

Social Programs Committee Minutes
August 13, 2013 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Rowland; Supervisors Collyer, M. Johnson, Hargrave, Lucia, Yepsen, and Sausville; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Karen Levison, Public Health; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Lisa Scaccia, Employment and Training; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; League of Women Voters.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Collyer the minutes of the June 11, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Carr said at present there are over 300 children enrolled in the Early Intervention Program with over 120 providers that have contracts with the county to provide services to the children. Since 2010 the annual Early Intervention Program costs have averaged \$2,477,712 and the revenue for the third party commercial insurance is approximately \$74,000. The Medicaid revenue on an annual basis is approximately \$726,000; Federal Transportation Aid is \$17,975; NYSDOH reimbursement is \$824,169, and the Net County Obligation has been averaging \$834,918 a year. Beginning April 1, 2013 regulatory transition of the program went to the NYS DOH which was meant to be mandate relief to take fiscal and administrative pressure off the county. Since then the process has not been working and some of the providers have not been paid because what the State is requiring is that the providers go out and collect from Medicaid and Commercial insurance first. Until the Commercial Insurance claims have been adjudicated, denied or paid, the State won't give their reimbursement and county share. He said there is a software system the State is using referred to as the NYSEIS system which has had problems since it was launched.

Mr. Carr said the State is unable to facilitate the greater revenue collection from the commercial insurers and as a result the providers have not been paid. The preliminary escrow agreement is designed for counties to contribute 75% of potential insurance claim payments until the problem is resolved. The obligation for Saratoga County would be \$148,000.

Mr. Carr said at the Public Health Committee meeting it was determined that a resolution would be forth coming. Mr. Carr said he is requesting that the Social Programs Committee join in with the Public Health Committee to support a joint resolution to include the recommendations that are outlined below.

- Motion to recognize that providing the services to the children of Saratoga County is first priority
- Motion to recognize the outstanding services provided to these children and support for the service providers who should not be put in a position of financial hardship due to the inability of the NYSDOH to administer the program

- Motion to deny a request for advanced payment to the NYSDOH due to the inability of NYSDOH to administer the program
- Motion to deny request for advanced payment to the NYSDOH due to inability of NYDOH to correct issues and no guarantee of the ability to properly manage the payments to providers and repayment to counties without additional advanced payments or additional administrative oversight of the county
- Motion to urge the Governor's office to intervene and authorize "emergency" advanced funds to NYSDOH to prevent the collapse of the service provider network
- Motion to demand that the NYSDOH take immediate steps at all costs to resolve the current issues within the program and/or return the administration of the program to the counties with full re-payment of administrative funding previously reduced to shift administrative burden to the State of New York.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to approve a resolution drafted by the County Attorney to include the above recommendations. Unanimous.

Ms. Cross requested a resolution to amend resolution 235-12. She said the Office for the Aging has been without a dietician since January of 2013. An Individual, Christine Kudlacik, has been found and a request is being made to make a name change only to the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Collyer to approve amending resolution 235-12, changing the name of the dietician to Christine Kudlacik. Unanimous.

Ms. Cross said the annual Senior Picnic will be held on September 6, 2013 at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds.

Mrs. Scaccia said Saratoga County Employment and Training has a contract that they are doing with Fulton- Montgomery, and Schoharie WIB that is based on a consortium of all the WIBS in the area which will provide career and training opportunities in (STEM) Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. During this past contract year, they were able to provide on the job training contracts for customers with Saint-Gobain, Performance Plastics, Espey, and Quad Graphics. The contract began July 1, 2013, with a grant amount of \$195,000 to be divided equally between the three county areas again this year.

Mrs. Scaccia said the Employment and Training Department will be hosting a picnic to at the County Fairgrounds to recognize summer youth and their work experience on August 29, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom