

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: SOCIAL SERVICES - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: APRIL 11, 2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS PRESENT:
SUPERVISORS LOEB	SUZANNE WHEELER, ACTING COMMISSIONER
BENTLEY	PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
SOKOL	JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
	KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:	SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
SUPERVISORS KENNY	DICKINSON
STRAINER	THOMAS
WOOD	CONOVER
WESTCOTT	MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
	DON LEHMAN, <i>THE POST STAR</i>
	JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Loeb called the meeting of the Social Services Committee to order at 8:49 a.m. Due to the lack of a quorum of the Committee and in the absence of the Chairman of the Board, Supervisor Thomas, Vice-Chair, provided a quorum of the Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Sokol 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 Suzanne Wheeler, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS), who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; a copy is also on file with the minutes.

Ms. Wheeler presented a request to fill the vacant position of Social Welfare Examiner #24, Grade 8, base salary of \$30,230, Employee No. 11446, due to resignation. She added that she would also need approval to backfill any positions resulting from promotion. She said the vacancy was in the Temporary Assistance Employment Unit.

In terms of the workload and the demands of the position, Ms. Wheeler advised the unit presently employed nine social welfare examiners and there were approximately sixty-three cases per worker per month, which was the average across the State. She underscored the fact that although the number of cases was significant, of more significance was the complexity and length of the cases and Ms. Wheeler noted that she had included a job description for the position in the agenda packet.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request to fill the vacant position of Social Welfare Examiner #24 as outlined above, and forward to the subsequent meeting of the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Sokol asked if the prior staff reductions had impacted too deeply on the workload and productivity and Ms. Wheeler said she felt the reduction in Senior and Principal Examiner positions had significantly impacted the department, due to the level of responsibility for case review.

Mr. Bentley cited that the State of Florida had passed a law requiring anyone receiving taxpayer assisted funding to be subject to drug and alcohol testing, and suspend benefits for those who tested positive.

A short discussion ensued and it was the consensus of the Committee to refer the consideration of drug testing as a contingency for eligibility to receive taxpayer assisted funds, to the Legislative & Rules Committee.

There being no further business to come before the Social Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Sokol, Mr. Loeb adjourned the meeting at 8:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist