

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 16, 2013

### PRESENT:

Matt Murell, Deputy  
William Hughes, Jr.  
Edward Cross  
Arthur Bassin  
Ellen Thurston

### ABSENT:

Elizabeth Young, notified

### ALSO PRESENT:

Gail DiCosmo, Clerk  
Gary Flaherty  
Kary Jablonka  
Paul Mossman  
Jessica Nabozny  
William Fisher  
Lynn Kutski  
Michaele Williams-Riordin  
PRESS: 2

Deputy Murell called the meeting to order at 4:59 PM.

Veteran's Service Agency: G. Flaherty

December 2012 Monthly Report contained the Columbia County Veteran's Van Service transported 60 veterans to appointments at the VA Medical Center in Albany. The Veteran's Office responded to 78 phone calls, assisted 18 office visits and 17 mailings.

The Honor –A-Vet Ceremonies will start up again in March 2013.

2012 Update: Registered 127 veterans complete totals will be in around February or/and March.

Goals for 2013: continuing to focus on unemployed veterans

Veteran Employment: New Truck stop coming in Canaan in which G. Flaherty has made contact with the owner of this new company and the owner has made a commitment to hire Veterans first. Also Trail ways located in the Kingston area will also have job openings for veterans first.

The Vet Trac program is being re-organized and at this point there are eight (8) in the program currently. G. Flaherty has also made contact with HVCC, they have programs in which they fix cars, and once again G. Flaherty has made contact with the college to work out donating the cars fixed for veterans who need a vehicle to i.e. to get to work.

Office for the aging: K. Jablonka

Program/Management Updates:

Systems Integration Initiative: Expanding benefits, care a transition to going home, this is all through NY connects. Additional 100% State money.

Performance Measures –there are at least 100 residents receiving home care services, LGBT Elder Initiative/Gen Silent Documentary Showing, this was sent to all Supervisors and County Depts. for posting. (Older American Act)

Nutrition Program Organization Development: 275 active participants, 100,000 are served every year.

Resolution Requests:

Authorization to modify 2012 budget by transferring a total of \$4750.00 as described in the attached Transfer of Funds Form to ensure adequate funds for Service/Repairs, Supplies, Food, and In-Home Service, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Finance.

Youth Bureau: J. Nabozny

Conference Objective Form: One (1) Attending the Youth Leadership Forum in Albany, NY on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at a cost of \$20.00, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by A. Bassin, carried. J. Nabozny started having discussions with P. Mossman on sharing resources with all the cuts made with the Youth department over the past few years. At this point working together would improve services with the agencies the youth bureau provides funding for currently. A motion was made by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross to continue to move forward with a direction proposal and draft resolution for next month's committee mtg. along with the State's approval of said plan.

**Housing Resources: W. Fisher**

**Update on Apple Meadows: The property has 58 Apartments. Current Market Rents: 1 BR - \$610.00, 2 BR - \$700.00, and 3 BR - \$800.00; at a prior committee meeting, a letter which had been sent to the residents of Apple Meadows. This letter basically stated that effective January 1, 2013; rents would be at full market value rates. These monthly rates are listed above. In a recent conversation with the facility manager, it was learned that this does not mean that ownership will no longer accept vouchers from HUD, but that ownership has decided to have no direct communication with HUD, or in obtaining the tenants financial information to determine their eligibility for said vouchers. Management has indicated that this change will affect 48 units, but that the arrangement which currently exists will continue on 10 unites. Unless a third party entity such as Housing Authority, not for profit, or private management group comes forward to administer the voucher program subsidy will stop; and tenants will be with the burden of paying the entire rent even though HUD has been allocated funding for the voucher program. The affect of this change could result in the tenants' inability to pay and ultimate eviction. The committee had great concerns for these residents. Update is a private company called GEMCO who has been doing this kind of work for over 40 years will take over the process. There no jeopardy for the residents living at Apple Meadows to be removed or pay higher rent.**

**Department of Social Services: P. Mossman**

**CASELOAD REVIEW: The Homeless has stabilized the last four (4) months, and review of programs i.e. child support, FA/SN, MA, SN, heap ADC/FC, Services, pending applications and foster care.**

**The below request for positions is due to the employees from DSS are going to work for the state which projects more work coming back to the DSS staff. This is due to the state not taking over the complete process.**

**Resolution requesting authorization for the Commissioner of Social Services to fill the following vacant, budgeted positions effective February 14, 2013; pending approval of Budget and Salary Review on January 24, 2013 and Finance Committee on February 5, 2013:**

**Four (4) Social Welfare Examiners, GR12, 2013 Step 1 salary \$32,818 (3 vacancies due to resignations and 1 vacancy due to termination); motion by E. Cross, seconded by W.**

**Hughes, Jr., carried. Refer to Budget & Salary, if approved forward to Finance.**

**Create and fill One (1) part-time Senior Social Welfare Examiner, GR13C at a maximum of 20 hours per week at an hourly rate commensurate with GR13C Grade Rate, motion by W.**

**Hughes, Jr., seconded by A. Bassin, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary, if approved forward to Finance.**

**Resolution requesting authorization for the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to enter into and/or renew existing contracts with various providers Funds for these contracts are appropriated in the 2013 Department of Social Services, motion by W.Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review if approved forward to Finance.**

**Resolution requesting authorization for the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to enter into the following new contracts:**

**Northeast Parent & Child Society – January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 for the provision of family team meeting services with families referred to Northeast by CCDSS (rate structure \$20.55 – \$82.20 based on service provided – as needed basis) motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.**

**Stacy Bigelow – February 16, 2013 – February 15, 2014 for provision of consultant services to process pending Medicaid applications and train new staff (rate \$24.82 hr. not to exceed 350 hours per contract term) motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.**

**Children's Neuropsychological Services – March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2014 for the provision of psychological evaluations (rate structure - \$800 - \$3000 based on type of evaluation – as needed basis) motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.**

**All of the above services would be 75% reimbursable.**

**At next month's meeting there will be a presentation from the Re-entry Columbia County Task Force.**

**With no further business or discussion a motion to adjourn at 6:44 PM by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.**