

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: August 12, 2010

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: UCOB, Library Conference Room, 6th Floor

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Frey, Legislators Harris, Petit (arr. 6:55 PM), Ronk, and Stoeckeler

LEGISLATOR EXCUSED: Legislators Briggs and Robert Parete

OTHERS ATTENDING: Legislators Provenzano and Hansut; Marshall Beckman, Deputy County Exec.; Arlene Foy Reynolds, Youth Bureau Director Appointee; Lee Cane, LWV; Ralph Mitchell, Ulster County Resident; Victoria Fabella, Deputy Clerk, UC Legislature

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frey at 6:37 PM.
- Attendance
- A motion by Legislator Harris was made to accept the July 1, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Legislator Stoeckeler, all were in favor, Carried.
- Handouts for Discussion:

1) CRREO Report (See handout)

Chairman Frey told that Committee that this is a viable report because looking at the deficiencies in the counties, one of the major issues we are facing is a large, growing population of seniors. Above that, our doctors are a little older than our average age. This report will reflect that we have a deficit of youth to back our older population. It's good research for the Committee to look at to help evaluate the direction we need to go as a county. Chairman Frey asked the Committee to review the report for discussion at next month's meeting.

2) UC Department of Health Director's Update (See handout)

Chairman Frey asked that the Committee read this August 2010 update from Dr. La Mar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH

3) ProAct July 2010 Summary of Usage/Savings (See handout)

Chairman Frey recapped to the Committee that ProAct did a launch on July 10, 2010, with card mailings hitting UC resident homes around July 13th. In two weeks and three days, we have saved the Ulster County residents \$15,144.32, at no cost to the County. Under last year's program, Ulster County Rx, the whole year savings was 30K. In two weeks, we have already met half of last year's savings.

- Ralph Mitchell, Concerned Ulster County Resident/Taxpayer: UC Medicare Funding Resolution
Mr. Mitchell handed out copies of his letter to Chairman Frey dated August 12, 2010.
(See handout)

Ralph explained that his main objective tonight was to make some noise about the deficit in the Medicare reimbursement between Dutchess and Ulster Counties. Every year there's a deficit in the sense that if we were in the same reimbursement group for Medicare as Dutchess County, we'd be getting \$10 million more for the three hospitals: Ellenville, Kingston and Benedictine. Mr. Mitchell feels that it is both a big health deficit and a big economic development deficit. He said this is a downward spiral for Ulster County, and we are seeing signs of it. For example, Northern Dutchess has a tremendous advertising budget as compared to our medical facilities. We are really hurting ourselves by continuing on as we have. The intention is to have this Committee sponsor a Memorializing Resolution and get the full backing of the Legislative Body. Ralph believes this is what is needed to get the attention of Schumer and Gillibrand to see the importance of this issue.

Legislator Harris: Q./ This is Medicare not Medicaid, correct? A./ It is Medicare, federal only, over 65.

Legislator Ronk: Q./ Is there a reason given for the two counties to be treated differently?
A./ Ralph Mitchell: It is based on how far you are from the Metro Area, but we are as equidistant as Dutchess County. Chairman Frey: Dutchess County has MetroNorth. We do not have that type of direct route to the city.

Legislator Harris: Q./ I know it's a separate issue, but are they an MTA county subject to that payroll taxation right now? A./ Legislator Frey: Yes. That is separate, and we are a parallel county so we should be paid at the same rate. Our hospitals deserve the same type of money. Ralph Mitchell: As far as the train service is concerned, that's an advantage for them. Their nurses can travel to better jobs, our nurses are stuck here.

Chairman Frey asked if it was the will of the Committee to draft a memorializing resolution to equalize the Medicare reimbursement for hospitals in Dutchess and Ulster Counties for the next meeting, to then appear before the Legislative body next month.

Motion offered by Legislator Stoeckeler to draft a memorializing resolution, Seconded by Legislator Harris, Unanimously in Favor, Carried

- Resolutions

- 1.) Resolution Draft No. 0801- August 17, 2010: Confirming Appointment Of Members To The Ulster County Community Services Board And The MR/DD Subcommittee

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Harris, Seconded by Legislator Stoeckeler, Unanimously in Favor, Carried

- 2) **Resolution Draft No. 0811- August 17, 2010:** Resolution To Provide Continued Funding For The Children's Services Program At The Washbourne House- Amending The 2010 Ulster County Budget

-Chairman Frey asked the Committee for support to table the Resolution until a funding source is found and some correction of information is resolved.

Motion offered by Legislator Stoeckeler to table Resolution, Seconded by Legislator Harris, Unanimously in Favor, Carried

- 3) **Resolution Draft No. 0815- August 17, 2010:** Authorizing A Sixty (60) Day Extension For Reporting To The Ulster County Legislature The Full

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Stoeckeler, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, Unanimously in Favor, Carried

Chairman Frey asked that the Committee go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Issue. Legislator Ronk motioned for the Committee to go into Executive Session, Seconded by Legislator Harris, Unanimously in Favor, Carried- 6:47 PM

Legislator Ronk motioned to come out of Executive Session, Seconded by Legislator Harris, Unanimously in Favor, Carried- 7:23 PM

- 4) **Resolution Draft No. 0812- August 17, 2010:** Confirming County Executive's Appointment Of The Director Of The Youth Bureau For The County Of Ulster

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Stoeckeler, Seconded by Legislator Petit, Unanimously in Favor, Carried

-Legislators Harris and Ronk would like documented for the record that their vote of approval was to move the Resolution to the Floor, not a vote of approval for the Resolution itself.

- **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Stoeckeler, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, with all in favor, Carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Walter G. Frey Jr., Chairman /vf
Health & Human Services Committee**