

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: March 17, 1994

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Alice Tipp, Chairman, Susan Cummings, Frank
Dart, George Devine, Brian Hathaway, Richard
Husted, and Frederick Wadnola

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Fawn Tantillo

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Patricia Pine, Office for the Aging
Alice White, Youth Bureau
Barbara Short, Office for the Aging

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Dr. Patricia Pine, Office for the Aging, spoke on the Eye Care Ulster Seniors Program and announced that there would be a Press Conference in the Ulster County Legislature Chambers on March 29 at 3:00 p.m.

The annual evaluation conducted by the New York State Office for the Aging was discussed, and overall Dr. Pine felt that it was a very positive evaluation for Ulster County.

Dr. Pine noted that the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) continues week-by-week. Originally scheduled to "close-down" on March 31, the 1993-1994 season was abruptly terminated by President Clinton on February 11th. Governor Cuomo reinstated it for one week and then another, now indefinitely, probably until March 31, 1994.

The Office for the Aging anticipates that both home delivered meals and the congregate meal program will have financial problems this year. The federal funds have been reduced over the past two years and the State funds have not been increased since 1987. The New York State Association for Area Agencies on Aging is requesting increases in this area. In the meantime, the Ulster County Office for the Aging will watch these expenditures very closely.

Lois Brayton-Dunn and Dr. Pine have been conducting a series of training sessions for the Deputy Sheriffs on communicating with and understanding the elderly. It appears to be very useful to them.

The Governor's Excelsior Program that the county is implementing has had a series of trainings. The self-assessment component will be carried out in the Department of Social Services, Community Mental Health and in the Probation Department. Dr. Pine has been requested to be a Facilitator for one of these teams.

Dr. Pine then mentioned three training/public appearances that will be coming up on radio and local television.

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Alice White, Youth Bureau, announced that it appears as if the Youth Bureau, as well as the funding categories, are slated for at least a 4% cost of living adjustment. The Association of New York State Youth Bureaus is lobbying for restoration to the 1990 level of funding.

The Ulster County Youth Bureau will be conducting its Teen Day on April 9 at the Hudson Valley Mall from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. It has varied offerings for the day, ranging from tables and displays to a scavenger hunt, to teen bands performing and a DJ to provide music and Kareoke. Co-sponsors are the Youth Booth and the Hudson Valley Mall. Kingston Recreation, Woodstock Youth Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Teen Parents, Ulster County Health Department and the Boys' and Girls' Club have all assisted with the planning for this event.

Student Leadership Day is scheduled for April 22 and an agenda was given to all members of the committee. The focus will be on communication skills.

First Quarter reports will be in for 1994 in time to compile information for the April meeting. Alice White will begin on-site visits in April as well.

Alice Tipp distributed a Report from Lucy Honig, Human Relations Commission, along with the 1993 Annual Report. The Commission has received 17 new complaints of discrimination since mid-February.

On March 11 Lucy Honig conducted a workshop on sex discrimination issues to the participants in Ulster BOCES New Ventures Program, which trains women in nontraditional job areas such as welding and computer-assisted design. She has been invited to speak at a public meeting on a similar theme to be held in Woodstock in late April or early May. The Commission has received a copy of the final report of the Governor's Task Force on Sexual Harassment, which makes numerous recommendations on preventing harassment in the workplace. Ms. Honig is in the process of asking other vocational training and adult education programs to collaborate in making workshops and information available to their clients.

Attached to the Human Relations Commission's report was a copy of the form the Commission uses for information on people who are interested in being considered for appointment to the Commission. As discussed at last month's meeting there are three vacancies on the Commission at this time. Members of the committee were advised to feel free to make copies and give to anyone who would like the Legislative leaders to consider them for appointment to the commission.

There being no further business, Susan Cummings made a motion to adjourn, and George Devine seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Tipp, Chairman
Community Services Committee

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