

SUFFOLK COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 17, 2007

Attendees at the above meeting which was held at the Suffolk County Legislative Building in Hauppauge (9:45-11:30 a.m.):

Peter Barnett	WHPDC, Guest
Peggy Boyd	Family Service League
Gwen Branch	Long Island Council of Churches
Judy Cahn	Eastern Suffolk BOCES
Peter Crisano	SCDOL, Guest
Susan Dugan	SCDOL
Edward Hernandez	SCDSS
Pamela Killoran	SCWIB
Nina Leonhardt	SCCC
Kathy Liguori	Tutor Time
Richard Koubek	Catholic Charities

- I. Members adopted the November 28, 2006 Welfare-to-Work Commission meeting minutes.
- II. Ed Hernandez distributed a report entitled "Up-Front Programs for TANF Applicants" that was prepared by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The report proposes ways for states to meet the increased work participation rates that are a result of changes to TANF enacted by the Deficit Reduction Act.
- III. Nina Leonhardt provided an update on the WTW Education Subcommittee proposed mentoring project. A major obstacle is that the \$29,500 allocated to administer the project was incorrectly included in the 2007 Operating Budget for Catholic Charities. The process to correct this requires that the 2007 Budget be amended. The first opportunity to do so will likely be in February. Nina Leonhardt and Dick Koubek are working with the Budget Review Office to ensure that the funds go to the SCCC via a direct transfer. In the interim, Nina Leonhardt and Judy Cahn will continue to work on finalizing the project so that it can be presented to the Labor Department and the Department of Social Services for approval. In particular, they will address DSS' concerns for modification of some of the elements that are required by SUNY. It is anticipated that the pilot will launch in March 2007.

- IV. Dick Koubek , Peggy Boyd, Kathy Liguori and Nina Leonhardt will attend the January 25, 2007 meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee to explain the mentoring project; other WTW members will attend if available. The meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. in Hauppauge.
- V. Dick Koubek distributed a draft summary he prepared entitled, "Implications of the New TANF Regulations". He asked that all members, especially Sue Dugan and Ed Hernandez, review the summary and be prepared to make comments at the next WTW meeting. This will be in preparation for a presentation to the Health and Human Services Committee at a future meeting. Pete Crisano asked what the Commission hoped to accomplish by the presentation. Mr. Koubek stated that initially it will be to educate local legislators and gain their support. A long term goal may to lobby the federal and state lawmakers for changes in the new TANF regulations that were introduced in the federal 2005 Deficit Reduction Act.
- VI. Transcripts of the WTW sponsored Public Hearings on Affordable Housing that were held on November 2 and November 6 were distributed to all members. A summary of both documents that includes recommendations for change was prepared by Dick Koubek and distributed. The WTW Commission will decide at the next meeting how to best present this information to legislators. Peter Barnett suggested that members present it to the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee (Chair Kate Browning) and to the Health and Human Services Committee (Chair Eli Mystal). The approach will be discussed at the next WTW meeting. Peter Barnett and Dick Koubek will work with Peggy Boyd to see if they can prepare the information in Power Point format.
- VII. Kathy Liguori stated that many County childcare providers were experiencing lengthy delays in getting paid for services provided to public assistance recipients. She requested that a subcommittee be created to address this important issue. All members present concurred. Dick Koubek asked her to contact Rob Greenberger and reconvene the childcare committee. They will look at the process of how payment is initiated and executed and report back to the Commission.
- VIII. Ed Hernandez advised that there are several new organizational changes at DSS: Kim Staab has assumed the duties of Division Administrator for Housing and Employment, and Adult Services has

been moved to Family and Children Services. Also, Greg Blass recently started and is the Chief Deputy.

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- IX. The next meeting of the WTW Commission will be held on Friday, February 16, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

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