

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MARTINI, FRAZIER, BASILE, BROCKWAY, OLIVER
September 15, 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 Jr.
Representative Richard Brockway
Representative Clark Oliver
Representative Jill Basile
Commissioner Eve Bouboulis
Director Lisa Grampp
Director Janet Elliott
PT Principal Social Welfare Examiner Deborah Finger
Treasurer Allen Ruffles
Personnel Officer Penny Gentile
Principal Account Clerk Typist Jeanie Schneider

RESOLUTION

Resolution to declare the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Otsego County was presented for approval. Representative Oliver motioned to approve. Representative Basile seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 2.036; motion carried.

FISCAL

Preliminary Expenditure Reports for July 2020 were presented as follows: Welfare Administration: 43.05%; Records Management: 50.38%; Agency Housing: 94.12% and Programs: 52.78%. Agency Housing funds have been spent for the Community Center.

Commissioner Bouboulis informed the committee that 20% State reimbursement is still anticipated to be held from counties unless and if they decide to release it later in the year based on Federal stimulus decisions.

Budget update – An austerity budget for 2021, to include the 20% cuts to revenue, has been asked of departments at this time. Individual department meetings are scheduled throughout this week. Commissioner Bouboulis reminded the committee that when our department cuts expenses we must cut the revenue which usually does not show a significant decrease on the overall budget. Treasurer Ruffles stated the goal of the austerity budget is to reduce local costs. The highest of local costs in the department are Medicaid weekly shares (MMIS) which is out of our control and Safety Net. The majority of payments under Safety Net are for single homeless adults. Treasurer Ruffles inquired if the department had any non-mandated services that would reduce costs if cut. Commissioner Bouboulis reminded the committee that departments filled out a survey for the Treasurer back in early July regarding mandated vs non-mandated services and all should have this information already. It included Family Treatment Court and the Child Advocacy Center for examples. Cases still must be served, but the way the programs are set up is not mandated. The Family Children's Center in Family Court is also non-mandated. However, this is 100% Federally funded now, an equal reduction in revenue cut must be made, and families will need childcare when they are required to attend court hearings in person.

PERSONNEL

The following trainings were presented for expenditure approval with results as follows: MJ Waters, Peter Dai, Deborah Puza-Jensen to attend mandated virtual training *CPS In-Service: Crucial Conversations and Critical Thinking* September 15th (total cost: \$42.00); Peter Dai to attend mandated virtual training *Juvenile Detention Automated System (JDAS): Accessing Youth Case Records & Running Reports* September 21st (total cost: \$7.00); Mandy Erwood, Jaclyn Newkerk, Kaitlin Price, and Linda Stager to attend mandated virtual training *Sexual Abuse Dynamics and Intervention* September 30th through October 2nd (total cost: 168.00); Emily Martindale to attend mandated virtual training *Sexual Abuse Dynamics and Intervention* October 7th through 9th (total cost: \$42.00); Mark Owen to attend mandated virtual training *CPS In-Services: Addressing Challenging Client Behaviors* October 6th (total cost: \$14.00); Peter Dai to attend mandated virtual training *Juvenile Detention Automated System (JDAS): Recording Reportable Incidents* October 15th (total cost: \$7.00); Jennifer Moore to attend mandated virtual training *CPS In-Service: Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Disorders Commonly Seen by CPS* October 22nd (total cost: \$14.00); Shawn Bennet and Kaitlyn Forbes to attend mandated virtual training *Child Welfare Foundations Program & Child Protective Services Response Training* September 21st through November 6th (total cost: \$756.00); and Jed Bers, Samantha Bond, and Cheryl Rock to attend mandated virtual training *CPS In-Service: Discussing Mental Health & Substance Use* November 4th (total cost: \$42.00). These trainings, if completed in the classroom, would have had an estimated total cost of \$ 9,701.87. With virtual learning the department will see an estimated savings of

\$8,609.87. Representative Frazier motioned to approve. Representative Basile seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 2,036; motion carried.

VACANCIES

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

Caseworker #16 – Grade 14X \$38,195 - \$45,205 [1402] (62/24/14) Representative Oliver motioned to approve. Representative Basile seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 2,036; motion carried.

Casework Aide #4 – Grade 5D \$25,815 - \$30,365 [910] (62/24/14) Representative Basile motioned to approve. Representative Oliver seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 1,043; Noes: 993; motion carried.

Senior Social Welfare Examiner #2 – Grade 10E \$32,020 – \$37,770 [1150] (62/21/14) and Senior Social Welfare Examiner #5 – Grade 10E \$32,020 – \$37,770 [1150] (50/0/50) Representative Basile motioned to approve. Representative Oliver seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 2,036; motion carried.

Social Welfare Examiner #15 – Grade 8K \$29,353 - \$34,593 [1048] (100/0/0) Representative Oliver motioned to approve. Representative Frazier seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 2,036; motion carried.

Social Welfare Examiner #17 - Grade 8K Grade 8K \$29,353 - \$34,593 [1048] (50/12.5/37.5) Representative Oliver motioned to approve. Representative Brockway seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 2,036; motion carried.

Caseworker #30 – Grade 14X \$38,195 - \$45,205 [1402] (62/24/14) Representative Oliver motioned to approve. Representative Basile seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 2,036; motion carried.

CREATE/FUND/FILL

Create, fund and fill Principal Social Welfare Examiner #5 – Grade 14D \$38,195 - \$45,205 [1402] (66/16/18) and unfund Senior Social Welfare Examiner #9 – Grade 10E \$32,020 – \$37,770 [1150] Funding from the already approved TE Principal for 3 months will be used to fill the gap between the salaries. Representative Oliver motioned to approve. Representative Basile seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 2,036; motion carried.

OTHER

Telephones: Trying to set up office space for IM group to move to 242 Main in Oneonta. If we can move some staff to 242 then we will not build interview spaces at the front of the Meadows. The department is currently seeking any unused telephones any other departments may have. Commissioner Bouboulis will meet Brian Pokorny from IT Department to discuss telephone and computer reorganization/needs.

Building Security – The RFP is out and responses are due by October 1, 2020. Our current contract expires November 30, 2020. Hopefully, we will be able to discuss at next month's meeting.

Income Maintenance: We have received a waiver extension for Temporary Assistance Employment requirements through December 31, 2020. Commissioner Bouboulis is also looking at other waivers that will have a potential impact on the budget. Eve would like to set up information for the committee about these. Essentially it would require less face to face interaction with the public. By doing this we might be able to maintain the lower staff levels we have at this time. However, the public is not getting as much face to face or remote contact with the department or support that way.

Housing: Planning has RFP bids for Agency Housing completion. SUNY Delhi planned to open but there is concern they if cannot build this semester due to COVID. We need to have 5 houses complete and connected to geothermal prior to first snowfall to avoid freezing issues.

We appreciate Deborah Finger's work and all the participants on the Caring for the Homeless committee at Fox. There has been diligent work for about 2 years on getting a warming station in Oneonta. A warming station will give Code Blue eligible individuals a place to go during the colder months. We are seeing an increase in on-call homeless needs in the past few weeks for evening motel placements. Representative Martini asked if this increase was virus or economy related? Difficult to say at this time. Each scenario has been different in need.

Commissioner Bouboulis inquired if committee was interested in more training. Specific topics such as budget were mentioned and if they have other topics of interest let her know. Commissioner Bouboulis will send an email to schedule.

Representative Oliver motioned to adjourn. Representative Basile seconded the motion. Total: 2,036; Ayes: 2,036; meeting adjourned at 12:05pm