

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
JUNE 3, 2015**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, R. Anderson, L. Ballengee, M. Gasdik, V. Grant, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, T. Hull, J. Luckey, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:25 p.m. by Human Services Committee Chairman Kevin LaForge.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried to approve the Human Services Committee minutes of May 6 & May 26, 2015.

Appointment to Citizens' Advisory Council to the Office for the Aging

The Chairman of the Board plans to appoint Carole Onoda of Almond, New York, to fill the remainder of Wallace Higgins' three-year appointment expiring December 31, 2016, as a member of the Citizens Advisory Council to the Office for the Aging. In addition, the Chairman also plans to appoint Mary Ann Trice of Wellsville, New York, to fill the remainder of a vacant three-year term as a member of the Citizens Advisory Council to the Office for the Aging, commencing immediately and expiring December 31, 2016. These are both subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators. Approval of the appointments was granted on a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Community Services

Budget Adjustment

Community Services Director Dr. Robert Anderson requested a resolution to accept and appropriate additional state aid as follows:

Allegany Council Clinic

Appropriations Account A4220.457 (Allegany Council Clinic)	\$12,860
Revenue Account A4220.3486.00 (Council on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse)	\$12,860

Allegany Council Community Residence

Appropriations Account A4220.458 (Allegany Council Community Residence)	\$22,258
Revenue Account A4220.3486.00 (Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse)	\$22,258

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

Lease Renewal

Dr. Anderson also requested permission to renew the contract with Timothy and Georgette Hainey of Wellsville, New York, on the current premises (41-45 N. Broad Street, Wellsville), where the offices of Community Services are housed. This is a three-year term,

commencing January 1, 2015, and terminating on December 31, 2017, at a rent of \$2,700 per month. There is an option to renew for three additional years at a rent of \$2,750 per month. The discussion of the lease renewal was opened on a motion by Legislator Decker and seconded by Legislator Burt. Legislator LaForge requested permission to abstain from any vote regarding this issue. His request was granted on a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried. Following the discussion regarding the lease renewal, it was determined that a \$700 jump was too steep, and that Dr. Anderson should go back to try to renegotiate the terms. Thus, the lease renewal was tabled on a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

Department of Social Services

Monthly Report

Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant had no particular comment on her monthly report. She said, however, that DSS had held a successful and well-attended Foster Parent Recognition Dinner at Moonwink's at the end of May. She also told the Committee that June 15 is designated as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and she distributed rubber bracelets commemorating it. Legislator Burt asked for a brief overview of how abuse reporting works and Ms. Grant provided a summary.

Request to Fill Senior Typist Position

Ms. Grant requested permission to fill a Senior Typist (AFSCME, Grade 7, Step min.) vacancy which is the result of a resignation. This position is responsible for performing clerical duties for all programs. The position is funded 50 percent by federal funds, 25 percent local funds, and 25 percent state funds. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Request to Fill Caseworker Position

Ms. Grant also requested permission to fill a Caseworker (AFSCME, Grade 16, Step min.) position. This position became vacant due to a resignation. This position resides in the Services unit and is responsible for ensuring the health, welfare, and safety of children and adults. The position is funded 50 percent by federal funds, 25 percent local funds, and 25 percent state funds. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Approval to Apply for Grant

Ms. Grant also requested authorization to apply for Non-custodial Parent (NCP) Employment Program grant funds to support a court-based referral and compliance monitoring program designed to address underemployment and unemployment among non-custodial parents, promote timely and consistent payment of child support, and improve the financial stability of custodial parents to support better outcomes for their children. DSS already does this on an informal basis. DSS is applying for \$40,000; County share is 10 percent of \$4,000. The fiscal year runs August 1, 2015, through July 31, 2016, with an option to extend an additional two years. Ms. Grant's MOE stated that child support is a critical source of income for custodial families and assists them to become and remain self-sufficient. We have a population of NCPs who struggle to meet their child support obligations and with help accessing training, job skills, parenting skills, and job seeking skills, we may be able to help address the barriers in meeting their child support obligations. This would potentially have all less dependent on government funding. As the discussion progressed, Ms. Grant said the amount she would be asking for, in all probability, would change to somewhere between \$40,000-\$60,000, but the County would

still be responsible for a 10 percent share. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Office for the Aging

