

SOCIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING

September 12, 2007 – 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Hargrave, Keyrouze, Wormuth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Tony Scavone, Employment & Training; Jasper Nolan, Saratoga Springs; Jim Kinney, The Saratogian

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order.

Mr. Hargrave moved to approve the minutes of the July 11th meeting. Ms. Wormuth seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Scavone said at the July meeting, this Committee and the Board approved accepting a grant from the Department of Labor to provide Disability Program Navigator Services to work with people with disabilities. We put out an RFP, and we received two bids, and the one we liked the best was Saratoga Bridges, he said. He recommended contracting with Saratoga Bridges to provide these services. He stated they would provide a staff person three days per week in Saratoga/Warren/Washington Counties. He said the ultimate goal is to place people in employment. He said the contract would be for \$54,000 beginning October 1 through June 30, 2008. I do not know if the funding will return after that, he said. He said we will get the money from the State and pass it through to Saratoga Bridges.

Chairman Daly said in July, it was stated that the grant was for \$75,000. Mr. Scavone said that was if we started the program July 1st. He said the State allowed them to put the paperwork in late. Ms. Wormuth asked who the other bidder was, and Mr. Scavone stated Northeast Career Planning. He said the County will be keeping some of the money to administer this, so the total grant is for \$57,000. We will not be getting the original \$75,000, he added. Mr. Hellwig said Saratoga Bridges has agreed to the \$54,000 for the period provided.

Mr. Hargrave moved to approve an agreement with Saratoga Bridges to provide a Disability Program Navigator at a cost of \$54,000 from October 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Ms. Keyrouze seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Scavone said the State has put them on notice for funding cuts for next year. The State's unemployment rate has dropped, and that has affected the

amount the State will get, and they will be passing those cuts on to us, he said. He said he will have more information as things develop.

Chairman Daly stated Assemblyman McDonald was here and spoke about Saratoga County becoming more involved in the autism initiative. We have been working on this as promised, and I put together a proposed draft Mission Statement, she said. Copies of this were distributed to the Committee members. She said she has also given Supervisor Sausville a copy to share with the Public Health Committee. She suggested this remain as a draft, as next week, she will be attending the NYSAC Conference in which she is a member of the Standing Committee of Children With Special Needs. I do not know if there will be any information that we will want to include in this statement, she said. We will need to allow Public Health an opportunity to look at this, she stated. She said because of the age differentials, services are offered in conjunction with State Education.

Chairman Daly said she did a considerable amount of research. We do a tremendous amount of services here in Saratoga County currently for these people, she said. We do not do a good enough job getting our information out and making people understand all that we have to offer, she added. She said she will have specifics on how we can move forward. She said we have some printed resources that could be improved. She said she has spoken to Wes Carr, and he is interested in working with Public Health about adding more resources to their booklet. Having all of this in one booklet would be helpful, she said. She said she envisions the Autism Council of Saratoga County to become an advocacy for these people. She said one concern we found is that when people come to the County, we often go to State Education, and they do not have a point person who we can call and continuously talk to. We have to advocate with a State person to specifically handle Saratoga County, she stated.

Chairman Daly said she hopes this Mission Statement provides the groundwork and gives a launching pad from which to work. In addition to Early Intervention programs and programs available during school years, she had heard once the child ages, they no longer know where to go. She said she has had people approach her ready to volunteer. She said she believes as soon as Mr. Sausville meets with Public Health, we may be able to get moving on this, and some funding may be made available through Assemblyman McDonald.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann