

HEALTH/ MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 16, 2009

PRESENT:

Lynda Scheer, Chairwoman
Elizabeth Young
Edward Cross
Roy Brown
Lawrence Andrews
Phillip Williams
William Hughes Jr.

ABSENT:

Bart Delaney, Jr.- notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Jacquelyn Lydon, Asst. Deputy Clerk
Nancy Winch
Michael O'Leary
Alice Engel

PRESS: 0

Chairwoman Scheer call meeting to order at 12:59 P.M.

Health Department: N. Winch

FYI: Discussion regarding a registry for people with special needs in the County for emergencies such as the past ice storm. N. Winch will find out where the form will be posted.

FYI: Discussion regarding the Healthy Heart grant and a Healthy Heart contest.

Discussion regarding Environmental health moving to Ockawamick. N. Winch does not support this move.

FYI: Discussion regarding eliminating smoking waivers: The Board of Health proposes to eliminate the granting of smoking waivers after December 31, 2009. At present there are 4 waivers in Columbia County. N. Winch will make available additional information prior to the April meeting.

Request for Contract: Request that Terry Sullivan, Speech Pathologist, be placed under contract as an independent contractor to provide speech services for our early intervention and preschool children. We cannot refuse a referral from either program as we are obligated to provide all services approved on IFSPs and IEPs. Department of Health current speech pathologists are full. It is necessary to pursue other providers, if the department is unable to meet capacity. These two programs are fee for service so that only when a service is provided the providers are paid. The State reimburses us 49% and 59.5 % respectively for all services rendered in this area, i.e. speech. Motion by R. Brown, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr. contingent to Budget and Salary review. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Speech Pathology studies.

Resolution Request: Request permission for the Department of Health to fill the Finance and Transportation Manager's position recently vacated grade 15 with a starting salary of \$35,471.00. This position is directly involved with the positive cash flow of revenues to the County. The position requires someone with a finance/accounting background in order to maintain regular submissions of State Aid claims through the AVL (Automated Voucher Listing) process through State Ed, payment of \$100,000 to \$200,000 per month of provider bills, management and organization of the billing process using Peachtree, monthly reports to the Director, access to AS400 for voucher completion, and follow up on outstanding STACs from school districts. This position involves the immediate transportation of our early intervention and preschool children when they have been approved for center-based services. The county must provide transportation for these children within 30 days of approval. The person must also follow municipal law for Bidding for new bus runs, award the bids, create contracts, and mail all information to the families. Transportation issues can arise weekly and can be very time consuming. The person supervises two subordinates. The timing for this vacancy is unfortunate in that the largest AVL of the year will be released from SED on March 24, 2009 and the largest transportation bids must be done in May for the summer and fall runs. This vacancy will definitely impact the Department of Health revenues for this year if not filled as quickly as possible. Motion by E. Young, seconded by L. Andrews. Motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary. Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request: Waive 15%/10%/5% (Steps 1-3). Whereas Amy Cassotta, PHN, has been employed at Columbia County Health Department from 6/1/04 to 9/8/07 on a full time basis completing the steps to reach base salary, and from 9/8/07 to 12/31/08 as per diem under contract, and whereas as of January 1, 2009 due to IRS

requirements she will be on payroll/per diem, therefore, be it resolved that the 15% requirement is waived and she will start at base salary of \$27.29 per hour in Grade 18A Public Health Nurse Per Diem pool A04010001000. Motion by P. Williams, seconded by E. Young. Motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request: Awarding Contracts for Transportation of Children with Special Needs in the Early Intervention and Preschool Services Program. Whereas it is necessary to bid the transportation of children with special needs in the Early Intervention and Preschool Program for the period from February 9, 2009 through March 10, 2009 and whereas the following company(ies) is the lowest bidder(s): Cocksackie Transport, Inc., 250 Mansion Street, Cocksackie, NY 12501 – Route 12 at the per diem rate of \$289. Motion by R. Brown, seconded by E. Young. Motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request: Awarding Contracts for Transportation of Children with Special Needs in the Early Intervention and Preschool Services Program. Whereas it is necessary to bid the transportation of children with special needs in the Early Intervention and Preschool Program for the period from March 12, 2009 through June 25, 2009 and whereas the following company(ies) is the lowest bidder(s): Cocksackie Transport, Inc., 250 Mansion Street, Cocksackie, NY 12501 – Route NewLeb at the per diem rate of \$289. Motion by E. Young, seconded by R. Brown. Motion carried.

.2 Purchase: Request for an Optoma EP7150 Mobile DLP Digital Projector. \$0 cost to the County, paid 100% by Bioterrorism Grant (A04058004000). D. Ames advised committee that projector was discontinued. N. Winch will look into a new projector on state contract and report to D. Ames and L. Scheer. Motion by R. Brown, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr. Motion carried contingent upon finding projector under \$900.00.

Discussion regarding Lyme disease grant. N. Winch to discuss at budget and Salary Review 2009 budget amendment in regards to Lyme disease grant money that was reduced.

R. Brown questioned vouchers of Independent Contractors that are not signed by the claimant. He would like to see signatures instead of just a print out of the services performed.

Mental Health Department: M. O'Leary

Resolution Request: Authorization to engage in the process of developing and signing agreements with school districts in Columbia County: The School & Community Services Project provides services to all school districts in Columbia County plus Questar III. Agreements are needed with the districts for the 2009-2010 school year to permit service delivery and also to establish payments rates for the services. Motion by R. Brown, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr. Motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request: The School and Community Services Project has been awarded a Legislative Member item from Senator Saland in the amount of \$18,140. Request authorization to accept funding, amend the 2009 county budget and purchase a van. Motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Young. Motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Discussion regarding towns and agencies that have purchased equipment from grants and have not received the funds. L. Scheer asked M. O'Leary that no purchases be made until the grant money has been received.

M. O'Leary distributed a memo regarding the hiring freeze and the impact of the current hiring freeze on services, third party revenue and State Aid. L. Scheer asked this discussion to be put on hold until next committee meeting.

L. Scheer to meet with M. O'Leary, P. Williams, and possibly J. Rutkey regarding the issue of filing the 2.5 FTE vacant Psychiatric pool and report back to committee as soon as possible. W. Hughes, Jr. sees this as a problem; he states he would like this information immediately. L. Scheer stated after the meeting with M. O'Leary he will report to Budget and Salary Review. E. Young agrees with W. Hughes, Jr. that this must happen as soon as possible. W. Hughes, Jr. wants to make sure all committee members are notified on the decision. E. Cross asked if any committee member can observe the meeting between L. Scheer, P. Williams, M. O'Leary, and J. Rutkey to obtain information first hand. L. Scheer stated that all information will be made available and presented at Budget and Salary.

L. Scheer stated to M. O'Leary and N. Winch that the hiring freeze status will be reviewed in the middle of April after departments spending, revenue, sales tax and mortgage revenue and the State budget are reviewed.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn at 1:53 P.M. by R. Brown, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr. Motion carried.