

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 18, 2013**

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

ALSO PRESENT:
Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Gary Flaherty
Kary Jablonka
Michele Ublacker
Lynn Kutski
Paul Mossman
Lynn Rothenberg

PRESS: 1

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

VETERANS: G. Flaherty

Justice Program is working very well. There is no-one in Court Cases or in jail for the moments. There was One (1) G. Flaherty has been working with for the last 18-mos. He has been cleared of all charges and program with this individual is complete.

Stand Down is Saturday Sept. 28, 2013

Culinary Command Class: This is Vets to Chefs. They attend school, the last class graduated in July 2013. The next class will be in October.

Outreach Update: This program is really working.

95 Veterans were transported to appointments in Albany. This month there were 137 phone calls, assisted 29 office visits and 136 mailings, including 6 applications for Presidential Memorial Certificates and 6 Government Memorial Grave Markers.

The Wounded Warrior Project took place on August 24th, 2013 The Veteran Van was filled with members of the Wounded Warriors Project and 10 disabled youths who have returned home. SCORE was acquired through the connections of the Wounded Warriors Project and U.S. Re. Chris Gibson. Half of the group went on a field trip to Catamount Aerial Adventure Park and the other half visited Fox Hill Beach in the town of Chatham for an afternoon of swimming and then shopping and treats. It was a fun day for all.

SCORE: Stride Center for Outdoor Recreation & Education

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: K. Jablonka

HEAP for this winter season has opened for Seniors and previous residents, processing 292 applications.

P. Mossman added that the early outreach program for individuals can apply on line and within 30 days they are notified if they qualify. Also P. Mossman informed the committee that a change is talking place, information up to this point is they will no longer replace or repair furnaces, sometimes they will have the resident contact Columbia Opportunities (low income levels) and some can get a loan with a low interest rate, last year \$4,200 in benefits.

Laptop Computer Initiatives: The case workers can take the laptops to their home visits and do the inputting right there instead of coming back to the office. This will begin the 1st week in October.

STAR Assistance: K. Jablonka informed the committee that they have been helping older age and seniors in applying for the STAR program.

Resolution Request: Authorization to renew a contract with the Columbia County Health Department to provide home health aides in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 Motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

RE-ENTRY PROGRAM: L. Rothenberg

Task Force Update: This opened up in April 2013 and they have seen 35 clients so far this year. Sometimes they see them in-prison/jail. A breakdown is 24 clients were seen in jail, 7 come to talk to L. Rothenberg, 5 have been referred to Mental Health, 2 in programs with addiction. This organization seeks out inmates at the Columbia County Jail and offer referrals to them for receiving substance abuse of mental health treatment once they are re-leased. They also look to help them find employment and housing. L. Rothenberg stated they are working with bare-bone funds now, Aside from \$5,000.00 funding from the Galvan Foundation, the group received no other outside financial assistance. L. Rothenberg stated the room she and co-founder Carolyn Polkarpus are working in a one (1) small room location. T

Looking to expand these services they received offers from Bliss towers to use an office there for \$750 month and Stageworks Hudson but the rent prices are out of their price range. A motion by A. Bassin, seconded by W. Hughes Jr. directed P. Mossman to find within his homeless budget \$50,0000 to give the organization, motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES: P. Mossman

Commissioner Mossman gave an update on the emergency Free-on call this weekend. A pipe had burst in the basement which created a mist, all responders were called, and they checked the fumes, no concerns of any kind of danger.

Heap Program: November 18, 2013, emergency opens January 2, 2014, and closing date March 17, 2014.

Flyer distributed with information.

Resolution Request: Authorization to fill vacant budgeted positions effective October 10, 2013: One (1) Social Welfare Examiner, GR 12, 2013 Step 1 salary of \$32,818.00; One (1) Social Services Investigator, GR 12, 2013 Step 1 salary of \$32,818.00; one (1) case worker, FP 15, Step 1 salary \$41,020.0, motion by E. Cross, seconded by M. Murell , motion carried.

The Committee decided to review budgets on October 7th @ 1:00 PM, motion carried.

With no further business a motion to adjourn at 6:10 PM by E. Cross, seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried.