

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 23, 2008**

### **Members**

**In Attendance:** Lois Bronz, Chair, Judy Myers, Ken Jenkins, Vito Pinto.

**In Attendance:** CEO: Bill Randolph DSS: Katherine Waluschka, Iris Jenkins  
BOL: Diana Toledo, Susan Kirkpatrick and Melanie Montalto.  
Guests: Regina Riely, Kathy Halas, Kathy McBride.

**Items Discussed:** The Child Care Council gave an update on the scholarship program

### **Minutes**

Legislator Bronz called the Community Services Committee meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

Moved by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Jenkins the Community Services Committee minutes of September 9, 2008 passed with a vote of 4-0.

Kathy Halas, Executive Director of the Child Care Council of Westchester, gave an update on Early Care & Education Forward. She stated that they have been promoting a lot of peer sharing, where the more successful child care centers share the practices that are working for them with other centers.

Ms. Halas stated that the Child Care Council has been able to use their County funding as leverage to receive \$176,000 per year for two years from the Westchester Community Foundation to do a quality forward model on registered school aged programs, and they have a proposal submitted to the United Way to address the work for issues that they are facing.

Kathy McBride, who is now in charge of the scholarship programs for the Child Care Council, gave an update on the scholarship. She stated that child care centers have seen an increase in enrollment which they attribute to the scholarship. She also stated that the Child Care Council has seen an increase in calls and emails inquiring about the scholarship and an increase in the amount of applications that they have received which indicates that the word is out about the program. The application was revised for 2008 for clarity purposes and now includes a frequently asked questions sections. They have also made some improvements to their database, which they feel still needs some work.

Ms. McBride provided the Committee with a handout of the statistics and hard numbers for the scholarship which is on file and available for review.

Ms. McBride stated that there was a waiting list after the second round, but due to declinations they were able to serve all of the families that were eligible except for two families that remain on the list.

Ms. Halas stated that the Child Care Council is going to continue to work on increasing marketing for centers to help increase enrollment and improve business. They continue to work with the centers to move toward a business model in order to help them sustain themselves.

Moved by Legislator Jenkins and seconded by Legislator Pinto the Committee on Community Services adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

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