

Social Programs Committee Minutes
November 7, 2016 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Dick Lucia; Supervisors Preston Allen, Vince DeLucia, Dan Lewza, Peter Martin, Jon Schopf, Kevin Tollisen, Matt Veitch and Chairman of the Board Mo Wright; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Sandi Cross, Aging; Tina Potter, DSS; Craig Hayner, County Clerk.

Chairman Lucia called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Martin the minutes of the October 12, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. DeLucia to Authorize the Director of the Office of the Aging to prepare and file the 2017-2018 Annual Implementation Plan and 2017 subcontracts for Office of the Aging. Unanimous.

Mrs. Cross distributed a list of the 2017 subcontracts. The only change from last year is an increase in the dietitian salary from \$35/hour to \$45/hour, this is the first raise for the dietitian in five years. This implementation plan is sent to the State annually.

Mrs. Cross said that the changeover to the new meals provider has been successful. Mr. Tollisen said that he has received calls at his Town Hall complimenting the new meal provider.

Mrs. Potter gave a brief overview of the HEAP Program and said that it will be opening on November 14, 2016. Information on the program with income guidelines etc. has been provided to all Supervisors. The program has three components, regular, emergency, and furnace repair and replacement. Regarding the regular component, the oil and kerosene benefit will be \$575, wood, pellet and coal, \$525 and electric heat \$350. The income guidelines are up slightly. Applications can be mailed, faxed, applied in person or online. The furnace repair and replacement component opened on November 7, 2016. The emergency component will open in January, 2017. Eligible individuals for the emergency component must have less than a quarter tank of fuel or a utility disconnect notice. Last year 17,590 households were helped.

Mrs. Potter gave a brief update on the Safe Harbour Program. In February 2016 a five year grant was accepted from the NYS Office of Children and Family and Services to develop a response system to provide services to youth experiencing commercial sex or labor trafficking. The department contracted with Saratoga Center for the Family and Captain Youth Shelter to coordinate the program. The program got under way by July 2016. A critical team has been set up that includes staff from Social Services, Probation, Mental Health, Youth Bureau and Law Enforcement. A county wide conference was held recently in Skidmore College for professionals that come into contact with youth on a regular basis. So far there are ten confirmed cases in Saratoga County.

On a motion made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Allen the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Legislative Clerk