

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COMMITTEE:** HUMAN SERVICES (*Employment & Training and Veterans' Services*)

**DATE:** MARCH 22, 2012

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS STRAINER  
GIRARD  
FRASIER  
SOKOL  
WOOD  
LOEB  
VANSELOW

CHRIS HUNSINGER, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ADMINISTRATION  
SHARON SANO, SENIOR EMPLOYMENT COUNSELOR  
DENISE DiRESTA, DIRECTOR, VETERANS SERVICES  
DANIEL G. STEC, CHAIRMAN  
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD  
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER  
SUPERVISOR TAYLOR  
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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Mr. Strainer called the meeting of the Human Services Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the prior Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Chris Hunsinger, Director of the Employment & Training Administration, who distributed agendas to the Committee members; a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Hunsinger requested permission for himself and Sharon Sano, Senior Employment Counselor, to attend the New York State Association of Training & Employment Professionals (NYATEP) / United States Department of Labor (US DOL) Workforce New York Spring Conference in Albany, NY from May 7 - 9, 2012.

Motion was made by Mr. Loeb, seconded by Mr. Vanselow and carried unanimously to approve the request to attend the NYATEP/US DOL Conference as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

With regard to funding, Mr. Hunsinger stated that New York State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds for the Summer Youth Program had been re-authorized and remained level with prior year funding. He advised that Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds were expected to be re-authorized with an approximate 7% reduction.

Mrs. Sano stated there were 42 participants in the Summer program last year and she pointed out participation trends were included in the newsletter. She advised of two opportunities she had to share information about the Summer Youth Employment Program, one as a panel member for the NYS DOL Youth Office at a Statewide conference in Syracuse, and the other was a presentation she had made to the WIB. Mrs. Sano explained there was flexibility regarding the use of Federal WIA and State funding for the summer program. She stated she anticipated 40 summer youth this year and advised the ETA visited every school in Warren County. Mrs. Sano summarized the Operation Food Chain Program, which provided meals to youth during the summer months.

Mrs. Sano invited all Committee members to attend the Annual Summer Youth Program Awards Ceremony and picnic to be held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 23, 2012 at Crandall Park, to

be held in rain or shine.

Mr. Hunsinger noted the current nationwide high school drop-out rate was 31%, which underscored the importance of GED programming. Mrs. Sano advised that GED administration would become privatized thereby making the examinations more difficult.

Mr. Strainer thanked Mrs. Sano for her dedication to the program and he cited Chef Jones' important role and urged all to attend the picnic in August. He commended Mr. Hunsinger for the important directive given to job fair attendees regarding dress code.

Mr. Loeb inquired about State funding and the consequences of zero funding and Mrs. Sano stated that work continued with regard to learning how to access other funds. **(Note: Subsequent to the meeting, Mr. Hunsinger advised that Warren County received \$42,986 in funding last year and the program served 29 youth. He noted the annual Federal WIA allocation was \$640,000).**

Privilege of the floor was extended to Denise DiResta, Director of Veterans' Services, who distributed agendas to the Committee members; a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Ms. DiResta requested Committee approval to hold a Veterans' Benefits Fair on Thursday, April 26, 2012 from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of the Human Services Building. She noted several other counties had held fairs and it was recommended in light of the number of returning veterans. She said she would like the Fair to become an annual event and noted that the New York State VA Office would run an ad for the event. Mr. Strainer recommended that Ms. DiResta speak with Paul Dusek, County Administrator, regarding the use of the room before proceeding with plans.

It was the concensus of the Committee to authorize Ms. DiResta to hold a Veterans' Benefits Fair as outlined above, contingent upon approval by the County Administrator for the use of space.

Ms. DiResta advised of the Leatherstocking Honor Flight to take place on April 28, 2012 which included Patriot Guard and State Police escorts for two Korean War Veterans. She said a ceremony would be held at the Albany Airport and the event was open to all Committee members. She explained that Leatherstocking referred to a region of New York State and there were two Spring and two Fall flights carried out entirely by volunteers. She advised there was no cost to veterans for the flight and activities included a visit to the World War II (WWII) Memorial, as well as the Vietnam and Korean War memorials. Ms. DiResta noted that information was available on the Warren County Veterans' Services website.

As there was no further business to come before the Human Services Committee, on motion made by Mrs. Frasier and seconded by Mrs. Wood, Mr. Strainer adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist