

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE

NAME OF COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
DATE: September 20, 1993
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Ulster County Office Building, 6th Floor
244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York
LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Alice Tipp, Chairman, Diane Baker, Lud
Baumgarten, Lyn Bauer, and Anthony
Crespino
LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Richard Fall and Jim Kelley Smith
LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Roscoe Pecora and Susan Cummings
OTHERS PRESENT: Alice White, Youth Bureau
Barbara Short, Office for the Aging

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Alice White, Youth Bureau presented a breakdown of contract agencies funding recommendations by the Youth Board for 1994. It was noted that the Town of Shandaken had not applied for supplemental program funds for 1994 and the amount designated for them was divided equally between three campership (scholarship) programs: Family's Camp Terra, YMCA scholarship funds, and the Girl Scouts' scholarship funds. A Resolution to enter into contract to distribute the funds as presented in the breakdown was moved by Lud Baumgarten and was seconded by Diane Baker. The financial impact was \$114,297 in State funds and \$10,000 in County funds. County funds are allocated to the Youth Booth.

The Family House and the Transitional Living Program sponsored by Family of Woodstock provides emergency shelter to runaway and homeless youth under the age of 16; provides a transitional living program to homeless youth age 16-21; and provides counseling and related services to any youth and family in crisis. This program was recommended for continued support by the Youth Board. Funds allocated under the State Division For Youth were \$152,864, with \$60,577 in matching county funds. The county match for this program has been capped at this figure since 1989. The total budget for this program is \$833,291. A Resolution to enter into contract to distribute the funds was moved by Diane Baker and seconded by Lyn Bauer.

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Alice White advised the committee that the cost is \$0.90 per gallon for unleaded gasoline, in response to an inquiry at last month's committee meeting. The cost was over-estimated in a recent grant application.

The history of the Serve America Grant was explained and distributed in writing to all members present.

1. SERVE AMERICA, is a category of the Governor's Initiative for Voluntary Excellence or GIVE. The National Community Service Act of 1990 established the Commission on National and Community Service to provide program funds, training, and technical assistance to states and Indian Nations to develop and expand service opportunities with a focus on school-aged youth and young adults. The Act is intended to renew the ethic of civic responsibility by encouraging citizens, regardless of age, income, or ability, to engage in full or part-time service through strengthening and building on the network of existing programs and agencies in communities.
2. States and localities were eligible to apply for these funds. The Governor's Office of Voluntary Service applied for a total of \$7 million dollars to be used in three categories of programs statewide. In 1992 requests for funding were due in late June and focused on designated categories of eligibility. The funding year would go from September 1992 through September 1993.
3. The Ulster County Youth Bureau was eligible to receive funds in the category Serve America. Under this subtitle, funded programs would be sponsored by schools, youth bureaus, and community-based agencies to involve school-aged youth in service to the community.
4. A grant application was developed by the Youth Bureau to submit by the deadline of June 26, 1992. Highlights included: 1) a part time person to be supervised by the Deputy Director to do the proposed project, 2) a part time van driver to provide transportation to program sites for youth (with the cooperation of the Veterans' Services Agency). The proposed Project was a Youth Council (comprised of youth) that would make decisions as to which projects would be done. Members would also be encouraged to be part of volunteer boards as appropriate. Council members would design the projects to be volunteers meeting a need in either their own community or county-wide. The recruitment would focus on the municipal youth centers and/or established programs where youth gathered who might not otherwise be encouraged to be involved in volunteerism,

i.e., Boys' and Girls' Club (both Kingston and Ellenville); Woodstock; Rosendale; New Paltz; Rochester; and Rondout Neighborhood Center.

5. In addition to youth participation it was a goal of the project to link with school districts who have an existing community service curriculum and would be willing to have the youth who worked with us receive school credit for their time (usually 1/2 credit per semester).
6. In early August 1992 we were notified that the Youth Bureau would receive a \$15,000 Serve America Grant to do the project outlined in #4 above. Simultaneously, the Deputy Director of the Youth Bureau gave notice that she would be leaving.

The Director of the Youth Bureau immediately put in a request to fill the vacancy. Given the county fiscal picture the request was for a full time position; 1/2 Deputy Director; 1/2 Serve America Grant. During 1992, there was no permission received to fill the vacancy.

7. In February 1993, after a meeting between Division for Youth, County Administrators, Chairman of the Legislature, Mrs. Tipp, and Alice White, permission was given to hire a part-time coordinator for no more than 15 hours per week/no benefits/by appointment of the Director of the Youth Bureau. Former Deputy Director Susan McCarthy was hired. It should be noted that the project was now starting 5 months late (March 1993 instead of Oct. 1992).
8. In July 1993 while preparing a claim for reimbursement to the State for the Serve America Grant funds that had been expended since March 1993, it was realized that if the project proposal were followed, there was insufficient funds in various lines of the 1993 Youth Bureau budget. All Serve America Grant funds were basically being "held" in Personnel Services under the Deputy Director and were never pro-rated to the appropriate categories. After conferring with the County Administrator, the budget amendment as per the August meeting was put together so that the increases in various line items and the accommodation to pay the van driver would be there prior to the expenses being incurred. The amendment is currently in place.
9. In July 1993 the Youth Bureau submitted a re-application for a second year of funds from Serve America for the \$13,200 limit. Verbal approval has been given. Since the Serve America Grant was included in the 1993 budget, it was also included in the original 1994 budget presented last month.

10. During the month of August an assessment of the project and recurring problems took place. By mutual decision Susan McCarthy will no longer continue with the project.

A topic to follow was identified by youth in both Woodstock and Rosendale. They wanted to provide group activities for younger children from their communities who are on the waiting list to be matched with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

11. Re-hiring potential was discussed with the County Administrator, Legislator Tipp, and the Youth Board. It was decided that the best progress could be made if the money was contracted out to an agency. The Division For Youth had indicated that this is acceptable.
12. The Youth Board, with the recommendation of the Director of the Youth Bureau, agrees that Big Brothers/Big Sisters would be the appropriate agency.

The currently identified project was developed with consultation with the Executive Director of the agency.

They are the best agency in the county to recruit, train, and retain volunteers.

Their influence and services are county-wide.

They want to do the project!

13. Services will have to be contracted for the remainder of 1993 - Oct., Nov., and Dec. and for all of 1994, hence two resolutions. The 1993 Resolution will move \$3,750.00 from the Deputy Director's line to Big Brothers/Big Sisters (represents 1/4 of \$15,000) (only \$3,600 of the original \$15,000 grant has been expended). It was also explained at this time that there are no county funds in accepting the grant monies. Diane Baker moved that the Resolution be accepted to transfer these funds to pay Big Brothers/Big Sisters for the remainder of 1993, and Lud Baumgarten seconded.
14. Monies that were put in the proposed 1994 Youth Bureau budget for the Serve America Grant will be removed. These funds will then be subcontracted to Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

The 1994 Resolution is to subcontract with Big Brothers/Big Sisters for the entire Serve America Grant of \$13,200. Overlaps of fiscal year as opposed to grant year will accommodate for any differences. Lyn Bauer moved to accept the Serve America Grant funds and this was seconded by Diane Baker.

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES for Sept. 20, 1993

Page #5

A written report was passed out to all members from Lucy Honig, Human Relations Commission. The Commission had received 10 complaints of discrimination between Aug. 15th and Sept. 10th, and 2 bias reports. This brought the year to date totals of discrimination complaints to 107 and bias complaints to 24.

A written report from Patricia Pine for the Office for the Aging was distributed to all members, containing a report on gasoline prices and telephone costs as requested at the last meeting. The Ulster Senior Care-A-Van is back on the road after two weeks of transferring the procedures and reporting requirements. The mobile unit is still staffed with the Office for the Aging's LPN, who has been joined by a Registered Nurse (with a Bachelor's Degree) contracted from Ulster Home Care and paid for by Kingston Hospital.

The Public Hearings for the 1994 Annual Implementation Plan were announced and all members were encouraged to attend.

There being no further business, Anthony Crespino moved to adjourn the meeting, Lud Baumgarten seconded and the meeting was closed at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Tipp, Chairman
Community Services Committee

AT:bjs

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