

Present: Legislators Stein, Deleo, DeJaneiro, Young. Also Present: Legislators Torrey, Bausch, Davis, Clattenburg, Legislature Clerk LaGrou, County Manager Jay Gsell, DSS Commissioner Eileen Kirkpatrick, Youth Bureau Director Jocelyn Sikorski, Ellery Reaves, Pal Pettit, William Joyce, Daily News Reporter Mallory Diefenbach

Chair Stein called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. The minutes of the August 1, 2016 meeting were approved upon motion of Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator Young carried unanimously.

Chair Stein invited DSS Commissioner Eileen Kirkpatrick to review highlights of the DSS Department report. Mrs. Kirkpatrick referenced the written report submitted previously and further discussed the following: the DSS budget should be "in the black" at year end, the Public Home budget will experience a shortfall. Last year, at this time when the budget was being developed, sale of the Nursing Home was anticipated to occur by July of this year. Since the Nursing Home has not been sold yet, the budget will reflect a shortfall. She mentioned Child Care and the 4 different budget lines that are used to pay for those services. Care placements depend on needed level of services. The current trend is more children require care and more are requiring residential placements. State regulations require the County to place in the least restrictive environment. The majority of programs are mandated by New York State. Personnel costs are on target for the year. While there has been a significant amount of turnover among staff, more is anticipated in the next 12-18 months with potential retirements. Approximately one-third of staff has less than two years' experience in their position. In spite of staff turnover, morale is reported to be good among staff. In addition to the staff chart distributed, Mrs. Kirkpatrick shared a list of residential placements. All identifiable information was omitted to ensure privacy. At present there are 45 foster homes however, more are needed. When the County DSS needs foster home placement and the county Foster Homes are full, an outside agency such as Hillside provides the service but at a higher rate due to administrative fees.

Chair Stein thanked Commissioner Kirkpatrick for her written report and presentation and invited Veterans Service Agency staff William Joyce to present his department review. Mr. Joyce's report reflects an increase in clients from the previous year, nearly double. He stated this is attributed to his good and timely service. He stated that word of mouth among veterans who have sought assistance from him coupled with slow and poor service from other Service Officers is driving the numbers up. He explained that Veterans can go to any Veterans Service Agency, not just the one located in their county or town. He commented that a Veteran is a Veteran regardless of his physical address and he does not turn anyone away. He explained that he is working with Veterans Treatment Court which was established specifically for Veterans. He is not requesting additional staff to man his department therefore his budget will not reflect an increase in personnel costs.

Health Director Paul Pettit explained the need for transportation for Early Intervention and Preschool Supportive Health Services Programming. The contract period is up

however the proposals that were received more expensive. A one-month extension is requested which will allow for current transportation needs to be met. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator DeJaneiro seconded by Legislator Deleo, carried unanimously.

Next, Youth Bureau Executive Director Jocelyn Sikorski explained they received notice of grant funding in the amount of \$88,140 from the Office of Children and Family Services for the Youth Opportunity Program. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Young seconded by Legislator DeJaneiro, carried unanimously.

Next, Community Mental Health Director Ellery Reaves described his request to amend the salary schedule to eliminate one FT secretary grade 9 and create one FT intake clerk grade 7. This was referred to the Ways and Means Committee with the recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Young seconded by Legislator DeJaneiro, carried unanimously.

Mr. Reaves explained the next request to eliminate one specialist-Outpatient Clinic Management –grade 5 and create two-full time supervising social workers grade 20H step 3. There are no additional costs to the County since costs will be offset by State Aid and increased revenue. This was referred to the Ways and Means Committee with the recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

Mr. Reaves explained the next request for a budget and contract amendment with the Mental Health Association due to a COLA from New York State. The COLA does not require a local match therefore there are no additional County costs. This applies to the next two resolutions; GCASA and the Restoration Society. Mental Health Association will receive \$1,735, GCASA \$18,095 and Restoration Society \$39,097. Chair Stein requested language be added to the resolutions that identify the reason for the Budget and contract amendment is due to a COLA from New York State. These were referred to the Ways and Means Committee with the recommendation for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator DeJaneiro seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

County Manager Jay Gsell stated he will continue to share information and update Legislators on movement with the sale of the Nursing Home. Currently, there is no real movement to report.

The Clerk reported the next scheduled meeting of the committee is Monday October 3, 2016 at 4:30 PM. Also, the next Legislature Meeting, scheduled for September 14th will be held at the Oakfield Town Hall on Drake Street in Oakfield.

Chair Stein announced that the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is scheduled to present to the Legislature at 6:00 PM on September 14th immediately following the Legislature meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 PM upon motion of Legislator Young seconded by Legislator Deleo.



Rochelle M. Stein, Chair
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Human Services Committee
Submitted 9-8-16 phl