

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Department of Social Services, Development Court
JANUARY 14, 2008
4:45 PM

Present: Chairman Donald J. Gregorius, Legislators Paul Hansut, Peter M. Loughran, Glenn P. Noonan, Jeanette M. Provenzano, Catherine Terrizzi

Excused Absence: Legislator Joseph P. Stoeckeler, Jr.

Others Present: Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez, Deputy Commissioners Patricia Jelacic and Barbara Sorkin, Fiscal Director Patricia Hinchey, Youth Bureau Director Krista Barringer, Preschool Director Rita Wood, Temporary Assistance Director Marijane Knudsen, Assistant Director for Services Lynn Carlson, Head Attorney Michael Iapoce, Medicaid Unit employees Darlene Breitenstein and Ann Dalluge, Ulster Publishing reporter James Gordon, Secretary Elizabeth Hillegas

Chairman Gregorius called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. by welcoming Committee members and employees. Chairman announced that Legislator Noonan will serve as Deputy Chair of this Committee. Chairman noted that responsibilities of Committee are to set policy, oversee implementation, and provide guidance, with a primary responsibility to service clients. He noted that it is important for Committee to be informed of issues and actions. Subcommittees will be a vital part of accomplishing Committee responsibilities. There was a brief conflict-of-interest discussion regarding individuals who serve as a Department of Social Services client landlord and serve on the Human Development Committee. County Attorney Bea Havranek will be contacted for council on this issue.

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Rodriguez distributed his Fiscal, Safety Net, and Youth Bureau reports, as well as his 2008 budget presentation. Fiscal Director Hinchey addressed the Fiscal and Safety Net reports—Safety Net will be discussed in depth at next Committee meeting; and Youth Bureau Director Barringer addressed the Youth Bureau report noting there are openings on the Youth Board. Committee requested a list of outstanding contracts. For each contract, the list should include the number of overdue days, current location of contract, reason contract is being held, and if services have commenced could there be County liabilities.

Division Overview Presentations: Overview introductions for the following Social Services divisions were completed: Services, Preschool Programs, Legal, and Temporary Assistance. It was noted there is a shortage of therapists participating in Preschool Programs; therefore, Chairman Gregorius stated this Committee will take a proactive approach to researching a solution(s). Preschool Programs Director Wood will report back to Committee with an accounting of steps

that have been taken to eliminate this shortage, viable solution approaches/options, and copy of mandates for understanding options.

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There was a discussion regarding the lack of sex offender housing and affordable client housing. It was noted these particular housing issues place financial and social burdens on the County; and it was suggested that perhaps the State should be addressing sex offender housing. Committee members will contact NYSAC to discuss effective ways to initiate and approach resolution(s) to problems surrounding sex offender housing. The response from NYSAC will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Legislator Discussion: There were brief discussions on conference attendance requests and the New York Connects (OFA/DSS) grant.

Motion offered by Legislature Provenzano, seconded by Legislator Loughran, and adopted to purchase two color printers for the Ulster County Office for Aging/Department of Social Services New York Connects program.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Gregorius
Chairman