

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE

NAME OF COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: March 21, 1996

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Ulster County Office Building, 6th Floor
244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Alice Tipp, Robert Aiello, William Calabrese, Susan Cummings, Frank Dart, Joan Feldman, Richard Gerentine, and Alan Lomita

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: None

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Peter Naccarato

OTHERS PRESENT: Sue McCarthy, Youth Bureau
Terry Breitenstein, Veterans Service Agency
Kathryn Puglisi, Office for the Aging
Barbara Short, Office for the Aging

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Sue McCarthy, Youth Bureau, presented an update on a request for proposals on a grant for a Community Based Family Resource Center. BOCES has agreed to be the lead agency and will write the grant proposal. Kingston and Kerhonkson were identified as target areas for the grant proposal based on the "kids count" from the New York State Division for Youth. The New York State Department of Social Services will evaluate and determine the grant recipients.

Sue McCarthy will be attending the Governor's Conference in April for three days to assist in developing the policies for youth for the year 2000. Ulster County has 2 youths attending from the Boys and Girls Club and 2 adults are needed to attend from Ulster County.

The current Chairman of the Youth Board has resigned, along with 2 other resignations, and there are 5 prospective new members being canvassed and resumes are expected to be submitted soon. The status on this will be updated at the next meeting. Sue Cummings asked about the status of the Denning Youth Program request for summer program youth funds. Mrs. McCarthy responded that in addition to the normal letters sent, the Town of Denning was sent 3 registered letters requesting that they respond by the deadline date for funds and they did not do so until 6 weeks after the deadline. As a consequence, the Youth Board did not approve any funds for them for 1996. They may however reapply for funds in 1997.

Terry Breitenstein, Veterans Service Agency, stated that he has been overwhelmed with the reevaluations in the Town of Ulster and Esopus. In the Town of Ulster impact letters were not received by residents until after the March 1st taxable status date and this has created additional work.

John Reilly, a veterans counselor from the New York State Department of Veterans Affairs, who has worked out of the Ulster County office for years, has been transferred to Auburn. His replacement will only be in the Ulster County office two days a week.

Kathryn Puglisi, Office for the Aging, gave a report on the activities of the office. On February 28th the office in cooperation with the Long Term Care Ombudsman Advisory Council presented a seminar on Operation Restore Trust. ORT is a federal-state partnership to combat fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. About 100 people attended and were very pleased with the seminar.

The response to the rate increases which were enacted for the shopping bus, legal counseling and the ID cards was negligible. The Office for the Aging received only one phone call. Most expressed the sentiment that they thought that it would happen sooner.

Mrs. Puglisi, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Tipp met with Senator Cook in efforts to obtain money for the nutrition program. No response had been received as of today's meeting.

Mrs. Puglisi would be attending a conference on grant writing. The focus was to be on collaboration with other agencies.

Senior Citizen of the Year nominations had been received and would be reviewed by the committee and the winners announced shortly.

The Nutrition Committee has visited all 6 nutrition sites and was preparing a report to the Advisory Council. Currently the home delivered meals program has managed to cut back to 262 meals per day, down from 359. There still was a waiting list of 50 clients needing meals. Case managers assisted in identifying seniors who might be able to be taken off based on medical factors. The Committee is researching the program and hopes to make suggestions about improvements in its operation, cost effectiveness and perhaps lobby for more funding to support the program. The deficit is growing and the number of home delivered meals is increasing. According to an article in the Daily Freeman, a continuing resolution measure adopted last month by the Congress set 1996 funding levels for senior nutrition at only 95 percent of the 1995 funding. This will impact our ability to keep providing meals to our most fragile seniors, those who are homebound and unable to avail themselves of services. How will the County handle this problem? The difference will amount to an approximate \$63,000 shortfall this year at the current rate of expenditure. A meeting is scheduled with Chairman Danny Alfonso, Legislators Phil Sinagra and Alice Tipp, County Administrator William Darwak, John Lawson, Chairman of the Advisory Council's Nutrition Committee, and the Office for the Aging to evaluate this situation and determine how to respond to this dilemma.

March 21, 1996

Mrs. Puglisi will be attending a three day grants writing seminar funded by the National Corporation for Senior Service in East Greenbush. The main focus of the seminar is on collaboration with other agencies.

There being no other business, Sue Cummings made a motion to adjourn, Robert Aiello seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Alice Tipp, Chairman
Community Services Committee