

## **Minutes of Meeting**

### **SOCIAL & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING Department of Social Services**

June 11, 2013

Present:       John Salka, Town of Brookfield  
                  Alexander Stepanski, Town of Stockbridge  
                  Eve Ann Schwartz, Town of Hamilton  
                  Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner

A special meeting of the Social and Mental Health Services Committee, having been called to vote upon two impending resolutions on this date, was called to order at 11:45.

The first resolution was a joint resolution that had already been approved by the Criminal Justice Committee. Mike explained that the resolution called upon a consortium of departments that included Probation and Social Services, under the lead agency of Mental Health, to continue to provide forensic case management services for individuals involved with the criminal justice system who also have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. The grant was extended from July 1, 2013, through December 3, 2013, and the allotted \$11,166 would support the continuation of the services. On a motion by Alex and seconded by Eve Ann, the motion passed unanimously.

The second resolution was a topic that was discussed at the last committee meeting on May 20, 2013. At that time, the non-emergency Medicaid transportation coordination was going from Birnie Bus to the State Health Department on June 1, 2013. The administrative burden that would be placed on medical providers was enormous and Mike was asked to prepare a resolution urging the State Health Department to select a contractor. Mike did prepare that resolution, which had been distributed and commented on in the last several weeks. Additionally, the Planning Committee in their role as oversight over public transit voted on and passed that resolution unanimously. However, since that time, the state has selected a contractor (Medical Answering Service), but had delayed implementation of coordination. That delay will continue to cause a lack of service for Medicaid recipients and the strong likelihood that medical providers will refuse to see Medicaid patients. Mike had prepared a resolution that would amend that earlier version to call on the state to implement the contract. On a motion by Eve Ann and seconded by Alex, the original resolution was passed unanimously. On a motion by Alex and seconded by Eve Ann, the amended resolution passed unanimously. Chairman of the Social and Mental Health Services Committee, John Salka, will make the amendment on the floor of the Board of Supervisors and copies of the amended resolution will be on all supervisors' desks. Mike is hopeful that at a meeting next week on June 19, 2013, the State Health Department will announce a sooner timeline to implement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Fitzgerald  
Commissioner

Approved by Committee Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_