

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
KOUTNIK, KENNEDY, CLARK, LAPIN, MARTINI  
MARCH 14, 2018**

The meeting began at 9:05 am on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room located at 197 Main Street, Cooperstown. Those present were: Representative Gary Koutnik, Committee Chairman; Representatives Margaret Kennedy, Danny Lapin and Adrienne Martini, committee members; Eve Bouboulis, Commissioner; Lisa Grampp, Deputy Commissioner and Director of Administrative Services; Deborah Finger, Director of Income Maintenance; and Mary Jane Waters, Director of Services. Representative Kathleen Clark was behind schedule.

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**APPROVALS/RESOLUTIONS**

Approval to renew contract with Family Resource Network for CCSI services April 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 using FFFS funds not to exceed \$16,503.75 was presented. Representative Kennedy motioned to approve. Representative Martini seconded the motion. Total: 2,233; Ayes: 1,679; absent-Clark: 554; motion carried.

Resolution to proclaim April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Otsego County was presented. Representative Martini motioned to approve. Representative Kennedy seconded the motion. Total: 2,233; Ayes: 1,679; absent-Clark: 554; motion carried.

Resolution to amend Resolution No. 119-20180307 authorizing the Commissioner of Social Services to contract with Securitas USA for security at the Meadows office Complex to include additional language of "Securitas USA may amend contractual costs, including overtime adjustment, based on prevailing wage rate schedule changes for each services year not to exceed the prevailing wage rate schedule for that service year" was presented.

Representative Clark entered the meeting at 9:21 am

Representative Lapin motioned to approve resolution amendment. Representative Martini seconded the motion. Total: 2,233; Ayes: 1,679; abstain-Clark: 554; motion carried.

**FISCAL**

Preliminary January 2018 expenditure reports were presented as follows: Welfare Administration: 0.63%; Records Management: 15.01%; Agency Housing: 0.00% and Program: 6.19%.

Request for approval of a blanket purchase order with Smith Cooperstown, Inc. not to exceed \$12,000 annually for vehicle maintenance, repairs and tires was presented. Discussion was had about ARI rates for non-Enterprise department fleet vehicles. Approval was tabled pending more information about Smith Cooperstown Inc. pricing.

## PERSONNEL

Commissioner Bouboulis informed the committee that the caseworker series regrade has helped retain two staff for now. However, two other vacancies are planned.

The following vacancies were presented for approval with results as follows:

Caseworker #30 – Grade 14 \$35,815 - \$42,380 [1313] (62/24/14); Caseworker #38 – Grade 14 \$35,815 - \$42,380 [1313] (62/24/14); Community Services Worker part-time #2 – Grade 4A \$13.0145 per hr (62/24/14) ; Clerk#18 – Grade 5C \$24,205 – \$28,465 [852] (66/0/34) ; Social Welfare Examiners #3 & #4 – Grade 8K \$27,524 – \$32,429 [981] (0/100/0 & 62/24/14); One Temporary Motor Vehicle Operator – Grade 5R - \$13.5754 per hr (62/24/14); and Two Temporary Caseworkers – Grade 14 - \$20.0869 per hr (62/24/14). Representative Kennedy motioned to approve all. Representative Martini seconded the motion. Total: 2,233; Ayes: 2,233; motion carried.

## OTHER

Director Finger presented information about Work Participation Rates, how they are calculated, how many hours are required each week and what is considered as a countable activity. Current rates for Federal Family Assistance and State Safety Net Assistance are set at 50%. However, Otsego County's Family Assistance rate for 2017 averaged 14.6% and Safety Net rate for 2017 averaged 33.2%. This is due to varying criteria on who is exempt vs. non-exempt from work activities. Example: for the month of May 2017 a total of 34 Family Assistance cases were non-exempt from the participation rate calculations. However, 32 of those individuals were exempt from work participation for reasons ranging from health issues to drug and alcohol addiction and did not meet the required countable monthly hours. Medical/Mental Health providers are required to use a State form to deem individuals employable/unemployable or work limited.

## FISCAL

Principal Account Clerk Typist, Cheryl Sparks, entered the meeting with information from Smith Cooperstown, Inc. Ms. Sparks stated Smith Cooperstown, Inc. informed her they already charge ARI prices without ARI membership fees for County vehicles. Representative Lapin motioned to approve blanket purchase order with Smith Cooperstown, Inc. Representative Martini seconded the motion. Total: 2,233; Ayes: 2,233; motion carried.

Commissioner Bouboulis informed the committee about potential future contract for preventive services to assist with overwhelming caseloads, staff burnout and staff turnover rate. Raise the Age is coming in October 2018 and caseloads will increase. Commissioner Bouboulis would like to do an RFP for these services. Union and labor attorney involvement will also be required before moving forward with a contract. Commissioner Bouboulis will keep the committee informed through the process.

Medicaid (MA) Takeover Update: The State has sent out letters to 118 Otsego County cases informing them their upcoming recertification in June 2018 will need to be done through the exchange. Each month for the next year certain MA cases will be taken over by the State. Exchange information can be found on the department's webpage.

A new mandate for Child Support has been issued. A financial review of all non-custodial parents is now required prior to first court appearance. This is estimated to be 15 to 18 cases each week plus additional 18 DSS only cases each month. These reviews are time consuming will require additional staff, possibly an additional Social Welfare Examiner, to complete. The Federal government gave states one year from February 2017 to comply. This went into effective February 2018. Training from the State is scheduled for March 27, 2018.

A site visit to SUNY Delhi on March 22, 2018 is scheduled to meet with students, staff and partners on agency housing project. Commissioner Bouboulis will email committee information regarding details in case anyone wished to attend.

The next meeting of the Human Services Committee has been scheduled for April 17, 2018 at 9:00 am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room located at 197 Main St., Cooperstown.