

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

August 28, 2013

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Kevin McDonald

ALSO PRESENT:

Becky Vinchiarello, Dep. Cler
Jessica Nabozny
William Fisher
Kary Jablonka
Paul Mossman
Gary Flaherty
Lyn Kutsky
Michelle Ublacker

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

Fair Housing – B. Fisher

B. Fisher is currently dealing with three calls he has received regarding evictions due to foreclosures and renovations. P. Mossman requested that B. Fisher work with DSS on future issues. Foreclosure laws were discussed.

Veterans – G. Flaherty

The Monthly Report was distributed. He is currently working on eleven cases. The Justices have been great assisting with the care of the veterans.

The Annual Homeless Veterans Standout Program to benefit veterans is on the 28th of September. G. Flaherty explained that the Veterans Department is one of the few organizations exempt from sequestrations.

Veteran's drivers and vans participated in a Wounded Warriors Program in Chatham.

225 veterans are using the van at one time or another. There are areas that are not covered by the transportation. G. Flaherty questioned if there is a pool of money that can be placed in the budget that could assist veterans living outside the covered area. G. Flaherty mentioned that the handicapped vans are seven and eight years old.

Office for the Aging – K. Jablonka

Program/Management Updates

Hover Foundation: The Department applied to this foundation again this year for support with the Nutrition Program.

Laptop computer initiative- The purpose of this program is to enhance service delivery efficiency and effectiveness. MIS recently upgraded their computers. These updates will allow the assessments to be completed in electronic form. K. Jablonka reported that we are one of the first counties in the state to go mobile with this.

Conference Request – Authorization for three employees to attend the Adult Abuse Training Institute Conference on October 9th and 10th in Albany, NY at a total cost of \$300.00. Motion to approve by E. Cross, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., motion carried.

Resolution Request – Authorization to renew the following contracts:

- Family Advocates in the amount of \$22,000 to provide Legal Services for the Elderly
- Columbia County Health Care Consortium in the amount of \$35,000 to provide transportation for medical appointments
- Columbia County Health Care Consortium in the amount of \$43,987 to operate NYConnects
- Village of Valatie at no cost to provide a location for the delivery of nutrition services
- Eddy VNA to provide meals to LTHHCP patients at a rate of \$6.00/meal
- Town of Canaan to provide at no cost a location for the delivery of nutrition services and to be paid by the Town at a per meal rate not to exceed \$5000 representing the Town's proportionate share.

- Anytime Home Care in an amount not to exceed \$12,000/year to provide Caregiver Respite Services
- VNA Home Care in an amount not to exceed \$5,000/year for the provision of Caregiver Respite Services
- Unlimited Care in an amount not to exceed \$13,000/year to provide Caregiver Respite Services
- Interim Health Care in an amount not to exceed \$13,000/year to provide Caregiver Respite Services
- Anytime Home Care in an amount not to exceed \$70,000/year to provide Housekeeper/Chore and Homemaker/Personal Care Services
- Interim Home Care in an amount not to exceed \$35,000/year to provide Housekeeper/Chore and Homemaker/Personal Care Services
- Unlimited Care in an amount not to exceed \$130,000 to provide Housekeeper/Chore and Homemaker/Personal Care Services
- VNA Home Care in an amount not to exceed \$20,000/year to provide Housekeeper/Chore and Homemaker/Personal Care Services
- Sons and Daughters of Italy (\$6,000); Linlithgo Reformed Church (\$3000); and the Church of St. Joseph (\$2100) to provide locations for the delivery of nutrition services
- Dawn Meyer, RD in an amount not to exceed \$24,000/year for the provision of nutrition counseling and consultation services

It was confirmed that these contracts will not be executed unless they are passed in the 2013 budget. W. Hughes questioned if the the amount spent on these services over the years could be tracked. K. Jablonka has not noticed a change in reimbursement time from third party payers when he submits claims. They still reimburse within a month.

Motion to approve the contract renewals by A. Bassin, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., motion carried. Refer to Finance. It was noted that there was no increase in the amount of these contracts from last year.

Resolution Request - Authorization to transfer \$175.00 from Rental/Lease to Computer Software/Supplies. Motion to approve by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by A. Bassin, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request - Authorization to transfer \$4,800.00 from Miscellaneous Equipment to Nutrition to replace a commercial mixer that is beyond useful life. Motion to approve by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by A. Bassin, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Youth Bureau – J. Nabozny

Re-organization Proposal Update: The proposal has been approved by the State. A copy of the letter from the State was passed around to the Committee. A meeting between J. Nabozny, P. Mossman, E. Young, and M. Murell is scheduled for tomorrow. They will discuss the next step of the reorganization plan.

J. Nabozny will notify everyone of the Youth Bureau's new location.

2013 OCFS Funding Update:

-RAP was submitted electronically

-Contracts – All contracts have been sent to the agencies and are being returned, along with their claims, quickly.

All Summer Recreation Programs have ended. She is encouraging municipalities to submit thier claims in soon. The new Summer Recreation application process will be sent out in the near future.

Department of Social Services – Paul Mossman

A summary of homeless statistics was reviewed. They included only those individuals who receive services from DSS. There was a trend of the numbers decreasing until a few months ago when they doubled between June and July. P. Mossman explained that this is due to parolees coming out of prison. The Columbia County Re-Entry Program was not contacted about the parolees so he has set up a meeting between DSS and the Re-Entry Program to help coordinate services. He questioned if a condition of parole can be to work with the local Re-Entry Program. He would like to include this as part of the County's homeless plan.

W. Hughes Jr. requested that the Re-Entry Program put together a report of services provided. The increase in homeless families in the County was discussed.

Resolution Request – Authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Consumer Directed Choices, Inc. for Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP). It was explained that this is a consumer driven long term personal care program for those individuals who are eligible for home care programs or private duty nurses. DSS would monitor the program and make referrals at no cost to the county. Motion to approve by W. Hughes, Jr. seconded by A. Bassin, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request – Authorization to sign an addendum to an agreement with Woodward Connor Gillies & Seleman Architects to develop a program plan for renovation of 25 Railroad Avenue. They have completed the first phase of the project plan. Recommendations regarding working conditions, work flow, safety, and better customer service were discussed. This project plan will cost between three to five million over the next few years. There are potential savings and any purchase or internal repairs are reimbursable through the State and Federal Governments at an estimated amount of 60-65%. The next step would be to create a detailed plan that would show the feasibility of the project. It would establish a time frame, operational benefits, and costs. The cost is \$76K. Discussion ensued regarding if this project would need to be sent out to bid for architectural services. W. Hughes, Jr. made a motion to approve the request pending approval from the Controller and County Attorney, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.** P. Mossman announced that he is putting the decision of Deputy Commissioner on hold for now.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 5:42PM by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

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