

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
KOUTNIK, CLARK, LAPIN, MARTINI, FRAZIER
May 13, 2019

The meeting began at 1:30pm on Monday, May 13, 2019, in the 3rd floor conference room located at 197 Main St., Cooperstown. Those present were: Representative Gary Koutnik, Committee Chairman; Representatives Kathleen Clark, Adrienne Martini, and Edwin Frazier Jr. committee members; Eve Bouboulis, Commissioner. Lisa Grampp Director of Administration; and Mary Jane Waters, Director of Services. Representative Danny Lapin was behind schedule. Deborah Finger, Director of Income Maintenance was excused from attendance.

Representative Kathleen Clark motioned to move into executive session, with the presence of Eve Bouboulis and Lisa Grampp, to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular employee. Representative Martini seconded the motion. Total: 2,045; Ayes: 1,697, absent Lapin: 348; motion carried.

Meeting moved into executive session at 1:33pm

Meeting reconvened at 1:37pm

RESOLUTION

Resolution to proclaim June 15, 2019 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Otsego County was presented. Representative Martini motioned to approve. Representative Clark seconded the motion. Total: 2,045; Ayes: 1,697, absent Lapin: 348; motion carried.

Representative Lapin entered the meeting at 1:40pm

FISCAL

Preliminary expenditure reports for March 2019 were presented as follows: Welfare Administration: 19.81%; Records Management: 26.36%; Agency Housing: 0%; and Program: 19.71%. Line 6010.4648 Food Stamp / Job Search is currently reflecting 46.74%. Director Grampp will be meeting with Director Finger to clarify this overage and a future budget transfer may be needed.

The department currently must have Federal background checks completed for new hires in the Child Support unit that will have access to Federal tax records and parent locator systems. The department would like to use petty cash to have these completed for new hires to save time. This will speed up the hiring process as processing checks through vendor claim take approximately one month. These background checks will not be frequent. Representative Clark asked what other counties are doing. Director Grampp will research this and inform the committee of her findings at our June meeting. Commissioner Bouboulis will be meeting with Matt Ryan and Penny Gentile to determine

future employee needs regarding access to these systems. These background checks cost an estimated \$100 each and are 66% funded through Federal reimbursement.

PERSONNEL

The following non-mandated trainings were presented for approval with results as follows: Cherie Blackwell-Embling, Alaycia Chickerell, Debora Horvath, Christine Lapitan and Brittany Martin-Bond to attend *Substance Use and Family Dynamics* in Albany on June 16, 2019 (total approximate cost: \$664); 20 DSS Staff to attend *Critical thinking Training* at the Meadows Office complex June 27, 2019 (total approximate cost: \$280); and Dale Sherman and Karen Sherman to attend *NY Welfare Fraud Investigators Training Seminar* in Albany June 3rd and 4th, 2019 (total approximate cost: \$603.84). Representative Clark motioned to approve all trainings. Representative Martini seconded the motion. Total: 2,045; Ayes: 2,045, motion carried.

The following vacancies were presented for approval to fill with results as follows: part-time Motor Vehicle Operator #1 – Grade 5R \$14.1940 per hour (62/24/14) and one Temporary Senior Casework up to 6 months – Grade 16D \$22.9669 per hour (62/24/14). Representative Martini motioned to approve filling these vacancies. Representative Lapin seconded the motion. Total: 2,045; Ayes: 2,045, motion carried.

Commissioner Bouboulis informed the committee that Edmeston Central School did not renew their Preventive Caseworker contract for 2019. Also, Oneonta City School based elementary school workers may be funded by an ESPRI extension through March 31, 2020.

OTHER

DISRIP Crossroads Proposal – The owners of Crossroads Inn are submitting a proposal to DISRIP for \$85,000 in funding. This funding requires involvement with a government/non-for-profit entity to access and therefore the Department of Social Services will be the pass-through agency for this proposal. The proposal, if approved will pay for staff to provide case management to clients being housed at the Crossroads Inn. This will also require an amendment to our current contract.

Commissioner Bouboulis attended White Eagle conference last week and learned clients living at the Domestic Violence Shelter will no longer be required to apply for temporary assistance. However, they still can apply if they choose to. The department will be trending DV Shelter expenditures to determine future financial needs. There has been no current news of the State paying in place of temporary assistance funding. Another proposed change is to lift the finger imaging requirement for temporary assistance applicants/recipients. If this passes it would be one less barrier when determining where to place a temporary assistance worker at 242 Main St. in Oneonta.

HOUSING

- 3rd Action Team meeting at Family Services Association 5/14/19

- CARES sub-committee meeting scheduled 6/4/19 to discuss warming stations proposal. These stations can be part of Code Blue proposal in Otsego County Homeless Services Plan if approved by the State.
- Agency Housing – new requirement – if our agency housing is not occupied by July 8, 2019 then they will require State approval before we can use them.

SECURITY

- Building Security – 242 Main: Eve brought to the committee two job descriptions: Security Guard (dated 1970s) and Security Officer (dated 1995). Eve will work on updating a title for future security positions. Also, the decision needs to be made regarding armed vs. unarmed security. HSC requested the Commissioner attend Public Works and Public Safety Committee meetings to determine security expectations.
- Representative Frazier informed the committee that Art Klinger has potential Homeland Security Grant that can fund two magnetometers for 242 Main.
- DA Office would contract for hiring 5 part-time officers to cover the Meadows and 242 Main.

JD/PINS

- Family First Prevention Act – new requirements in multiple child welfare areas.
- We cannot place PINS in care unless we meet exceptions to receive reimbursement.
- State offered transition plan \$30,000 for technical assistance for Family First Prevention Act. Additional expenses for DSS could occur.
- One meeting has occurred with DSS/County Attorney and Probation. Traditionally Probation's agenda is to punish violations, DSS' agenda is rehabilitation. Although, PINS policies are shifting toward rehabilitation.

The next meeting of the Human Services Committee has been scheduled for June 18, 2019 at 1:30pm in the DSS Conference Room located at the Meadows Office Complex.

Representative Ed Frazier motioned to adjourn into executive session to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular employee. Representative Martini seconded the motion. Total: 2,045; Ayes: 2,045; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 2:42 pm