

APPROVED
3-10-09

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2009 – 4:45 P.M.
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present: F. Proto, Chairman, M. Robertson (arrived 4:52 p.m.), C. Chock, T. Randall
Excused: N. Shinagawa
Staff: P. Carey, Department of Social Services; N. Zahler, Youth Services; K. Schlather, Human Services Coalition; L. Holmes, Office for the Aging; K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

Chairman Proto called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of December 3, 2008

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mr. Randall, and unanimously approved by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of December 3, 2008, as presented.

Youth Services

RESOLUTION NO. – ACCEPTING UNITED WAY GRANT FOR *FRESH SQUEEZED ORANGE JUICE GUIDE TO TEEN SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES* – YOUTH SERVICES

MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mr. Randall, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Members of the Committee spoke of having used the guide to make recommendations to constituents.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Youth Services Department is charged with maintaining an inventory of youth programs in the community and for sharing that information with youth, families, schools, and service providers, and

WHEREAS, the Youth Services Department has periodically published the *Fresh Squeezed Orange Juice Guide to Teen Services and Activities* known as the “OJ Guide” for many years by using staff time and interns to gather information and grants to help publish the Guide, and

WHEREAS the United Way of Tompkins County’s Youth in Philanthropy group has awarded the Tompkins County Youth Services Department \$4,000 to help with the hard copy and online publication of the OJ Guide in early 2009, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of Health and Human Services Committee, That the grant be and hereby is accepted by Tompkins County,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance be directed to adjust the revenue and appropriations of the 2009 Youth Services Department budget record as outlined below:

FROM:	7020.42797	Other Local Government Contributions	\$4,000
TO:	7020.54330	Printing	\$4,000

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Appointments to the Youth Services Board

January 20, 2008
Health and Human Services Committee

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mr. Randall, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to recommend approval of the following individuals as members of the Youth Services Board to the full Legislature:

Youth Services Board

Bernice Yarosh – At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2011

Jane Powers - At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2011

Human Services Coalition

RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND FOR ALTERNATIVES VENTURE FUND

It was MOVED by Mr. Randall, seconded by Ms. Chock, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. At this time Mr. Proto reported he had a brief conversation with Ms. Carey regarding this resolution prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey and Mr. Herden have reviewed the resolution and believe it may be possible to run funding through the Department of Social Services for the VITA program, thus enabling the possibility of a reimbursement from the State. Ms. Carey said Tompkins County is one of the only counties with a partnership such as the one existing with Alternatives Federal Credit Union; previously the program was exclusively through the Department of Social Services, however, Alternatives Federal Credit Union offered to assist with the operation of the program, believing they would have more individuals coming forward for help. This has been shown to be true and the partnership is recognized and commended across the state. In response to a question, Ms. Carey was not certain who the funders were that are no longer supporting the program, but believes it was State or Federal funding.

At this time, Mr. Proto disclosed that he is an employee of HSBC bank who makes a contribution toward the VITA program. Although it would not create a conflict of interest, he desired to make it publicly known.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 3; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Legislator Randall).

WHEREAS, the Alternatives Venture Fund, a not-for-profit corporation affiliated with Alternatives Federal Credit Union, is set to begin the seventh season of its free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) tax-preparation program, and

WHEREAS, during the previous tax season, the VITA program served 1,200 Tompkins County households, leveraging over \$32 for every \$1 of program expense and bringing over \$2 million dollars of State and Federal tax refunds into the County, and

WHEREAS, this season, the VITA program is expanding to new tax-preparation sites in the Town of Dryden, Brooktondale, and Cornell University, and

WHEREAS, the program expects to increase households served by 15 percent with a proportional increase in tax refunds returned to those households, and

WHEREAS, VITA did not receive grants from two major funding sources this season due to an overwhelming request for funds, the Alternatives Venture Fund is reaching out to many sources within the community to support this program, and

WHEREAS, VITA is extremely beneficial to its clients and the County as a whole, and

WHEREAS, funds supporting VITA are returned to the community many times over, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and the Budget and Capital Committees, That the County authorize and direct the Finance Director to make the following one-time appropriation:

FROM: A1990.54400 Contingent Fund \$10,000

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Health and Human Services Committee

TO: 6305.54400 Alternatives Venture Fund \$10,000

RESOLVED, further, That County Administrator or his designee is authorized to execute any documents and agreements pertaining to the proposal.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Ms. Robertson arrived at this time (4:52 p.m.).

Office for the Aging

RESOLUTION NO. – ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEW YORK – OFFICE FOR THE AGING

It was MOVED by Mr. Randall, seconded by Ms. Chock, to recommend adoption of the following resolution by the full Legislature. Ms. Holmes explained the grant would provide funds to enable a necessary joint planning effort with community agencies and nursing services to assist in local training of paraprofessionals involved in home and health care. Presently agencies and nursing services companies are having to send individuals to Syracuse and Elmira to receive the appropriate training and certification, resulting in a loss of interest in positions due to the need to travel. It is hoped that by providing local training the employee retention would improve.

In response to Ms. Robertson’s questions, it was noted the funds would not provide training but develop a plan for local training that would be present in an ongoing basis, perhaps with BOCES or the local community college. The cost of the training would fall upon the agencies and nursing services firms as it presently does.

Mr. Proto spoke of the Governor’s proposal and the impact of cuts to home visiting, homelessness prevention, youth programs, and child care among others, will be costly in short and long-term. These cuts could require the County to hire 20-30 more employees if the proposal passes.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Legislator Shinagawa). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Office for the Aging wishes to engage in a community planning effort on the training and retention of paraprofessionals involved in home and health care, and

WHEREAS, this planning effort is necessary in order to address a shortage of health-care paraprofessionals, and

WHEREAS, this grant will allow the Tompkins County Office for the Aging to lead such a community planning effort, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the County hereby accepts this grant of \$20,000 from the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York,

RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director is authorized to make the following adjustments to his books:

REVENUE:	A6772.42770	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$20,000
APPROPRIATION:	A.6772.5100049	Salary	\$16,320
	A6772.54400	Program Expense	\$ 3,680

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Budget Transfers

The Committee received budget transfers for the Department; there were no questions or action required.

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Health and Human Services Committee

Lakeside Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility/Beechtree

Ms. Holmes reported there has not been any news received regarding Lakeside Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility/Beechtree. She did not the contract was signed with Lakeside employees.

PERS Advisory Board

Ms. Fuller shared Mr. Stevenson's comments of his belief the liaison should be a member of the Health and Human Services Committee for 2009.

Liaison Assignments – 2009

Ms. Robertson spoke of her believe that a discussion should take place regarding 2009 liaison assignments due to the numerous advisory boards associated with the Committee. She felt it may be worthwhile to canvass the full Legislature to see if others would be interested in attending some of the meetings.

Youth Services Budget Update

Ms. Zahler has not had any further news since petitioning the Governor to remove the youth detention spending out of the proposed block grant. The latest amendments did not include the recommendation; if it does pass as it presently is proposed it would be unmanageable due to the fact that there is no way to know how much of the funds would be required for detentions, thereby adversely affecting the other youth services programs. She anticipates speaking to State Legislators to see if they would assist in having the detention funding removed from the grant.

Human Services Coalition Update

Ms. Schlather reported there would be a budget run-down held at the Women's Community Building from 10 a.m. to noon on January 21st.

Drop-In Center

The Committee was informed that approximately eighty children are now seeking alternative day care locations due to burst water pipes over the weekend at the Drop-In Center causing over eight inches of water to accumulate, damaging the ceiling where they were located, other parts of the building, and contents as well. As a result, the Center would be closed for one to two months for repairs and undergoing the necessary reviews by various agencies to allow re-certification and occupancy. Ms. Schlather said the Center staff are working with the Office of Children and Family Services and are attempting to locate alternative locations that could be used in the interim. It was explained that every possible alternative would be reviewed and that family members or friends may be able to assist by temporarily taking the children in until repairs are made.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk