

P U B L I C H E A R I N G

ON AHS BLOCK GRANTS

Friday, August 28, 2015

208 Hurricane Lane

Williston, Vermont

10:00 A. M.

ATTENDEES:

JILL GOULD, AHS
KRISTIN LYONS, OEO
PATRICK BURKE, VDH
MICHELLE ROBERTS, VDH
CARA McSHERRY, DMH
STEVE BARBOUR
MEGAN CHURCHILL
RICHARD MOFFI, DCF
JAN DEMERS, CVOEO

Reported by: Richard Forney

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. GOULD: Let's go on record. Good morning.
3 My name is Jill Gould. I am the financial director of
4 Northern Vermont Agency of Human Services. Under federal
5 regulation we must at the beginning of each federal year
6 conduct our public hearing and notification of that
7 public hearing for these federal block grants
8 administered by HS.

9 Today I have with me members from departments
10 who can address any specific concerns or questions
11 regarding these grants. I believe you all received prior
12 to today's hearing a summary of the block grants. I
13 should also note that these block grants and the
14 respective programs and amounts for the most part were
15 approved as part of our last legislative session as part
16 of the fiscal year 2006 Budget Containment
17 Appropriations Act, Act 58 of the Acts of 2015.

18 Currently the federal appropriations bill
19 supporting these block grants are under review. The
20 estimated allocations remain consistent with these
21 presentations. Until enacted into federal law we will
22 use the known distribution at this time.

23 At this time if you should have any questions
24 we would be happy to address those questions and if
25 anyone from the public is here we would be happy to

1 answer their questions as well. If for any reason we
2 don't have information readily available to us it will
3 be provided as soon as possible. Does anyone have any
4 comments or questions?

5 MS. DEMERS: Should we wait until the
6 appropriate block grant is addressed?

7 MS. GOULD: It's open.

8 MS. DEMERS: To have a comment or is this all
9 at once?

10 MS. GOULD: All at once, any questions you
11 have.

12 MS. DEMERS: I just have some recommendations
13 from the Vermont Association of Community Action
14 Partnership. These are from the executive directors of
15 the TAP Association and they pertain to the LIKEY block
16 grant and specific sections. Section 42, crisis fuel
17 eligibility which is the receipt of crisis fuel
18 assistance and we recommend that households need not be
19 in receipt of seasonal fuel assistance in order to
20 receive crisis fuel assistance.

21 Under Subsection 3 the maximum number of grants,
22 crisis grants per season, we recommend that the maximum
23 number of crisis fuel grants be increased to two grants
24 for households that are income eligible for seasonal
25 fuel assistance and meet all eligibility requirements

1 for crisis fuel assistance, and we recommend that the
2 maximum number of crisis fuel grants be increased to
3 three grants for households that are not eligible for
4 seasonal fuel assistance and meet all eligibility
5 requirements for crisis fuel assistance.

6 And under Subsection 4, accessibility
7 resources, accessible resources, we recommend that
8 clients need not obtain specific benefit resources in
9 order to receive crisis fuel benefits but instead be
10 encouraged and assisted with applying for said benefits.

11 And then under Section 4.10 crisis
12 requirements, assistance should be made available
13 weekends and week nights and holiday evenings to home
14 bound or physically disabled or by physically disabled
15 by phone in addition to the stated hours of 8:30 a.m. to
16 4:00 p.m. Saturday, Sundays and state holidays.

17 Those are my comments and recommendations.

18 MS. GOULD: Thank you.

19 MR. MOFFI: We received those comments in
20 writing and we'll be responding to them in writing.

21 MS. DEMERS: Thank you.

22 MS. GOULD: Any other comments or questions?

23 Do you want to state your name, Richard, for
24 the record?

25 MR. MOFFI: For the record Richard Moffi

1 Department of Children and Families.

2 MS. GOULD: We're going to wait for ten
3 minutes. You can go off the record until then.

4 (Recess)

5 MS. GOULD: After waiting ten minutes there
6 are no further comments, so we will end this hearing.

7 (The hearing concluded at 10:20 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Forney, hereby certify;

That the foregoing proceedings were reported stenographically by me at the time and place herein set forth;

That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken;

That the witness was sworn by me as a Notary Public for the State of Vermont;

That I am not a relative or employee of any attorney of the parties nor financially interested in the action.

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Richard Forney

My Commission expires February 10, 2019.