

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
July 26, 2006
OSWEGO COUNTY BUILDING
4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Present:

Legislators

John Proud, Chairman
Barbara Brown, Vice Chair
Dan Chalifoux
Art Gearsbeck
Paul Santore
Leonard Ponzi

Staff & Others

Kathleen Fenlon, Executive Director, Youth Bureau
Donna Kestner, Director of Veterans' Services
Kathleen Smith, Director of Public Health
Frances Lanigan, Commissioner of Social Serv
Larry Schmidt, Director, Office of the Aging
Jennifer Losurdo, Typist, Youth Bureau
Tammy Thompson, Early Intervention
Pat Egan, Director of Emergency Management

Excused:

Kimberly Seager

Guests:

Russ Johnson, Legislative Chairman
Steve Lyman, County Administrator
Steve Yablonski, Daily News
Charles Mc Chesney , Post Standard

Chairman Proud called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Barbara Brown moved to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2006 meeting. The motion was seconded by Paul Santore, all in favor, motion approved.

1. **YOUTH BUREAU BUDGET MODIFICATION – COPIER LEASE**
Kathleen Fenlon requested approval to lease new copier. Present copier has broken down frequently. Rather than purchasing the present copier, it is recommended that a new copier be leased.

Motion: Legislator Brown

Second: Legislator Santore

Vote: All in favor. Motion Carried.

- 2a. **SOCIAL SERVICES – BUDGET MODIFICATION CPS SPECIAL ALLOCATION REVENUE**

Commissioner Lanigan requested approval to accept additional state aid to local departments to enhance staff to client ratio for CPS cases. Presently, follow-up procedures cannot be done in the required time with existing staff. With the additional state funds, it is requested to hire a new Child Protective Worker, and provide additional hours for existing staff.

Motion: Legislator Brown

Second: Legislator Santore

Vote: All in favor. Motion approved.

2b. **SOCIAL SERVICES – BUDGET MODIFICATION RECORDS
MANAGEMENT GRANT**

Commissioner Lanigan requested approval to accept a grant through the State Education Department for storage units for records management.. The department will purchase new high density moveable storage units in the master file room on the first floor. This will help the proper storage of Child Support and Child Welfare records on the second floor.

Motion: Legislator Brown

Second: Legislator Santore

Vote: All in favor. Motion approved.

Discussion: Legislator Ponzi is concerned with the amount of people coming to the County and going on Social Services, he is concerned why they are not working. Commissioner Lanigan said the case load is not increasing.

3. **HEALTH – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Kathleen Smith requested approval to transfer functions of EMS co-ordination to the Emergency Management Office. The budgeted items will remain in the Health Department. Pat Egan agreed that this transfer will be assumed by her department , as it currently stands, with little difficulty. The Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee has already approved this action.

Motion: Legislator Santore

Second: Legislator Brown

Discussion: Legislator Brown. Kathleen Smith talked about the County Course Sponsorship and the fact that the tuition is reimbursed for all students that pass the courses. Legislator Proud said the plan will tie up loose ends.

Vote: All in favor. Motion approved.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS:

Legislator Gearsbeck is concerned with the Social Services Budget. It goes up every year. He would like to see it cut 5% for 2007. Legislator Gearsbeck made a motion to reduce the Social Services budget by 5% in 2007. Legislator Ponzi agreed that something has to be done to cut this. Steve Lyman talked about what's needed and required for DSS budget. Public Assistance is close to last year. Foster care numbers are up this year .Legislator Proud asked for a second to this motion. There was no second.

3-5 PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tammy Thompson discussed the 3-5 Preschool Special Education Program. Not everyone qualifies for the program. Only children with qualifying disabilities are in the program. She discussed slots available and the fact that cost is going up. She presented two charts that show the numbers of children being served and the costs associated over the past few years.

The School Districts have the authority to determine eligibility and the education plan for the services needed. The County has representation at all CPSE meetings.

Also discussed was the transportation component of the program and the costs. The County pays the bill and State Health pays 59.5% reimbursement.

Legislator Gearsbeck questioned why this isn't under our School Tax? Legislator Brown questioned the increase in the number of children who require special needs when better prenatal care is available for pregnant women.

Larry Schmitt discussed the Farmer's Market coupons for seniors, for vegetables and fruits. This will be starting in approximately a week.

Donna Kestner reported that her department is busy, and indicated that the national threat to veterans from the stolen data seems to have simmered down as the stolen computer has been recovered.

Legislator Brown questioned why Environmental Health is not publishing the rabies cases in the County. She talked about treatments being in public records. She asked for a summary report for the amount of rabies cases in the County.

10:52 Motion to adjourn by Legislator Proud. All in favor.