

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 19, 2010**

PRESENT:

Elizabeth Young - Chairwoman
Bart Delaney Jr.
Richard Keaveney
Edward Cross
Jesse DeGroot
Arthur Bassin
Patrick Grattan
Arthur Baer
William Hughes Jr.

ALSO PRESENT:

Becky Leader – Deputy Clerk
Kary Jablonka
Paul Mossman
Lynn Kutskey
Robin Andrews
Larry Andrews
Roy Brown
Public : 2

PRESS: 1

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

Youth Bureau : J. Shufelt submitted to Chairwoman Young information on NYS OCFS Funding/2010 Applications and the Youth Leadership Award Ceremony, which was read to committee. The Youth Bureau is still waiting to receive a few 2010 funding applications from municipalities. All agency applications have been received. The Municipalities have been contacted and meetings have been setup with J. Shufelt and the Supervisor of the municipality or with their Clerk to get the applications completed and signed so that the review for allocations can begin. The Technical Assistance workshop that took place back in November was well attended.

It was reported that allocations have been received from the NYS OCFS and are being reviewed. There was not a significant cut administered at this time, but they have been told that there is a chance of this in the near future so they should encourage all agencies to claim their money in the first quarter so that they will not be subject to any additional cuts. The Allocation committee is being appointed tomorrow night at the Youth Advisory Boards meeting and the review of applications and allocations will begin next week so that they can be completed and voted on at the February Full Youth Advisory Board meeting and the Human Services Meeting.

It was also reported that the Youth Leadership Award ceremony has been scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2010 at the Hudson Elks Lodge. Scholarship Award applications will be going to all of the schools in the very near future. The Louis A. Pierro Youth Leadership Award will be presented once again by Lou & Michelle Pierro. Supervisors were asked to mark their calendar for this date as it is important that they attend the event.

There was a reminder that a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation was obtained to assist with the financial burdens of this ceremony.

Motion to accept the report by B. Delaney Jr., seconded by W. Hughes Jr., motion carried.

OFA: K. Jablonka

An invitation was offered to new Supervisors to come to OFA for an informational tour.

Program updates:

887 applications went out this year for HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program). 898 applications went out last year. The HEAP benefit has been reduced from \$900 to \$600.

OFA did an aggressive reach out for the WRAP (Weatherization Referral and Assistance Program). They received \$10,000 in Grant Member Aid from Senator Saland. They had difficulty finding contractors for jobs.

They were very busy during the open enrollment for the HIICAP (Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program).

Program Management:

They have been on time and on target for the second year in a row with their Annual Implementation Plan Submission.

OFA received no reductions in funding for OFA from the State Budget. They advocated a lot to make this possible.

They reported that their staffing status is one vacancy, two people out on maternity leave, and they filled a case manager position with provisions.

Ken Schomaker is remapping the SAMS Update (Social Assistance Management System) Program Monitoring: They have to monitor their subcontractors in things such as their billing and training practices.

There was a worksheet handed out on the Needs Assessment.

It was decided that the committee would do quarterly payments for select vendors.

DSS: P. Mossman

P. Mossman gave the Committee an update on how Governor Patterson's budget will affect DSS.

He mentioned a list of programs that would be affected or even cut: The Summer Youth Employment Program, Advantage After School Program, Communities Solutions to Transportation Program, Non Residential Domestic Violence Program, Wheels to Work in Greene County Program.

P. Mossman gave a report on news from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. He discussed programs that would be affected by the budget.

A caseload update was given. The HEAP program is in full swing. They are experiencing an increase in the number of benefits this year. The numbers of emergencies are higher this year as compared to last year. Eligibility guidelines have gone up for the program.

There has been a small decrease in the number of public assistance cases. There were 197 last year and there are 192 this year.

It was discussed why so many cases are being opened and so little are being closed. They are very behind in getting cases closed due to a very big work load. They are four to five months behind in food stamp benefits. Their Safety Net caseload has increased as well as their Food Stamps caseload.

Resolution Request: Authorization to fill the following vacant, budgeted position: One (1) Social Welfare Examiner, GR12, 2010 Step 1 salary \$31,161, effective February 11, 2010,. Vacancy may be due to possible internal appointment to another position. Pending Budget & Salary Review approval.

Resolution Request: Authorization to create and fill One (1) full-time temporary position of Social Welfare Examiner, GR12, 2010 Step 1 salary \$31,161, effective February 11, 2010 to July 11, 2010, No fringe benefits. Necessary due a current employee's extended medical leave and increased caseloads. Pending Budget & Salary Review approval.

A. Baer suggested redistributing employees by taking them out of Departments that were not of such crucial need, and moving them into Departments whose services were needed more in the County. P. Mossman said there was nowhere to take employees from.

It was noted that there is a critical need for the above resolutions. It is turning into a crisis.

The Resolutions were voted on together, motion by B. Delaney, Jr., seconded by W. Hughes Jr., motion carried.

Having overtime on Saturdays was brought up as a good solution to this problem, as well as asking retirees if they are interested in coming back.

R. Keaveney, brought up the Homeless Housing Programming. They are looking at buildings to utilize.

With no further business a motion to adjourn at 6:17 P.M. by B. Delaney Jr., seconded by E. Young, motion carried.