

SOCIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 6, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

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

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the minutes of the February 6, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cross requested an amendment to resolution 194-05 for Dietician Services. Two bids were received. The fee would be \$30/hr., up from the current \$22/hr. The budget for the Office for the Aging will be able to cover the increase in expenses for the year, she said.

A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mrs. Keyrouze to approve an amendment to resolution 194-05 to increase the hourly pay for Dietician Services for the Office for the Aging from \$22/hr. to \$30/hr. Unanimous.

Mrs. Cross requested a resolution to amend the budget for the Office for the Aging to accept an additional \$16,000 in CSE funding (State Community Service for the Elderly Funds).

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Lucia to approve a resolution to amend the budget for the Office for the Aging, accepting an additional \$16,000 in CSE funding. Unanimous.

Mr. Christopher gave a brief update on the Home Energy Assistance Program. He said \$100 million in supplemental money was made available by Governor Patacki to be distributed statewide. Social Services began taking applications for the program in early February. This program provides for one additional emergency benefit, and enough regular HEAP money to continue the program through April 14, 2005, he said. Thus far, to date, 270 applications have been received, which is up from the same time last year.

The regular HEAP grants from September 1, 2004 through February 28, 2005 totaled 2,801. This year through the same period of time, regular HEAP benefit grants were 3,194, representing a 14% increase over last year. The emergency component last year for the same period of time, September – February, was 1,150. This year, to date, there have been 2,594 emergencies. With regard to furnace repair and replacement, last year there were 59, compared to 43 this year. A total of \$1,404,755 was spent last year, which

is a combination of regular HEAP, emergency and the furnace repair and replacement. This year, \$2,078,248 has been spent, representing a 48 % increase.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom