

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MAY 6, 2015**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, D. Fanton, M. Gasdik, T. Hopkins, A. Mattison, T. Miner, B. Riehle, C. Santora, J. Tomasi

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Human Services Committee Chairman Kevin LaForge.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried to approve the Human Services Committee minutes of April 1, 2015.

Department of Social Services

Monthly Report

Department of Social Services Deputy Commissioner Julie Tomasi entertained questions/comments on the DSS pre-filed monthly report. She said that Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant said nothing unusual "jumped out at her" when she reviewed the monthly report. Ms. Tomasi responded to questions regarding hotline calls, saying that anyone can make a call if there seems to be just cause for the allegation. Conversely, if it can be proved that the caller is lying about an allegation, that caller can be charged with a crime because false reporting is a wasteful use of resources. Additionally, she said, people who suspect child abuse and don't report can also be prosecuted. Ms. Tomasi also said that there is a trend for more relative placement than in the past. Part of that can be attributed to the dearth of foster parents, which is a problem across the state. She added that May is Foster Care Month and that a proclamation from NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo will be read at the next Board meeting. The Committee showed its support of the proclamation on a motion made by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Decker, and was carried.

Additionally, there will be a Foster Parents Appreciation Dinner at the end of the month. Finally, Ms. Tomasi said that Harley Wright, a CPS Case Worker had been awarded the Crime Victims' Advocate Award for doing good work with a difficult family.

Office for the Aging

Before Ms. Gasdik began her report, Legislator Burt excused himself from the meeting in order to honor another commitment. Before he left, however, he wanted to go on record saying that in the past, as the mortgage holder of the building in which Meals-on-Wheels is housed, he had recused himself from voting on any related issues. He no longer holds that mortgage and will now be able to participate fully in any vote.

Monthly Report

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik said the new OFA program "Food for Thought" is doing very well. This program joins library books and Meals-on-Wheels deliveries. Nine libraries have joined the program so far, she added. Ms. Gasdik said that nearly all the

staff in her building have been trained to use the AED. She reminded the group that the Legislative Lunch will be held Friday, May 8 and that the Senior Gala will be held on May 30. She introduced Coordinator of Services/Deputy Director Anita Mattison who will be standing in for her at next month's meeting.

Health Department Monthly Report

Ms. Ballengee thanked County Attorney Tom Miner for his help in recovering the security deposit and last month's rent on the closed Alfred, NY, Family Planning Clinic site. May 6-12 is Nurses' Week, she said, so DOH is planning a luncheon for its nurses on Friday. Ms. Ballengee went on to say that at the last Board of Health meeting, the Tobacco Coalition gave a presentation supporting the cessation of cigarette sales in local pharmacies. At a previous Human Services meeting, the consensus was that the Legislature preferred a "hands-off" stance in this matter. However, she has invited the Tobacco Coalition to the June Human Services meeting to give its presentation. Ms. Ballengee would be happy to draft a letter encouraging the local pharmacies to stop selling cigarettes. Legislator LaForge indicated it might be better to wait until after the presentation to take any action. She wanted to let the Committee know that she has begun conversations with Human Resources to consider banning them in and on County facilities and property. She has begun some research regarding the health hazards they pose, which would be the basis for the ban, if one were to be put in place.

Budget Transfer

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee requested that appropriations on the 2015 County Budget be transferred to fund the purchase of an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) System. This EMR is required to comply with the upcoming legislation mandating all prescriptions be electronic. The Amount of \$2,482 should be taken from account A4035.409 (Family Planning-Fees) and be transferred to

A4010.201 (County Health Department-Office Equipment)	\$ 411 and
A4035.201 (Family Planning-Office Equipment)	\$2,071

Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Rent Increase (2.5 percent) for Family Planning Program Facility in Wellsville

DOH noted that per a letter from Barbara Graves, dated April 1, 2015, the County Health Department's rent for the Family Planning facility in Wellsville, New York, will be increased two-and-one-half percent as per the lease agreement with Barbara Graves beginning June 1, 2015. The rent of \$524.83 will now be \$537.95. Approval to continue the lease was granted on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

Opposition to Plan to Close Skill Development Work Centers

Legislator LaForge noted that the State of New York is in the process of phasing out the sheltered workshops, the Arc's, and similar organizations which provide services to people with disabilities. There is a copy in the packet of the Orleans County resolution which they sent to Albany. Legislator LaForge said he would like to see Allegany County prepare a similar resolution and send it to the appropriate people. There was some discussion regarding the impact and ripple effects, both personally for the workers as well as for employers, that would ensue at the closing of these facilities. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried.

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