

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MARCH 31, 2010

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: LaPointe, Henke, Banks, Pitts, Gordon
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Brown, Watkins

SUPERVISORS: Rymph, Campbell, Lindsay

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Tammy DeLorme, Commissioner DSS

Claire Murphy, Director ADRC

Sam Hall, Director of Veterans Services

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Mike Gray, Youth/Alternative Sentencing Director

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

Joan Tarantino, Natalie Williams – EOC/WIB

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2010
- 3) Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. ADRC/Wash. Co. CARES
 - a. 2010 Travel/Training Requests
 - b. May 2010 – Senior Citizen Month
 - c. Upcoming Events
 - d. Request to Contract Fiscal Intermediary Services – CLP
 - e. Program Updates
 - B. EOC/Employment & Training
 - a. TANF – Summer Youth Information
 - b. WIB Board Member Reappointment – David LaFleur, VESID
 - C. Veterans
 - a. 2010 Annual Travel Plan
 - D. DSS
 - a. Local Medicaid Cost Projection Analysis
 - b. County Car Policy
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Department Head Evaluation – Commissioner of Social Services
- 6) Adjournment

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2010 meeting was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Gordon and adopted.

ADRC/WASH CO CARES: Claire Murphy, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

Upcoming Events – Claire distributed a handout listing upcoming Senior Citizen events, attached.

2010 Travel/Training Requests – Claire distributed a handout detailing training/travel requests for 2010, attached. Two overnight trainings require permission of the committee for overnight stays, National AIRS Conference and NYS Office for the Aging Director's Leadership Training. The attached handout lists several other day travel requests. She stated these requests were submitted and included in the 2010 budget. A motion to approve the requested travel was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Gordon and adopted.

May 2010 – Senior Citizen Month – Claire requested the Chairman of the Board to sign a proclamation designating May 2010 as Senior Citizen Month. A motion to authorize the Chairman to issue a proclamation for May 2010 as Senior Citizen Month was moved by Mr. Banks,

seconded by Mr. Gordon and adopted.

Request to Contract Fiscal Intermediary Services – CLP – Clare requested to hold this agenda item until next month because she is still in the process of developing some of the parameters for the contract.

Program Updates:

Community Living Grant – She stated last year when she addressed this program with the committee stated that this is not a new service but it is providing us with some technical support and training for developing a different way of packaging the services that we have. This is working with peoples individual strengthens and helping them to decide and work through a package of services to meet their needs including things they can provide for themselves. It is really working with people to identify how they can support themselves with their own resources as well as those provided from public funds. This would include: identifying informal supports, problem solving and ways to arrange things to support their needs. The grant allows them to receive technical training from SUNY Albany Center for Excellence for Geriatrics and that training will commence in April through the summer on site. She hopes to implement the program by September. This is a two-year grant and this is the grant that upon implementation in her agency they will begin to be able to contract with the Veterans Administration Medical Centers for the provision of consumer directed services to treat disabled veterans, which will generate revenue.

Transition Care Program – This is being done in conjunction with the Glens Falls Hospital and the Warren and Washington Counties Department of Health, volunteer agencies and the Independent Living Center for the development of what is called the Transitions Care Program. Thirty-five per cent of people discharged from the hospital with chronic disease end up going back to the hospital within 30-days of being discharged. These patients either do not follow up with their primary care physician, do not get the discharge medicine or take them incorrectly or they do not know the warning signs of their disease and end up getting sick and going back to the hospital which increases the cost of care to Medicaid, Medicare and also home care and supportive services. The Glens Falls Hospital and the Public Health departments were working on a grant to have someone go to the patient's home to provide mentoring support to make sure they take their medicine, understood how to take the medicine and have a way back to doctor appointments but the grant expired. During that grant period, they saw a significant decrease in the number of readmissions. The hospital is very interested in developing a continuation of that program and Claire stated they are in the process of developing a pool of volunteers to be trained to provide this service, non-medical services. This all fits into the concept of NY Connect program with ADRC as the center point for referrals and keeping people connected to the services. Claire stated they are in the process of working with the Council of Seniors to develop a pool of volunteers that are locally based to reach out and help people. Kevin stated Public Health has a nurse in the hospital working with patients discharged and asked how this program would relate. Claire stated the people referred to the Transition Care program would not be eligible for Public Health services. The discharge planners for the hospital will be making the referrals to the Transition Care program. Not all patients discharged need the clinical care provided by Public Health but they may need assistance getting to a doctor appointment. Kevin asked why this could not be the Glens Falls volunteer program verses Office for the Aging. Claire stated mostly because how to you make sure you get volunteers to go to Whitehall and Cambridge for example. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, asked why are we running it. Claire stated they are part of the conversation but

they are not running it. She stated who is administrating the program has not been completely set up but she stated the volunteers would be connected through her office. Roger Wickes stated it benefits the hospital in the long run. Claire agreed and added it benefits the community as a whole also. Chairman LaPointe asked if down the road this is going to cost us more money. Claire stated no costs have been identified but the staffs time to direct these referrals. Claire mentioned this program today for the committee's information and no action is required at this time.

EOC/EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING: Natalie Williams, WIB, addressed the following items;

WIB Board Member Reappointment – David LaFleur, VESID (vocational education services for individuals with disabilities). A motion to reappoint David LaFleur, VESID representative, to a three-year term was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted.

TANF – Summer Youth Employment Program Information – For 2009 – 2010, the program served approximately 33 youths in the county with earnings totaling approximately \$43,000 or \$1,300 per participant. The youth worked at a variety of sites in the county. This program provides work experience as well as a variety of readiness workshops. They try to keep them engaged in reading and math over the summer. The TANF program is set to be eliminated in Governor's proposed budget.

Joan Tarantino, Executive Director of the Economic Opportunity Council, gave a brief overview of her office, employment and training department – workforce employment dollars, Head Start, food pantry, transportation program and Weatherization program. They are a not-for-profit agency that the county contracts with.

VETERANS – Sam Hall, Director, addressed the following item:

2010 Annual Travel Plan – Sam informed the committee that the State does provide funding to his department, approximately \$8,250.00, for overall running of the office inclusive of training. Sam distributed and explained the attached Veterans Services annual travel plans for 2010. Three training requests for mandatory training requirements for the Director and Deputy Director totaling \$2,721.00 and included in his 2010 budget. A motion to approve Veteran Services 2010 annual travel requests was moved by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Mr. Banks and adopted.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – Tammy DeLorme, Commissioner, addressed the following items:

Local Medicaid Cost Projection Analysis – Tammy distributed a Medicaid handout prepared by the Kevin Hayes, County Administrator, attached. Kevin also distributed a handout showing how your County tax dollars will be spent in the 2010 budget, attached. Medicaid is largest single expense of the county. The county spends 21.74% of the budget on Medicaid. For Medicaid purposes, 50% is funded by the federal government, 25% by the state and 25% by the county. In 2005, the State capped the local Medicaid cost and Washington County's cap is \$9,255,342. The cap will only increase at 3% yearly. In 2009 with the federal government's stimulus package (FMAP), the federal government's share increased to 56%. The federal share increases if the State's

unemployment rate exceeds 8%. The attached handout projects the local Medicaid cost projections based on three possible scenarios. The IGT funding is the federal government's method of funding nursing home care. Kevin stated we have future budget problems with Medicaid funding coming forth. The good news regarding FMAP is that it was scheduled to end this year but they believe it will be extended until June of 2011. In the best-case scenario, the County will need to come up with \$604,339 in the 2011 budget. It is also thought that the IGT funding for 2010 will come in higher, \$1.8M and overall there will a positive budget variance of \$550,240 for 2010. It is only good news for a little while because in the case 1 scenario with FMAP extended to 6/30/11 and IGT funding eligible for 2011 FMAP funding, the projected 2012 increase is \$1.36M. The state is being told by the federal government that the state distributed the FMAP funding to the counties in a disproportion manner and the feds are telling the state they need to come up with \$700M which means the county will probably be receiving more federal funds, positive to the county. He thinks the state will then be looking to take away some of our funding. He stated the FMAP funding/savings is a one-time windfall and in all likelihood the state will be taking away funding long term. He believes the FMAP will be extended to 6/30/11 and IGT, which is FMAP eligible, will happen as stated in his case 1 scenario. Tammy distributed a handout on how Medicaid dollars are spent locally, Medicaid – Service Expenditures year to date, on file. To qualify for Medicaid, you must have resources of less than \$13,000.

County Vehicle Policy – On Call Overnight – One Car Per Night Driven Home – DSS has one car out per night providing for transportation for the worker on call for child protection coverage. A motion to approve on call vehicle for child protection services worker was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Henke and adopted.

Sex Offenders – Washington County never places homeless families in the same hotel/motel as sex offenders. One motel notified the department that they will no longer accept sex offenders and now there is only one motel/hotel to use in Warren County. There are only two hotels/motels in Washington County that are not in the red zone, Panorama in Hampton and Budget Inn in Whitehall. These sites are remote from services. The Mayor of Glens Falls has sent a letter stating they do not want sex offenders placed at facilities that owe taxes. Chairman LaPointe stated if the taxes are paid or not is not our concern. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, noted that there are 174 registered sex offenders in Washington County.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD EVALUATION – A motion to enter an executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, a Department Head evaluation, Commissioner of Social Services, was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted.

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