

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES - EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING, OFFICE FOR THE AGING & VETERANS' SERVICES

DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS STRAINER
STEC
VANNESS
SOKOL
TAYLOR
BENTLEY

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ADMINISTRATION:
CHRIS HUNSINGER, DIRECTOR
SHARON SANO, SENIOR COUNSELOR
CHRISTIE SABO, DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR THE AGING
DENISE DiRESTA, DIRECTOR, VETERANS' SERVICES
NICOLE LIVINGSTON, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR GIRARD

SUPERVISORS LOEB
MCCOY
THOMAS
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
AMANDA ALLEN, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Strainer called the meeting of the Human Services Committee to order at 10:50 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Denise DiResta, Director of Veterans' Services, who distributed copies of the meeting agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is also on file with the minutes.*

Commencing with the agenda review, Ms. DiResta presented a request to amend Resolution No. 620 of 2010 to extend use of the temporary Part-Time Keyboard Specialist position through the end of the year in order to meet the short-term needs of her Department. Mr. Strainer questioned whether a person had been chosen to fill the part-time position and Ms. DiResta replied affirmatively, noting that the newly hired employee was starting that day.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request and refer same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. DiResta announced that her final agenda item pertained to the Veterans' Identification Card (VIC) program being introduced in some surrounding Counties. She explained this program provided identification for those Veterans who did not fall into the disabled or retired categories which allowed some income level related benefits. Ms. DiResta further explained that once Warren County residency was proven, Veterans would receive a VIC which would serve as proper identification for presentation to area businesses that offered discounts to service members. Ms. DiResta said the County already had a system in place for printing laminated employee identification badges and she suggested the same equipment could be used to develop the VICs.; she added that she had discussed the matter with Scott McLaughlin, Telecommunications Analyst, who advised that the cost of producing each badge would be approximately \$5.00. Ms. DiResta noted that assistance from the County Clerk's Office would likely be required to prove residency for those Veterans seeking a VIC. She further noted that the Veterans' Services portion of the Warren County website could be used to list the area businesses offering discounts to service members.

Mr. Strainer asked what Counties were offering VICs and Ms. DiResta replied that Saratoga and Schenectady

Counties were currently implementing the program, but there were a number of Counties in the western part of the State that had been offering VICs for over a year.

Following further discussion on the matter, it was the consensus of the Committee that Ms. DiResta should proceed in gathering further information on the costs and procedures associated with the VIC program for discussion at a future meeting.

As there was no further Veterans' Services business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Christie Sabo, Director of the Office for the Aging, who distributed copies of her agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is also on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Sabo announced that her agenda included only one item, that being a request to authorize travel for a Nutrition Services Coordinator to attend a Unity in Diversity Conference on October 13th in Syracuse, NY. When questioned as to whether the funds necessary to support the conference costs were available within the existing budget, Ms. Sabo replied affirmatively.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the previously mentioned travel request. *A copy of the Request for Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the minutes.*

There being no further Office for the Aging business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Chris Hunsinger, Director of the Employment & Training Administration, who distributed copies of his agenda to the Committee members, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Hunsinger began by addressing a request to appoint himself to the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Counties Workforce Investment Board (WIB) for the term commencing October 15, 2010 and terminating June 30, 2012. He noted that although he was required to be named as a representative to the WIB, the Board of Supervisors was responsible for making the official appointment.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the previously noted request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 15th Board meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing, Mr. Hunsinger presented a request for a transfer of funds within various codes for a total amount of \$5,361. He explained the purpose of the transfer was to align the budget with grant activities and cover some unanticipated part-time salary costs.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds as outlined above and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Hunsinger announced that the next agenda item pertained to the 2010 Summer Program Report, copies of which were distributed to the Committee members. He introduced Sharon Sano, Senior Counselor, who was in attendance to discuss the Report. Mrs. Sano proceed to provide a detailed review of the Summer Program Report for the Committee's benefit; *a copy of the Report is on file with the minutes.*

At the close of Mrs. Sano's review, Mr. Strainer stated he had attended the picnic held in connection with the Summer Program and was very impressed by the comradery and pride shown by the youth participating in the

Program. He added that the Employment & Training Administration staff had done an excellent job of managing the Program and he hoped to see it continue.

Concluding the agenda review, Mr. Hunsinger directed the Committee's attention to a request for a letter of support from the County to WAIT (Welcoming Adolescents In Transition) House in connection with a grant application. He explained that WAIT House, which provided housing and support services to area youth, was requesting a letter of agreement and support as evidence of the County's support for a grant application to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Mr. Hunsinger noted that the services provided would be in connection with the grant and consistent with the assistance currently given to any needy youth applying within their Office.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request for a letter of support to WAIT House and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 15th Board meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Strainer noted that the Employment & Training Administration had recently been chosen as one of the few organizations in the State to receive an award for videoconferencing equipment and he asked Mr. Hunsinger to expound upon the issue. Mr. Hunsinger apprised that they had been chosen as one of ten Offices across the State to receive videoconferencing equipment which would allow users to attend meetings and training sessions virtually, thereby eliminating travel requirements. He said that although they did not yet know when the equipment would be installed, they were very excited about the increased capabilities that would become available with its introduction. Mr. Hunsinger advised that this equipment would actually make it possible to video conference with groups around the world via the internet.

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. VanNess and seconded by Mr. Sokol, Mr. Strainer adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist