

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 11, 2008

Committee Members

In Attendance: Lois Bronz, Chair, William Burton, Judy Myers, Vito Pinto, Jose Alvarado, Kenneth Jenkins. Legislator Marty Rogowsky also in attendance.

In Attendance: CEO: Bill Randolph DSS: Diane Atkins, Diane Stern BOL: Melanie Montalto; Visitors: Keith Eddings, Regina Riely

Items Discussed: How Social Services processes the homeless population in Westchester

Minutes

Chairwoman Bronz called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

First Deputy Commissioner Diane Atkins and Diane Stern both of the Department of Social Services explained how the Department handles the homeless population in Westchester.

Ms. Atkins explained that there are 371 families and 355 singles currently in the homeless system and are accessing services. The County provides eviction prevention funds, several shelters throughout the county, two drop in shelters in Yonkers, and there are five warming centers which hold up to 50 people per night. The warming centers are located in New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and there are two in White Plains.

Ms. Atkins and Ms. Stern told the Committee that each homeless person receiving services has to comply with the requirements of Social Services, which can often be the reason that people opt not to use the services. Those using the drop-ins and warming centers are not in the system and do not have comply. They come and go as they please. Those who are in the system and living in our shelters have a caseworker who helps them with their housing and employment plans.

Chairwoman Bronz requested that the Committee receive a copy of the monthly reports in order to see how the numbers change.

Moved by Legislator Burton and seconded by Legislator Myers the minutes of the March 4, 2008 Community Services meeting were approved 6-0.

Moved by Legislator Burton and seconded by Legislator Myers the Committee on Community Services adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

A complete audio recording of the meeting is available for review upon request.