

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
TO BE HELD IN THE  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM #318  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**(Chairwoman Scuccimarra, Legislators Addonizio & Gouldman)**

**Thursday**

**December 14, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Chairwoman Scuccimarra who requested Legislator Gouldman lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Gouldman, and Chairwoman Scuccimarra were present.

**Item #3 - Approval/Health Department/Household Hazardous Waste Grant**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated there have been two (2) Household Hazardous Waste events this year and this is a reimbursement. She stated at the events in May and October 55 gallons of antifreeze, 1,150 pounds of pesticides, 20 pounds of mercury containing devices, 315 other solids, 16,400 miscellaneous waste solids, 1,130 gallons of hazardous paint, 10 pounds of bulk mercury, 7 pounds of fluorescent bulbs, along with propane tanks and fire extinguishers. She stated this is a very successful event.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to approve Health Department/Household Hazardous Waste Grant; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Phyllis Hoenig, resident, questioned what is done with the hazardous waste after it is collected.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it is disposed of through New York State.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated Items 4, 5, and 6 would be addressed together.

**Item #4 - Approval/Fund Transfer 17T331/Department of Social Services/Reallocate Appropriation to Reflect Projected Cost Through Year End**

**Item #5 - Approval/Fund Transfer 17T333/Department of Social Services/ Reallocate Appropriation to Reflect Projected Cost Through Year End**

**Item #6 - Approval/Fund Transfer 17T334/Department of Social Services/ Reallocate Appropriation to Reflect Projected Cost Through Year End**

Commissioner of Social Services Michael Piazza stated these have no fiscal impact. He stated these are just moving money between lines. He stated when the budget process started in September 2016, it was being done without a State or Federal budget. He stated the State sometimes moves around money and Social Services is trying to figure out how much money will be needed in each line. He stated with Items 4, 5, & 6 money is being taken from 4E, which

is a federally reimbursable program for child protective services foster care and in Item 4 the money is being moved from funding that was not needed in one area and putting it into a program where it was needed. He stated there is concern over the Day Care Block Grant getting reduced and needing county money. He stated in Item 6 money is being moved from 4E, which are cases that are in foster care or child protective services that are also qualified for funding because the family is impoverished. He stated they are being moved into Foster Care FNP (Federally Non-Participating) because there were a higher number of families that were above the financial threshold of poverty.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra clarified that all three (3) items are just reallocating money.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to approve Fund Transfers 17T331, 17T333, 17T334; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Phyllis Hoenig, resident, requested where she could find the information and figures Commissioner Piazza was referring to.

Clerk of the Legislature Diane Schonfeld stated the information could be found on the "Agendas with Backup" page on the Legislative website.

#### **Item #7 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 18A001/Office for Senior Resources/Additional Funding for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program Grant**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated Item 7 has changed from an FYI to an approval.

Director of the Office for Senior Resources Michael Cunningham stated there was an additional award late in fiscal year 2016 for \$3,500. He stated it was for targeting technology in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). He stated communication and technology are important tools to support the volunteers. He stated the \$3,500 will be used to purchase a laptop, software, and to augment the internet access at the Mahopac Senior Center.

Legislator Addonizio stated this has no fiscal impact.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to move Budgetary Amendment 18A001/Office for Senior Resources/Additional Funding for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program Grant to the Audit and Administration Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

#### **Item #8 - FYI/ProAct Report - Duly Noted.**

#### **Item # 9 - Other Business**

##### **a. Approval/Budgetary Amendment 18A002/Office for Senior Resources/Donation/Friends of the Senior Citizens of Putnam County**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Director Cunningham stated the Enhanced In-Home Care program's objective is to provide necessary support to seniors living at home alone. He stated it is a preventive tool so that they will not need to be placed in a nursing home. He stated in New York State there are not enough in-home health care aides to support the population. He stated the aides that are hired only do a few hours a day, so it is limited. He stated currently there are about six (6) people who the County provides service to. He stated they receive anywhere from eight (8) to 30 hours a week of home health care. He stated there is a new program called Consumer Directed, where the seniors choose who is going to provide the personal care for them instead of a stranger. He stated this program was a tremendous success, but caused the Office for Senior Resources to go through their budget for it very quickly. He stated money was moved around in order to make it through the year, but with how the fiscal year works with the State, the State funding for the program through March 2018 has already been used. He stated the last thing they want to do is terminate the program because there is no money. He stated this is where the Friends of the Senior Citizens of Putnam County came in to help fund the program until the budget is back in place.

Legislator Addonizio questioned what the total budget for the program is.

Director Cunningham stated it is approximately \$250,000 and they usually do not spend it all. He stated they usually send money back to the State so they are asking the State for some of that money back to cover the gap but they have not received a response. He stated they have to update their annual implementation plan to the State and will be putting in for increased funding due to the success of the Consumer Directed program. He stated the manpower issue is a problem because there is a wait list of at least 40 people for traditional personal care. He stated most seniors do not have people who are able to go take care of them. He stated the program has a lot of potential because the cost of in-home care is much less than for a nursing home.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra noted that seniors are much happier at home.

Legislator Addonizio clarified that these seniors do not need 24 hour care.

Director Cunningham stated they do not. He stated some just need help with personal care, grooming, or meals.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if Director Cunningham anticipate this problem growing due to the aging baby boomer population.

Director Cunningham stated definitely. He stated people are living longer and more seniors living at home and in senior housing. He stated due to the lack of workforce, more cannot be done.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if transportation is an issue.

Director Cunningham stated it could be but part of it is the economics of the area and aides are not reimbursed for the mileage or the travel time.

Legislator Nacerino stated there needs to be more incentive for people to get into the field and coordinate it with their work day.

Director Cunningham stated it is an overall problem with a lack of longevity in the job.

Legislator Nacerino stated the job has to become more lucrative for people to want to stay in the job.

Director Cunningham stated that is why they are trying to identify it as a workforce issue.

Legislator Sullivan questioned if there is any criteria for people to receive care.

Director Cunningham stated there is a needs assessment and there are case managers who deal with that. He stated they also look to prioritize who needs more assistance. He stated some seniors only need a couple hours a day or just a few days a week.

Ms. Hoenig questioned if this is something the County provides.

Director Cunningham stated the Office for Senior Resources administers the programs. He stated in the Consumer Directed program the senior nominates an aide of their choosing, though there are some rules, such as it cannot be a spouse. He stated this person will be hired by an independent agency that the county pays to train the aide.

Ms. Hoenig questioned where the County gets the money.

Director Cunningham stated it is a State program which is partially funded by the Federal Government, the State and the County.

Ms. Hoenig questioned if this is for people without Medicaid.

Director Cunningham stated he believes this program is for people who are not eligible for Medicaid.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to move Budgetary Amendment 18A002/Office for Senior Resources/Donation/Friends of the Senior Citizens of Putnam County to the Audit and Administration Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

### **Item #10 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:30 P.M. Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.