

## SOCIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING

**May 13, 2008 – 3:15 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Wormuth; Supervisors Daly, Jenkins, Lucia, Richardson, Veitch, Wright; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Bob Christopher, Tina Potter, DSS; Sandra Cross, Aging; Tony Scavone, Employment & Training; Beth Berlin, NYS Office of Children & Family Services; League of Women Voters Reps.; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Wormuth called the meeting to order.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the minutes of the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.

Mrs. Cross distributed copies of a pamphlet, one page overview and a manual on NY Connects, Choices For Long Term Care for Saratoga County. She said the manual is a comprehensive resource guide of long-term care services for the disabled and senior citizens of Saratoga County. She said the intent was for people to call one phone number. We have a partnership with SUNY-Albany that maintains a web page and includes all services that the disabled community might need, she said. She said New York State has given them a grant of \$75,000, and we will be advertising and doing public service announcements about this, she said. This will be in effect June 1<sup>st</sup>, she added. **Mr. Jenkins moved to accept the grant of \$75,000. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.** Mrs. Cross said she will be putting this material in all of the other Supervisors' boxes.

Mr. Christopher distributed copies of a Certificate of Achievement that was presented to the Saratoga County Child Support Staff from Commissioner David A. Hansell, Commissioner of the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, for the 2007 Best Overall Performance. He stated this was for certain categories of collection for all counties of our size, and we were the #1 county in that respect. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row we have won this award, and I am proud of our staff, he said. They are confident, excellent and dedicated, he added. He stated the main benefit from this is that it improves the quality of life for the kids and families of the kids we serve. By making these collections, we are helping to enhance their lives, he said. Another significant thing is the effort we are making to obtain health insurance for the kids and families of the children, he said. He stated 81% of the time, we are successful in obtaining private health insurance for the families. That is a huge savings for the County in replacing Medicaid costs, he said. He said for paternity establishment, we are successful 97.9% of the time; support establishment 96.09%; 86.82% for current collection; and for cases with arrears, we collect on 79.91%.

Mr. Christopher said Commissioner Hansell felt it was warranted that someone from the State department come to this meeting to provide recognition, and he then introduced Beth Berlin, Executive Deputy Counsel. Ms. Berlin she echoes what Mr. Christopher has said, and they recognize the County achievement in these four areas. She stated Saratoga

County is above and beyond the Statewide numbers. I particularly know that it has been a particularly challenging year for the Child Support Program. You have a dedicated staff doing the job in a timely and efficient manner, she said. She displayed the Certificate of Recognition to be given to Mr. Christopher and his staff. Everyone should be quite proud of this, she added.

Mr. Scavone requested a **resolution to accept Federal Workforce Investment Act funds in the amount of \$483,832**. He stated this is for program year 2008 which begins in July. This is an 18% cuts from last year, he said. **Mr. Lucia moved to approve. Mr. Richardson seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Scavone requested a **resolution to accept \$134,191 in TANF/SYP funding**. He said the money comes from the NYS Commissioner of DSS. This is an 18% increase from last year. We will serve 65-70 kids from June 30 – August 24 for 25 hours per week at minimum wage. There are eligibility guidelines, he said. **Mr. Jenkins moved to accept. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Scavone distributed copies of the Saratoga/Warren/Washington Workforce Investment Board Budget, 7/08 – 6/09 in the amount of \$87,797. He stated WIB is a 39-member board of three counties. Each year, they have to establish a budget to support the Executive Director position. He stated this is the budget approved by WIB this year which is a 5% increase over last year, however, our costs actually went down. Mr. Jenkins asked what their marketing plan was. Mr. Scavone said a website and maintenance of it and some advertising. **Mr. Lucia moved to approve this budget. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Scavone stated each year, they have a contract with Adirondack Community College (ACC) because our WIB Director is an employee of ACC. This year's contract is for \$77,297 which is a 6% increase. (Breakdown of this budget on the same handout as the WIB budget). This is a shared cost with the other two counties, he said. **Ms. Daly moved to approve this budget. Mr. Richardson seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Scavone requested a **resolution to approve the contract with Cooperative Extension to operate the youth program at a cost of \$35,000**. He said they have had this for 8 years. They will work with high schoolers and kids who have dropped out of school, and they have to be economically disadvantaged. A case manager works with the kids, he said. If they are in school, they try to keep them in school and teach them job skills and other skills they would need. Cooperative Extension is planning to supplement this with other funding, he said. Ms. Daly asked if they do anything with children with special needs or with disabilities. Mr. Scavone said nothing serious. Ms. Daly asked Mr. Scavone if any work is done in his department with this population or with these kids transitioning out of school. Mr. Scavone stated they have the Disability Program Navigator who works with the special population. **Mr. Lucia moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Richardson seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Scavone requested a **resolution to accept \$30,000 for a contract with Columbia Greene Community College to operate an internship program.** He said this is a new program, and their workforce area and ours will do this jointly. Each county will get \$10,000 to help offset whatever costs there are in trying to work with 16 – 25 year olds to place them in private sector jobs. He said this is new and is potentially renewable. This funding could come again next year, he said. **Mr. Veitch moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.**

In discussing the WIB Director retirement benefit, Mr. Scavone said this year, ACC needs us to modify the existing contract by \$1,100. The Director can then go out and purchase his own retirement benefit. There is no change in the contract; it's just moving money around. It was the consensus of the Committee to approve this budget amendment (Committee approval only).

On a motion by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Lucia, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann