

“Unapproved”
Social Programs Committee Minutes
November 7, 2011 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Lucia; Supervisors Collyer, Grattidge, Jenkins, Rowland, Sausville, and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Robert Christopher, Social Services; League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Rowland the minutes of the August 9, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cross requested a resolution approving a four-year Office for the Aging Services Implementation plan beginning 2012 through 2016 and subcontracts. Handouts were distributed with regard to the 2012 subcontracts and the four-year Implementation Plan to all committee members for their review. Mrs. Cross said none of the providers would be receiving any more money than last year.

A motion was made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to approve the four-year Office for the Aging Services Implementation Plan for the years 2012 through 2016. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve entering into contracts with all agencies involved in providing services for the 2012 Office for the Aging Implementation Plan. Unanimous.

Mrs. Cross said the match is met by the providers.

Mr. Christopher gave the following Home Energy Assistance Program review as follows: The opening day for HEAP will be November 16, 2011 for regular benefits only. The emergency component of HEAP will open on January 3, 2012. The State has announced the closing date as March 16, 2012. The benefit amounts this year have been dramatically reduced, he said. The office of Temporary Assistance and Disability at the State level is attempting to reach the same number of families with a reduced budget for this year. A household receiving food stamps and temporary assistance will receive an automatic grant that the Office for the Aging will be processing for the Supplemental Security Income and over 60 population. Mail in access is provided prior to the opening of the program for households with a vulnerable member. The number of applications that were taken in 2009-2010 was 10,030; in 2010-2011 it was 11,925 representing a 19% increase. The statewide funding that was available in 2010-2011 was \$517,900,000; in 2011-2012 it will be \$250,000,000 representing a dramatic reduction in what NYS received.

The following are a list of comparative benefits for the years 2010 and 2011:

2010

2011

Reg. Benefits	\$4.7 million	Reg. Benefits	\$5.1 million
Supplemental Benefits	\$33,910	Supplemental Benefits	\$34,892
Emergency Benefits	\$1.1 million	Emergency Benefits	\$2.1 million
Heat Equip & Repair	\$324,500	Heat Equip & Repair	\$292,500
Total Expenses	\$6.2 million	Total Expenses	\$7.6 million

Mr. Christopher said there was a 22% increase in the amount of money that was spent on the HEAP program overall. We continue to have the furnace repair and replacement benefit made available this year. The maximum income levels are 1% higher for a family of four this year as compared to last year. The following comparisons were given:

Tier One	Tier Two
\$0 - \$24,021/mo.	\$2,422 - \$4,127/mo.

The annual income maximum is \$49,519 for a family of four.

Mr. Christopher said last year for regular HEAP the base benefits was \$450 for oil, Kerosene, propane, wood pellets, coal and corn. This year it is \$250. The add on amounts for Tier one with a vulnerable individual in the household was \$50 last year; this year it is \$25. For an individual renting an apartment with the heat included, last year they would have received \$50; this year they will receive \$25. Tier two was \$40 last year, and is \$20 this year.

Mr. Christopher said last year the emergency benefit component for utilities was \$160; this year it is \$125. Last year natural gas only, was \$400; this year it is \$200. Natural Gas with HEAP related domestic last year was \$560; this year \$325. Electric heat last year was \$560; this year \$325. For non-utility heating emergencies including oil, kerosene, propane the benefit is \$550, and wood is \$250.

Mr. Christopher said in 2009-2010 there were 10,030 applications received. In 2010-2011 there were 11,925 representing a substantial increase.

Mr. Christopher distributed a copy of a letter sent from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance commending the Saratoga County Office of Child Support Enforcement on their 11th consecutive year receiving an award for the best overall performance for a medium sized district. The areas that were graded included paternity establishment, with a success rate of 98.99%; establishment of support petitions, 96.42%; collections on current orders 89.49%; collection of arrears, 77.4%. Overall \$20,175,360 was collected for 2010. This amount was increased 68% since the year 2000 when \$13.7 was collected.

Mr. Christopher said Social Services received an email from the State with regard to the On-Site Scanning Image County Project. We were complimented by the State for doing a terrific job. Our people are doing a very find job scanning documents, helping to free up space.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom