

SOCIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING

July 11, 2007 – 3:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Grattidge, Hargrave, Keyrouze, Wormuth, Yepsen; Janik; Wood; Sausville; Peck; Trottier; Gutheil; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Tony Scavone, Employment & Training; Sandi Cross, Aging; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Janet Glenn, Public Health Nursing; Press

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order.

Mr. Hargrave moved to approve the minutes of the June 5th meeting. Ms. Yepsen seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Scavone said the State has made \$75,000 available for the Disability Navigator Program which is money for the three county area to enter into a contract with someone who would work with individuals with disabilities. He said they do not have a lot of time to devote to these people who need this extra help. He said they would put this out to bid for an on-site person for each office in Saratoga/Warren/Washington Counties. He said this is all State money. We are one of the few areas that do not have this program, he said. He requested a resolution to apply for and accept this money, and he said they will then go and bid this and come back probably in September.

Chairman Daly asked how a person would qualify for the program. Mr. Scavone said they have regulars that they serve all of the time and try to get situated, but they come back the next month. Some people have serious issues, and we are probably not as expert as we should be, he stated. We will try to meet people's needs if we think they have a handicap, he said. This Program Navigator could hook them up with the right services, he added. Mr. Hargrave asked if there was an income level. Mr. Scavone said no. He said eligibility would come into play if we put them in training. Ms. Yepsen asked if there were at home services at all. Mr. Scavone said no, it is center based at this point.

Mr. Grattidge moved to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Labor to accept up to \$75,000 for the Program Navigator Grant. Mr. Hargrave seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Daly said Mrs. Cross has been working diligently with Dan Butler and the Public Safety Committee to implement a program that will soon be copied by many. Mrs. Cross distributed copies of a brochure on the Saratoga County Senior to Senior Animal Adoption Program. She said Dan and she named this program. She said this program will be set up between her office and the Animal Shelter for senior citizens, 60+, who would like to adopt a senior pet over the age of 5. She said her office has Community Services money, and they would pay the fee for the adoption, and if needed, the spay or neuter fee. She said this was presented at the Public Safety Committee meeting yesterday, and they already have received a phone call on this today. Mr. Butler said actually, there were two calls. One call was generated by the Office for the Aging and one call came in because of the press coverage in today's Daily Gazette, he stated. Mrs. Cross said they will make brochures available to all of the towns and cities. If you would like more, just call me, she said. She said this program will be promoted at the Fair next week and on their web sites.

Mr. Grattidge said it is outstanding that both departments are working together and is really good for the people of the County. Chairman Daly said it's another way Saratoga County is committed to a quality of life for all of our County residents and especially our 4-legged residents.

Chairman Daly said she has a draft mission statement that she has compiled, and she is waiting for the blessing of one person in Public Health who is on vacation. She said she reached out to Public Health, Youth Bureau, and the University of Albany that has a Center for Autism Disabilities and to other agencies, and she believes we have a wealth of information available. She stated Mr. Sausville and she can set up a recommendation for this Committee. She said probably this fall, we can be actively engaged in the work of this council, she said. She pointed out this is a complex issue. It is covered under the Department of Health and Department of Education, she said. There are a lot of gray areas that I hope to put future focus on, she added.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann