

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
APRIL 1, 2015**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

**Committee Members Present:** K. LaForge, D. Pullen, S. Burt, C. Jessup, T. O'Grady, C. Crandall (Absent: D. Decker)

**Others Present:** M. Alger, L. Ballengee, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, M. Gasdik, V. Grant, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Knapp, B. Riehle, C. Santora

**Media Present:** No media present

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:04 p.m. by Human Services Committee Chairman Kevin LaForge.

**Amendment of Minutes**

DSS Commissioner Vicki Grant requested the following changes in last month's minutes:  
**Under DSS Monthly Report (original)**

Our successful Response Program has reached its five-year mark, so we are celebrating that, and there will probably be additional information about that in April.

**REQUESTED CHANGES UNDERLINED**

Our successful Family Response Program, the dual track program of Child Protection, has reached its five-year mark, so we are celebrating that, and there will probably be additional information about that in April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried to approve the Human Services Committee minutes of March 4, 2015, as amended.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried to approve the special Human Services Committee meeting minutes of March 23, 2015.

**Board of Health Re-appointment**

The six-year term of Willard L. Simons, a member of the Board of Health, expires July 7, 2015. The Board of Health would like to re-appoint Dr. Simons to serve another six-year term, commencing July 8, 2015, and expiring July 7, 2021. The re-appointment was approved on a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Jessup and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

**Department of Social Services  
Monthly Report**

Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant entertained questions/comments on her pre-filed monthly report. Hearing none, she went on to read the following statement:

*Child Abuse Prevention Month-April*

"When we intervene early in children's lives, we see the results later on in a more prosperous future for all of us. Child development is community development. When we provide healthy environments of experiences and relationships, we build a strong foundation for healthy brain development. One active ingredient is the "serve and return" relationships that children have with their parents and other caregivers in their communities. As in games such as tennis

and volleyball, young children naturally reach out for interaction, and adults respond with reliable, engaged interaction. When this process is disrupted, children's brain circuits are underdeveloped, and future development must rely on a fragile foundation.

"That is why we train our staff in evidence-based practices, partner with collaborations and coalitions such as PPAC and Success by Six, and why we support child abuse prevention programs known to be effective, such as Healthy Families, which provides access to counseling and peer support for families who need help developing these kinds of relationships. This ensures that all children in our community will grow up with the healthy development they need to become stable, contributing adults."

Ms. Grant noted that her staff will present at the April 13 Board meeting, and she encouraged the Committee to wear blue on Thursday, April 9, and to purchase and plant a pinwheel in the Pinwheels for Prevention Garden. Pinwheels will be on sale March 30 through April 9. The suggested donation is \$3 each.

### **Request Permission to Fill Account Clerk Typist Position**

Commissioner Grant requested permission to fill an Account Clerk Typist (AFSCME, Grade 7, Step Min.) which became vacant as the result of a promotion. The position is responsible for clerical work in the Child Support Collection Unit. The position is funded by 50 percent federal funds and 50 percent local funds (offset by TANF collections). Permission to fill the position was granted on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Request Permission to Fill Casework Position**

Ms. Grant also requested permission to fill a Caseworker (AFSCME, Grade 16, Step Min.) vacancy which occurred as a result of a promotion. This position is in the Services Unit and is responsible for ensuring the health, welfare, and safety of children and adults. The position is funded by 50 percent federal funds, 25 percent state funds, and 25 percent local funds. Permission to fill the position was approved on a motion by Legislator O'Grady, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Office for the Aging**

#### **Monthly Report**

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik entertained questions/comments on her pre-filed monthly report. Receiving none, the Committee moved on to the OFA action items.

### **Request to Apply for BIP Caregivers' Grant**

Ms. Gasdik requested authorization to apply for the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Caregiver Support Program grant. This grant provides caregiver support services to caregivers of care recipients who are dual eligible (Receiving health insurance through Medicaid and Medicare and are receiving one or more services and/or support through the Office for the Aging (Or clients who are waiting for such services). Also serves caregivers of individuals receiving Medicaid Managed Long Term Services and Supports and caregivers of individuals receiving Medicaid. Total Federal Allocation: \$20,000. No County Share. The major benefit of applying for this grant is assisting caregivers of care recipients who are dual eligible in the care of their loved ones, therefore reducing nursing home admissions. OFA was granted approval to apply for this grant, contingent on fixing the typo on the MOE regarding the term of the grant year, on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Request to Fill Cuba Luncheon Center Manager Position**

OFA Director Madeleine Gasdik requested permission to fill the Cuba Luncheon Center Manager (PT, non-union) position which has become vacant as the result of a retirement. The position manages the Cuba Luncheon Center four days per week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The duties are specific to the Cuba Senior Luncheon Center. Without this position, the Center would not be staffed and would need to be closed. Funding for this position is provided by federal dollars (40 percent), County dollars (35 percent) and other [Older American Act Federal Funds and participant contributions—(25 percent)]. Permission to fill the position was granted on a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

#### **Request to Create and Fill a New FT Aging Services Technician Position**

OFA requested permission to create a new position of full-time Aging Services Technician (AFSCME, Grade 13, Step Base) position, effective April 15, 2015. The Federal and NY funded BIP/NY Connects grant allows the Office for the Aging to fund this new position. This position has been budgeted at the full-time level in the 2015 budget. This new Aging Services Technician position will be filled for only as long as the NYS or Federal funding is available. There are no County funds required as the position is 100 percent funded with federal and state dollars. This position will offer information and assistance and person-centered assistance and options counseling to seniors and persons of all ages with disabilities and will assist these individuals and/or their caregivers in public benefits and application assistance. This position is key to operating the new NY Connects/BIP Program. This position serves as single point of entry into the long-term supports and services system for older adults and people with disabilities, avoiding the many frustrations consumers and their families experience when trying to find needed information, services, and supports. Permission to create and fill this position as long as funding is available was granted on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried. **Prepare Resolution/Refer to Ways & Means for Filling of Position**

#### **Request to Create a New FT Community Services Worker Position**

OFA also requested permission to create a new full-time Community Services Worker position effective April 15, 2015. The Federal- and NYS-funded BIP/NY Connects grant allows the Office for the Aging to fund this new position. This position has been budgeted at the FT level in the 2015 budget. This new Community Services Worker position will be filled for only as long as the NYS or Federal funding is available. No County funds are required as the position is 100 percent funded by Federal and State dollars. This position will be responsible for updating and maintaining a comprehensive resource listing of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) programs and providers and will provide outreach on these services and the new BIP Program. This position will complete an initial intake to collect necessary information to determine programmatic eligibility and the needs of the individual and/or caregiver. This position is key to operating the new NY Connects/BIP Program. This position serves as single point of entry into the long-term supports and services system for older adults and people with disabilities, avoiding the many frustrations consumers and their families experience when trying to find needed information, services, and supports. Approval to fill the position for as long as funding is available was granted on a motion by Legislator O'Grady, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried. **Prepare Resolution/Refer to Ways & Means for Filling of Position**

Ms. Gasdik went on to remind the Committee members that the Senior Forum will take place the following day (Thursday, April 2). She confirmed the attendance of several of the Committee members. She also said that the Legislative Lunch has been definitely scheduled for May 8, beginning at 11 a.m. It is currently scheduled to be held at the Belmont Legion, although if the numbers of attendees grow, it may need to be moved. Wally Higgins will be honored with the bestowal of the Congressional Gold Medal for his service to the Civil Air Patrol.

**Health Department—Lori Ballengee****Accept & Appropriate COLA money for Children with Special Health Care Needs**

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee requested a resolution to accept and appropriate COLA (cost of living adjustment) money for the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CWSHCN) Program for the 2015 Budget year, 2014-15; Grant year (April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015).

Appropriations (\$732)

A4054.407 (Health-Children w/ Special Health Care Needs-Office Supplies)	\$613
--	-------

A4010.101 (Health-Regular Pay)	<u>\$119</u>
--------------------------------	--------------

Revenues

A4054.3401.01 (ST Aid-Public Health CWSHCN)	\$732
---	-------

The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

**Attorney/Client Session**

The Committee entered attorney/client session at 4:30 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried. The Committee exited attorney/client session at 4:40 p.m. on a motion by Legislator O’Grady, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried.

**Good of the Order**

Legislator Burt noted that “American Pickers,” a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique “picking” on the History Channel, will be coming to Allegany County in early May. He said he thought this would be a good opportunity for some positive publicity for the County.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board  
Allegany County Board of Legislators