

Social Programs Committee Minutes

December 14, 2010 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Grattidge; Supervisors Barrett, Collyer, Jenkins, Sausville, Veitch, Yepsen, Southworth, and Wright; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Tina Potter, Robert Christopher, Social Services; League of Women Voters; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Press.

Chairman Grattidge called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Sausville the minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Christopher requested a resolution to accept \$109,888 in Prevention/Detention Grant money. This is 100% State funded through the Office of Children and Family Services. The money is received through the Department of Social Services, and is then passed through to the Probation Department. There the money is used to offset salaries and to contract with a family specialist to work with children who are at risk of being placed in detention or a residential treatment facility. This is the third year that the county has received this grant. The first year the grant total was approximately \$236,000, and the second year \$159,000 was received.

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Barrett to approve a Prevention/Detention Grant in the amount of \$109,888. Unanimous.

Mr. Sausville said the Youth Core Program is being cut back, which is a very valuable program that is seeking funding sources. He asked if the Prevention/Detention Grant could be used for that purpose? Mr. Christopher said, he didn't believe so, but he would do more research on it. The purpose of the grant is to prevent children who are, in all likelihood, going to be a juvenile delinquent or PINS from going to court. When they go to court, and are ordered into detention or PINS, it is at a very high cost. The preventive services provide case management work with the children and families, and has been very successful in avoiding placements at a cost of approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000 a year and sometimes more.

Mr. Jenkins asked how many youth are served under the program? Mr. Christopher said there are currently 19 youth involved in the program.

Mr. Collyer asked what age group is served? Mr. Christopher said the program is available to any child up to the age of 17 years.

Mr. Grattidge asked Mr. Christopher to give an update on the impact that the economy is having on the Social Services programs.

Mr. Christopher outlined the following:

Food Stamps – There has been an 87% increase in the number of active individuals since 2007. In 2007 there were 7,891 average active individuals. At the end of November of 2010 there were 14,707.

The caseload has increased 83% for the same period of time with 4,313 in 2007, and 7,804 at the end of November 2010.

The number of dollars that were being disbursed from November 2007 to November 2010 have increased 171%, with \$737,937 in 2007 and \$1,998,533 in November 2010.

Medicaid – For the same time period of November 2007 to November 2010 there have been radical increases with a 32% increase in the number of individuals for a total of 15,957 in 2007 versus 21,039 in November of 2010.

The number of cases has increased 30% with 11,312 in 2007 versus 14,888 in 2010. The total expenditure for Medicaid (federal, state, and local) is \$189 million.

Temporary Assistance – The caseload is relatively steady, which is attributed to the changes in the Unemployment Insurance Benefits, however, there has been a high increase in applications. In 2007 there was an average of 248 compared to the most recent of 431, resulting in a 68% increase.

HEAP – The number of applications in November of 2009 was 1,593, November 2010 2,096 resulting in a 32% increase.

There were 1,297 applications December 2009, with a projection of 1,949 for December of 2010.

In the 2006-2007 HEAP program year \$3.8 million was spent; 2007–2008 \$4.7 million; 2008-2009 \$7.8 million; 2009–2010 \$7.7 million.

On a motion made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Collyer the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom