

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012**

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

**Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Paul Mossman
Lynn Kutski
William Fisher
Gary Flaherty
Jessica Nabozny
Kary Jablonka
Michele Ublacker
Michael Williams-Riordon
Sarah Sterling
Ronald Caponera
5 Public
PRESS: 2**

Chairwoman Young called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Department of Social Services: P. Mossman

BUILDING RENOVATION SUBCOMMITTEE – UPDATE

The committee for renovations met three (3) – four (4) different times. D. Robinson has an RFP ready to send out to Architects to assist with renovations i.e. expansion of the parking lot, maybe to relocate the lobby area, the entrance for employees and clients etc.

HOMELESS INITIATIVES – NEXT STEPS

P. Mossman informed the committee members that the homeless population has dropped significantly. As of the beginning of this month there are 27 and from last month there were 44 as opposed to 62 homeless in March. P. Mossman has not seen or recall a time during his years with the department when the numbers reached an all time low. Discussion ensued and P. Mossman stated whether the new numbers warranted a new strategy. P. Mossman is considering downsizing the scope of the proposed facility and the committee members felt this is something we need to look at. The Supervisors wouldn't support approving \$600,000.00 in expenditures to house less than 20 homeless people. P. Mossman mentioned the homeless population can go up in the winter and there is no guarantee that the lower levels will continue.

NYS DOH MEDICAID ADMINISTRATION TAKEOVER: This process is to take over in 2018, but there is nothing from the State as to what the county wants to retain. This continues to be reviewed.

RESOLUTION REQUEST:

Resolution authorizing to fill the vacant, budgeted positions, effective October 11, 2012 of One (1) Senior Social Welfare Examiner, GR 13C, 2012 base salary \$43,165 (vacancy due to resignation) and to fill any vacancy created due to internal appointment to this position, motion by A. Bassin, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review Committee, if approved forward to Finance.

Motion by A. Bassin seconded by E. Cross to move into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:48 PM, motion carried.

REASON: to discuss proposed litigation involving a particular entity.

A motion to return to REGULAR SESSION at 5:53 PM by M. Murell, seconded by W. Hughes Jr., motion carried.

RESOLUTION REQUEST:

Authorization for Columbia County to enter into a Lawyers' Retainer Agreement to contract for legal services To recover Medicaid reimbursement or repayment or credits from certain NYS agencies which would result in NYS paying the County on statutory obligations known as overburdens, motion by M. Murell, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried.

Youth Bureau: J. Nabozny

Request to amend Resolution Number 268-2012, new total is \$16,077.00, motion by W. Hughes, Jr. seconded by A. Bassin, carried. Refer to Finance.

Request to amend Resolution Number 270-2012, to reflect in the allocation to two (2) youth service agencies, \$3,221.00, motion by W. Hughes, Jr. seconded by A. Bassin, carried. Refer to Finance.

Veterans: G. Flaherty

The August Monthly report was read and reviewed.

Fair Housing: W. Fisher

An update on eviction calls and losing mortgages with referral to agencies.

There is a counseling workshop on September 25th from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM at 252 Columbia St.

Office for the Aging: K. Jablonka

Program Updates:

Program Management: Medicaid wavier application

Additional Funding: retaining and then re-visit for the Aging Network, looking at the big picture for the future.

Potential Site Closure Update: closing at the end of this year,

Heat Applications: 300 applications, they are repeaters from last year. Heat Benefit has not opened yet, new applications start in November.

Resolution Requests:

Renewal Contracts

Authorization to renew contract for consulting dietician services at a cost not to exceed \$22,645, forward to Budget & Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.

Authorization to renew no-cost Nutrition Site Contracts with Village of Valatie, and St. Peter's Presbyterian Church, carried, forward to Finance.

Authorization to renew Nutrition Site Contracts with Sons and Daughters of Italy (\$6,000); Linlithgo Reformed Church (\$3,000); Church of St. Joseph (\$2,100), forward to Budget & Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.

Authorization to contract with Columbia County Health Department for Home Health Aide services at a cost not to exceed \$15,000, forward to Budget & Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.

Authorization to contract with the Columbia County Health Care Consortium to provide medical transportation service at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, forward to Budget & Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.

Authorization to contract with Family Advocates to provide Legal Services for the Elderly at a cost not to exceed \$19,000, forward to Budget & Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.

Authorization to contract with individuals and/or organizations to provide Senior Health and Wellness Programs at a cost not to exceed \$5000, forward to Finance.

Authorization to renew contract with Catholic Charities to facilitate a Caregivers Support Group at a cost not to exceed \$2000, forward to Finance.

Authorization to contract with Columbia County Health Care Consortium to provide information and assistance to county residents on long term care options (NY Connects) at a cost not to exceed \$43,987.00, forward to Budget and Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.

Authorization to contract with with the Town of Canaan to provide a location for Nutrition Site operation at no cost and to pay OFA in the amount of \$3.00/participant not to exceed \$5,000.00, forward to Finance.

A motion by R. Keaveney, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., to approve all above contracts, One (1) abstained on voting with Sons & Daughters of Italy.

Conference Objective Form:

Authorizing the One (1) Coordinator to attend a conference on October 18th-19th in Binghamton, NY, at a cost of \$505.00, from .4 Account No. AO-7E-7610-4282-E4000 and/or AO-7E-7610-4150-E4000, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by M. Murell, carried.

With no further business a motion to adjourn at 6:33 by R. Keaveney, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., motion carried.