

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: February 4, 2010

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: UCOB, 6th Legislative Chambers

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Frey, Legislators Rob Parete, Fabiano, Petit, Briggs, Stoeckeler

LEGISLATOR EXCUSED: Wayne Harris

OTHERS ATTENDING: Marshall Beckman Deputy County Exec., Ed Brown Mental Health, Sheree Cross Dir. Golden Hill, Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck Dir. Public Health, LWV Lee Cane, Richard Engnath, Nettie Tomshaw Legislative Employee

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frey at 6:30 PM.

- Prior to calling the meeting to order, Mr. Richard Engnath submitted HTLV Posters to Chairman Frey and Dr. Hasbrouck for use in Ulster County clinics.
- Legislator Stoeckeler requested to be excused to attend another function @7:05 PM.

1.) No. 41 Resolution Draft No. 0206, February 10, 2010: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Understanding With The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services (OCFS) For Day Care Registration And Inspection Program Funding – Department Of Social Services

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Parete, Seconded by Legislator Fabiano, Unanimously in Favor, Carried.

2.) No. 33 Resolution Draft No. 0213, February 10, 2010: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The United States Department Of The Interior To Continue The Joint Funding Agreement For Water Resources Investigations – Department Of Health

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

- 3.) **No. 42 Resolution Draft No. 0214, February 10, 2010:** Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Certain Inter-Municipal Agreements For Domestic Violence Investigators – Department Of Social Services

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

- 4.) **No. 37 Resolution Draft No. 0229, February 10, 2010:** Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The New Paltz School District For Prevention Services – Department Of Mental Health

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Parete, Seconded by Legislator Briggs, Unanimously in Favor, Carried

- 5.) **No. 39 Resolution Draft No. 0230, February 10, 2010:** Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The Onteora School District For Prevention Services – Department Of Mental Health

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

- 6.) **No. 29 Resolution Draft No. 0231, February 10, 2010:** Amending The 2010 Ulster County Budget – Safety Net Assistance Project (SNAP) – Department Of Social Services

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Parete, Seconded by Legislator Briggs, Unanimously in Favor, Carried

- 7.) **No. 28 Resolution Draft No. 0243, February 10, 2010:** Amending The 2010 Ulster Budget For The Contract With Health Research, Inc. (HRI) To Continue The Public Health Preparedness Program For H1N1 Clinics – Department Of Health

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

- 8.) **No. 36 Resolution Draft No. 0228, February 10, 2010:** Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The Kingston City School District For Prevention Services – Department Of Health

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

9.) No. 27 Resolution Draft No. 0238, February 10, 2010: Amending The 2010 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Mental Health And Department Of Public Works (Building And Grounds)

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

Mental Health Renovation Project - Ed Brown:

Why are renovations necessary?

- The current billing software used by UCDMH is a COBOL based program from UNICARE. As of January 1, 2010, UNICARE stopped supporting the software.
- Come April 1, 2010, the NYS Office of Mental Health is changing the structure for billing Medicaid services. Once this change becomes effective the UCDMH will not be able to bill for any services - UNICARE system will not support these changes.
- UCDMH is currently in the process of installing new billing software from Accumedic that will meet the new billing criteria. The new billing software cannot be effectively implemented because the existing work space will not support the numbers of staff who will need to work together.

What will be done to the building?

- The layout on the first floor will be changed to allow for the billing, medical records and data staff to be co-located and cross trained to perform the new duties that will result from the adoption of the new billing and electronic medical records (EMR) software.
- The lobby will be redesigned to prevent lines of clients from blocking the area and to improve client privacy talking with billing staff.
- The waiting area will be relocated to accommodate the co-location of billing, medical records and data staff.
- Minor renovations of existing spaces to add or eliminate doors and improve functionality of several areas.

What are the benefits?

- The introduction of the EMR will increase the efficiency of the Department. At this time, all medical records are reviewed manually. The new computer system will do this electronically.
- Authorizations for services from third party payers will be more efficiently tracked resulting in fewer unauthorized services delivered.
- Efficiencies will be gained through new computer system, including increased clinician productivity.
- Safer conditions in building lobby.

Note: Services have changed since 1987 and always looking for outside funding.

GHHCC Legionnaires' Disease Update - Sheree Cross:

- Hot water flushes on the A side January 22, 2010, C side January 26, 2010 and South Wing January 27, 2010. Approximately 10 days post flush the following will commence:
- Retesting of water sources on Monday February 8th. NYSDOH Brian Divine as well as UC Health Department Dominick Tagliafierro to participate. GHHCC will be represented by Jeff Esposito, Excel Engineering - Consultant Engineer, Maintenance Director and Sheree. The samples will be taken and sent to Wadsworth Labs - a NYS lab.
- Waiting period for test results to be completed, 7-14 days.

- Long term control measures and equipment are being researched by the architect/engineers. Copper Silver Ionization is the method of choice. There are a few more parameters to research namely the safety and efficacy of long term exposure of these ions to the pipes. The specs are completed and have been sent to purchasing for bid. Architect/Engineer to make recommendation.
- Once results are received, a decision will be made as to the next immediate step to take.
- GHHCC will have to do their own testing in the future. A lab has been quoted by purchasing. GHHCC staff will do the sampling that will be based on Jeff Esposito's and Brian Divine's recommendations. The engineer and architect will prepare a drawing for sampling locations as well as criteria.
- All dead end piping and little used fully functional piping will be mapped by the architect and engineer. Recommendations will be made as to the remedies for each location.
- NYSDOH requested an as-built drawing of every valve and pipe in the hot water systems. The architect and engineer will complete this work for GHHCC.
- When all is in place there will be periodic testing of the water for Legionella and the ions if the copper silver ionization system is implemented. GHHCC will perform all necessary remedies as needs arise.
- Staff concerns noted at GHHCC - rumor of potential facility closing due to Legionella flushing.

Note: Legislator Stoeckeler felt bacteria are unlikely to be found in faucets - rather the shower mist. Chairman Frey would like to establish department modules to break down cost for committee review - DSS is the lion's share of the budget - very confusing. He also stated there has been no discussion on future plans to close Golden Hill. Chairman Frey offered to talk with employees if necessary. Chairman Frey thanked Sheree and her staff for their professionalism and urgency they've demonstrated to neutralize the GHHCC Legionnaires' outbreak.

Reorganization Plan for Health Department - Dr. Lamar Hasbrouck: (See Attachment, Reorganization Presentation)

- Mission: To transform Ulster County into the healthiest county in NY State through community assessment, engagement, planning, partnerships and exceptional customer service.
- Core PH Services: Assessing health of community (CHA), Disease control and prevention, Family health services, Health education, Environmental health (sanitary code), CHHA/LTHHCP, WIC, Tobacco, lead poisoning prevention
- Patient Services: WIC, Shots, STD, HIV, TB, MCH home visits, Lead, Mental Health, CSHCN.
- Prevention Agenda: Promotion and support of healthy lifestyles, Prevention and control of chronic diseases, Prevention and control of injuries, Reduction and elimination of health disparities.
- Approach: Build on successes, Strengthen/mobilize community partnerships, Strengthen alliance with OFA; leverage resources of other county departments
- Increase grant funding, other revenue
- Employ evidence-based best practices
- Evaluation and measurement of impact
- Organizational Restructuring / Priorities: Clear lines of authority, accountability, reporting and compliance, Greater emphasis on prevention and health promotion, Right-sizing for fiscal

environment; working smarter, synergistically, Flexibility to respond to shifting work loads, High quality customer service

- Organizational Assessment: Risk assessment - reviewing current organizational structure; CAPS, internal controls & procedures. Interviews - team meeting; individual interviews with all managers, supervisors & team leads. Work Study - of all fiscal & admin. Staff (e.g., PDs, quantify work elements performance evaluations) Self-study: division led self-study (e.g., organization, workload, constraints, opportunities) followed by department-wide team presentations.
- 2010 Organizational and Expanded Chart (attachment)
- Form Supports Function: Collapse working units, Pool support services (e.g., admin, fiscal), Filling select vacancies; reclassify/fill titles, Enhance health education unit, Contract services (e.g., epidemiologist), Training (e.g., technology use, leadership), fiscally neutral.

Note: 1200 inspections - half million in permit revenue in Ulster County - consider fee strategy. Also be able to have 2 district offices vs. 4. Nereida Veytia (Boody) to be named Deputy Director Department of Health.

Amendment to the minutes: Request made by Deputy Chairman Robert Parete to include abstract detail information for each Resolution that is brought before the committee.

Added Attachment - Aqueduct Leak Correspondence.

Adjournment:

The meeting was respectfully adjourned at 8:10 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Petit and seconded by Legislator Fabiano, with all in favor, carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Walter Frey, Chairman
Health & Human Services Committee**