

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

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

Others Present: Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez, Deputy Commissioners Patricia Jelacic and Barbara Sorkin, Fiscal Director Patricia Hinchey, Preschool Program Director Rita Wood, League of Women Voters representative Lee Cane, Secretary Elizabeth Hillegas

Chairman Gregorius called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. He informed Committee that County Administrator Michael Hein, Family of Woodstock Director Michael Berg, Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez, and he will be speaking regarding Ulster Winter Watch at the Woodstock Public Library on Saturday, September 27th, 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner's Report: Fiscal Director Hinchey addressed the Fiscal report. There was a discussion regarding the number of children in the Preschool Programs, the types of educational and transportation services they receive, related costs for services, and school district accountability for services the districts recommend. Commissioner Rodriguez will initiate meetings with school district Superintendents and include the County Administrator to discuss levels of services and expenditure controls. Committee discussed the possibility of having a few Committee members attend CPSE meetings.

Fiscal Director Hinchey addressed the Safety Net report. Committee requested Safety Net statistics prior to the next monthly meeting regarding a fiscal breakdown of the monetary reduction for Kingston.

Committee voted to do a memorializing resolution stating the objection of the Committee to the proposed Central Hudson rate hike.

Contact List: Commissioner distributed an updated list of contact names and phone numbers for Department services.

Ulster Winter Watch: Commissioner distributed HEAP flyers and eligibility guidelines. Committee would like a simplified/easy to read chart regarding eligibility. It was noted the eligibility requirements have changed for the 2008/2009 season, and it is expected more residents will be approved for HEAP benefits.

Commissioner presented an update on the following Committee activities by noting activities:

- fuel and monetary donations (protocol developed by United Way for distribution of monetary donations),
- benefit concert,
- fresh produce donations,

- food drives,
- new UCAT transportation routes to accommodate commuters,
- foster homes for pets through ASPCA,
- radio and press spots,
- educational presentations to towns/residents through Cornell Cooperative Extension,
- Red Cross trainings regarding temporary housing,
- HEAP applications will be accepted at Highland, Ellenville, Plattekill, Saugerties, and New Paltz DSS off-site locations to accommodate applicants,
- Social Welfare Examiner cross training regarding HEAP applications has taken place,
- 40-hour work week with the building open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. has been arranged if needed, and
- meeting with Central Hudson to discuss averting last minute utility shut-offs,
- meetings with religious organizations.

Notes of the August 25th Meeting: Motion offered by Legislator Terpening, seconded by Legislator Provenzano, and adopted to accept the notes of the August 25, 2008 meeting.

Open Forum: Status of the Imaging Project along with the use of temporary workers to perform the imaging of records was discussed.

There was a discussion regarding the 11 temporary workers and the \$800 local monthly share cost to County for these workers.

There was a discussion regarding the Committee members' concerns about Medicaid employee turn-over rate, Medicaid high caseload rates, lack of desk space in Medicaid if additional staff were hired, and requesting Medicaid workers to be HEAP cross-trained. Commissioner noted that he will investigate caseloads and process improvements prior to consideration of hiring staff.

It was noted that several Committee members will attend a NYSAC conference during the next month and will report their findings.

Motion offered by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Terrizzi, and adopted to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Gregorius
Chairman

