

SOCIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING

December 4, 2006 – 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Hargrave; Supervisors Callanan, Grattidge, Keyrouze, Lucia, Gutheil; Trottier, Sausville, Peck; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Bob Christopher, Tina Potter, Laurie Fregeau, Social Services; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Jack Murray, Auditor; Tony Scavone, Employment & Training, Bob Hummel, WIB; Jacqueline Ruff, Bonnie Halse, Day Care Providers; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Hargrave called the meeting to order.

Mr. Lucia moved to approve the minutes of the November 6th meeting. Mr. Callanan seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Scavone introduced Bob Hummel, President of the Workforce Investment Board for Saratoga/Warren/Washington Counties. He said the WIB has been looking to incorporate. We have had a cut of federal funding and have lost 50% of funding as a Service Delivery Area, he said. He then distributed a list of the membership of the WIB.

Mr. Hummel said the WIB only has a regulatory status and not a legal status as a corporation. He said there has been a push for the WIB's to become incorporated to be able to accept money outside of federal dollars. In the beginning, the allocation was over \$3 million, and last year, it was \$1.3 million. He stated over the last six years, the WIB agenda has expanded its move to deal with a whole range of issues. There have been additional changes in terms of the changing employment market. Counties have been asked to do a lot more in terms of skills training, and the training money has dropped dramatically, he said. He said right now, they are totally blocked out from applying for a number of applications because the WIB is not a 501c. If it does become this, the County position will not change. It will have the same authority that it already has, he said. He said they are envisioning an organization where there will be a private funding stream and a WIB funding stream. He said the County would still appoint people to the WIB.

Mr. Hummel said the whole view of workforce development has changed. We think a 501c3 will enable us to go through more of a regional process in terms of answering needs, he said. If we wanted to add a person, we would have to go through each of the three counties. He said the WIB voted to pursue a 501c3 status. The process would be to move this back to the County Administrator and County Attorney. If we continue to do the job we are mandated to do, we do need access to private funding, he said.

Mr. Callanan asked where WIB's funding is coming from at the present time. Mr. Hummel said the federal government. The money comes to Tony Scavone's department and is distributed to Saratoga/Warren/Washington Counties according to a formula, he added. Mr. Callanan asked what the present funding is. Mr. Scavone stated \$68,000 for the WIB. In 2000, funding was cut 57%, he said.

Mr. Hummel stated Microsoft wanted to put money into the Adirondacks for workforce training, and we were not eligible to apply for that. He said there are hundreds of foundations, and 20% of them are focused on workforce development. Mr. Hellwig asked if it would jeopardize our federal funding if we get money from private sources. Mr. Hummel said not at all. Businesses right now have no incentive to give us money, he said. He said they get credit if they give money to 501c's. He mentioned AMD will have training money, and we will not be able to approach them for it. Ms. Keyrouze asked if they would still be able to partner with the people they are partnering with, and Mr. Hummel said yes.

Mr. Gutheil said certainly, they will want some discussion with the County Attorney. Mr. Scavone said at some point, there will have to be a contract between them and the 501c3. Mr. Hellwig said he believes the Board of Supervisors would have to be involved in the structural change. **Mr. Callanan moved to support the application for the transition of the Workforce Investment Board. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Hummel distributed copies of Saratoga/Warren/Washington Feasibility of The Development of a 501c3.

Mr. Carr distributed copies of the Budgets & Summaries For YDDP and SDPP Funded Agencies for 2007. He requested a resolution to authorize this funding and contracts. He said the recommendations and descriptions before the Committee members are from the Advisory Youth Board. He mentioned there is a 1% increase for the YDDP funding, and the SDPP funding remains the same. These funding amounts are included in the tentative 2007 budget, he said. **Mr. Callanan moved to approve the application. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Hargrave said at the last Board Meeting, we were asked to have Bob Christopher and Jack Murray review the process for subsidized day care.

Mr. Christopher presented a fact sheet describing the process that is undertaken at the County level in order to issue payment for day care vendors:

- The Saratoga County Subsidized Day Care Program targets employed parent(s) who have a gross income below 200% of poverty and children must reside with a parent or guardian who is working or attending an agency approved job training /educational program.
- Allocation - \$2,509,663
- Average number of families/children served – 358 and 624 respectively
- Average number of unduplicated vendors – 200
- Average number of billing forms processed per month – 1,326
- Saratoga County day-care vouchers are submitted by each vendor every two weeks followed by an average two-week processing time. This compares favorably with other counties surveyed who receive vouchers monthly followed by estimated processing times of 2 – 4 weeks.

- Saratoga County is subject to the annual Federal Single Audit, and there have been no deficiencies found relative to the day care program.

Mr. Christopher said a client files an application with DSS. They are interviewed to be determined whether they are eligible for the program. Once they are eligible and into the program, they submit vouchers which are received in our department and submitted to Accounting for further processing. At that point when the checks are produced, they are referred to the Auditor's office for further review. Once approved, the checks are brought to the Treasurer's office, signed and mailed out. He said this whole process takes on average two weeks. Chairman Hargrave asked if the checks are dated when they are produced, and Mr. Murray yes said. Maybe they are signed a week to 10 days later, he said. Mr. Christopher said the computer system prints the check. Mr. Murray said when the checks are created, the abstracts are created. After I review the paperwork, one copy goes to the Treasurer's office, one copy stays in my office, and one goes back with the actual voucher to DSS Accounting, he said. He stated he goes into the computer system and approves the abstract. DSS can see that I approved it, and they know they can take the checks to the Treasurer's office to be signed and mailed, he said.

Mr. Christopher said in his opinion, and at the State level, we are processing these vouchers as fast as humanly possible. He stated the people at the State said we were one of the best in the State with processing these vouchers. He said the State plays a huge role in this program. He stated they are responsible for insuring the rules and regulations are carried out. All we do is determine eligibility and issue payments, he added. He said a whole other bureaucracy is involved in this. He said sometimes, paperwork has to be sent back to the vendor because of a mistake. By law, it has to be reviewed by the Auditor's office. Mr. Murray said occasionally, he will find something wrong, but they usually do a fantastic job pulling the details together. He mentioned by law, the Treasurer's office cannot send a check without being approved, in theory, by him. He said the State will arrange training towards day care vendors to minimize any mistakes in the paperwork process.

Ms. Keyrouze asked if other counties are trying to figure out a way to work on this. Should we petition the State to fix this problem? Mr. Christopher said we are working within a structured system that we do not have any way out of. He said he looked into the electronic transfer of funds with this, but the State is not looking at that. He said this is an issue the NYPWA could look into. He said this is a subsidized day care program and is not intended to pay the full amount of money charged by the day care vendor. It is only intended to help out and be of assistance, he added.

Ms. Keyrouze said people who take these children in are taking a risk, and there are not a lot of people willing to take these children in. Mr. Murray said we cannot give one vendor special consideration over another. Ms. Keyrouze said she is afraid we will start losing this type of caregiver. Mr. Christopher stated in many counties, there are waiting lists to provide day care. We do not have a waiting list, and this is unusual, he added. Mr. Callanan said he is interested in seeing if we could speed those checks up. Mr. Christopher said it seems that electronic transfer is something that could be explored.

Mr. Grattidge said we can report back to the Board that we have asked Mr. Christopher to look at his Association to improve this system at the State level.

Mr. Callanan moved to request the Legislative & Research Committee to petition the State to change their system in order to pay the day care vendors more quickly. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Hargrave said in his town, the only checks they give out in the office are paychecks or mileage to people who actually work in the town, otherwise, they are mailed. Even with paychecks, we make absolutely sure the person picking up is the person named on the check. We will be addressing this to the full Board, he said.

On a motion by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Ms. Keyrouze, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann