

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
Minutes
February 25, 2015

The Standing Committee on Health & Human Services met to review the 2016 proposed budgets of Children's Cove, Human Services (including Affordable Housing), Elder Services, and the Human Rights Commission on February 25, 2015, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Chairman Patrick Princi, Edward McManus, Brian O'Malley and Teresa Martin.

3:00 PM: Children's Cove

Director Stacy Gallagher met with the committee to review the proposed budget changes for FY 2016. It was noted that SAIN and DSS grants (\$51,000 and \$140,000) are monies the County is not asked to fund towards salaries.

The largest budget increase for FY16 reflects an increase of \$20,000 (in account line 5299) for funding of the Cove's marketing and awareness campaign. The In-State travel line is increasing by \$5,000 due to the fact that 2 new staff positions were added last year and is needed to cover the additional travel expenses associated with these two positions. Fringes are increasing similar to other departments. Postage increased because historically the Cove has overspent this line account. An increase of \$1,000 was justified based on previous spending.

The Cove is a 501c3 and raises approximately \$150,000 annually. These funds are typically used for the Cove's awareness campaign. Brian O'Malley asked for a breakdown or division of expenses that are being spent on direct services versus education and related programs. Stacy Gallagher indicated the services are free. However, a significant amount of money goes out to the community for education, training and outreach, and represents the majority of the budget. There are 11 other child advocacy centers across Massachusetts. The Cove is a national model and is fully accredited.

There are no capital items in the budget this year.

Motion made by Edward McManus, and seconded, to accept Children's Cove FY16 proposed budget and forward to the Finance Committee. Motion carried. 4-0-0.

3:30 PM: Human Services

Human Services Director Beth Albert met with the committee to review the proposed budget for FY 2016. Several handouts were provided to the committee and will be attached to the minutes and available for viewing at the Clerk's Office.

The highlights for FY16 budget includes:

- operating expenses that remain essentially the same as FY15 reflecting a reduction in account line 5298 for a special projects consultant which is not anticipated for FY16;
- SHINE expenses that will only require a General Fund investment of \$36,195 because it is offset by grant revenue of \$75,592; non-employee travel is budgeted at \$1500 to reimburse volunteers for travel expenses;
- a new initiative requesting a transfer of the HOME Grant from the Cape Cod Commission to the Human Services Department; and

- additional revenues from outside funding sources;

The proposed relocation of the HOME Program has a \$174,714 FY16 projected budget in Human Services. There will be increased efficiency with this coordinated effort. The CCC has paid for this position and managed this program for 22 years. Now it will be consolidated and assigned to the Human Services Department as an administrative function to directly support their core mission including homelessness prevention. The CCC will continue with their mandate with a budgeted Affordable Housing Specialist who will provide planning, policy recommendations, and technical assistance to towns.

Beth Albert provided a brief overview of the Regional Substance Abuse Council that was formed by the County in 2014. A plan is being developed for community action and should be ready within a few months.

Motion made by Edward McManus, and seconded, to accept the Human Services FY16 proposed budget and forward to the Finance Committee. Motion carried. 3-0-1. Patrick Princi abstained.

4:00 PM: Elder Services

Executive Director Leslie Scheer and Chief Financial Officer Deborah Tranfaglia met with the committee and provided a packet of materials and an agency overview, with charts and graphs related to the nutrition program for Barnstable County, the number of County residents served through home delivery and dining services, number of meals delivered (181,769 in FY14), delivery by town, budgeted revenue, and an agency income statement. These documents will be attached to the minutes and available for viewing at the Clerk's Office.

The Elder Nutrition Program serves approximately 1,000 meals per day using hundreds of volunteers. This is not an income based program, and is provided to people who are home bound and have a need, whether short or long term - the program's recipients are over sixty. The agency cost per meal for FY16 will be \$8.92.

The agency shortfall for FY16 is anticipated at \$268,186. The program was funded by the County in FY15 at \$80,000. The Commissioners have proposed funding for FY16 at \$40,000. This represents a 50% cut of \$40,000 as compared to FY15 and will add to the agency deficit. Towns do contribute but at different levels including some in-kind donations (such as building space).

Commissioner Lyons was present and explained that the County had difficult choices to make for FY16 regarding funding requests because of diminished revenues. Commissioners choose to fund departments and cut back on funding and donations to agencies.

No recommendation was made and no vote was taken. The committee will meet on March 18, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss further.

4:30 PM: Human Rights Commission

HRC Chairman John Reed, several commissioners and the HR Coordinator were present and met with the committee to discuss their mission and plans for FY 2016. A packet of information was provided to the committee that contained a mission statement and strategic plan, program pamphlets, and budget spreadsheet. These documents will be attached to the minutes and available for viewing at the Clerk's Office.

John Reed specifically cited that the activity generated by Human Rights Academy participants is returning a several million dollars to the county communities in numerous ways.

The FY16 proposed budget submitted by the County Commissioners is \$73,268. This includes a change of status for an HR Coordinator, going from a contracted position to an employee budgeted at 26 hours per week with proportional benefits. The HR Commission has not fully discussed this proposed change with the County Commissioners and remains an open discussion item.

Motion made by Edward McManus, and seconded, to accept the report from the Human Rights Commission. Motion carried 4-0-0.

No recommendation or vote was taken on a budget recommendation. The committee will meet on March 18, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss further.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Janice O'Connell, Secretary/Clerk
Assembly of Delegates