

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MARTINI, FRAZIER, BASILE, BROCKWAY, OLIVER
November 10, 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 Edwin Frazier
Representative Richard Brockway
Representative Jill Basile
Commissioner Eve Bouboulis
Director Lisa Grampp
Director Mary Jane Waters
Director Janet Elliott
PT Principal Social Welfare Examiner Deborah Finger
Fiscal Manager Cheryl Sparks
Treasurer Allen Ruffles
Personnel Officer Penny Gentile
County Attorney Ellen Coccoma
Director Brian Pokorny

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions for contract renewals, pending the 2021 Budget, were presented for approval:

- Renew contract with Dr. Silverman for Psychological Evaluation services not to exceed \$32,400 for term January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
- Renew contract with Delaware Opportunities for Big Buddies mentoring program not to exceed \$20,000 for term January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
- Renew contract with Opportunities for Otsego for Building Healthy Families program not to exceed \$35,000 for term January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
- Renew contracts with area school districts for in-house caseworkers for term January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

- Renew contract with Community Maternity Services for intensive in-home parent education not to exceed \$58,800 for term January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
Representative Brockway motioned to approve all pending the 2021 Budget. Representative Basile seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,688, absent Clark-348; motion carried

APPROVALS

Renew contract with Opportunities for Otsego for Family Court Children's Center not to exceed \$12,450 for term January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021 was presented for approval pending the 2021 Budget. Representative Frazier motioned to approve pending the 2021 Budget. Representative Brockway seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,688, absent Clark-348; motion carried

FISCAL

Preliminary Expenditure Reports for September 2020 were presented as follows: Welfare Administration – 53.93%; Records Management – 58.24%; Agency Housing – 39.62%; and Program – 65.36%.

Request for 2020 Budget Transfer of \$400,000 from A6109.547300 Family Assistance to A6119.547300 Foster Care was presented for approval. Representative Basile motioned to approve. Representative Brockway seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,688, absent Clark-348; motion carried

PERSONNEL

Trainings

Mandated trainings were presented to show the cost savings of virtual versus live costs. This month a savings of \$1,381 was seen.

Vacancies

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

- Fill Caseworker #7 – Grade 14X \$38,195 - \$45,205 [1,402] (62/24/14)
- Fill Caseworker #9 – Grade 14X \$38,195 - \$45,205 [1,402] (62/24/14)
- Fill Social Welfare Examiner #28 - Grade 8K \$29353 - \$34593 [1048] (50/0/50)

Representative Basile motioned to approve all. Representative Frazier seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,688, absent Clark-348; motion carried

OTHER

Three responses to our RFP for building security have been received. A comparison of the eligible vendors based on cost, insurance, technology and experience were reviewed. S&T Security Inc. was recommended. Both HSC Chair Martini and Representative Frazier supported the recommendation. Administrative Committee review and approval will be sought. Resolution to contract with S&T Security for term January 7, 2021 – December 31, 2023 with the possibility of two annual renewals will be drafted. Prevailing wage increases that may occur annually in July will be included in the resolution draft. Representative Frazier motioned to approve. Representative Basile seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,688, absent Clark-348; motion carried

The Department's Enterprise vehicle fleet is being reduced by 7 vehicles in an effort to reduce costs. We have already started the process on 4 of them at this time.

Income maintenance currently has waivers for employment and training requirements for TA/SNAP recipients through December 31st, 2020. There are other waivers the department may want to seek approval by the state to implement. For example, when relatives are caring for children placed in their home, they can apply for TA to help them provide for the needs of the children. Recertification requirements are required but, there may be an option for that population to complete a recertification every two years with an update questionnaire in the first year instead of yearly recertification. Commissioner Bouboulis will update the committee accordingly.

Due to COVID, we have approximately one-third of Child Welfare staff currently working from home in a rotation. IT is trying to locate more laptops so DSS can expand telework for IM staff. This will save fiscally so that staff with childcare needs and/or are otherwise required to be out of the office, IM staff would also have the option to work from home as opposed to staying home unable to work.

Personnel –Turnover is still a significant problem. DSS would like to see a more expedient process to fill vacancies like in the past. Our most recent vacancy left after only 6 weeks and the Department needs to fill these vacancies more quickly since layoffs occurred. Those leaving within the first 60 days of employment, for example, should be approved timelier (i.e. with Committee approval only).

Housing – DSS is setting up quarterly meetings with Catholic Charities, Crossroads, Family Service Association, Opportunities for Otsego (OFO), and RSS, etc. to discuss a plethora of housing services that will be made available due to the ESG-CV grant awarded for \$250,000.

Code Blue is here, meaning we must house all homeless when the night temperature is 32 degrees or below including the wind chill. A warming station and fund-raising to support it is still being worked on mainly through the Caring for the Homeless Committee. The station would be in the City of Oneonta. This Committee has worked very hard at this project and deserves a great deal of credit.

JD/PINS – DSS is still working through some billing issues with Raise the Age. These bills can be complicated and time consuming as the programming and claiming are still quite new.

Representative Martini thanked Commissioner Bouboulis for the workshop she did with committee members last week. It was very helpful. Commissioner Bouboulis offered to do future workshops for committee members with a variety of topics to discuss. Representative Martini stated she is interested in Medicaid takeover information. Commissioner Bouboulis will send out an email with some dates prior to scheduling.

With no further business to discuss Representative Frazier motioned to adjourn. Representative Brockway seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,688, absent Clark-348; meeting adjourned at 11:30 am