

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: APRIL 3, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SIMMES
GIRARD
STEC
VANNESS
SOKOL
TAYLOR

OTHERS PRESENT:

CANDACE KELLY, DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR THE AGING
WILLIAM RESSE, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
MARGARET SING SMITH, DIRECTOR, YOUTH BUREAU
FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISOR PITKIN
SUPERVISOR KENNY
SUPERVISOR STRAINER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR BENTLEY

HAL PAYNE, COMMISSIONER OF FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mrs. Simmes called the meeting of the Human Services Committee to order at 9:31 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2009 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Candace Kelly, Director, Office for the Aging, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mrs. Kelly presented a request to fill the new position of Point of Entry (POE) Coordinator, base salary of \$35,169.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to approve the request to hire a POE Coordinator as outlined above, and to refer same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position is on file with the minutes.*

Mrs. Kelly stated that interviews would be conducted next week. Mr. Geraghty asked if the position was grant funded and Mrs. Kelly responded affirmatively.

Regarding the Meals On Wheels Program, Mrs. Kelly extended her thanks to all those that helped to deliver meals to the recipients on March 18, 2009 which was "Mayors for Meals Day". She reported the event to be a very positive, enjoyable and educating experience. Mr. Geraghty extended recognition to the routine delivery volunteers for their sustaining efforts which were critical to the success of the program.

Privilege of the floor was extended to William Resse, Director of the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), who addressed Agenda Item 1, the Federal Stimulus Program Funds. He stated that the stimulus funding was equivalent to twice the annual program amount and it would be used for both adult layed off workers and youth programs. He stated that the Department was charged with the responsibility to expend the funds quickly and wisely. Mr. Resse apprised that he had met with individuals from Adirondack Community College (ACC), the Warren-Saratoga-Washington-Hamilton-

Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services (WSWHE BOCES), and the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to compile ideas for the best use of funds which included several course offerings as follows:

- Increase the availability of training funds to enable adults to return to school;
- Consideration of the purchase of an LPN class;
- Advanced manufacturing training through BOCES;
- Career exploration courses;
- Office skills training;
- Computer skills training.

Continuing, Mr. Resse stated that the funding for Youth programs came with a recommendation to further develop summer employment opportunities. He stated that the summer youth employment program had not been sustained in many states; however, he said, New York State recognized the value of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. He noted that in years past, enrollment for the summer youth employment program had been as high as 200, as compared to 43 last year. He said one goal was to double enrollment for the current year and planning was underway to present some innovative programs such as project based crew activities which had been done in the past. Mr. Resse stated his goal to generate interest with ACC and noted that the Stimulus Recovery Act had changed the summer employment program eligibility to include youth aged 14 to 24, which expanded the former age parameters. As a result, he said, college aged students could be targeted for program participation. Another idea, he noted, pertained to projects conducted on the ACC campus which would incorporate an academic component such as science, technology, engineering or math. Mr. Resse added that eligible participants could receive benefits to use towards tuition expenses for higher education.

Mr. Resse presented a request to amend the County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$207,236 to reflect the receipt of Federal Stimulus Funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the County Budget as outlined above, and to refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the Request to Amend County Budget is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Resse presented a request to create the new temporary position of Employment and Training Counselor, annual base salary \$30,222, for the period from April 20, 2009 to September 30, 2009, to be funded by Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds from Code 40 6293 0347 110 - WIA Youth Stimulus - Salaries-Regular.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to approve the request to hire a temporary Employment and Training Counselor as outlined above, and to forward same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position is on file with the minutes.*

Regarding the overall decrease in staff for the ETA, Mr. Geraghty asked if layoffs had been made in the Department. Mr. Resse apprised that the staff count had been cut in half gradually over the last several years. Mr. Geraghty stated that putting youth to work should be the foremost priority for the use of funds.

Mr. Strainer entered the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Mr. Taylor asked if additional staff was a requirement of the grant, and Mr. Resse stated that the money could be used for a variety of items. He advised the committee of the likelihood of a request to transfer funds in the near future, to move dislocated worker program funds into adult programs, and to transfer funds for administrative costs to program activities. Mr. Sokol inquired for what year(s) the funds were available and Mr. Resse explained that the life of the Stimulus Program was from 2/17/09 through 6/30/11; however, he said, the State was the intermediary and he would proceed with planning through June 30, 2010 at which time the State would assess the program and redirect funding if deemed necessary. Mr. Resse conveyed that he felt that funding would apply through the 2011 end date.

Regarding the LPN program, Mr. Payne asked Mr. Resse if the Department could research the possibility of using County nursing facilities within the three Counties for the placement of licensed practical nursing program students. He noted that an attempt to place ACC Nursing Program students in County nursing facilities had not been successful in the past. Mr. Resse responded affirmatively and stated that he would research the issue today.

Agenda Item 4, Mr. Resse stated, was a request to amend Resolution No. 417 of 2008 to raise the minimum wage for youth work experience programs to \$7.25 per hour effective June 22, 2009 and for those with at least one post secondary academic semester to \$8.75 per hour effective May 11, 2009. Mr. Resse expressed his desire to involve older youth who met the educational eligibility requirement. He said the benefit would attract older youth enrolled in higher education, and differentiate them from younger, less experienced youth. Further, he noted, the funds must be expended, with a portion mandated for use by out-of-school youth.

Mr. Stec asked the total impact of the wage rate increase and Mr. Resse replied that the increase would not expend all funding for the summer program. Mr. Resse apprised that he expected ten to twelve youth to qualify for the higher wage rate.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend Resolution 417 of 2008 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 17, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Proceeding to Agenda Item 5, Mr. Resse presented two requests to Host Meeting or Convention as follows:

- Warren County ETA Youth GED Award Ceremony, to be held the week of May 18, 2009, at the Office of Employment & Training, to recognize youth and their families for the successful completion of the GED program, at a total estimated cost of \$125.00 paid by Federal grant funds; and
- Summer Youth Employment Program Orientations, to be held on June 25 - 26, and from June 29 - 30, 2009, at the Office of Employment & Training, to conduct summer employment orientation, at a total estimated cost of \$500 paid by Federal grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the requests to Host Meeting or Convention as outlined above. *Copies of the Request to Host Meeting or Convention are on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Resse distributed copies of the April Calendar of Events for the Warren County One-Stop Career Center, a copy of which is on file with the minutes. He announced the Lake George Job Fair, which was not included in the calendar, to be held on April 30, 2009 at the Fort William Henry Conference Center.

Pertaining to the pending items, Mr. Resse stated that the supervisory policy would remain pending at this time.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Margaret Smith, Director of the Youth Bureau, who requested permission to submit an application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the Recovery Act Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for Units of Local Government. She apprised that Warren County was eligible for \$22,190 and the Youth Bureau proposed to apply for these funds to preserve jobs in the Warren County Youth Court crime prevention and education program, with the grant effective date to be determined and a termination date of February 28, 2013. She stated that Mr. Payne had recommended application for the four year Federal grant, and both Robert Iusi and John Adams, from the Probation Department, had offered their assistance in the grant development process.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the request to complete and submit the grant application as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 17, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Item two presented by Ms. Smith was a request for permission to apply for the Junior Tennis Foundation Grant in the amount of \$1,500, which created tennis instruction opportunities for youth with limited means from several communities. She explained that the funding provided scholarships, wages for instructors, equipment and instructional support.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve permission to submit the grant application for the Junior Tennis Foundation Grant as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 17, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Smith presented a request to establish the "Alive at 25" program which impacted unsafe driving practices among youth up to age 24 and provided funds for youth prevention programs at no cost to Warren County. Ms. Smith apprised that Kate Hogan, District Attorney, and Bud York, Sheriff, collaborated with the Youth Bureau to establish the four hour National Safety Council Alive at 25 Defensive Driving Course. She noted the District Attorney's Office would apprise the traffic courts of the program specifications.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the request to implement the "Alive at 25" program as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 17, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Smith presented a request for a new contract with Robert Lathrop, to provide the four hour National Safety Council Alive at 25 Defensive Driving Course, with a commencement date to be determined, and terminating December 31, 2009. The appropriations and revenue codes would be determined through the Treasurer's Office pending County approval. ***(Please note: The request to establish the Alive at***

25 Program and the request to contract with Robert Lathrop for instruction of the Defensive Driving Course was previously approved at the February 26th meeting of the Criminal Justice Committee.)

Pertaining to State Youth Program Funds and Proposed Youth Program Block Grant for 2009, Ms. Smith reported that her office had been informed of affirmative news about the State Youth Program funds and she noted that specific information was not yet available.

The final items presented by Ms. Smith pertained to Youth Leadership and Service. She said that four teens that represented Warren County had articulated the positive educational benefits derived from their experiences. Ms. Smith cited an article written by a 13 year old ninth grader from Warrensburg who participated in the Youth Leadership Program which included her positive experiences in the program, and Ms. Smith stated that she had submitted the article to the State Newsletter for publication. She asserted that increased involvement by teens in their local communities raised the likelihood that they would return to their communities after completion of their education to contribute in a positive way.

According to Ms. Smith, the Warren-Washington Leadership Summit: "Be the Change You Want to See" was held on March 18th at Adirondack Community College and included 350 youth in grades 8 and up. She said the educational event was planned and hosted by local teens and the Warren and Washington Counties Youth Bureaus. Ms. Smith noted that funding for the event was provided by ACT for Youth and the Faculty Student Association of Adirondack Community College.

The ACT for Youth, Ms. Smith stated, was a bi-county grant from the New York State Department of Health which permitted the Warren County Youth Bureau to work directly with youth to support the development of leadership skills and effective involvements in both their schools and communities at large. She stated that both the Warren and Washington Counties Cornell Cooperative Extension Offices, the Warren County Employment & Training Administration, the Washington County Youth Bureau, and the Washington County EOC had partnered with and offered support to the Warren County Youth Bureau.

Mr. Pitkin asked if the outlook for the Youth Court program had improved and Ms. Smith responded affirmatively. She reiterated that she did not have specific information at this time.

Ms. Smith announced the Youth Court breakfast to take place on May 8, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. and she stated that additional information would be forthcoming.

In closing, Ms. Smith mentioned leadership opportunities for youth with regard to employment in summer recreational programs. An experience such as this, she said, provided a meaningful first employment experience. She conveyed her willingness to assist with program training or in any manner necessary in order to meet programmatic goals.

There being no further business before the Human Services Committee, on motion by Mr. Girard and seconded by Mr. Stec, Mrs. Simmes adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist