

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
October 19, 2009

PRESENT:

Lynda Scheer
Edward Cross
Jesse DeGroot
Bart Delaney, Jr.
William Hughes, Jr.
Raymond Staats

ABSENT:

Elizabeth Young-notified
Roy Brown-notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Alberta Cox, Deputy Clerk
Kary Jablonka
Paul Mossman
Jessica Shufelt
Lynn Kutski
Douglas McGivney
George Jahn
Philip Williams
Lisa Dugan
Londa McCallough
Tim Shook
Michelle Meyers
PRESS: 1

Deputy Chairwoman Scheer called meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Youth Bureau: - J. Shufelt

Discussion on the Reallocation of funding. Received notice that the Governor has proposed another 11% cut in funding. This will wipe out most of the funds for this office. Looking to other agencies for funding that were not expended.

J. Shufelt handed out a Conference Feedback Form for the committee to review. Gave information on workshops that were attended on quality youth development procedures and grant writing. Also learned of the NYSOCFS Application Process is going to be computerized, in which all Departments will be required to input information.

Office for the Aging: K. Jablonka:

Program Update: Outreach Activity, going very well; Golden Gathering, attended, very successful; Ghent Community Day; participated in as well as going to the Chatham Synagogue.

Heap: Have well over 700 applications already.

Adult Day Services – “The Club” up and running

Town of Canaan Nutrition Site 10 Year Anniversary was successful with everyone having a good time.

Nutrition Site Viability Assessment – Working with Jesse DeGroot in the Chatham area.

Program Management:

Staffing Transitions: The lost of employees due to resignation and retirement in key positions, the agency is working with temporary fill-ins. The position will be posted.

Needs Assessment

Resolution Requests: Authorization to renew contracts with the following home care agencies:

CC Health Department (\$19,000, \$23,000) - Angel Home Care (\$20,000) - Unlimited Care (\$70,000)

Anytime Care (\$43,000) - Visiting Nurses (\$18,000) - Interim Home Care (\$40,000) .

Motion to approve by B. Delaney Jr., seconded by J. DeGroot , motion carried.

Resolution Requests: Authorization to renew contracts with the following Nutrition Sites:

St. Bridgit's (\$4500) - St. Luke's (\$9600) - Town of Canaan (no cost)

Sons and Daughters of Italy (\$8000) - St. Mary's (\$3000) - St. Peter's (no cost)

Motion to approve by J. DeGroot, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried.

Resolution Request: Authorization to renew professional services contracts for the following:

Mary Richardson – Consulting Dietician (\$27,000) Motion approved by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

RosaLee Charpentier – Legal Services for the Elderly (\$20,000) Motion approved by J. DeGroot, seconded by B. Delaney Jr., motion carried.

Resolution Request: Authorization to renew contract with Health Care Consortium for medical transportation services (\$19,000) Motion approved by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

Resolution Request: Authorization to Data Base Clerk GR 10C step 1 salary \$27,099 vacancy created by resignation, subject to Budget and Salary Review. Motion to approve by W. Hughes Jr., by J. DeGroot, motion carried.

Comments were made from the sitting public. Chairwoman Scheer asked to please refrain until after the business was conducted and then they would be recognized and be able to speak.

DSS: P. Mossman:

Caseload Update: Spoke on the increase of caseloads of the workers in all various departments of DSS. Financial applications are up. Child Support up 5% from last year. Expect to have a big increase in the HEAP program this year.

Discussion on the agency being under staffed. Planning on doing cross training of all examiners to learn each department's positions. Hope to be set up by January 1st. This will help when there are vacations, illness, or vacancies.

Resolution Request: Authorization to fill the following vacant, budgeted positions effective November 13, 2009, pending Budget and Salary Review Committee approval:

One (2) Child Support Specialist, GR12, 2009 Step 1 Salary \$30,253 (vacancy due to termination.) Motion to approve by W. Hughes Jr., seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

Resolution Request: Authorization for the Department of Social Services to increase the petty cash account from \$700 to \$850 from the County Treasurer's A-200 account due to an increase in costs associated with the transportation of children in Foster Care. **This request was put on hold until next month's meeting.**

Resolution Request: Authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Renaissance Nursing Alliance for the purpose of referring adults 21 years of age or older to its adult day service program "The Club". Motion approved by W. Hughes Jr., second by R. Staats, motion carried. Commissioner Mossman said that on Oct. 23rd the DSS is having a Open House on "Best Practice Initiatives" Teaming and FAR from 1pm to 3pm. All are welcome to come

Chairman Scheer asked W. Hughes Jr. to introduce the people he brought to the meeting to speak on behalf of the Independent Living Center, Lisa Dugan, also Michelle Meyers, Londa McCallough were introduced.

Lisa Dugan spoke as a peer advocate for the Independent Living Center and her concerns for the disabled members of community. She said the DSS lacks a policy on the American Disabilities Act and is willing to assist in forming a new policy for communication and a new policy for ADA and for. She said she had a list of questions to ask of DSS.

Discussion on the lack of a county website that is easily assessable for the disabled community.

Chairwoman Scheer recommended that a Subcommittee be created with W. Hughes Jr., E. Cross and the Commissioner. As a subcommittee these problems would be addressed and worked on. They should look to collaborate with DSS, lay out a foundation for an ADA policy and go from there. They should then bring back a report to the Human Services committee.

Lisa Dugan stated that the Independent Living Center is having an Open House on Voting Machine, Wednesday at 1:30 to 4:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

M. Meyers and L. McCallough spoke on complaints about the Department of Social Services.

With no other business, motion to adjourn at 3:45pm by R. Staats, seconded by B. Delaney Jr., motion carried.