

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Community Services Committee  
DATE: October 16, 1997  
TIME: 6:00 PM  
LOCATION: Library, Ulster County Office Building  
LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Alice Tipp, Robert Aiello,  
William Calabrese, Joan Feldmann, Alan  
Lomita, Peter Naccarato, Robert Wilkins  
LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Frank Dart, Richard Gerentine  
OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy Puglisi, Office for the Aging  
Sue McCarthy, Youth Bureau  
Juanita Cinclini, Youth Bureau

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

**Kathy Puglisi, Office for the Aging**

- distributed a brief report for the Committee and a flyer from the LIONS & LIONESSE CLUBS of ULSTER COUNTY regarding Health Fair '97 which will be held at the Hudson Valley Mall on Wednesday, November 19.
- The Public Hearing which was held at the Holiday Inn on October 8 was a success with over 100 seniors in attendance. Met Life provided a continental breakfast and expressed an interest in sponsoring more events. Each program was set up at a separate table where participants could obtain information or comment on the service. Their input will be reviewed and compiled to produce an annual plan which will better serve the needs of our seniors. It was suggested that a radio call-in show on Saturday morning would be helpful. Walter Maxwell will be contacted regarding the possibility.
- The Care-A-Van as of today will have a parking space in the lot in front of the Office for the Aging. All services previously provided will continue to be available. Eye care is presently a funded program with services provided on a sliding scale. The Office will seek a grant to continue the program. The Office will be working with the Lions Club to provide assistance to seniors who need eyeglasses.
- The Office for the Aging is looking into the possibility of recertifying applicants for the HEAP program over the phone. Mailing is costly and time consuming; the savings will make

it possible to extend the program. It is anticipated that the program will be sub-contracted from DSS again this year.

- The NYNEX diffusion grant may provide the Office for the Aging with a third computer.
- The Office for the Aging in conjunction with the Kingston and Benedictine Hospitals and the Ulster County Health Department will be receiving a grant to help combat diabetes. Discussion followed about the high incidence of this disease in this area as well as other diseases such as breast cancer.
- At Bob Wilkins suggestion, Kathy and Cynthia Ruiz met today with seniors in Shandaken. Bob acknowledged that the seniors had a catered service in the past and wanted it to continue. They were resistant to change. Kathy explained that the program had cost \$70,000 a year and she was asked to reduce expenses which has been accomplished under the present operation. Cynthia has been diligently trying to make the service more accessible and "user-friendly". She asked those present to let her know of their concerns. Kathy and Cynthia will meet with the seniors again in a couple of weeks.
- The funding for SNAP (Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program) has been increased. Food for blizzard boxes will be purchased locally wholesale and packed by youth in shoe boxes donated by Marshall's.

#### Sue McCarthy, Youth Bureau

- presented a resolution to transfer eligibility funds from the Village and Town of Saugerties to the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston who will establish a youth center in Saugerties. Pete Naccarato made a motion to approve the resolution, Bob Aiello seconded. The vote was unanimous to approve.
- Sue introduced several resolutions which will approve funding for youth programs in 1998. Funds are provided by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, and in some cases, supplemented by the County. The Program Committee of the Youth Board has met, reviewed the applications and made their recommendations to the full Board. The Board accepted the recommendations. Sue is now seeking approval of the Committee.

The first was for the Special Delinquency Prevention Programs (SDPP). This is 100% State funded. Bill Calabrese made a motion to approve the resolution, Bob Wilkins seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Next to be considered was the funding for Runaway Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs. These programs are funded in part

by the County with restrictions on the percentage of contribution. The Program Committee of the Youth Board had recommended an increase for Family House (Part I) to the maximum permitted. An increase for the Transitional Living program (Part II) was also recommended. The total County-funded increase is \$4028. Bill Calabrese asked Sue to clarify the percentage increases and the difference between Part I and Part II funding. Sue explained the purpose of each program and that their total budget determines the funding. Family of Woodstock operates both programs. Michael Berg, Executive Director, provided a letter to request and justify the increase. The Committee asked about the salaries paid to Family staff. Sue told the group that they were low-paid, but extremely dedicated. The Committee agreed that Family was vital to the community. Bill Calabrese made a motion to approve the resolution and Bob Aiello seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

The final resolution was for programs whose funding source is the Youth Development/Delinquency Program (YDDP). These programs are required to match State funds by 50%. Sue reviewed the charts which had been distributed, explaining some of the changes that were recommended by the Program Committee. She also said the concept papers for new programs had yet to be considered. There were questions on the goals of the programs, both those now funded and those who wish to be.

Bill Calabrese asked about County funding for the Youth Booth. Sue explained that the Youth Booth has been supported by the County because it provides a useful service to youth at the Hudson Valley Mall. The Program Committee had recommended reducing the County share for this program. Discussion followed about the operation of the Youth Booth and whether it still provided the service for which it was originally established. Sue explained that it was a gathering spot for teenagers who visit the mall. There are counselors who can provide advice/referrals. There are pamphlets available on topics of interest to the kids. They can play board games or just meet and chat with their peers. Monitoring reports indicate that the Youth Booth is meeting its stated goals. Sue said the Youth Booth has been moved from its former location in the corridor near the entrance to Sears because the entrance to the mall was closed off and a new store now occupies the space. Pete questioned the 50/50 funding. Sue explained that the Mental Health Association receives \$5442 in funding from the State and \$10,000 from the County (which includes the required match). The Program Committee now seeks to reduce the County share to \$9,000.

Bill Calabrese made a motion that the resolution be approved with the exception of the funding for the Youth Booth. Bob Wilkins seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Bill asked Sue to review the request for funding of the Youth Booth and report her findings at the next meeting. Sue suggested that the Executive Director of MHA, sponsor of the program, be invited to attend the Committee meeting to answer questions. Sue will ask Ellen Pendegar to come.

It should be noted that staffing restrictions limit program visits to once each year. Bill suggested that the Youth Board also visit programs. Sue said this is done.

**Terry Breitenstein, Veterans Service Agency**

- was excused, however, Alice asked everyone to review the information regarding burials for veterans which Terry had distributed at a previous meeting. It will be discussed next time.

Bill Calabrese made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Pete Naccarato. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Alice Tipp, Chairman  
Community Services Committee