

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

August 17, 2011

PRESENT:

Elizabeth Young, Chairwoman
William Hughes, Jr.
Margaret Robertson
Jeffrey Braley
Edward Cross

ABSENT:

Richard Keaveney, notified
Reginald Crowley, notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Gary Flaherty
Kary Jablonka
William Fisher
Micheale Williams-Riordon
Lynn Kutski
Attorney Chris Muller, DSS

PRESS: 1

Chairwoman Young called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM as an Informational mtg. due to a lack of a quorum, at 5:17 PM there was a quorum.

Veterans Agency: G. Flaherty

Update of VetTrack: There are four (4) in the Program, only one (1) is homeless, this homeless veteran is going to G. Flaherty's home and will live with him.

New Social Security program for Wounded Warriors: These are the veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

G. Flaherty received 16 telephone calls from veterans and 4 widows.

G. Flaherty distributed to committee a flyer called the "Honor Flight", whereas the WW II Veterans are scheduled for October 15th to join us on our next trip to Washington, DC to visit their memorial. The WWII Memorial is our first stop with plenty of time for pictures and talking. There is no charge for the Veterans and if you have a relative or friend that would like to join you as a Guardian it is only \$350.00 for their day. This includes all meals, the bus, the flight and a T-Shirt.

Fair Housing: W. Fisher

W. Fisher informed the committee they are starting early this year on the poster contest once again. Last year two (2) schools participated, Germantown and Ichabod, but this year, he is trying to get more schools involved.

W. Fisher also commented he is receiving quite a few calls in reference to residents who are having difficulty in making their mortgage payments and are looking for help. W. Hughes, Jr. commented to have residents call the City Hall. There is some assistant out there, and most of those residents are from the City of Hudson.

OFA-K. Jablonka

Resolution Request: Authorization to renew no-cost contracts with the Town of Canaan, Village of Valatie and St. Peter's Church to provide space for congregate nutrition sites, motion by M. Robertson, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr. carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request: Authorization for OFA to contract and with the Columbia County Health Care Consortium in the amount of \$43,987.00 (NY Connects) for the period 10/1/11 to 9/30/12 to provide enhanced information and assistance regarding long term care options, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request: Authorization for the OFA to amend the 2011 budget in the amount of \$11,000.00 and to contract with the Columbia County Healthcare Consortium for services related to the NY Connects program which will be fully funded by the state, increasing Account AO3772 State Aid Program and the creation of an expense account under NY Connects, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. **Refer to Finance.**

DSS: M. Williams Riordon

Program Updates:

MAS – Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation : DSS is working out the kinks, residents are getting use to the automated system. P. Mossman will go to Finance on Sept. 6th for a presentation on this program.

NYS Medicaid Enrollment Centers: This is currently on hold. This is the County Level residents. The State will notify Commissioner Mossman when the enrollment centers will be opening.

TANF/Safety Net Apartment Searches: DSS is finding there is a shortage on one (1) bedroom apartments. Also they're having trouble with some Landlords

Day Care Subsidies: these are certified sites that public assistance still continues.

FAR Program: "Family Assistance Response" program. DSS is excited about expanding this program and using an alternate method of a team approach.

Resolution Requests: Requesting authorization to fill the following vacant, budgeted positions, effective September 15, 2011, pending Budget & Salary Review on August 25, 2011:

One (1) Caseworker, FP15, 2011 Step 1 salary \$38,949; vacancy due to resignation, motion by M. Robertson, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried. Refer to Budget & Salary, if approved refer to Finance.

One (1) Transportation Aide, GR11, 2011 Step 1 salary \$28,566; vacancy due to resignation motion by M. Robertson, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried. Refer to Budget & Salary, if approved refer to Finance.

With no further business a motion by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by E. Cross to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 PM, carried.

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