

Rebecca Buck

To: Jane Kitchel
Subject: RE: Testimony at St Jay school leg hearing

From: Joe Patrissi <jpatrissi@nekcavt.org>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:13 PM
To: jane45@hotmail.com; kittytoll@live.com
Subject: Testimony at St Jay school leg hearing

Dear Kitty and Jane

I was hoping to testify tonight at the school as I did last year but am battling a bout with gout (don't get it). I am sending this email instead. Hope it's okay to do it this way.

There are three things. Two are heads up and the other is attached for your consideration and is about building capacity in NEKCA (and other CAPs) for small businesses in the NEK.

The Heads up:

1) Crisis Fuel: over 1 million dollars of CF money was returned to the state last year unspent by the five CAP agencies. This was not because it wasn't needed. It was because of the restrictive rules. It used to be you could get three assists on CF and two on Seasonal fuel. Now it is two and one respectively. Very recently, the state will allow for this winter only one more assist for those on seasonal but not for CF. it is hard for us to turn away people in need since we know we have the money.

2) Housing Vouchers: apparently, AHS has overspent their budget on the Vermont Rental Subsidy (VRS) program. The latest word is that no new vouchers will be given for the rest of the year and those who had vouchers expiring will only be extended until end of March. Apparently all HUD vouchers are closed now, too. The VRS program is key to getting the homeless into affordable housing. The fact that the state has run out of money reflects the supply and demand imbalance.

Please seek testimony from the new AHS Sec about this as well as CF.

3) Community Action economic development capacity: For the first year that I can remember, we are making a budgetary request from all 5 CAP agencies. The request with the data is attached.

The most important one to me is the micro business request. NEKCA's MBDP created 16 new jobs last year and enhanced 35 small businesses. Each job costs about \$3600 to create. 50k in GF dollars would almost double our (NEKCA's) capacity and we could have programs like ASPIRE! That was funded by USDA for one year be ongoing and sustainable with GF dollars.

Thank you both for your consideration.

Joe

Sent from my iPhone