

Social Programs Committee Minutes
November 9, 2013 - 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Lucia; Supervisors Martin, Wood, Jenkins, Allen, Tollisen, Richardson, Collyer, Grattidge and Lewza; Chad Cooke, Deputy Administrator; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Tina Potter, Social Services; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Wood the minutes of the September 2, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Potter gave a brief overview of the HEAP program stating that it will be opening on November 16, 2015. She said the HEAP program has three components, regular, emergency and furnace repair and replacement. She said with regard to the regular component the benefits will be similar to last year with the oil and kerosene benefit \$575; for wood, pellet and coal \$500; electric heat \$350 with income guidelines up slightly.

Mrs. Potter said the households that are currently receiving temporary assistance (Food Stamps) SNAP, they will get an automatic benefit for the HEAP program if they were on in the month of August. She said early mail outs went out to approximately 1,500 households that are vulnerable on August 24th. Applications for the HEAP program can either be mailed. Faxes, filled out on line, or applied for in person. The total money projected to the State for the Home Energy Assistance Program is approximately \$325,000,975. The other component is the heating repair and replacement program, which opened November 9th. Individuals that have a furnace that needs to be replaced can receive up to \$6,500, or if the furnace needs to be repaired, they can receive up to \$3,000. The emergency component for the Home Energy Assistance Program will open on January 4, 2016. For individuals to be eligible for an emergency they have to have less than a quarter tank of fuel or an emergency disconnect notice and less than \$2,000 in resources. For the emergency and furnace component the individual will need to come in for a face to face interview.

Mrs. Cross requested a resolution authorizing the four year plan and contracts that go along with it for the Office for the Aging. She said every four years the State requires an annual implementation plan. A copy of the subcontracts for 2016 was distributed to committee members for their review.

Mrs. Cross said there is one change to the subcontracts, which is to change the provider for the Personal Emergency Response Systems to the Eddy for a cost savings of \$5 per unit.

She said two contracts were bid out for transportation with one response received from the current provider at a cost of \$250/per day, which is up from the current \$190/per day. She said there would be no disruption in service.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Tollisen to approve the 2016-2020 four year service plan and 2016 contracts for the Office for the Aging. Unanimous.

Mrs. Cross requested a resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Town of Halfmoon for the purchase of a minivan to transport seniors. The total amount would not exceed \$17,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve entering into an agreement with the Town of Halfmoon for the purchase of a minivan to transport seniors in an amount not to exceed \$17,000. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Wood the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom