

HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Held In The
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairwoman Scucimarra, Legislators Gross and LoBue

Thursday

October 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Chairwoman Scucimarra who requested Legislator LoBue lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators LoBue and Gross and Chairwoman Scucimarra were present.

Item #3 – 2015 Budget Review

Health Department

Early Intervention (Pages 85-86/Account # 4059)

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned the Care at Private Institution (10405900 54414) line.

Health Department Fiscal Manager Bill Orr stated in 2014 Care at Private Institution (10405900 54414) line was \$106,433.90 and in 2015 the Health Department budgeted for \$180,000. He stated there has been a decrease in children using the program; therefore the Health Department budgeted less funding for 2016.

Commissioner of Health Dr. Allen Beals stated this budget line is something that needs to be continuously monitored because the numbers of children in the Early Intervention Program constantly change.

Legislator LoBue questioned the Leased Transportation (10405900 54678) line.

Commissioner Beals stated there has been an increase in employees traveling to the children's homes for the Early Intervention Program. He stated he credits the decrease in children needing the services at the Early Intervention Program to the success of the Women, Infants & Children ("WIC") Program and Internal Child Health Program.

Legislator Gross questioned what the Itinerant Services (10405900 54441) line is used for.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated this service is associated with speech, and physical therapy services that occur in the child's home.

WIC (Pages 88-89/ Account # 4082)

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the total raised by taxation for the WIC Brewster Nursing Clinic has increase by approximately \$10,000.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated the overall WIC Grant from the State was reduced by \$40,000. Commissioner Beals stated the State established 1,250 children as a target to receive services from the County's WIC Program. He stated the County is over their target; there are approximately 1,270 people receiving services in the WIC Program.

Legislator Gross stated the Temporary (10408200 51094) line has been increased to \$50,000.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated there is a \$33,000 grant for WIC called Breast Feeding Peer Counselor Grant for temporary workers. He stated this grant increased, which is reflected in the temporary line. He stated there is also a temporary position because a full-time nurse retired. He stated there is actually a cost savings because the full-time nurse that retired had a salary of \$58,000.

Legislator Gross questioned if the temporary position will be made into a full-time position.

Commissioner Beals stated this position will remain as a temporary position.

Recycling (Pages 166-167/ Account #8160)

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated under the Partnership Initiative (10027000 54936) line there is funding for the Village of Cold Spring's garbage. She stated the Village of Cold Spring is requesting that this line be increased from \$7,500 to \$14,000 to install solar garbage compactors. She stated due to tour buses, ridership of the trollies and other tourism initiatives there is more garbage. She stated to resolve the issue of being overloaded with garbage the Village wanted to purchase Big Belly Solar Waste Stations. She stated the lease for the Big Belly Solar Waste Stations would be \$180 per month.

Legislator Nacerino stated one (1) of the Village of Brewster Trustees informed her they are also having issues with garbage. She questioned if the Trustee reached out to the Legislature.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated no.

Legislator LoBue stated this is a very tough budget; it would be unfair to have this service for only one (1) Town and not for all.

Mental Health

Talbot House Page (Pages 91-92/Account # 4250)

Legislator LoBue questioned the Sub Contractors (10028000 54647) line.

Commissioner of Social Services Michael Piazza stated that line is used to pay for Putnam Family & Community Services organization.

Substance Abuse Common Sense (Page 90/Account #4230)

Legislator Gouldman questioned if there is any projected revenue for Substance Abuse in 2015.

Commissioner Piazza stated the County receives the notice of revenue towards the end of the year. He stated the County money that goes to Putnam Family & Community Services for the drug treatment program has been in the amount of \$65,805; this is the same amount since 1997.

Elliot House (Page 96/Account #4322 [10036000])

Commissioner Piazza stated the Elliot House is now known as Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (“PROS”) and it is an intensive day treatment program that is run by Putnam Family & Community Services. He stated this is a State pass through and the local tax raise is the amount that the County had put in.

PARC (Page 99/Account # 4930)

Legislator Gross questioned if the lines for PARC on page 99 reflect services that the County pays for.

Commissioner Piazza stated the actual amount that the County pays for is \$62,500. He stated all of the other figures on page 99 are State Pass Through Funds. He stated this money is used for the Sheltered Work Shop and the Department of Social Services (“DSS”) reserved the \$62,500 for this program because PARC needs the funding. He stated the State may begin to reduce the funding for the Sheltered Work Shop Program because it is now considered too low of a level for a job. He stated if the State reduces their contribution, the County then may reduce their contribution as well.

Legislator Gross questioned if the Sheltered Work Shop is where there are manufacturing jobs for those with a mental disability.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated yes.

Commissioner Piazza stated there is a lot of controversy with reducing these types of jobs. He stated there are concerned clients, parents, and advocates in regards to the work environment; therefore the State is backing away from this program due to the outcry.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she hopes that the State’s stance on Sheltered Work Shop is reconsidered because those who work in this job setting love their job. She stated some individuals cannot work in other job settings.

Commissioner Piazza stated the State is looking for services to no longer fund for such as the Office of People With Developmental Disabilities (“OPWDD”) is reducing their spending; there are a number of facilities in the State that will close at the end of the year. He stated this is creating an issue within the community because individuals with behavioral issues will be treated in the mental health system which then the County is obligated to find the appropriate treatment. He stated he is concerned with future spending.

Social Services (Page 104-112/Account #6010)

Legislator Nacerino stated there was a decrease in the Miscellaneous (10102000 54989) line and questioned what this line is used for.

Commissioner Piazza stated he is unsure and will ask DSS Fiscal Manager Grace Balcer.

County Auditor Sharkey stated she believes that the Miscellaneous (10102000 54989) line is used for food using the Hanaford Grocery Store Voucher.

Commissioner Piazza stated this is used for food services for a DSS event. He stated there is also a program where DSS will purchase food for clients.

Legislator Albano questioned the Telephone (10102000 54634) line.

Commissioner Piazza stated there was an increase in this line because there is an anticipation that the DSS Child Protective Services (“CPS”) Workers that are out in the field will transition from flip phones to smart phones. The purpose is for the CPS Workers to have a GPS device in their cell phone so their location is known. Also, in having a smart phone the CPS Workers will be able to check their work emails.

Legislator Gross questioned if the Temporary (10102000 51094) line funding is used for a temporary employee position.

Commissioner Piazza stated it is a temporary medical assistant position.

PINS (Page 119/Account # 6123)

Commissioner Piazza stated if someone is in secured detention the County has to pay for it. He stated he is concerned with this matter because if an individual is placed in a State Psychiatric Hospital the County has to pay a portion of the bill. He stated the funding for PINS or Child Care is at the mercy of the Judge who sits each case. He stated the figures are based on the past expenses the cost incurred on the County for the year.

Legislator Gross questioned why there was an increase in the Miscellaneous (10612300 54989) line.

Commissioner Piazza stated he will have to ask Fiscal Manager Blacer and he will provide the Legislature with the answer. *(County Auditor Sharkey established more money was approved for the Supervision & Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) by the NYS Office of Children & Family Services).*

Home Relief (Safety Net) (Page 121/Account #6140)

Legislator Gross questioned what the Safety Net Program is used for.

Commissioner Piazza stated the Safety Net is for single individuals, without children, who are on temporary assistance. He stated the majority of the people in this program need shelter. An example of an individual in the Safety Net Population would be a parolee. He stated there was a shift in funding from the State which increased the County’s share of the Safety Net from 50% to 70%. He stated it is a net zero for the County but, will reflect as an increase in Safety Net.

WIA (Page 124/Account #6993)

Legislator Gross stated there was a decrease in the Personnel Service (10629300 51000) line.

Commissioner Piazza stated this decrease was because DSS went from implementing the Workforce Investment Act (“WIA”) to the Workforce Opportunities Act and there was a reduction in federal funding.

Safe Harbor (Page 126/Account #6326 [10058000])

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if the County received a grant for the Safe Harbor Program.

Commissioner Piazza stated yes, the County received \$75,000. He stated the grant helps pay for a temporary position which is reflected in the Administrative Social Services (10058000 436101) line.

Legislator LoBue noted in the 2015 Budget there was \$3,500 allocated to the Contracts (1005800 54646) line. She questioned why there is not a request to put any money in this line for the 2016 Budget.

Commissioner Piazza stated the Safe Harbor Program is operated out of the Child Advocacy Center (“CAC”) therefore, it is anticipated that there will not be a need to allocate money to the Contract (1005800 54646) line.

Youth Program (Page 154-156/Account #7310)

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if the funding in the Temporary (10731000 51094) line is for a part-time employee.

Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Joseph DeMarzo stated that is correct.

Commissioner Piazza stated the part-time employee replaced a full-time clerical employee who retired.

Legislator Gross questioned if the Youth Bureau only utilizes State funds and not County funds.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated that is not correct, very few State dollars are allocated to the Youth Bureau.

Office of Senior Resources (OSR)

OSR Title 3 (Page 139-141/Account #6772)

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated there was a decrease in the Motor Vehicles (10677200 52650) line.

OSR Director Patricia Sheehy stated last year, OSR purchased several vehicles to expand the medical transportation program. She stated this year OSR does not need to request for funds towards purchasing vehicles.

SNAP Program (Page 149-150/Account 6778)

Legislator Gross noted that there was a decrease in the Food (10677800 54320) line.

Director Sheehy stated OSR is looking to cut 10 % of the State match. She stated the County wanted to be more frugal in this matter.

Legislator LoBue requested for Director Sheehy to elaborate on what was cut.

Director Sheehy stated the food given in the SNAP Program for the Meals on Wheels is never meant to be long-term; it is meant to help support a person for a period of time such as one recovering after leaving the hospital.

Legislator LoBue questioned what happens to individuals who need long-term help.

Director Sheehy stated those who need the assistance will receive it. She stated evaluations are conducted to determine if there is a need for an individual to receive Meals on Wheels.

Legislator Gross stated he appreciates that Director Sheehy investigated the situations to prevent fraudulent circumstances.

County Historian (Page 158-159/Account #7510)

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she previously inquired about the increase in the Equipment Rental (10751000 54560) line. She stated this funding will be used for a new copy machine.

Legislator Gross stated he addressed the matter of New York State Historic Signs with the County Historian. He stated many of those signs are in bad condition to the point where they are illegible. He stated the County Historian does not do maintenance of projects; but is looking for a way to repair the signs.

Item #4 – Other Business- None

Item #5 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:02 p.m. Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Lisa Sommers.