

Social Programs Committee Minutes
February 14, 2012 – 3:30p.m.

Present: Chairman Lucia; Supervisors Barrett, Collyer, Veitch, Yepsen and Wood; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Bob Christopher, Tina Potter, Social Services; League of Women Voters.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting were approved. Mr. Barrett abstained from the vote.

Chairman Lucia announced the appointment of Mr. Collyer as committee Vice Chair.

Mrs. Cross requested a resolution authorizing the renewal of EISEP contracts with ten different Home Care Agencies. She said all contract rates are the same as last year. Home care is provided for seniors who qualify through these agencies at either a level 1, which is a housekeeper level or level 2, which is hands on care. Mrs. Cross said all the funds are included in the 2012 county budget. The reimbursement is 75% State and 25% County.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Barrett to authorize the renewal of ten EISEP contracts for the Office for the Aging. Unanimous.

Mrs. Cross requested a resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Board to sign a Memorandum of Understandings with Saratoga Hospital and Schenectady VNA for the purpose of an application of a grant from the Federal Government for money to help the hospitals reduce their 30 day re-admission rate of Medicare patients. This is the community based transitions program application, which is a regional application where we are being helped through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to write the grant. There has been a grant already approved in the western part of the State. They go in a coalition, and they have to have a community partner, where we are called the CBO (Community Based Organization) for Saratoga Hospital, she said. Mrs. Cross said she is in the process of applying for it, but won't know if they have received it until June. The MOU's would need to be signed by the Chairman of the Board saying, if we got the grant we would cooperatively work with Saratoga Hospital and the VNA. This would help us to do our job better and get to clients sooner, she said.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Ms. Yepsen to approve authorizing the Chairman of the Board to sign MOU's with Saratoga Hospital and Schenectady VNA, as a part of the Community Based Care Transitions Program application. Unanimous.

Mr. Christopher gave a brief presentation on the Historical Perspective Regarding Preventative Programs for Children and resulting impacts.

The following highlights were given:

Analysis from January 1997 – 2011

Child Protective Services Reports	1997	1,650
	2011	2,602
Foster Care caseload	2006	161
	2011	49

Mr. Christopher said due to the preventive program they have seen a steady decline in the foster care population, presently 70% less than what it was in 1997. The cost of the caseload at today's rate would be \$19 million, rising from actual costs in 1997 of \$4.8 million. The actual cost in 2011 was \$4.5 million, representing an expenditure of \$14.4 million less than what it could have been if the caseload was not reduced from the 1997 levels. Mr. Christopher said the overall estimated savings are approximately \$68 million, and the cost of preventive services during that time was \$9.1 million. Mr. Christopher said if there were 161 foster care cases today it would cost approximately \$12 million in local county money, if it were not for the steps that have been taken to avoid these placements through contracts such as Berkshire Farms, and the Northeast Parent and Child Association. It is noteworthy that there have been some good efficiencies taken over a long period of time that have really helped to keep costs under control at the Department of Social Services, he said.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Ms. Yepsen the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom