

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2015**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, H. Budinger, P. Curran, D. Fanton, M. Gasdik, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, A. McGraw, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, N. Ungermann

Media Present: D. Donohue, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m. by Human Services Committee Chairman Kevin LaForge.

Human Services/Office for the Aging

Due to time constraints, the following referrals were considered by Ways & Means prior to the Committee of Jurisdiction.

Request to Fill Bolivar Luncheon Center Manager Position

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik requested permission to fill the Bolivar Luncheon Center Manager (non-union) position in order to continue to run the center three days per week from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Funding for this position is 36 percent County dollars, 39 percent Older American Act Federal Funds, and 25 percent participant contributions. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Request Authorization to Apply for the LTCOP Grant

Ms. Gasdik also requested approval to apply for a grant of \$113,000 to oversee and administer the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) for Region 14 (Allegany & Steuben counties). LTCOP serves as an advocate and resource for persons who live in nursing homes, adult homes, and other licensed residential care facilities. Ombudsman volunteers help residents and their families understand and exercise their rights to quality of care and quality of life. There is no County share required. This grant has been awarded to ACOFA for over 10 years. NYSOFA recently decided to regionalize the statewide program and open the application process as an Open Competitive Grant. During the discussion, Ms. Gasdik indicated that the \$113,000 would allow OFA to run the program which it has run in the past with less funding. She predicts that it will be necessary to hire an Aging Services Technician to run the program. Additionally, she said, there is a 15 percent administrative allowance that will help the Allegany County bottom line. Ms. Gasdik said she expects an answer tomorrow to her inquiry whether the County will be required to sustain the program if grant funding disappears. If that turns out to be the case, OFA will not apply for the grant. Legislator Decker went on record saying this is a commendable program. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

New Business

Ms. Gasdik said that many OFA employees are part-time and often leave with only two weeks' notice. This has OFA scrambling to find Meals-on-Wheels drivers as well as Luncheon Center Managers. She wondered if there were a procedure whereby she could have a "blanket approval" to hire these positions and simply keep the Committee updated on these (transient) hires. Personnel Officer Bobby Budinger said he thought this is possible. Legislator LaForge asked that such language allowing this action be ready for the regular Human Services meeting on June 3.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

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