

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
JULY 1, 2015**

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

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

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

**Media Present:** No media present

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:50 p.m. by Human Services Committee Vice Chairman David Pullen.

**Amendment & Approval of Minutes**

*Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik noted that there had been a typo in last month's minutes.*

**Under:**

**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.

**July 20 should actually be 29.**

A motion was made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried to approve the Human Services Committee minutes of June 3, 2015, as amended.

**Community Services**

**Lease Renewal**

Dr. Anderson was unable to stay for the meeting, so County Administrator Mitch Alger presented Dr. Anderson's negotiations results per last month's directive (see below for last month's meeting minutes regarding the lease renewal).

***Excerpted from June 3, 2015 Human Services Meeting minutes:***

**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.

Following the Committee's direction, Dr. Anderson entered into negotiations with the landlords, said Mr. Alger, but they did not yield. Mr. Alger noted that in 1993, the rent was \$1,800 per

month, and it remained there until 2008 when it increased to \$2,000 per month. It has remained steady until this year when the landlords sought a \$700 per month increase which the Committee viewed as too steep a jump. Committee members were concerned about setting a precedent with this increase. There was also discussion regarding the location and condition of the premises. County Attorney Tom Miner noted that those conditions suit Dr. Anderson and his clientele and should not be a factor in deciding whether or not to renew the lease. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Crandall, and carried. (Two opposed: Legislators Burt and Decker) However, following that vote, Legislator Pullen called for a roll call vote with the following results: Legislator Pullen: yes; Legislator Burt: no; Legislator Decker: no; Legislator Jessup: yes; Legislator Crandall: yes. Hence, the lease renewal was approved. **Refer to Ways & Means**

## **Department of Social Services**

### **Monthly Report**

Department of Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant entertained questions/comments on her pre-filed monthly report. Legislator Pullen inquired whether she was seeing any trends. Ms. Grant responded that there has been a slight decrease in Temporary Assistance cases, but she is not sure why that is. Also, she said, there has been a 30 percent increase in foster care since last year which is of concern. Additionally, these children are in care longer and there are frequently larger family groups (i.e., several siblings) who need fostering. She said that many of these cases are drug-related. She added that it is often difficult to find foster homes. This trend, however, is not unique to Allegany County; it is statewide she said.

Ms. Grant went on to say DSS had had a meeting with the Buffalo Regional Office on “programming, trends, and how we are doing statistically, and they were pleased mostly with what we did, so that was a good outcome,” she said. DSS also recently had a Solutions Focused meeting with school participation on “ed neglect” (educational neglect) and what can be done between DSS, community agencies, and the schools. This, she said, seemed to go really well. There are some plans going forward, she said, about how DSS can work better with the schools, and help schools understand what DSS needs to do. Ms. Grant said she had just been notified by the State that the managed long-term care transition is going forward, and although DSS had been told it would not happen until 2016, it will begin July 6 (2015). Ms. Grant noted this will cause a huge change in her office in cases and home care situations, nursing home transitions, and that sort of thing. When asked, Ms. Grant explained that managed long-term care is for people who need assistance, whether in a nursing home or at home for 20 days or more. So now, special managed care companies will take over long-term care, and some of that work will be taken away from DSS. After that transition, she said, managed care companies need to do the assessment, and it also has to go through a conflict resolution company for home care assessment. Ms. Grant added that her guess is that services will take much longer to start for a new case that needs that service, because now the State requires two assessments rather than the one that DSS does.

## **Office for the Aging**

### **Monthly Report**

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik entertained questions/comments on her pre-filed monthly report. Receiving none, she noted that May was Older Americans Month and

all the luncheon centers hosted parties during May and recognized volunteers. She also reminded Committee members that the Senior Picnic will be held on July 29, and she requested their RSVPs.

### **Request to Accept and Budget BIP Grant**

OFA requested a resolution to accept a new Federal Grant Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) New York Connects Expansion and Enhancement Program Grant. This grant is to be used in coordination with the NY Connects State Grant. The total funding for this grant is \$223,711, and the program period runs from April 1, 2014, through December 31, 2016 (extended from the previous end date of March 31, 2016). OFA expects to spend \$110,711 of the funding in Fiscal Year 2015 and the remainder of the funding of \$113,000 in 2016. The appropriations and revenue accounts were set up in the 2015 County Budget. A transfer needs to be made to the equipment account for a new server for the OFA (per IT the old one is getting full) for two computer laptops, two desks, two chairs, two small printer/copier/scanners, and a new postage meter.

