

Social Programs Committee Minutes
April 3, 2006 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Hargrave; Supervisors Barrett, Callanan, Grattidge, Keyrouze, Lucia, Yepsen, Thompson, Wood and Gutheil; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Tina Potter, Bob Christopher, Social Services; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Lee Nelson, Helen Cranshaw, Margot Ammon, League of Women Voters.

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

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

Mrs. Cross requested a resolution proclaiming May as Senior Citizen's Month in Saratoga County.

A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to approve a resolution proclaiming May as Senior Citizen's Month in Saratoga County. Unanimous.

Mrs. Cross distributed invitations to all committee members to the annual Senior Luncheon, to be held at the Saratoga Springs, City Center on Wednesday, May 3, 2006.

Mr. Carr requested a resolution to authorize the Chairman to enter into agreements with the Early Intervention Providers. Currently, the authorization has been entitled, Title 2A Article 25 of a public health law, which is a State mandated program put into existence in 1992. Changing the law authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with providers will only strengthen the contract, he said.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Barrett to approve a resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with the Early Intervention Providers. Unanimous.

Mrs. Keyrouze said she will be setting up an advisory committee to do a needs assessment around the county with regard to a Daycare PILOT Program. She said one of her concerns is that in the last three years the number of children that need childcare has dropped. She believes this has happened because the cap is too low. We are the fastest growing county in the State, and have a much larger population we have had in the last three years. The cost of living in Saratoga County has gone up dramatically, leading to a possible need for more childcare, she said.

Mr. Hargrave stated that the county currently has a \$2.6 million Daycare program through the Department of Social Services.

Mr. Christopher said the county has a subsidized daycare program for people who are at the 200% poverty level. Currently, there are approximately 340 families receiving daycare benefits. The daycare centers are licensed by the State and people have the freedom to choose where they would like to have their children taken care of. There is a small fee, depending on the family's income, he said. For a family of four at the 200% poverty level the income cap is \$40,000.

Mr. Christopher said the system has worked well with regard to the welfare reform act of 1993. Daycare was an integral piece of the welfare movement and Saratoga County has been very successful. We were a county at that time that had the highest caseload in New York State in terms of getting people off the public assistance rolls and into employment. Right now, the public assistance caseload in Saratoga County largely consists of people who are disabled or children living with grandparents or other relatives.

Mrs. Keyrouze asked the committee to consider allowing Senior Citizens to be able to take home desserts.

The committee state the Office for the Aging Advisory Committee has put a policy in place whereby no food is to leave the premises.

The committee suggested that Mrs. Keyrouze bring her request forward to the Office for the Aging Advisory Committee.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom