

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MARTINI, FRAZIER, BASILE, BROCKWAY, OLIVER
February 16, 2021 @ 1:00 pm

This meeting was streamed on Facebook Live and recorded.

Please note the meeting attendance as follows:

Present in person at the Otsego County Office Building Board Chambers,
197 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326:

Samantha Augur, Secretary to the Commissioner

Present remotely via video conference:

Representative Adrienne Martini, Chair

Representative Edwin Frazier

Representative Richard Brockway

Representative Clark Oliver

Commissioner Eve Bouboulis

Director Lisa Grampp

Director Mary Jane Waters

Director Janet Elliott

PT Principal Social Welfare Examiner Deborah Finger

Fiscal Supervisor Cheryl Sparks

Treasurer Allen Ruffles

Representative Jill Basile was unable to attend.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution to renew contract with Emerson Testing, LLC for drug testing services not to exceed \$15,000 for term January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021 was presented. Representative Frazier motioned to approve. Representative Brockway seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,697, absent Basile-339; motion carried. Based on dollar amount of this agreement only HSC approval is required.

Resolution to renew contract with Opportunities for Otsego for Transportation Initiative services not to exceed \$27,370 for term January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021 was presented for approval. Representative Frazier motioned to approve. Representative Oliver seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,697, absent Basile-339; motion carried.

Permission to amend Resolution No. 38-20210106 to reflect that the term of this agreement is January 7, 2021 through December 31, 2025 and the cost is not to exceed \$144,272.10 annually, plus annual increases due to NY State Prevailing Wage Rates, was presented. The original approval was for term January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023 with the possibility of two annual renewals through 2025. However, the resolution does not read that. Representative Frazier motioned to approve amendments. Representative Oliver seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,697, absent Basile-339; motion carried.

FISCAL

Approval to pay NY Public Welfare Association annual dues of \$5,113 was presented. Representative Brockway motioned to approve. Representative Frazier seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,697, absent Basile-339; motion carried.

Commissioner Bouboulis requested approval for the following DSS exemptions to the Spending Freeze:

- Mandated trainings – including meals, mileage and tolls, lodging, and registration fees.
- Legal document/transcript acquisition
- Emergency Travel/meals/mileage/ tolls
- PPE supplies (masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, etc)

Representative Oliver motioned to approve. Representative Brockway seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,697, absent Basile-339; motion carried. The waiver regarding PPE expenditures is approved only if no central department provides such supplies (i.e. Emergency Services or Buildings and Maintenance)

PERSONNEL

Vacancies

Permission to fill the following vacant funded positions were presented with results as follows:

Caseworker #6 Grade 14X to fill effective 04/04/2021. Representative Brockway motioned to approve. Representative Oliver seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,697, absent Basile-339; motion carried.

Social Welfare Examiner #4 Grade 8K to fill effective 03/03/2021. Representative Frazier motioned to approve. Representative Oliver seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,697, absent Basile-339; motion carried.

Senior Social Welfare Examiner #8 Grade 10E to fill effective 03/28/21. Representative Brockway motioned to approve. Representative Frazier seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,697, absent Basile-339; motion carried.

Request to fill the following frozen vacant funded positions were presented with results as follows:

Caseworkers #1 & #3 Grade 14X to unfreeze and fill effective 03/03/2021. Representative Oliver motioned to approve. Representative Martini seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 704-Oliver, Martini; Noes: 993 – Frazier, Brockway; absent-Basile-339; motion denied.

Social Welfare Examiner #1 Grade 8K to unfreeze and fill effective 03/03/2021. Representative Oliver motioned to approve. Representative Martini seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 704-Oliver, Martini; Noes: 993 – Frazier, Brockway; absent-Basile-339; motion denied.

Commissioner Bouboulis stated she will seek sources of funding cuts to allow for hiring of essential staff.

OTHER

Commissioner Bouboulis reminded the committee that ICAN contracted staff are currently at one and the department will notify the committee when ICAN seeks to fill the other two vacancies to serve their contract.

Commissioner Bouboulis informed the committee that NYS OTDA approved a Temporary Assistance waiver on non-parent caregiver cases. The new waiver allows recertifications every 24 months, instead of every 6 months, with some exceptions. A SNAP waiver was also approved. This new waiver allows recertifications at 12 months, instead of every 4, 6 or 12 months, on certain cases.

IT / Phones: Wi-Fi is still a work in progress for the Meadows Office Complex DSS areas. This is necessary for our Fair Hearing equipment. Income Maintenance is getting laptops to learn on prior to seeking telework for their staff if Wi-Fi can be established.

Telework: Currently most staff in Child Welfare are working A/B weeks between office and telework. Accounting/Child Support areas have certain staff on A/B days. This is to assist with acceptable social distancing for a safer work environment. Representative Martini inquired if those working from home use their own Wi-Fi. Commissioner Bouboulis informed the committee many do while others utilize hotspots from cellphones.

Housing:

- Code Blue Plan currently seeking State approval prior to requesting resolutions.
- Crossroads DSS beds are currently full
- The department will be utilizing unused rooms at another motel for supervised visits.

Commissioner Bouboulis will be offering to committee members monthly trainings on Child Welfare.

Burials: All committee members received a copy of Resolution No. 85 of 2007 regarding burial rates paid by DSS, information regarding surrounding counties study and annual burial statistics 2016 - 2020. These will be needed when the committee attends Commissioner Bouboulis' training about burials in March 2021 to prepare updating the 14 year old Board Resolution.

Representative Frazier motioned to adjourn at 1:45pm. Representative Brockway seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,697, absent Basile-339; motion carried