Transfer

FROM	TO	
A6790.101 (Regular Pay)	A6790.201 (Office Equipment)	\$13,525
(Federal grant revenue # A 11 4772.02)		

Legislator Decker inquired whether or not OFA had checked the third floor for usable furniture. Ms. Gasdik responded that OFA had taken what it could when they moved to their new spot. She also indicated that several of the chairs are unusable. Legislator Burt wondered why unusable items could not be discarded because he is continually "lured" by the thought of viable furnishings going unused. He requested that the Board come up with some sort of ruling saying that no new equipment/furnishings be purchased unless and until what is upstairs is used or disposed of. Public Health Director Lori Ballengee noted that a lot of the items upstairs belong to the Health Department and have been purchased with grant money and thus cannot be disposed of. She is willing to lend the items to other departments as long as she has a record of where the items are located for auditing purposes. Ms. Grant allowed as some of the items belong to DSS. For example, she said, they keep the chairs so they can use parts such as casters when needed. However, other than the third floor, DSS has no place to store them until they are used. It was noted that Clerk of the Board Brenda Riehle has plans to have a summer intern inventory the items on the third floor. Following the discussion, the request to accept the BIP Grant was granted on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Crandall, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Request to Apply for 2014-2015 Direct Care Worker Program**

OFA sought authorization to apply for 2014-2015 Direct Care Worker Program. This provides up to two percent salary and related fringe benefit increases to Luncheon Center Managers and HDM Drivers. Salary increases that took effect on or after January 1, 2013, are eligible to use as a basis for claiming reimbursement. The Board must approve a resolution attesting that the funding received will be used solely to support salary and salary-related fringe benefit increases for direct care staff. There is no County share. A Revenue account number will be established when awarded \$4,432. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Request to Fill Whitesville Luncheon Center Manager**

Ms. Gasdik requested permission to fill the Whitesville Luncheon Center Manager (PT, non-union) position which has become vacant as the result of a retirement. The position manages the Whitesville Luncheon Center three days per week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The duties are specific to the Whitesville 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 (39 percent), County dollars (36 percent) and other [Older American Act Federal Funds and participant contributions—(25 percent)]. Approval to fill the Whitesville Luncheon Center Manager position was granted on a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

#### **Request to Fill Luncheon Center Managers As Needed**

Ms. Gasdik also requested permission to fill the Luncheon Center Manager (PT, non-union) positions which become vacant. The position manages a Senior Luncheon Center in one of the nine towns the OFA has luncheon centers. Without this position, the Center would not be staffed and would need to be closed. Funding for this position is provided by federal dollars (39 percent), County dollars (36 percent) and other [Older American Act Federal Funds and participant contributions—(25 percent)]. Discussion was opened on a motion by Legislator Decker and seconded by Legislator Burt. After some discussion, this was deemed an issue appropriate for the Ways & Means Committee to review because this is a policy issue. Thus, the motion was amended by Legislator Decker, and seconded by Legislator Burt to move this request along to the Ways & Means Committee to consider modifying the policy for filling vacancies at Luncheon Sites and Drivers. The amended motion was carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Subsequently, Legislator Jessup requested that the County Administrator prepare appropriate language Ways & Means Committee members would have something concrete to discuss. Mr. Alger agreed.

#### **Request to Fill Home Delivered Meals Drivers As Needed**

OFA also requested permission to fill MOW drivers as needed. Each driver has his/her own route and must deliver at the same time each day. Without this position, delivery of meals to the area would be almost impossible. The funding breakdown: 24 percent County, 31 percent State, 15 percent Federal, 30 percent other. Because this issue is similar to the Luncheon Center request, it was determined this would also go to Ways & Means as part of the above request. **Refer to Ways & Means**

#### **Accept \$10,000 from Allegany Senior Foundation for our Home Delivered Meals Program and \$2,216 for the Personal Emergency Response Systems**

OFA requested a resolution accepting \$12,216 in donations from the Allegany Senior Foundation: \$10,000 for the Meals-on-Wheels Program and \$2,216 for the Personal Emergency Response Systems (Mercy Line) to low-income elderly persons in need of PERS. The \$10,000 came as a result of a grant written by the Senior Foundation to the United Way, and the \$2,216 came as a result of a grant written by the Senior Foundation to the Alfred-Alfred Station Community Chest.

##### **Increase Expenditure Account**

A6779.474 (OFA-SNAP-Contractor)	\$10,000
A6776.409 (PERS)	\$ 2,216

##### **Increase Revenue Account**

A6779.2801.00 (OFA-SNAP- Local Revenue)	\$10,000
---	----------

A6776.1972.00 (Local Revenue)

\$ 2,216

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

### **Health Department**

#### **Review of Letter Encouraging Pharmacies to Stop Selling Tobacco Products**

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee referred to the sample letter provided by the Anti-Tobacco Coalition encouraging pharmacies to stop selling tobacco products. Discussion regarding referral of the letter to the Board of Health was opened on a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Pullen. This sparked a lively debate among Committee members which included opposition to infringing on retailers' rights to sell whatever legal products they deem worthwhile, to infringing on citizens' rights to make unwise lifestyle choices, to being troubled by the addictive nature of tobacco use. Ms. Ballengee wanted to go on record as saying that she would be remiss if she did not remind Committee members that smoking tobacco also poses risks for others, such as second-hand smoke. Subsequently, Legislator Burt moved to table the letter. That motion was seconded by Legislator Decker. However, the motion was defeated (two in favor of tabling the letter; three against tabling the letter). Thus, the original motion of referring the letter to the Board of Health was carried. (Two opposed: Legislators Burt and Decker) **Refer to Board of Health**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried.

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