

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

### No Quorum

FEBRUARY 24, 2010

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Henke, Banks, Watkins

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: LaPointe, Brown, Pitts, Gordon

SUPERVISORS: Campbell

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Tammy DeLorme, Commissioner DSS

Mike Gray, Youth Director

Rob York, Mental Health

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

#### AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2010
- 3) Department Reports/Requests:
  - A. Youth Bureau
    - a. 2009 Annual Report
    - b. Youth Bureau Update
  - B. EOC/Employment & Training
    - a. TANF – Summer Youth Information
  - C. DSS
    - a. Program Updates
    - b. 2010 Budget Amendments
      - i. Intensive Case Services
      - ii. Family Assessment Response Funding (FAR)
      - iii. Safety Net Assistance Project Funding (SNAP)
      - iv. Daycare Funding (ARRA)
      - v. HEAP Funding
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

Mr. Henke opened for discussion, no quorum at 10:20 A.M.

Kevin introduced Pam Wikberg, of HomeFront, who is in the process of writing some grants and seeking county sponsorship. Pam stated HomeFront is in the process of writing three grants to layer on top of each other. The three grants are as follows: HOME grant, AHC grant and a CBG, which can only be awarded to a county. The Home grant is a new initiative to replace a mobile home with a mobile. They have raised the limits per project to \$50,000 per mobile replacement. They are writing the grant to do 15 mobile replacements and 12 rehabs. Some of the mobiles may end up being singles to doubles but that would increase the cost and they would need to layer the grants. They are also going to focus on homes with environmental issues, mold or lead paint. Of the 12 rehabs, she would like to target 8 with an environmental issue, do some lead abatements. They can do septics, floors, windows, update electric in house, roof, heating and foundations but they cannot do appliances. When they do the grants, they put a lien on the home. The Community Block Grant they want to do for the County can only be awarded to a municipality. With that funding they would like to do 25 or do more for layering due to the abatement needs and some need to go from single to double. They may end up putting \$70,000 into a home. She has a list of homes with abatement issues. Their goal with this mobile replacement grant is to sustain the communities where they exist. She feels this will allow them to hit a larger pool of people and allow them to help homes they have not been able to do in the past. They are in the process of identifying homes. This will be countywide. It was stated that they should be looking at hiring local

contractors. She is searching for lead abatement contractors. HomeFront will be paid out of the grant administration funds. The grant is for approximately \$400,000. A committee will be formed consisting of county representatives and members from the community (non-elected). The committee will review the applications listing the needs of the homeowner, the problems, income and household size, but the committee will not know what town or who the individual is. She presented this information today for the committee's information, no action required today. Please let her know if you have any mobiles in need of rehab. The recipients have to be up on their mortgage payments and taxes. Grant funding is not expected until a little after this time next year. She has to have the grant submitted by April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hearings will be required with the County and she is trying to find out the regulations pertaining to the hearings dates, how far apart they have to be. She will report back to the committee next month. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, stated the County will need to sign a contract with HomeFront. The contract will include a clause that will state that liability for environmental issues will be HomeFront's problem.

YOUTH BUREAU – Mike Gray, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Annual Report – Mike distributed the Washington County Youth Bureau 2009 Annual Report, on file. The annual report includes information on the following:
  - What is the Youth Bureau,
  - What programs does the Youth Bureau support,
  - Agency Programs which are monitored/supported through the Youth Bureau,
  - Family Resolution,
  - First Aid/CPR Certification/Recreation Program Staff/Felony Drug Court Staff/Alternative Sentencing Staff/Youth Bureau Staff,
  - Job Corps Facilitation – Meetings/Tours,
  - Collaboration with ACT initiative,
  - Youth Leadership, Summit & Forum,
  - Competency/Life Skills Class/Adventure Day Out,
  - General Equivalency Diploma (GED),
  - 2009 Accomplishments,
  - 2010 Goals,
  - Youth Bureau Budget Information

The State has given the agency \$3,600 less to run the Town/Village recreation programs. The State is also requiring a new computerized reporting system. His office will develop the report and have the towns sign off. The Youth Board also funds other agencies such as Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Youth Bureau Building Bridges Mentoring Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension's Strong Communities/Health Families program, Community Maternity Services, Community Service Program, Fort Edward Historical Association Educational Study program and the Homeless Youth Coalition for the Warren/Washington County Youth Shelter. They are working with Hudson Falls School on a recycling program and working on a green team idea. The net cost to the county for this department was \$58,894.45.

EOC/EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING – Agenda items not addressed.

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

- Program Updates –
  - Indigent Burials – Addressed a change in how they are going to be administrating indigent burials. The funeral homes in our County are satisfied with our operation and this will be a slight change. In the past, if they had an open case Medicaid or temporary assistance claim before the client passed away, they could just issue payment. They were not compliant with regulations using an already open claim for filing payment. They are actually supposed to open a new claim on an indigent burial. They plan to give the funeral homes a supply of forms to fill out for such a client. This will require another step to receive payment. This new procedure will be instituted by April 1<sup>st</sup> and letters will be sent to the funeral homes advising them of this change.
  - Fraud Investigations – A handout was distributed on the Investigation Unit within the agency that investigates fraud cases, attached. This is a unit of three people plus a typist. She noted that DSS is at the bare minimum with staff levels. They are over caseload guidelines in some units/divisions. They also have employees out on stress notes.
- 2010 Budget Amendments: The following budget amendments will be forwarded to the Finance and Personnel Committee for consideration:
  - Intensive Case Services – To increase 2010 budget for Intensive Case Services 4 approved plan in the amount of \$10,322. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year receiving this funding. These funds go to Northeast Career and Planning Services, a pass through for clients with barriers to be employed. This funding is for people with children.
  - Family Assessment Response Funding (FAR) – To increase the 2010 budget to account for the receipt of Family Assessment Response (FAR) funding in the amount of \$12,500. State has funding available for counties in this pilot project. This allows them to purchase items for a family, i.e. cleaning supplies, trash cans, mattresses. This money has been received.
  - Safety Net Assistance Project Funding (SNAP) – To increase the 2010 budget to account for the receipt of Safety Net Assistance Project (SNAP) funding in the amount of \$34,800. This funding is going to Northeast Career Planning working with clients with barriers to be employed but working with single or married with no children clients. This is state aid.
  - Daycare Funding (ARRA) – To increase the 2010 budget to account for the receipt of Daycare subsidy funding provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This is stimulus funding. This allows them to provide more daycare services. They have budgeted for daycare therefore these funds will be placed in the contingency account. She is working on noting on her budget handouts, the monies that are placed in the contingency account.
  - HEAP Funding – To reflect additional HEAP funding for the 2009-2010-program year in the amount of \$140,978. This is additional HEAP administrative funding. They do claim staff against that administrative funding. Staff is already budgeted so

- most will go to contingency with \$4,000 for some additional overtime expenses.
- Article in newspaper regarding housing sex offenders in a motel in Warren County – Washington County DSS does have three sex offenders housed at that location. Currently there are a total of eight either single or families in temporary placement in hotels/motels. Three of them are sex offenders. None of these have been in longer than a month. No families are placed at that motel.

The discussion dissolved at 11:26 A.M.

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