

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 20, 2013

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Kary Jablonka
Jessica Nabozny
Paul Mossman
Ronald Knott
Ronald Caponera
Sarah Sterling
Lynn Kutski
Michaele Williams-Riordon
Lynn Rothenberg
Carolyn Polikarpus
Gary Flaherty
William Fisher
5 Public

PRESS: 1

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: K. Jablonka

Program/Management Updates:

Systems Integration Initiative: funding is provided with NY Connects, this is discharge planning after coming home from hospital, rehab etc.

Background Checks: are being done

Senior Citizen of the Year: Press Release- Columbia County OFA Opens Nominations for 2013 Senior Citizens of the Year. Each year in May OFA recognizes one or more senior citizens who have made a significant contribution to the community. Forms are available at all Town halls and Village halls Hudson City Hall, the Office for the Aging @ 325 Columbia St. and can be also downloaded from the OFA website.

Resolution Requests:

Authorization for title change to create and fill Assistant Administrator position (G19B – Grade Rate \$62,742 plus \$850 Longevity (total of \$63,592.00) and abolish the position of Case Management Supervisor (presently \$57,961.00) increase is the amount of \$5,631.00. The committee passed it pending the Budget & Salary Review Committee, A. Bassin informed K. Jablonka there are no increases until the first quarter financials are reviewed. K. Jablonka was not aware of that, motion by E. Cross, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried. Refer to Budget & Salary, if approved forward to Finance.

Authorization to fill a vacant Nutrition Site Manager position (G8A - \$17,790); motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by M. Murell, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary, if approved forward to Finance.

Amending Resolution No.31-2013 to show correct account number from which funds will be transferred, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Thurston, carried. Refer to Finance.

VETERANS- G. Flaherty

Veterans Advisory Committee has a meeting with Congressman Gibson.

Briefing & meeting with Senator Marchione and staff at State Capitol. Senator Marchionne will have her local office here in Hudson over the County Clerk's office at 560 Warren St.

G. Flaherty informed the committee there are over 40,000 of our Military coming home between this year and next. Employment of Veterans was also discussed along with mental health issues.

G. Flaherty will do everything in his power to get our veterans jobs and help with health issues.

G. Flaherty has been working with many employers throughout the County & State to hire our veterans first.

FAIR HOUSING: W. Fisher

W. Fisher has been dealing with Landlord and Tenant issues.

He would like to have a Proclamation proclaiming "April as Fair Housing Month".

YOUTH BUREAU: J. Nabozny and P. Mossman

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES: P. Mossman & J. Nabozny

DSS/Youth Bureau Merger Plan Proposal: Distributed the Columbia County Youth Bureau and Department of Social Services Reorganization Plan (draft), motion by W. Hughes, Jr. seconded by E. Thurston to submit the plan to NYSOCFS and a motion was made to move forward on the Merger Plan pending NYS approval by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Thurston, carried.

DSS Building Renovation Update: two (2) re-designs have been done, reaching out to Architect for what is needed and cost. Also quote hosting on telephones which will be a savings on software & equipment.

2010 Annual Report- was distributed to committee for their review, and next month's committee meeting needs to approve and accept.

Resolution Requests:

Authorization to amend Resolution #34-2013 to reflect correct amounts and terms for certain contracts erroneously listed in the attachment of Resolution #34-2013 as follows:

Catholic Charities – Therapeutic Supervised Visitation – 1/1/13-12/31/13 - \$170,968.52

Mental Health Assoc. – School Based Prevention – Taconic – 7/1/13-6/31/14 – DSS \$85,897, School \$27,941 = \$113,838

Sylvia Lehtinen – The Hudson Center for Wellness – 1/1/13-12/31/13 – Individual \$75.00, Group \$200/month;

Columbia County Attorney's Office – 111-g services – 1/1/13-12/31/14 - \$119,522.34 (\$66 hr); motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by M. Murell, carried. Refer to Finance.

Authorization for the Commissioner of Social Services to fill the following vacant, budgeted position; abolish a position and create and fill a position effective March 14, 2013; pending approval of Budget and Salary Review on February 28, 2013 and Finance Committee on March 5, 2013; **Fill One (1) Clerk/Typist position, GR10, 2013 Step 1 salary \$27,350, due to retirement (Fraud Unit); Abolish One (1) Resource Consultant, GR15, 2013 base salary \$48,259 and create and fill One (1) Social Services Investigator, GR12, 2013 Step 1 salary \$32,818 (Fraud Unit), motion to approve all of the above by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review, if approved forward to Finance.**

A motion to move into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:07 PM by M. Murell, seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried.

REASON: to discuss re-appointment of certain personnel

Motion to Return to REGULAR SESSION at 6:13 PM by M. Murell, seconded by A. Bassin, motion carried.

Resolution Request: Authorization to re-appoint Paul Mossman as the commissioner of the Columbia County Department of Social Services to a five (5) year term beginning June 31, 2013, motion by A. Bassin, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. Refer to Budget & Salary, if approved forward to Finance.

The Reentry Task Force of Columbia County Inc.

Co-Directors: Lynn Rothenberg LMSW

Carolyn Polikarpus

Reentry refers to the process of returning to the community from the criminal justice system.

Challenges

- Lack of skills
- Mental health: [Upon release from prison 30% wanted help acquiring mental health tax. One in five reported symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder]
- Substance Abuse: 85%-90% identified with substance abuse/addiction
- Most were not employed before incarceration
- Felony stigma leading to difficulty getting hired and finding housing

What does a reentry program accomplish?

- Increases public safety
- Creates more functional life
- Strengthens families
- Decreases dependence on county funds

Our Process

- Engage clients while still incarcerated: workshops and information
- Case Management Action Plan
- Collaborate with the Courts/Parole and Probation
- Case Review meetings
- Task Force member meetings

What We Offer: Referrals /Programs /Education

Intensive Case Management

Referrals

- Mental Health: MHA and CCMHC and other providers
- Substance Abuse: Twin County Recovery Services Inc. and others
- Mediation with Common Ground in Catskill
- Literacy: Literacy Connection for assessment/learning disabilities/ESL

- **Employment: Success in Business (taught by Literacy Connection):** How to secure and retain employment. Retention Assistance through our agency by intervening when red flags arise. Certificate of Relief.
- **Certificate of Relief:** Issued by sentencing court or more commonly by parole. It can be included in the pre-sentencing report. According to CL753: establishes that a public agency or private employer must consider a CR. Presumption of rehabilitation. Temporary until off parole then becomes permanent. Increases chance of getting hired but not guarantee.
- **Housing Assistance:** DSS and our agency will help link them to affordable opportunities.
- **Money Management:** create budget, checkbook, debit/credit card, etc.
- **Community Service:** link clients to volunteer opportunities.

Programs/Assistance We Will Offer

- Assistance with paperwork, i.e. DSS, etc.
- Help proactively deal with parole/probation violations
- Individual counseling to create/increase/sustain motivation and defuse problems along the way.
- AVP: Alternative to Violence group, an internationally recognized program currently in 18 NYS correctional facilities that introduces and develops concepts of conflict resolution.
- Thinking for a Change: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy based group already in use in some prisons and reentry programs to help clients change their thinking to change behaviors. Evidence-based.
- Anger Management
- Strengthening Families
- Fathers Group: role and importance of fathers

Reentry Programs and Lower Recidivism Rates

Michigan

Michigan Prisoner Reentry

2005: 40 percent rate of recidivism

2007: 33 percent

Decline in recidivism: 18%

Mississippi

2005: 31%

2007: 28%

Decline in recidivism: 9%

With no further business or discussions a motion at 6:51 PM by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried.

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