal from Maranatha cost is \$680,400.00 with finding a location and Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties, Inc. and the Galvan Foundation, \$611,015.00 with the two having different specifics regarding their offers. Maranatha has not identified a location, though Mental Health Assoc. – Galvan initiative has. P. Mossman commented that some of the groups which did not submit bids were taken aback by the wording in the proposal indicating their contracts would be reviewed every two years. Catholic Charities and St. Catherine’s Center expressed interest but ultimately did not make an offer. Several of the Supervisors on the Committee, R. Keaveney stated we scared people away, W. Hughes Jr. agreed, saying the County would have to make a commitment to whichever agency is chosen. Chairman Grattan stated he is looking to make a long term arrangement with a provider. The proposals were distributed to the committee for review and will meet for a Special Meeting on May 30, 2012 at 4:00 PM for more discussion.

With no further business, a motion by R. Keaveney, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr. at 6:63 PM, motion carried.

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