Monthly Report

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik told the Committee that the Senior Picnic is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, at the Angelica Fair Grounds from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. She also noted that the Swinging to the Oldies event held the previous Saturday was a great success, raising \$10,000 for the Meals-on-Wheels Program. She added that the elusive RFA (Request for Applications for BIP—Balancing Incentive Program) has finally come out. She said that she had originally asked to apply last year at the June meeting. She added that they have extended the grant which originally was scheduled to end in December of this year, but they extended it another year, so Accountant Vicki Pettit and she are working on revamping the budget. Ms. Gasdik said she would return next month with a request to accept the award.

Health Department

Accept & Appropriate Ebola Funds

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee requested permission to accept and appropriate \$38,000 for the PHEP Ebola Preparedness and Response Activities Grant for the 2015 Budget Year. The Health Department is also requesting that a new Cost Center be established by the Treasurer's Office in .net to account for this grant. The monies should be appropriated as follows:

Revenue	A4188.4401.00 (Fed Aid Public Health – EBOLA - HRI C#5024-01)	\$38,000
Expense	EBOLA – HRI C#5024-01	
	A 4188.201 (Office Equip)	\$ 450
	A 4188.206 (Health Equip)	\$31,143
	A 4188.402 (Mileage/Transportation)	\$ 250
	A 4188.405 (Conference Expense)	\$ 1,500
	A 4188.407 (Office Supplies)	\$ 233
	A 4188.408 (General Supplies)	\$ 2,624
	A 4188.409 (Fees)	<u>\$ 1,800</u>
		\$38,000

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

New Business

Tobacco-Free Coalition Presentation

Guests Jon Chaffee and Ken Dahlgren from the Tobacco-free Coalition distributed literature regarding recent research done regarding e-cigarettes as well as laws being considered (or already put into effect) regarding restrictions on them. They also presented a number of horrifying statistics about e-cigarettes, such as the harmful chemicals that are part of the vapors, the heavy metals found in the atomizers imported from China, the potential for adding other substances to the mixtures used in the e-cigarettes. Because the research into these devices is so new, the perception is that they are less harmful than traditional cigarettes. It is becoming apparent that this is not the case. The other issue that Mssrs. Chaffee and Dahlgren raised was the sale of traditional cigarettes in the "Big Box" drugstores such as Rite-Aid and Walgreens. It has been widely promoted that CVS has willingly decided to stop the sale

of cigarettes in their drug stores. The Tobacco-free Coalition would like to see other pharmacies follow suit, saying that because these products are sold in drug stores, the perception is that they can't be all that bad. Legislator LaForge moved to have the County draft a letter encouraging the local pharmacies to stop the sale of cigarettes. This letter would not be legally binding in any way. That motion was seconded by Legislator Burt. After further discussion, even though several members of the Committee are opposed to smoking and tobacco products, it was determined that users have a right to use such products if they wish, and retailers have the right to sell those products. Hence, the suggestion to draft that letter was tabled on a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. (Opposed: Legislator Pullen). Legislator Pullen commented that because tobacco is a known carcinogen and causes myriad health problems, he would be in favor of restricting its sale because it is the citizenry who pays for the health care of people on Medicaid and Medicare who knowingly and willingly choose to use harmful products. The discussion also turned to the County policy regarding smoking on County premises and in County vehicles. It was determined that the policy should be amended to include e-cigarettes. Ms. Ballengee will work with the Human Resources Office to create a draft of the amended policy to be brought to Committee next month.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 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