

## **Minutes of Meeting**

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

September 24, 2012

Present: John Salka, Town of Brookfield  
Lewis Carinci, City of Oneida  
Roger Bradstreet, Town of Nelson  
Alexander Stepanski, Town of Stockbridge  
Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner  
Mark Scimone, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman

The meeting minutes from August 27, 2012, had been previously distributed. On a motion by Roger and seconded by Alex, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mike discussed the caseload and expenditures report. He noted that with 2/3 of the year accounted for, it appears that DSS is in good shape. There are a few accounts that will bear watching as the end of the year unfolds.

There were three resolutions before the committee. The first, KAG Consulting (Dr. Scott Petosa), Mike admitted was an oversight on the part of DSS. In 2011, there was movement to place the funding of the program into another more secure funding stream. The work was done, including the contract and resolution, but it was never introduced. While preparing the contract for this year, the error was detected. The resolution would remedy the 2012 contract and establish the program for 2013. Mike noted that there is a proposal to increase the amount of the contract for 2013 by \$10,800. He also noted that the hourly rate remains the same, but the increase is to purchase additional slots. Mike noted that for that for much of 2012, there has been a waiting list of several months for the program and the additional funding would free up that list. The committee and Mike discussed the various aspects and techniques Dr. Petosa employs with the program and committee members thought it would be prudent to invite Dr. Petosa to a future committee meeting. Mike will coordinate that future presentation. On a motion by Roger and seconded by Alex, the resolution passed unanimously.

The second resolution was to continue to contract with Stoneleigh Housing for HEAP furnace repairs and replacements. Mike described this successful program and clarified that the contract is "up to \$15,000" and depending on the number of referrals and service needs, the amount would be less. On a motion by Roger and seconded by Lewis, the resolution passed unanimously.

Finally, Mike had a new service that required a contract with a vendor. He opined that with the fiscal conditions stretched everywhere, this was something that might have been done for free or "in kind" in the past, but is now being paid for by Medicaid. He described that if home modifications were necessary to keep a Medicaid recipient at home, the agreement before the committee would allow an evaluator to establish the need, oversee the design, prepare and receive bids, secure approvals from the State Health Department, negotiate fees or any other costs, and then inspect the completed project. For that work, Enable would receive \$50 per hour, reimbursed from federal/state funds at 100 percent. Roger asked about the Mobile Work Crew's ability to do this work. Mike replied that these were private homes and with the work crew

members being clients, we do not send them into residences. On a motion by Roger and seconded by Alex, the resolution passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the Mental Health Department was invited to begin its presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Fitzgerald  
Commissioner

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