

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

November 4, 2015

NOT APPROVED

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

Others Present: M. Alger, R. Anderson, L. Ballengee, D. Fanton, K. Francisco, M. Gasdik, K. Graves, K. Hooker, C. Knapp, B. Riehle, T. Ross, R. Scott, J. Tomasi,

Media Present: No media present.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:06 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 October 7, 2015.

A motion was made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried to approve the Human Services Committee minutes of October 13, 2015.

Health Department

Monthly Report

Director Lori Ballengee reminded everyone about the Board of Health Dinner. If anyone is interested, they should contact Janet Norris.

Legislator LaForge requested there should be a serious discussion on heroin at a future meeting. Ms. Ballengee stated she has spoken with Probation Director Bob Starks, and there is a subcommittee of the Partners for Prevention in Allegany County (PPAC) who are looking to do that. Legislator Decker noted New York State Assemblyman Joe Giglio is the Chairman of the Assembly Minority Task Force. Mr. Decker was able to speak with Assemblyman Giglio recently, and he said there is a corridor across Lake Ontario in Canada to Rochester, New York, and down Route 390 into Painted Post. Ms. Ballengee said she can contact his office to get some resources. Ms. Ballengee stated she heard Olean was another hub as well. Chairman Crandall asked if this is a new "hot" issue, or is it compiling and shifting to this issue. Ms. Ballengee noted heroin has been around for a long time, but it is a huge problem. Legislator LaForge suggested setting time aside at the December Human Services Committee meeting to discuss this issue. Community Services Director Dr. Robert Anderson suggested involving the Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc. (ACASA) Executive Director William Penman because they have direct involvement with the treatment, and have recently conducted surveys. Ms. Ballengee stated she will reach out to the Mr. Penman, and invite him to the next meeting.

Ms. Ballengee stated she sent out an e-mail today regarding the Corporate Compliance document for 2016. It needs to be complete by the end of the year, and noted the form hasn't changed from last year. Members of the Human Services Committee, the Chairman of the Board, and County Administrator Mitch Alger have to complete it because the Human Services Committee was chosen to oversee the Corporate Compliance.

Accept and Appropriate COLA Money for the Family Planning Program

Ms. Ballengee requested a resolution to accept and appropriate COLA money for the Family Planning Program for the 2015 Budget year, grant year of April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016, in the amount of \$13,143 as follows:

Appropriations #	A4035.201	Office Equipment	\$ 2,900
	A4035.414	Rentals: Real Property	\$ 2,743
	A4035.460	Health Contracts	<u>\$ 7,500</u>
		Total:	\$13,143
Revenue #	A4035.3450.00	State Aid–Public Health Other	\$13,143

The funding will be utilized to:

- Cover the cost of the mandatory Diagnostic and Treatment Center audit - \$7,500
- Purchase a desktop computer for the Wellsville clinic site - \$1,000
- Purchase a docking station for the Family Planning Nurse laptop - \$100
- Purchase two Card Readers for the Electronic Medical Record System - \$1,800
- Partially cover the rent cost for the Alfred and Wellsville clinic sites from August through December - \$2,743

Legislator Decker wondered if this is cost-of-living adjustment money why is it going towards equipment, and not going to the employees. He stated he has a real problem with that. Ms. Ballengee reported she can't give the money to employees, they cannot receive bonuses. Legislator Pullen noted they can't change pay or benefits without negotiating with the Union. County Treasurer Terri Ross added it is the program cost-of-living adjustment to provide services. Community Services Director Dr. Robert Anderson agreed. He noted people are used to associating cost-of-living to personnel issues, and it is not. Ms. Ballengee stated it betters the employees' working conditions and situations; it makes their jobs more efficient and easier. Legislator Healy stated he did not want to turn down State money. Legislator Pullen is in favor of getting assistance for the program. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Department of Social Services

Monthly Report

Accountant Julie Tomasi attended on behalf of Commissioner Vicki Grant. Ms. Tomasi distributed an updated monthly report. Legislator Fanton noted there was a large number in the safety net singles category, and wondered how individuals qualify for the service. Ms. Tomasi stated she was unsure, and would have to get more information. Legislator Fanton stated he would ask Ms. Grant.

Permission to Fill Social Welfare Examiner

Ms. Tomasi requested permission to fill a Social Welfare Examiner (AFSCME, Grade 11) position. This vacancy is the result of an anticipated promotion. This position is in the Temporary Assistance unit, and is responsible for interviewing clients, determining eligibility, and administering the appropriate benefits. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Permission to Fill Senior Caseworker

Ms. Tomasi requested permission to fill a temporary Senior Caseworker (AFSCME, Grade 17) position. This vacancy is the result of a medical leave. This position is in the Services Unit, and is responsible for ensuring the health, welfare, and safety of children and families. Legislator Pullen asked what the qualifications are for this position, and if they have current employees eligible for the position. Ms. Tomasi stated they have staff that is eligible, and they have to have two years of experience. She added the scope of the work will be limited, but it will help alleviate the work load of the team. Legislator Pullen thought Federal funds should cover 50 percent of the position, where this position is only covered by 36 percent Federal funds. Ms. Tomasi stated she was not sure if there was a change, or at what point it changed. Legislator Decker asked how long the leave is for. Ms. Tomasi stated up to eight weeks. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Permission to Fill Caseworker

Ms. Tomasi requested permission to fill a temporary Caseworker (AFSCME, Grade 16) position. This vacancy is a result of an extended medical leave. This position is in the Services Unit, and is responsible for ensuring the health, welfare, and safety of children and families. Legislator Pullen asked how long the person will be out on medical leave. Ms. Tomasi stated it is unknown, and it has been a challenge for the team to provide coverage. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Permission to Fill Senior Support Investigator

Ms. Tomasi requested permission to fill a Senior Support Investigator (AFSCME, Grade 16, Step 6) position. This vacancy is a result of a retirement. This position is responsible for supervising eight Support Investigators as well as generic marker testing, overseeing the Non-custodial Parent Employment Program, desk reviews for IV-D pass through, doing reports, and updating manuals. Legislator Decker asked if this would be a promotion from within. Ms. Tomasi stated yes, and that is why they requested a Social Welfare Examiner position. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Office for the Aging**Monthly Report**

Director Madeleine Gasdik reported she received permission to apply for a grant for an Alzheimer's Respite Program, and on Monday they found out they were awarded the grant. She noted it was a large grant that offers support, family counseling, and respite to families who have members with Alzheimer and other forms of dementia. She added it is State Department of Health money, and was in conjunction with seven other counties in Western New York, Catholic Charities, and the Alzheimer's Foundation of Western New York. Ms. Gasdik reported next month, she will request permission to accept the grant, and create and fill a position. Legislator LaForge asked about doing a press release at the appropriate time. Ms. Gasdik responded yes, and they were working on how to announce this.

Ms. Gasdik spoke about a positive collaboration. The Office for the Aging has an Elder Abuse Prevention Program, and they meet monthly to determine how to help the seniors avoid being abused, victimized, and scammed. She noted a few years ago Charlie Dickerson from Department of Social Services, Joy Gilmore from Accord Corporation, and she met with as many banks as they could in the County. They spoke to the tellers about signs of financial

abuse. Recently, a mother and her son were arrested for stealing money from a person they were caring for. She noted it was directly tied to the program they did at the banks. Ms. Gasdik said many times the client does not press charges, but this time the client agreed to press charges. She noted many times it is a family member who is victimizing the person, and they always get Adult Protective Services involved in these cases. Legislator Healy asked if the cases are reported to the police or District Attorney if they don't have the victim's cooperation. Ms. Gasdik stated they always get the police involved. Legislator Healy stated the District Attorney should be notified, because someone else can sign the complaint. Ms. Gasdik said they work with Victim Services through the District Attorney's office. Julie Tomasi from the Department of Social Services added that when Adult Protective Services are involved, they are required to notify the authorities even if the person doesn't want to cooperate, and they work closely with the District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Gasdik said she gave everyone a copy of the *Silver Linings* newsletter. She said currently there is a mailing list of 3,750 names. She was quoted that for \$2,400 more, she can mail it to 21,000 addresses in Allegany County. She is looking for funds to cover the postage, but still thinks it is a good investment. She is hoping to bring more awareness to their programs. Ms. Gasdik also noted on the second to last page there is a place where people can donate, and she hopes it will bring in extra funds.

Permission to Fill MOW's Driver

Ms. Gasdik requested permission to fill a part-time Meals-on-Wheels' Driver (non-union). The position is responsible for delivering meals to homebound seniors. Legislator Pullen asked if they will have a problem filling this position. Ms. Gasdik reported sometimes they have a hard time, other times they don't. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Community Services

Permission to Purchase a Copier and Budget Transfer to Finance the Purchase

Director Dr. Robert Anderson requested permission to purchase a copier that is also a fax machine and printer. He noted the current copier is over thirteen years old. Dr. Anderson received three bids. He is recommending the \$6,286 bid with Acme Business Machines because they currently work with them, and they provide excellent service. As a result, he is also requesting permission to transfer money to cover the cost. Legislator Decker noted that according to the quote, it is not the full-price of the copier because it includes a trade-in discount. Dr. Anderson confirmed that is correct, and added the Secretary for Community Services was able to get Acme Business Machines to reduce their price to \$6,286. Legislator Decker asked if this would impact the account he is moving the money from. Dr. Anderson replied no.

From: A4310.409 – Mental Health Admin. - Fees \$3,500

To: A4310.201 – Mental Health Admin. - Equipment \$3,500

Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Reappointment of Commissioner Vicki Grant

Legislator LaForge invited Department of Social Services Accountant Julie Tomasi to talk about Commissioner Vicki Grant. Ms. Tomasi read a brief prepared statement on behalf of the Department in favor of reappointing Ms. Grant. Legislator Decker asked if Ms. Grant had indicated a desire to continue on as Commissioner. Legislator LaForge stated yes, and added he has had a chance to spend time with her and the Department. He noted he was very impressed, and it is well managed. Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle added it is a five-year term. Approval to reappoint Vicki Grant as Social Services Commissioner to a five-year term effective January 1, 2016, and expiring January 2, 2021, was granted on a motion made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Scott, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators