

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: June 3, 2010

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: UCOB, 6th Legislative Chambers

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Frey, Legislators Rob Parete, Harris, Petit, Ronk 6:40PM, Briggs, Stoeckeler

LEGISLATOR EXCUSED: All Present

OTHERS ATTENDING: Marshall Beckman Deputy County Exec., Roberto Rodriguez Commissioner DSS, Lynn Carlson DSS, Sheree Cross Dir. Golden Hill, Lee Cane LWV, Paula Sire Shawangunk Journal, Concerned Parents for Mental Health Pat Stroh, Sally Raymond, Jennifer Marshall, Tom Dailey, Christian Dailey, Nettie Tomshaw Legislative Staff

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frey at 6:30 PM.
- Attendance
- A motion by Legislator Parete was made to accept the May 13, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Legislator Stoeckeler, all were in favor, Carried.

1.) Resolution Draft No.0602, June 15, 2010: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With NYS Office Of Homeland To Support Public Health Preparedness Planning Efforts – Department of Health

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

2.) Resolution Draft No. 0605, June 15, 2010: Amending The 2010 Ulster County budget For The Career Pathways Program – Department Of Employment And Training

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

3.) Resolution Draft No. 0607, June 15, 2010: Directing That The Cost Of All Of The Assistance And Care For Which Towns And Cities Are Responsible Shall Be A Charge On The County

Social Services District And Administered Under The Direction Of The County Commissioner Of Social Services, Pursuant To Section 72 Of The Social Services Law

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Parete, Seconded by Legislator Stoeckeler, Defeated 3 to 3. Ayes Parete, Briggs, Stoeckeler, Noes Frey, Harris, Petit

Discussion: Legislator Parete & Harris reiterated last months views - same stance. Legislator Petit feels it needs to be addressed further but not in this manner.

- 4.) Resolution Draft No. 0613, June 15, 2010: Setting A Public Hearing On Introductory Local Law No. 4 of 2010 (A Local Law Prohibiting The Use And Possession Of Tobacco Products By Minors), To Be Held On Tuesday July 13, 2010 At 6:00 PM.

Discussion: Legislator Harris - are there other counties? Yes, Broome County and one other northern county.

Legislator Parete - Suggests in addition add / promote youth literature.

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

Parents Concerned for Mental Health: Program “Kids Together and Family Services”.

Members: Amy Russell, Pat Stroh, Sally Raymond, Chris Dailey, Taylor Dailey - Nexis, Jenny Marshall, Strides Program. (Literature Provided to Committee)

Parents are concerned the program will be cut from the budget.

Parents have an overwhelming feeling of need to continue this program.

The Kids Together Program (only one of its kind) provides services to children and adolescents within the Ulster County community. The program is a therapeutic activity for children and young adolescents with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and/or those experiencing other social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties. Any child or adolescent struggling with any ADHD symptomatology is eligible for admission into the program. The activities include opportunities for children to form friendships, build their self esteem, learn to identify emotions, improve their cooperation skills and develop their social and problem solving skills. The goals of the program include educating the children about how ADHD and other disorders affect their lives with a particular focus on behavioral outcomes of the various disorders in an attempt to decrease negative behaviors and to improve self awareness as well as self esteem.

Each member presented testimony how the program successfully helped both parent and child.

Legislator Harris asked each presenter how they heard about the Kids Together program.

Multiple referrals such as school social worker, facets program, friend, therapist, UC Mental Health. Chairman Frey and Legislator Parete thanked everyone for their testimony. Legislator Parete noted this committee in the past has supported the Facets Program and considered to have the county take over the program – noting Saugerties just cut their Facets program in February. Non-mandated school programs get cut first. Chairman Frey asked how it’s funded. Marshall Beckman - State and Federal - Mental Health in general are dependant on third party payments.

Chairman Frey motioned and seconded by Legislator Parete to send a letter of support to local and State Representatives and to continue funding – additional funding of these programs based on tonight’s testimony. Legislator Parete feels it’s a local responsibility / issue. Chairman Frey will continue discussion come budget time. The group will continue their message – advocacy work and will talk to who ever the committee feels necessary. Chairman Frey also thanked Marshall Beckman’s office for the great job they do.

American Cancer Society Danielle Heller, Regional Director Cancer Prevention & Early Detection:

Danielle Heller thanked the committee for allowing her time before the committee and much support over the years.

- Proposed committee consider possible Resolution for Point of Sale Warning Signs of Tobacco Products – visual signage, education and free help to quit smoking
- NYC and Broome County have adopted the proposed Point of Sale Legislation
- Handed out Literature: Broome County Proposal, Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene Board of Health, Notice of Adoption of Amendment to Article 181 of the New York City Health Code, Ulster County Cancer Burden Profile, 2009
- Ulster County has above average smoking rates & lung cancer rates in NYS, especially women
- In Ulster County 20 people each week are diagnosed with cancer, 8 die each week
- NYS free quit line for smokers available
- This Program is a priority for the American Cancer Society this year
- Ulster County has made a commitment to be the healthiest county in the Hudson Valley

Chairman Frey stated new legislation is under way for tobacco control & will be presented by the American Cancer Society - tobacco products would be locked behind counters and such - website for Patches, help, signage, etc. Asked committee if they would like to create a resolution, public hearing date, time frame discussion. Chairman Frey to followup with the Clerk of the Legislature.

