

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 – 3:00 P.M.
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

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| Approved 11/5/08 |
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Present: F. Proto, Chairman, M. Robertson, C. Chock
Excused: T. Randall, N. Shinagawa
Staff: L. Holmes, Office for the Aging; R. DeLuca, Mental Health; K. Schlather, Human Services Coalition; K. Schlather, Cornell Cooperative Extension; A. Cole, S. Connors, B. Grinnell-Crosby, S. Kern, T. Schiele, T. Lyczko, S. Dunlop, Health Department; N. Jayne, Administration; S. Whicher, County Administrator; J. Mareane, Newly Hired County Administrator; J. Johnson, N. Zook, T. Albert, Youth Services; K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

Chairman Proto called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Introduction of Newly Hired County Administrator

The Committee and attendees were introduced to newly hired County Administrator Joe Mareane.

Chair's Report

Mr. Proto informed those in attendance the purpose of the meeting was to provide Committee members an opportunity to review the over-target requests submitted by agencies that come under review by this Committee and provide the ability to discuss concerns the Committee members may have. He plans to review each department/division that has come before the Expanded Budget Committee in the order that they were heard.

General Questions

Ms. Chock asked for clarification on what share is local budget in relation to the entire budget for the department. She also noted it is difficult for her to easily determine what portion is rollover from the previous year. She also requested clarification of the budget review process to better understand how revisions are made to the proposed budget. She was provided this information.

Health Department

Over-Target Requests

In response to questions, it was noted the requests are due to the continued reduction of departmental budgets combined with the increase in fuel costs. It was noted the Health Department has one of the largest fleets in the County and that although more economical vehicles are being purchased as replacement vehicles, the present expenses are higher than budgeted. With the base budget remaining the same, the over-target requests are necessary for maintenance of effort. Ms. Cole noted there are no further areas the department is able to reduce without affecting services.

Well Water Program

It was noted that due to funding the well water program is not being considered.

Cause for Requests

Ms. Cole noted the initial four percent reduction from the government coupled with the recent six percent across-the-board reduction has reduced revenue for the department. When combined with the increased fuel and maintenance costs, the base budget falls short. Ms. Cole also spoke of the certified home health agency services having a large impact on the budget as well. When the local agency is

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unable to provide services the County Health Department steps in. This work includes a good deal of high-tech work that is required and takes time to orient the workers; it is difficult to determine the budget requirements when the demand is unknown. Ms. Crosby said the 2009 budget reflects the four percent cuts, however the recent six percent cuts are not included. Also, it is unknown what Federal cuts may come forward.

WIC

The grant for the Woman, Infant, and Children's program grant would cover a portion of the 2009-2010 budget; it also would have a portion designated as unallocated which could be spent in the manner chosen by the program. It was also noted that next year the program would have actual rent; the State has agreed to pay the additional expenses necessary to run the program.

Over Target Request #4

The work of this position is presently done by Ms. Connors and a Health Care Supervisor. Due to the need to increase therapy, particularly physical therapy it is becoming overwhelming. This position would assist with the coordination of care, a very critical piece of case management.

Mental Health

Mr. Proto inquired about the furniture requested in an over-target request. He was informed some of the furniture being replaced is original to the building; this is done as a recommendation by a State review of the physical building. Mr. Proto spoke of the surplus furniture that may be available through the State Office of General Services.

Tompkins County SPCA

It was noted the Tompkins County Council of Governments are working on a presentation for the Town of Lansing today. The over-target request for this agency was recommended as it is mandated.

Human Rights Commission

This item is postponed until Ms. Martel-Moore is available.

Human Services Coalition (HSC)

Coalition

Ms. Schlather indicated the requests were only for cost of living allowance and salaries. Rents are not included and it was noted the landlord for the coalition was informed not to anticipate an increase in rent. Known cuts are to Better Housing for Tompkins County who did not receive any Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) this year. It was noted agencies are unsure until department contracts are determined.

Following a brief discussion regarding upcoming grant applications it was recommended the HSC submit a chart indicating how dollars are leveraged to the Expanded Budget and Capital Committee.

Coalition Planning

A discussion regarding the one-time funding for the planner position occurred. It was noted the scope of the position had changed from one of grant writing to more of an administrative position. Mr. Whicher said the one-time funding would allow the Human Services Coalition to seek funding elsewhere to continue the position. Concern was expressed that agencies would be provided a grant without the administration assistance available. Ms. Schlather spoke of the benefit of the grant database to agencies

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and that a website location is being developed to enable agencies to know of potential grants as quickly as possible.

Budgeting Spreadsheet

Ms. Robertson requested the spreadsheets provide a column with the net County cost for the programs.

Office for the Aging

The Committee was informed of the reduction in target as a result of the six percent State cuts. It was noted that the over-target request for a vehicle for Foodnet might be amended to provide additional funding for food through the SNAP program, which was reduced \$13,440. The project cuts do not take into account reductions that may take place in 2008.

Youth Services

It was explained that the over-target request for Anger Management is actually a request to expand the pilot program that has proved to be beneficial. In addition, the over-target request for Learn to Earn program is also a continuation of a program that had funded on a one-time basis.

It was suggested that there be a category to clearly define programs such as these that are not standard maintenance of effort, yet are not a new initiative but continuation of one that has had limited funding or is a pilot.

Recreation Partnership

There were no questions.

Human Rights Commission

It was noted the request is for a paralegal aide to assist with the possible merger with Assigned Counsel. The position would be supported only through rollover. It was asked for Ms. Martel-Moore to provide more detailed information at the October 1st budget meeting.

Cooperative Extension

There were no questions regarding this agency.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk