

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MARTINI, FRAZIER, BASILE, BROCKWAY, OLIVER
October 13, 2020 @ 11:00 am

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 Richard Brockway
Representative Clark Oliver
Representative Jill Basile
Commissioner Eve Bouboulis
Director Lisa Grampp
Director Mary Jane Waters
Director Janet Elliott
PT Principal Social Welfare Examiner Deborah Finger
Treasurer Allen Ruffles
Personnel Officer Penny Gentile

RESOLUTION

Resolution to extend contract with S&T Security at a cost not to exceed \$18,372 for the period December 1, 2020 – January 6, 2021 was presented. Representative Basile motioned to approve. Representative Oliver seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes – 1,597, absent - Frazier: 439; motion carried.

Resolution to extend contract with ICAN for one Preventive Coordinator at a cost not to exceed \$7,673 for period December 1, 2020 through January 6, 2021 was presented. Representative Basile motioned to approve. Representative Brockway seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes – 1,597, absent – Frazier: 439; motion carried.

FISCAL

Preliminary Expenditure Reports for August 2020 were presented as follows: Welfare Administration – 47.70%; Records Management – 54.31%; Agency Housing – 39.62%;

and Program – 58.78%. Program – Medical Assistance A6101.547300 was 78.03%. The department requested a budget transfer for \$5,000 to be moved from A6123.547300 Juvenile Delinquent to the Medical Assistance line for this overage. Representative Oliver motioned to approve the budget transfer as presented. Representative Basile seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes – 1,597, absent – Frazier: 439; motion carried.

Commissioner Bouboulis updated the committee on State Reimbursement delays. Reimbursements through the Foster Care Block Grant, money that is allocated to counties for foster care programming, has seen a portion of the reimbursement withheld at this time. The Department will be tracking this as we move forward through the rest of the year.

2021 Proposed Budget: Allen Ruffles had meetings with department heads. Social Services are trying to assure we have the positions we need in the 2021 Budget while remaining in line with what Alan Ruffles is proposing. We are changing positions as we need them. Example: the department currently has permission to fill one of the four Employment and Training Assistant positions when the State lifts the waiver for employment requirements. We will need more than one of these positions when that waiver expires. Therefore we will be shifting monies and positions to meet our needs. The proposed 2021 Budget is identical to the 2020 budget less all of the layoff/abolished positions and other cuts, including MMIS. Representative Martini inquired if DSS will be a part of the new proposed business office. Director Grampp stated we will not be a part of this initially until it fully develops and is running smoothly; 2+ years in the future at best.

The department met with IT and one of the projects they are currently working on is upgrading flip phones to iPhones. Several of our field staff do not have a work cell and our current flip phones are old and obsolete. We will be upgrading with iPhones so staff have smart technology to support their job duties and have hotspots for field work needs. Commissioner Bouboulis will update when costs are determined. Representative Martini supports the upgrading.

PERSONNEL

Trainings were presented to show the committee the costs savings of virtual versus in-person. All were State mandated except *Advanced Staff Development Training – Working in Turbulent Times, Organizational Development in a Trauma Informed Culture*.(cost: \$14.00) Commissioner Bouboulis stated she is mandating this locally under the circumstances of our current times. Martini requested a vote to approve trainings. Martini: Aye; Frazier: absent; Basile: Aye; Brockway: Aye; Oliver: Aye. Total: 2,036; Ayes – 1,597, absent – Frazier: 439; motion carried.

Request to fill Senior Social Welfare Examiner #4 due to promotion was presented for approval. Representative Basile motioned to approve. Representative Oliver seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes – 1,597, absent – Frazier: 439; motion carried.

Request to create Case Supervisor Grade A as it was funded at \$50,045 in the 2020 Budget was requested for approval. This is at the request of the Personnel Department to have a record of this position. Request to create Casework Aides #5, #6, and #7 Grade 5D \$25,815 - \$30,365 [910] (62/24/14) by abolishing said Case Supervisor Grade A was also presented. Representative Oliver motioned to approve all requested create/abolish as presented. Representative Brockway seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes – 1,597, absent – Frazier: 439; motion carried.

2020 GOALS UPDATES

Staffing - Our current staff count is down into the nineties. Approximately 1/3 of staff work from home on alternate days. These are currently Child Welfare staff as they have the equipment and technology to do so at this time. Getting more equipment for Income Maintenance staff so they too can work from home as needed has been discussed with IT.

Housing - DSS, along with the Planning Department and Otsego Rural Housing, are currently working on an Empire State Solutions to Homelessness Initiative (ESSHI) grant due October 19, 2020. The ESSHI grant would be to establish supportive housing offsite of County property. Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) grant funding is for operational and construction type costs which shortly follows ESSHI deadline.

Commissioner Bouboulis stated Erik Scrivener from Planning currently has all RFP responses to move forward getting the geothermal connected for Agency Housing. DSS needs assistance from Planning Department to continue to work on the agency housing project and to create outlets for homeless to establish permanency and reduce costs. The Planning Department is integral to success in DSS projects.

Building Security – The RFPs are anticipated by end of month and we should be able to discuss at our November meeting.

JD/PINS – Commissioner Bouboulis stated that Raise the Age (RTA) should be included in this also. PINS that are placed in residential facilities are no longer funded by the State. This was part of legislative change through Family First Prevention Act and Raise the Age prior to the pandemic

Training for HSC members is scheduled for October 26, 2020.

Representative Basile motioned to adjourn at 11:45am. Representative Brockway seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes – 1,597, absent – Frazier: 439; motion carried.