

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 25, 2009

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: LaPointe, Henke, Brown, Trinkle, Rymph, Banks, N. Hall

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

SUPERVISORS: G. Hall, Lindsay, Scribner

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Mike Gray, Director Youth Services

Claire Murphy, Director of ADRC/OFA

Kevin Hayes, County Administration

Phyllis Cooper, Treasurer

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Rob York, Director Mental Health

Tammy DeLorme, Commissioner DSS

Dawn MacDougall, Dep. Dir. Veterans

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes – February 25, 2009
- 3) Department Reports/Requests:
 - A) ADRC
 - 1) Nutrition Donation Update
 - 2) State Budget Update
 - B) Mental Health
 - 1) 2009 Budget Amendment – Council for Prevention
 - 2) Unified Services Funding Update
 - C) Social Services
 - 1) State Budget Update
 - 2) Staffing Request – Caseworker
 - 3) Annual Report
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Department Head Evaluation – Commissioner of Dept. of Social Services
- 6) Adjournment

Chairman LaPointe called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2009 meeting was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Henke and adopted.

ADRC - Claire Murphy, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Nutrition Donation Update – Claire distributed a handout, Nutrition Program Income Comparison 2008/2009, attached. She stated they have seen an increase in the meal donations from an average of .79 cents to \$1.53 for the first two months of the year. The total number of meals served is down 25% to 30% due to the reduction in supper bags and frozen meals. She stated the donations for restaurant meals are down. Claire was very pleased with the participation of the Supervisors delivering meals on March 17th.
- State Budget Update – Congregate meals are funded with both federal and state dollars. The federal funding for aging nutrition programs has been increased this year, which will reduce the county's share for congregate meals and home delivered meals. Additional funding will also be coming through Public Health. Regarding the State budget, she has heard that they are looking at restoring cuts that were made in 2008 and looking to increase in 2009. A bill has been introduced in the Senate to make SNAP an entitlement therefore anyone over the

age of 60 who needs a meal who is disabled or has been assessed to need a meal would be entitled to a meal. She does not anticipate this legislation to be enacted but will keep the committee updated.

- Dietician Vacancy – The Dietician in the Office for the Aging has resigned effective Friday. Claire will not be looking for a backfill of that position. The nutrition program regulations state we must have a dietician to do specific things and she will look at not having one on site full time but still meet our needs.

MENTAL HEALTH – Rob York, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- 2009 Budget Amendment – In 2008 NYS OASAS came out with an initiative for gambling prevention and set a goal to establish a gambling prevention coordinator in every county of the state. Mr. York has received an award letter stating Washington County has been awarded \$60,000 for a gambling prevention initiative. He plans to allocate that funding to the Council for Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc. and include the additional \$3,600 in funding anticipated from the NYS Office of Mental Health (100% State funding). Mr. York stated this coordinator' job duties would include going into the schools to work with the kids. A motion to increase the 2009 proposed budget and contract amounts for the Council for Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc. by \$63,600, 100% State funding to flow to the agency for suicide prevention and gambling prevention activities, was moved by Mrs. N. Hall, seconded by Mr. Henke and adopted.
- Unified Services Funding Update – He is hearing that the Assembly is refusing to take up the language change related to this. This unified services funding is written in mental hygiene law and would need to be changed by the legislature to eliminate. The agencies he contracts with are continuing to look to alternative funding streams. Hopefully, the elimination of unified services funding it is off the table but a phase in program is also being looked at in the event the funding changes. Chairman LaPointe asked for a follow up to the survey of what services other counties offer. Mr. York stated he has only received one response to date. Chairman LaPointe would like a final report on this information.

SOCIAL SERVICES – Tammy DeLorme, Commissioner DSS, addressed the following items with the committee:

- State Budget Update – FMAP – fiscal relief to the states through the increase in the federal medical assistance percentage. The first payment for October – December 2008 in the amount of \$564,272.00 was received yesterday. The second payment for January – March 09 should be received within the next two weeks. Beginning April 1st, Tammy stated they are supposed to have a reduced weekly share reducing the amount they have to pay. She has also been told the County should receive more funding for child welfare costs and through the foster care block grant. No new information on the Youth Block grant, the proposal to

blend funding between Youth and DSS. The Governor's proposed budget included moving the local administrative fund into FFFS funding and she is exploring what impact this would have on the County. Because of the increased enrollment in food stamp programs across the State, the State will be receiving increased TANF funding and how the counties can use this funding is yet to be determined. She also expects the agency to receive \$24,279.00 in restored federal matching funds for child support enforcement, more information to follow when available.

- Staffing Request – Caseworker backfill, handout on file. The employee is transferring to Probation for higher wages and a less stressful position. This caseworker is for the Elevated Risk/Family Resolutions Program. There are other caseworkers but only one assigned to this program. Elevated Risk/Family Resolutions is not mandated, but highly regarded as beneficial to the Children Services Programs. The program diverted at least 90 children from foster care placement for a total savings of well over \$571,261.50, per handout on file. A motion to forward to Staffing Review Committee request to backfill caseworker position recommending approval was moved by Mr. Banks and seconded by Mrs. N. Hall. Discussion. Tammy would move someone from within the department and backfill at the entry level. Mrs. Trinkle asked if possibly the department could not backfill the entry-level position if a person moved laterally within the department. Mrs. G. Hall stated we need a plan from DSS before this position is approved. DSS needs to come up with a plan to get through 2009 due to decreased revenues. Mrs. G. Hall stated DSS is about \$2.5M short in the 2008 budget. She also stated last year, DSS also had Group Home monies to use that they do not have in the 2009 budget. The 2009 DSS budget was predicated on the 2008 budget. Tammy is willing to bring information on how many cases per caseworker back to the committee. Lengthy discussion ensued. Tammy will provide additional information prior to the Staffing Review Committee meeting. A motion to forward to Staffing Review request to backfill caseworker position recommending approval was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mrs. N. Hall and adopted on the following roll call vote: AYES (4) LaPointe, Henke, Banks, N. Hall, NOES (3) Brown, Trinkle, Rymph.
- Annual Report – working on final draft.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

DEPARTMENT HEAD EVALUATION – Commissioner Department of Social Services

A motion to enter an executive session to conduct a department head evaluation, Commissioner Department of Social Services was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Mrs. Trinkle and adopted.

The committee adjourned from executive session. No action was taken during the executive session.