

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
of the ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

DATE: October 14, 1998

TIME: 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Conference Library
Ulster County Building

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Alice Tipp, Robert Aiello, David Donaldson,
Joan Feldmann, Brian Hathaway, Edward Jennings,
Sam Magarelli, Scott Moone and Robert Wilkins
Frank Felicello

OTHERS PRESENT: Terry Breitenstein, Veterans Agency
Celeste Langley and Dallas, Foundation Health Federal
Services
Romey Kelley, Youth Bureau
Beverly Miller, Youth Bureau
Kathy Puglisi, Office for the Aging
Ellen Greczynski, Office for the Aging

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

TERRY BREITENSTEIN - Veterans Agency

Terry introduced Celeste Langley and Dallas. They are with the Foundation Health Federal Services, Irving, Texas. This is the agency that has contracted with the Veterans Agency to put through the new clinic in Ulster County. Terry announced that the clinic will open on Monday, October 19, 1998 and will be located at 63 Hurley Ave.. Terry stated, "this is the Primary Care VA outpatient clinic". On Thursday, October 15th, they will be at the Central Hudson conference room to hold photo ID sessions and enrollment. Approximately 300 Veterans are expected to attend.

At this point Alice asked all committee members to introduce themselves to Celeste & Dallas. Terry, in turn, explained to them the function of the Community Services Committee. He continued by advising the committee that there are about 19,000 Veterans in Ulster County and they are attempting to reach out to all of them to participate in this service. He asked the committee members to help pass the word on to people as this is a needed service for area Veterans. Dave suggested announcing the opening of the clinic on the Public Access Channel. Alice asked Celeste and Dallas to get the information to Bob Aiello to put on the radio station he broadcasts on also.

Celeste then gave a summary of the services that will be available at the clinic and how her agency became involved in it. She explained to the committee that her company and the Veterans agency formed a partnership. They will be heading a Veterans outpatient clinic. It will be good for Veterans, the Veterans Agency and the community. She stated that Foundation Health is the 4th largest publicly traded company in the U.S. and the New York Stock Exchange.

Terry added that this is site specific to Veterans and is not open to any other members of the community. Celeste continued to tell the committee about the sub-contractor involved. They have sub-contracted with a company named Spectrum. Spectrum provides the Doctor (Dr. John Ross) and Nurse and Montrose will provide the Mental Health Component. Terry advised that there is a Pharmacy but it is limited to a 10 day supply. However, a doctor at this clinic could write a prescription that will be filled by Albany and mailed to the Veteran. At certain times prescriptions may also be brought down by the van. Brian asked if there was an emergency room. Celeste replied no. It is strictly primary care. Brian also asked if there were any HMOs involved. Terry replied no. It is still run by the VA rules. In addition, Terry stated, if you utilize the clinic, with the Dr. as your primary Dr., and there is a problem or you need to see a specialist, you will be referred to Albany. Also, follow up routine visits can be done at this clinic, records can be transferred back and forth as the hospital and clinic will both be part of the same system. Terry claimed that the clinic will bring in Veterans from surrounding counties. Discussion followed on the advantages and disadvantages of a Veteran participating in the new clinic. Dave asked how long the contract was for. Celeste answered, 5 years. Alice suggested arranging something with U.C. Rural Transportation. Terry said he was trying to, but there may be problems with the schedules.

At 6:35 Legislator Frank Felicello entered the meeting to ask Celeste a few questions. He asked if any district in the county could use the clinic. Celeste replied yes. Discussion followed regarding the staffing of the clinic. Frank asked of the possibility of a VA hospital closing down. Celeste and Terry both stated that they did not believe this would happen. This was not the purpose of opening this clinic. Albany is still the hospital, while this is a clinic.

Terry then advised the committee that there is no cut off date for enrollment. Celeste stated that you can enroll by phone. The toll free number is 1-800-621-6499. Her pager # is 888-716-0554. November 10th will be open house. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

Terry was dismissed at 6:55.

KATHY PUGLISI - Office for the Aging

Kathy distributed handouts to the committee. She began by telling the committee how she went to Albany to learn about the Grandparent Grant. There will be a meeting at the Lenape School in New Paltz on October 29th. Three more meetings will follow. She then announced that there was a good response to the Annual Hearing. Statistics will be done for the Annual Grant due on December 1st. Kathy reminded the committee that the year of the older person started October 1st. She and John Lawson will be attending a two day training session in Manhattan on Monday, October 18th, and Tuesday, October 19th about Elders of Color. She said that she hopes this will assist the office in reaching out to minority areas of the County as they have been having difficulty showing this population the services that are available to them. Dave suggested approaching the Churches. Kathy stated that she has attempted to. She had a meeting with the Council of Black Minsters, but she has not heard back from them. As the Annual Plan needs to

be sent to the State by December 1st, she would like to include this in the plan. Kathy announced that applications for HEAP will be sent out in the next month. She then advised the committee that the Nutrition Contract will most likely be awarded to Community Action. Although the State found 15 problems with this vendor, she said these are problems that could be cleared up. Dave asked who the bidders were. Prestige at \$5.55 a meal and Community Action at \$5.25 per meal, Kathy replied. Kathy was dismissed at 7:10pm.

ROMEY KELLEY and BEVERLY MILLER - Youth Bureau

Romey brought a Resolution for \$25,000. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services has additional RHYA monies for 1998 expenditures. This money can only be used for RHYA programs. The Resolution is to give these funds to Family of Woodstock. Bob Aiello made the 1st motion to accept, seconded by Dave. All were in favor. Romey had a second Resolution for a \$15,000 transfer from their personnel account to their equipment account so that money will be available to purchase new computer equipment (4 computers and 1 printer). The money is a surplus from the two vacant positions in the office. It is 50% reimbursable. The 1st motion to accept was made by Scott, seconded by Robert Wilkins. Discussion followed regarding the price of the new equipment. Beverly stated that they were told, by Joe Lemme, to move \$15,000 even though they may not need to use the full amount. Alice asked Romey if she had discussed this with Bill Darwak. Romey said yes. Sam asked if the committee could get documentation of the cost before the approval. Scott made a motion to amend his motion to accept upon the approval by the committee of the price quote received. Sam seconded it. Further discussion followed. Alice summarized it: The Resolution to transfer \$15,000 is approved, however, Joe Lemme will need to provide the committee with a copy of the charges. All were in favor. Alice asked Romey if she heard anything further about the Director's position. Romey advised that Albany says that although there will still be a Director, the Executive Law may be changed as far as the chain of command. According to the Executive Law, the Director would report directly to Danny. They are waiting for verification from the State that the Director can now report to Glenn Decker, the Commissioner of Social Services. Dave commented that it should not matter who the Director reports to, if it was decided that a Director is needed, the hiring process should begin. Sam agreed. Scott suggested talking to Danny to attempt to start the process of advertising for the position. The committee talked about writing a letter to Danny to begin advertising the position. Sam suggested checking first with Tom Costello on how start the procedure. Bob Aiello suggested getting Bill Darwak's opinion, as this is an appointed position. Alice agreed that she would check with them the following morning. Joan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Aiello. Meeting adjourned 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Tipp, Chairman
Community Services Committee