

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
July 20, 2011

PRESENT:

Elizabeth Young, Chairwoman
Reginald Crowley
William Hughes, Jr.
Margaret Robertson
Jeffrey Braley
Richard Keaveney
Edward Cross

ALSO PRESENT:

Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Paul Mossman
Michael Williams Riordon
Lynn Kutski
Kary Jablonka
Jessica Shuflet
Gary Flaherty
Attorney Chris Muller, DSS
Ellen Thurston

PRESS: 1

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

Office for the Aging: K. Jablonka

Farmers' Market Coupons: distributed over 330 coupons out of 600, this is very popular
Hot Weather Safety Tips for Older Adults: distributed to committee Heat-Related Illness and cooling stations

Resolution Requests:

Authorization to amend the 2011 OFA budget by increasing Account A07610.04.4000 (EISEP) by \$35,500 consisting of additional \$28,500 State Aid and transferring \$4500 from Vehicle Lease Account A7610.00.4028 and \$2500 from Food Account A7610.00.4260 as county match, motion by R. Crowley, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review, if approved then to Finance.

Authorization to abolish Clerk-Typist Position, Grade 10, Grade Rate \$30,551 and establish and fill Keyboard Specialist Position, Grade 10C, Grade Rate \$32,837, motion by M. Robertson, seconded by R. Crowley, carried. One (1) opposed vote. Refer to Budget & Salary Review, if approved then to Finance.

Authorization to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Health to provide Home-Delivered and Congregate Meals for clients in the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver Program on a per meal reimbursement basis, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review, if approved then to Finance.

Youth Bureau: J. Shufelt

Resolution Requests:

Authorizing the Youth Bureau to create and fill two (2) seasonal, per diem recreation Attendant positions at an hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour, the wages of the attendants are to be funded through the NY Junior Tennis Foundation Grant, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Finance.

Authorizing the Youth Bureau to amend the 2011 budget for the appropriation account AO7310-17.4000 and the revenue account AO20705 to reflect a \$250.00 decrease due to the Junior Tennis Foundation Grant was \$750.00, but the Youth Bureau only received \$500.00, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried. Refer to Finance.

Veterans Agency: G. Flaherty

Status of Vet Trac: the program is extremely successful. All local Justices are now involved.

Van repair costs: the cost for the repairs G. Flaherty estimated approximately \$7,000 to \$8,000. Receiving a telephone call, the Veteran's Agency was not notified on the recall of the repair to the Van, the total cost was \$0.00.

Provided service to 194 veterans and their families including 13 office visits and 64 phone calls.

The Columbia County Van Service transported 131 veterans to the VA Medical Center in Albany for appointments.

Monthly Report:

- 4 Grave side marker applications
- 4 Presidential Memorial Certificates
- 1 Honor A Veteran Ceremony

Fair Housing: W. Fisher (submitted -Chairwoman Young read)

Poster Contest: during the month of June letter of thanks were written to The Hudson river Bank & Trust Co. Foundation and Kinderhook Bank for supporting the Annual Fair Housing Poster Contest. Winning Posters were framed and matted and are in the process of being returned to students.

Transitional Housing:

The June Housing Advisory Board Mtg. members received the "Columbia County Plan to End Homelessness". The Fair Housing Advisory Board is not an agency within itself, but one which is subject to the Board of Supervisors it stands ready to lend its support to the implementation of the plan to end the County's Homeless problems.

Department of Social Services : P. Mossman

2009 Annual Report: A motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by R. Crowley to approve the 2009 Annual Report which was distributed at last month's meeting.

MAS – Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation – Update

The State has now taken over the transportation in Columbia and 9 other counties, This will be a savings for Columbia County, there is a 1-800 # in Albany, a 24hr/days a week number that will be answered, the call center makes the arrangements for the residents to be picked up and taken to their appts. There is no charge to the County. This started July 1st all calls will be referred to the 800 number. There has been some clichés in which we are working out.

Safety Net – Rent Supplement Proposal – Update

This plan has been approved by the State and went into effect July 1st, we have up to three years to meet the safety net, this is an increase in rental agreements.

Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) – Update

The governor has signed this into law. Allocations cap is \$187,000; \$40,000 for Columbia County to develop this program. Either way this is beneficial to Columbia County.

Resolution Request: Requesting authorization to fill the following vacant, budgeted position of One (1) Caseworker, FP15, 2011 Step 1 salary \$38,949; vacancy due to resignation to accept a position with another County agency, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by R. Crowley, carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review, if approved then to Finance.

A motion to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:17 PM by R. Crowley, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried.

REASON: to discuss litigation and specific department personnel

A motion to return at REGULAR SESSION at 6:50 PM by R. Crowley, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried.

A motion by R. Crowley, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr. to increase the salary for the Veteran's Director to \$30,000 and to be put into the 2012 budget. Also to create and fill a Deputy Director, part-time, 17½ hours per week @ \$15.00 per hour, not to exceed \$15,000/year, motion to approve by R. Crowley, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., carried. (2012 Budget Item)

With no further discussion/business a motion to adjourn 6:57 PM by R. Crowley, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., motion carried.

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