

SOCIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING

May 12, 2009 – 3:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Sausville; Supervisors Jenkins, Lucia, Raymond, Southworth, Veitch, Wormuth; Wright; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Tony Scavone, Employment & Training; Bob Christopher, Tina Potter, Patrick Maxwell, Social Services; LWV Rep.

Chairman Sausville called the meeting to order.

On a motion by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Ms. Southworth, the minutes of the meeting of April 14th were approved unanimously.

Mr. Scavone distributed copies of the Saratoga/Warren/Washington Workforce Investment Board System Budget for 7/1/09 – 6/30/10. He said \$88,467 funds a new administrative position for that program.

Mr. Scavone stated the State requires each local area to have a Workforce Investment Board (WIB), and we have 39 members appointed by the three counties. We have one person who does the work, and this budget supports that position, he said. He said the WIB voted on this budget back in March. Saratoga County's share is a maximum of \$14,507, and the two other counties pay into this budget. This is all federally funded, he said. **Ms. Wormuth moved to approve this budget. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Scavone said in order to pay this Executive Director, he is on the Adirondack Community College payroll, and we contract with ACC. He stated the contract amount is \$79,467. **Ms. Raymond moved to authorize this agreement renewal. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Scavone requested an agreement renewal with Cornell Cooperative Extension for training youngsters with skills for employment. We have had this agreement since 2000, he said. They have one staff person who works with kids on GED's, study skills, interviewing skills, homework, etc. He said it is like a mentoring service for these kids. He stated the agreement period is 7/1/09 – 6/30/10 for \$35,000. **Mr. Lucia moved to authorize this agreement renewal. Ms. Wormuth seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Scavone stated they are still recruiting for the Summer Youth Employment Program. We will have about 100 kids this year, and so far, we have 225 applications, he said. He said the counselors have started meeting with the kids. Ms. Raymond stated her area may have four jobs available.

Mr. Christopher requested the acceptance of a grant from the Office of Children and Family Services in the amount of \$236,228 for helping young juveniles who are having difficulty and need supervision. He said it was an optional kind of thing to apply for this grant. We thought it would be valuable, as it is 100% State funds aimed at preventing detention placements for juvenile delinquents and persons in need of supervision (PINS), he said. He stated they submitted a plan to New York State, and it was approved. We can begin to spend this money right away, he said. Most of what we are using this money for is to fund Probation and Mental Health to provide preventative services that would lessen the number of placements, he stated. He said they talked to Paul Viscusi, Dale Angstadt, the County Attorney, and Family Court Judge Hall and arrived at a consensus on how to best utilize this money. We will pass this money on to Mental Health and Probation to be spent through their budgets, he said. He requested an amendment to the Social Services budget to increase expenditures and revenues by \$236,228. **Mr. Jenkins moved to authorize the acceptance of this grant. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.**

Ms. Raymond asked what the age group was that will be targeted, and what do you do to go after the kids. Mr. Christopher said ages 7 through 17. The Probation Department has some workers who will be funded, and we will be paying their salaries with this money to work directly with families, he said. They will receive referrals from various sources, he said. They will work with families and kids to provide services to prevent problems and placements, he added. Ms. Raymond said she thought they had a program like this a few years back. Mr. Christopher stated that is the Turnabout Program that they still have today, and this program is very similar. With the onset of the Turnabout Program and Placement Prevention, we have reduced the foster care caseload from 160+ to about 8, he stated.

Chairman Sausville offered an opportunity for anyone else in the room to give their comments.

On a motion by Ms. Wormuth, seconded by Ms. Raymond, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann