

SOCIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 2007 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors DeCerce, Grattidge, Hargrave, Keyrouze and Yepsen; Margot Ammon, Lee Nelson, Helen Cranshaw, League of Women Voters; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Tina Potter, Robert Christopher, Department of Social Services.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the minutes of the December 4, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. Daly appointed Mr. Grattidge as Vice Chairman. Mr. Grattidge accepted the appointment.

Mrs. Cross requested a resolution to renew EISEP contracts. A list of the providers and their rates was distributed to all committee members for their review. All of the rates follow the State Medicaid rates, she said.

A motion was made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to approve a resolution to renew EISEP Contracts for the Office for the Aging. Unanimous.

Mrs. Cross requested a resolution to contract with Capitaland to provide transportation to what is now a five-town transportation contract, consisting of the Town of Saratoga, Charlton, Providence, Edinburg and Galway. The Town of Saratoga will be receiving services on Monday, with the remaining four towns receiving services on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mrs. Cross said the service costs \$150/day, however, if no one rides there is no fee. The maximum amount of the contract is \$29,850.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to approve the five town transportation contracts with Capitaland for a total not to exceed \$29,850. Unanimous.

Mrs. Cross requested a resolution to contract with the Town of Stillwater for the purchase of a Van for an amount not to exceed \$16,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. DeCerce to approve a resolution to contract with the Town of Stillwater for the purchase of a Van in an amount not to exceed \$16,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Christopher gave a brief update on the Home Energy Assistance Program as follows:

1. Regular Heap benefits range anywhere from \$165 - \$440

2. Fuel Emergency benefits for oil, kerosene, pellets and liquid propane, are available for up to \$440.
3. Fuel Emergency benefits for Natural Gas range from \$235 - \$360.
4. Electric fuel energy benefits range from \$485 – \$735.

The above figures are for the heating season, which ranges from November 1st through June, depending on weather conditions.

1. There have been 4,391 applications for HEAP as of January 31, 2007, down from 4,808 in 2006.
2. The regular HEAP benefits spent in 2006 were \$797,198 compared to \$811,780 for the same time period in 2007.
3. Emergency benefits were \$373,040 in 2006, compared to \$278,085 in 2007.
4. Furnace repairs and replacements for 2006 were \$48,706, compared to \$83,747 in 2007.

To date, there have been 38 furnace replacements and 6 furnace repairs, to 44 furnace replacements for the entire year in 2006.

Mr. Christopher said there will be a new component added to the HEAP program referred to as the “Oil Binding Component”, with training sessions beginning in March. The Oil Binding Component requires vendors to buy oil and kerosene at a reduced price in order to participate in HEAP. Vendors may choose from two options: In the “margin over rack” option, the price the vendors may charge for product is established by using the (rack) wholesale price, plus a margin. For the 2006-2007 program year, the per-gallon margin has been set at \$.35 if the vendor charges this price for HEAP deliveries only, or \$.39 if the vendor agrees to charge this price all season. The “margin over rack” price is calculated and tracked on a daily basis by NYSERDA, and county staff will not incur any responsibility for this. The second option vendors may choose, is a “discount off retail” (DOR) price. For the 2006-2007 program year the product price is determined by calculating the vendors retail price, minus the current discount of \$.13 for HEAP only deliveries or minus \$.09 for an all season discount. This is mandatory and the vendor may not receive HEAP payments if they fail to choose one of the options and sign the vendor agreement.

Ms. Daly stated, there would be a meeting with State Legislators in Albany on March 7, 2007. She encouraged any departments that have a concern they would like to share to send an e-mail or memo to her.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom