

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018  
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Michael Amo, Chairman  
Katie Bonelli, Mike Anagnostakis, Kevindaryán Luján, Janet Sutherland, Laurie R. Tautel,  
Peter V. Tuohy

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator  
Kathy Stegenga, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Harry Porr, Director, Operations and Cost Control  
Mary Pat Smith, Assistant to the County Executive  
Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health  
Todd Craner, Fiscal Director, Department of Social Services  
Donna McCarey, Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources  
Danielle Diana-Smith, Assistant Director, Office for the Aging  
Dina Sena, Fiscal Manager, Office for the Aging  
Christian Farrell, Director of Veterans' Services  
Colleen Grogan, Chief Budget Analyst  
Michael Ventre, Budget Analyst

Mr. Amo opened the committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present **with the exception of Legislator Luján** who arrived at 3:40 p.m.

Mr. Anagnostakis moved request for approval and appropriation of funds for the 2018 Capital Expense Project No. 240C for the Orange County Veterans Memorial Cemetery Expansion, \$150,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Farrell explained that this comes before the committee annually for the cemetery expansion. In 2017, the cemetery conducted 246 burials and they have 19 acres with 10 acres currently developed. KC Engineering and Land Surveying in Circleville has been hired for the masterplan and they will be meeting this month to discuss the masterplan for the cemetery. In order to hold more than one service at a time they are looking to have a memorial shelter built that would be partially enclosed and enable them to have covered services during inclement weather. They are also looking at installing a kiosk to assist visitors, a second entrance and a columbarium.

Ms. Tautel asked about the number of acres the \$150,000.00 would develop. Mr. Farrell replied that he was unsure but he would get the information to the committee.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if a calculation could be done based on all the acreage including the acreage that has not been developed in order to determine how long the cemetery will be able to provide services to the residents of Orange County. Mr. Farrell replied that it could be done, however, they are seeing an upward trend nationwide in cremations, so they may not need as much land for traditional burials.

Mr. Amo suggested the engineers supply a report to the committee.

Ms. Bonelli clarified that that the \$150,000.00 has been reallocated annually for various projects at the cemetery and when the recommendations come back from the engineer additional funds may be needed.

Mr. Farrell agreed.

On the agenda were the highlighted important issues from the Department of Social Services monthly report.

Ms. Miller commented that their numbers remain consistent. HEAP payments continue to be applied and they anticipate the final figure being relatively significant due to the extremely cold winter. Their Homeless numbers continue to rise with an average of 391 homeless housed in Orange County. A second meeting was held with their providers and three single and/or collaboration agencies would be putting forth Requests for Proposals (RFP) for between 80 and 90 housing units. Letters of support would be going out to all three providers and because of these discussions a phone call has been scheduled with the Office of Temporary Disability and Assistance and the Office of Mental Health to look at their homeless housing needs in Orange County.

Mr. Amo asked how the abuse of SNAP is monitored. Ms. Miller replied that it is a closely monitored program and their Special Investigation Unit monitors front end detection, fraudulent reports, discrepancies reported on applications and IRS reports. They are followed up on in collaboration with Sherriff's office and District Attorney's office. In addition, the federal government conducts their own investigations and brings in the state to do their own audits of stores and/or bodegas.

Ms. Sutherland asked who decides what can be purchased with SNAP benefits. Ms. Miller replied the federal government.

Ms. Tautel moved request to accept and appropriate State grant funds from the New York State Office for the Aging in the amount of \$350,000.00 and to authorize the County Executive to enter into and execute agreements with the New York State Office for the Aging and the Association on Aging in New York to operate the AAA Professional Development Program, seconded by Ms. Bonelli.

Ms. Diana-Smith addressed the committee and explained that this would be a passthrough for the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) who puts aside \$350,000.00 for the Association on Aging in New York to operate their professional development programs. The Association on Aging in New York is very particular on how the funds can be spent and are very particular on the counties they entrust to handle the administrative work.

Mr. Luján asked how the funds would typically be used. Ms. Diana-Smith replied for the statewide Aging Concerns United Conference, Caregiver training sessions and whatever the association decides with respect to professional development.

Ms. Bonelli noted that the supporting documentation indicates that it runs from April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2019 so would they be taking it over for 2018.

Ms. Diana-Smith clarified that going forward they would be handling the administrative work.

Mr. Amo asked about the hours needed to manage this work. Ms. Diana-Smith replied that it has been minimal; however, they have begun.

Ms. Sena added that the legwork is done through the association and they are overseeing their expenses and ensuring that they are spending the money provided to them from the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA).

Motion carried. All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.