

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Department of Social Services, Development Court
FEBRUARY 25, 2008
4:45 PM

Present: Chairman Donald Gregorius, Legislators Glenn Noonan, Peter Loughran, Catherine Terrizi

Absent: Legislators Paul Hansut, Jeanette Provenzano, Joseph Stoeckeler, Jr.

Others Present: Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez, Deputy Commissioners Patricia Jelacic and Barbara Sorkin, Youth Bureau Director Krista Barringer, Preschool Director Rita Wood, Temporary Assistance Director Marijane Knudsen, Director Resource Recovery Susan Warman, Mental Health Unit Unit Leader Penelope Lusk, Secretary Elizabeth Hillegas

Chairman Gregorius called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m.

Motion was offered by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Terrizi, and adopted to start the meeting with Executive Session. Executive Session ended at 5:05 p.m.

Resolution: The Commissioner of Social Services requests that the 2008 Ulster County budget be amended to accept \$70,000 in funding from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (NYSOTDA) for the Community Solutions for Transportation (CSTVIII) program for the purpose of helping to meet the transportation needs of individuals eligible for services under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program who are employed or participating in other allowable activities.

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Loughran, and adopted.

Resolution: The Commissioner of Social Services requests that the 2008 Ulster County budget be amended for the purpose of moving funds from the Regular Pay lines to the Personnel Services Agencies Temp lines to allow for payment of salaries for previously approved Manpower Temporary employees in the Accounting and Medicaid Divisions at Ulster County DSS.

Motion offered by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Noonan, and adopted.

Division Overview Presentations: Overview introductions for the following Social Services divisions were completed: Accounting, Coordinated Children's Services, Resource Recovery, and Youth Bureau.

Committee requested that statistics be provided regarding the number of families/ individuals who were able to transition out of Temporary Assistance as a direct result of receiving day care assistance.

The following three resolutions were presented to Committee in order to demonstrate support for the position of New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) on these issues:

1. A resolution urging the State Legislature to oppose the proposed shift of the State's share of public assistance to counties and implement a local share carving out two-parent families from the Federal Work Participation Rate.

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Loughran, and adopted.

2. A resolution urging the State Legislature to oppose the proposed shift of 100 percent of the cost of juvenile detention facilities to counties.

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Terrizi, and adopted.

3. A resolution calling on the Governor and State Legislature to resolve the unique problems faced by county-operated nursing homes due to the upper payment limit cap.

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Terrizi, and adopted.

Commissioner's Report: Deputy Commissioner Jelacic addressed the Fiscal and Safety Net reports.

Preschool Program Therapist Availability: Preschool Programs Director Wood provided an update regarding the therapist shortage, noting possible reasons for shortages and noting proposals to try to increase itinerant contractors.

HEAP Update: Temporary Assistance Director Knudsen provided an update on status of application processing, additional administrative monies, and requested to hire two seasonal Social Welfare Examiners until the end of the 2007/2008 season.

Motion offered by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Terrizi, and adopted to hire two seasonal Social Welfare Examiners for the HEAP program.

2007 Contracts: Commissioner distributed a list of contracts that are still in the process of being ratified; he noted the lengthy approval procedure for contracts.

IKON Copier Purchase: There was a brief discussion regarding the Routing Slip and contract approval for this purchase. Committee requested financial paperwork pertaining to this lease/maintenance contract.

Staff Development Positions: Commissioner stated a need to upgrade this position to a new title, Organizational Development Director, noting that job responsibilities have changed and will include human resources, succession planning, training, quality management functions, and process improvement. There was a brief discussion regarding an upgrade of the Administrative Aide position to Administrative Assistant.

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Terrizi, and adopted to keep and fill the current titles of Staff Development Director and Administrative Aide and if necessary revisit the upgrade requests during the 2009 budget request.

ACCESS Program: Temporary Assistance Director Knudsen provided an update noting that Ulster County Community College and the Department of Social Services are working on understanding and coordinating programming. A State meeting will be held to assist the facilitation of particulars. The Chairman requested to be notified of the date/time/location of meeting. Following the State meeting, the Chairman will schedule a meeting devoted to understanding program guidelines in order to move forward with a contract.

Parking: Again, it has been requested by Department of Social Services neighbors that the “no street parking” of employee vehicles behind the building be respected; employees will be reminded of this informal agreement with neighbors.

Chairman announced the formation of two subcommittees, noting that he would like functions of the Committee and the Department to be transparent: Personnel—responsible to have knowledge of management and provisional vacancies, review resumes, and partake in the interview process; and Finance—to have knowledge of the contract process and will address contractors regarding issues. Legislators Loughran and Noonan have been appointed to the Personnel Subcommittee; Legislators Provenzano and Terrizi have been appointed to the Finance Subcommittee.

Being no further business, motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Loughran, and adopted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Gregorius
Chairman