

## SOCIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING

December 4, 2007 – 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Grattidge, Hargrave, Wormuth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Bob Christopher, Social Services; Sandra Cross, Aging; Eve Pitner, SUNY-Albany; 2 members of the League of Women Voters; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order.

Mr. Grattidge moved to approve the minutes of the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Hargrave seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Carr requested a **resolution authorizing the Youth Bureau's 2008 funding applications and contracts**. He said he put a memo and supporting documentation in the Committee members' mailboxes a week or so ago. He said there is a 1% increase over last year for the YDDP and the SDPP is the same. He mentioned there is a new funding stream for the Runaway Homeless Youth Act for a total of \$40,000 - - \$36,000 for CAPTAIN and \$4,000 revenue for the administrative portion. Chairman Daly said we were fortunate to be the recipient of this grant. Mr. Carr stated the funding has been included in the 2008 budget. **Mr. Grattidge moved to approve this resolution. Ms. Wormuth seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Daly said we are eager to be involved in our charity efforts for DSS, and she wanted to acknowledge the work that is involved in that. Mr. Christopher said the staff thoroughly enjoys collecting the gifts for the kids and distributing them.

Mr. Christopher gave an update on the HEAP program. He said right now, they are not seeing a large increase in number of applications. He said in November, 2006, they took 1220 applications, and this November they took 1238 applications. There is less money available this year from the federal government - - \$3 million less than was provided to the State last year, he said. As the course of the year progresses, the feds release more money dependent on the need. We are hoping if things get tough, they will release more money and help us meet the need at that time, he stated. He said if they don't, our own emergency programs come into play. One problem with that

is, there is a local share. He said their benefit levels are the same as last year, and the eligibility ceilings are more stringent than last year. He mentioned vendors are required to enter into an agreement with the County whereby there is a price set by NYSERDA for oil. Vendors must participate if they want to receive HEAP dollars, he said. Mr. Grattidge requested Mr. Christopher to keep the Committee informed if they run into problems. Mr. Christopher said he will do that. He requested the Committee to call if they have any questions or constituent problems.

Ms. Cross requested a **resolution to amend Res. 212-07 for Capitaland Taxi for \$350/day for the City of Saratoga Springs**. She said that no one else put in a bid but Capitaland. **Mr. Hargrave moved to approve that amendment. Mr. Grattidge seconded. Unanimous.**

Ms. Cross introduced Eve Pitner who is a doctorate student at SUNY/Albany who did a needs assessment survey report for the Office for the Aging at no cost. Ms. Pitner stated she is a social worker working on a doctorate and she works with the Center For Excellence In Aging Services. She distributed copies of the “Saratoga County Office for the Aging Needs Assessment” report. She mentioned there will be a lot of changes coming through the Office for the Aging over the next few years. She said Saratoga County is one of the fastest growing counties in seniors across the state. You have a growth rate of 58% from 2000 – 2015, she said. She said in doing a comparison with some other counties most like Saratoga County, Schenectady will decline, Rensselaer will climb slightly, and Saratoga takes off. She stated your Office for the Aging will serve 17,000 more seniors by 2015. She briefly reviewed the contents of the report and said it will be in a PDF file for Ms. Cross to use. She mentioned Saratoga County ranks very well in low poverty rate. She stated Saratoga County had the most stars. In summarizing this report, you are doing everything right so far. You do have a problem with rental vacancy rates which will impact your ability to house seniors at some point in time, she stated.

Chairman Daly said she appreciates Ms. Cross asking Eve to be here. I would like to extend a thank you to the University of Albany for extending her services, she said. This is good information we can take to our communities, she added. Ms. Pitner stated this whole report will be done by the end of the year.

Mr. Hargrave thanked Chairman Daly for her leadership during the past year. Chairman Daly said her thanks comes back to everyone on the Committee. It is together that we make a team, she said.

On a motion by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Hargrave, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann