

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
May 24, 2006
OSWEGO COUNTY BUILDING
4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Present:

Legislators

John Proud, Chairman
Barbara Brown, Vice Chair
Dan Chalifoux
Arthur Gearsbeck
Leonard Ponzi
Paul Santore
Kimberly Seager

Staff:

Kathleen Fenlon, Executive Director, Youth Bureau
Frances Lanigan, Commissioner of Social Services
Larry Schmidt, Director of Office for the Aging
Kathleen Smith, Commissioner of Health
Marlene Jones, Senior Typist, Social Services

Guests: Stephen Lyman, County Administrator
Russ Johnson, Chairman of the Legislature
Steve Yablonski, Editor, Oswego Daily News

Chairman Proud called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Proud requested a motion to approve the April 26, 2006 meeting minutes. Legislator Brown moved a motion to approve the minutes, second to motion by Legislator Ponzi. Motion unanimously approved. 7-Ayes-Proud, Brown, Chalifoux, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Santore, and Seager.

2. **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Budget Modification – Summer Youth Employment Program

Commissioner Lanigan submitted a budget modification for Committee review and approval.

- Budget modification to accept \$95,595 increase in funding for the TANF-Summer Youth Employment Program. Total allocation for the program is \$320,595. There is no local share.

The funds will be used to serve low-income youth providing them with a summer, paid work experience. These funds must be used for the Summer Youth Employment Program only. Silvia Langdon in the Fulton office is the contact person.

Legislator Brown moved a motion to approve the request, second to motion by Legislator Ponzi. Motion unanimously approved. 7 – Ayes, Proud, Brown, Chalifoux, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Santore and Seager.

3. **YOUTH BUREAU**

Budget Modification- Reality Check

Director Fenlon submitted 2 (two) budget modifications for Committee review and approval.

- Budget modification to accept \$5,000 increase in grant funding for Reality Checks, the youth empowerment and youth engagement program targeted to adolescents (Reality Checks).

The purpose of the program is to influence teenagers to avoid using tobacco products. The funds will be used for additional youth and media activities.

Legislator Seager moved a motion to approve the request, second to motion by Legislator Brown. Motion unanimously approved. 7 Ayes – Proud, Brown, Chalifoux, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Santore and Seager.

- Budget modification to move \$200 from other expenses into other equipment, so that a digital camera can be purchased for the Leadership Oswego County Youth Program.

The Leadership Oswego County Youth Program works with high school students from across Oswego County who are interested in learning and developing leadership skills. Throughout the year, there are many opportunities to take pictures to record activities. The Youth Bureau is also responsible for taking pictures of each participant to be included in the annual yearbook.

Legislator Ponzi moved a motion to approve the request, second to motion by Legislator Brown. Motion unanimously approved. 7-Ayes- Proud, Brown, Chalifoux, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Santore and Seager

4. **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Hospice 2005 Annual Report

Commissioner Smith provided Committee with handout and reviewed some highlights from the annual report.

Oswego County Hospice served 168 patients up from 165 in 2004.

Patients with diagnoses of cancer (104) continue to represent the majority of the cases (72%).

Patients continue to receive Hospice at Sunrise and Seneca Hill facilities.

5. **OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

Budget Modification – EISEP

Director Schmidt submitted a budget modification for Committee review and approval.

- Budget modification to amend the 2006 budget to reflect increases to the EISEP program funds.

EISEP program provides home care services to disabled elderly to help them to remain safe and independent in their homes. The EISEP program allocation was substantially increased as part of growing recognition that it is far more cost effective to keep seniors in their homes rather than in nursing homes or other types of institutions.

The NYS Legislature also recognized that county governments are facing dwindling resources to help counties accept these funds with a decrease from 25% to 10% required as local match. There are no additional County dollars needed in order to accept these State funds.

The funding will be used to provide additional home aide services, increase our respite care and add 1 (one) employee to assist with the program, supplies and related costs.

The Aging Services Specialist position that has been handling the Medicare Part D program will assume the EISEP position. Medicare Part D responsibilities will be ending sometime in the near future.

Director Schmidt at some point will need to request purchase of a computer system.

Legislator Seager moved a motion to approve the request, second to motion Legislator Santore. Motion unanimously approved. 7 – Ayes, Proud, Brown, Chalifoux, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Santore, and Seager.

6. **NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Proud asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. Legislator Seager moved a motion to adjourn, second to motion Legislator Brown. Motion unanimously approved. 7 Ayes – Proud, Brown, Chalifoux, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Santore and Seager.