Legislator Parete noted he and Ex-Legislator Roberti have had a strong commitment and led the way introduced clean indoor air - state followed, calorie labeling law and this would be the next program. Legislator Harris qualified the UC health dept. would provide signage? Yes, possibly funding Available - compared calorie law requirements. Legislator Parete asked if there was a fine involved with Broome County Legislation? Yes

Marshall Beckman asked if any other counties have moved forward or objected to this program? No, just Broome is on board - coming to Ulster County first as UC has led the way in the past and Legislator Frey came to us to discuss tobacco use.

Legislator Briggs noted not to get caught up with the signage and stay on task - keep it simple and let's just get it there - don't lose site!

Legislator Parete suggested to follow the systems, structure and fines currently in place set by the Board of Health - follow up with counsel. All in support of creating a resolution and setting a public hearing.

Sheree Cross, Director Golden Hill, Update Legionelle / New System:

- Overview of previous discussions/update
- RFP, selected copper silver system
- Contract will go before legislature this month - installed 1-2 wks thereafter

- Year guarantee and 20 year useful life
- Heat and Flush ongoing and backup standard - no Legionelle
- State still has bathing restriction on a few residents - once system is in place to ask state to remove restriction
- One time cost for equipment, capital cost technically will be 100% reimbursable by the state over a 20yr period life of the equipment through GH's daily rate. Initially 100% of the cost is paid by the County from Golden Hills budget.
- The State guides but does not take a position or provide recommendations on any of the (4) system choices available to the county. However, our county health department & engineer has endorsed the copper silver system - our best approach.
- No 100% guarantee for any of the options - it "controls" the Legionella - doesn't eradicate Legionella
- All reports/tests came back successful

Legislator Frey noted to the committee the abstract report was revised to reflect Department of Employment and Training United Way of Ulster County L17-12 as being paid by the federal government - added to abstract.

Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez and Lynn Carlson, Assistant Director Children & Family Services Division, DSS Module:

Division includes, CPS Investigators, Family Violence Unit, Child Advocacy Center, Preventive Services

- Child Protective Service (CPS) unit is totally automated - aided by a grant received in 2007 \$750K to add 7 additional personnel.
- Reached 100% reporting required by state to report within 24hrs.
- In addition possible 2nd grant \$500K to make us a certified child advocacy center 2 yr certification workforce - into the 1st year now. Behind the scenes activity
- 3 months certification process to qualify a (CPS) employee before going into the field- (22) case workers employed - making very difficult decisions to protect Ulster County Children
- (4) Family Violence workers (team of law enforcement headed up by State Police & Child Protective Services that investigate the most violent cases)
- Passed around photographs of homes and abuse
- Professional translator - Spanish - never use family member to translate
- Everything a CPS worker does and documents is open to litigation and discovery
- State Central Registry shows reports continually increasing from 2005 being 1745 reports to 2433 reports in 2009, 2010 projects 2616 reports.
- Multi-disciplinary team of law enforcement, protection & safety workers, prosecutors, physicians and therapists embraces the program
- Goals are to reduce trauma suffered by victim during investigation & prosecution
- Strengthen families to provide safe homes
- Successful prosecution of abuser
- Provided Freeman articles of reports of abuse
- Services provided, forensic interviews, medical evaluations, advocacy for victim & other family members
- Mental Health Support at no cost to victim or victim's family
- Court school for child victims who will be testifying in a criminal case
- Professional training and education in the community

- Maximize Resources by blending funding and services

Legislator Harris said this group deserves accolades, quite remarkable - staying on task & focused. Legislator Harris also asked if the Evolve program is utilized by this division. Yes

Legislator Briggs does the CPS report remain confidential? Does the family know who the referral came from? Not through our agency but may come out in court or family putting two and two together - deduced based on circumstances or guess work.

Legislator Frey thanked Lynn Carlson and her staff for their hard work and dedication to the people of Ulster County. What they do is very emotional and very hard to deal with on a daily basis.

Legislator Parete asked what the status of the plan to utilize the old jail for the housing of sex offenders. Is the funding still out there? No. Commissioner Rodriguez replied, very complicated and convoluted issue. The State really hasn't addressed the housing issue - series of legal challenges, state has tried to put icing on the cake but really hasn't dealt with the hard core issues where to house these offenders. The rule is, you have to house your own. Still an open issue.

Memorandum from Stephen Acquario State Budget received May 21, 2010 : (see attached)

Ref: TANF/Flexible Fund for Family Services

Chairman Frey asked committee if they should bring it to the floor. The State wants to cut \$100 million of mandated (FFFS) Flexible Fund For Family Services program and pass on to counties.

Commissioner Rodriguez said this will be a huge problem in which many programs will be affected. Committee wants to oppose the States proposal of reallocation of funds. Committee unanimously agrees to present a memorializing resolution at Session.

Adjournment:

The meeting was respectfully adjourned at 8:25 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Parete and Seconded by Legislator Ronk, with all in favor, Carried.

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