

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: October 7, 2010

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: UCOB, Library Conference Room, 6th Floor

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Frey, Parete, Harris

LEGISLATOR EXCUSED: Legislators Stoeckeler, Briggs, Ronk, Petit

OTHERS ATTENDING: Commissioner Social Services Roberto Rodriguez, Lee Cane LWV, Penelope Boyce DSS. Nettie Tomshaw, UC Legislature Staff

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frey at 6:40 PM.
- **Attendance** - Meeting unable to yield a quorum - resolution vote and minutes to be rescheduled.
- Committee received 2010 Report on Domestic Violence.
- Committee received October 2010 Department of Health Director's Monthly Update
- Committee received October's Abstract of Contracts for Legislative Approval

Commissioner Social Services Roberto Rodriguez & Penelope Boyce Coordinated Children's Services:

The mission of this program is to provide effective, intensive community based services to meet the needs of families who have at least one child whose behavior disturbance places him or her at risk of placement in a residential treatment center.

CCS provides a variety of service components to wrap around high risk youths which include:

- Intensive Family Casework
- Individual, Group & Family Therapy
- Psychiatric Assessment & Treatment
- Crisis Intervention
- Intensive Probation Supervision
- Parent Support Groups
- Sexual Behavior Group
- Respite
- Parent Education
- BOCES ICP
- Program is unique to Ulster County starting in 1985
- Cooperative effort between DSS, Probation, Mental Health, Family Court and Youth Bureau
- 184 families rec'd intensive home-based services, probation supervision & mental health treatment to prevent placement - resulting in only 9 youths were placed in 2009.
- Overall County savings in 2009 = \$7,394,598 in local share
- Residential costs range from \$65K/youth per year up to \$185K/yr for youths who require secured detention. UC has one youthful sex offender in OCFS at Highland costing \$745/day or \$271,925K/yr.

- CCS collaborative unit has the capacity to avert 96% of high risk institutionalization of youths.
- Detention Beds Used in 2009: Ulster 483, Dutchess 4323, Schenectady 2184, Broome 3537, Orange 2334 and Rensselaer 2025. (2010 Ulster County to date is at 210 detention beds used)

Chairman Frey asked if we track youths after the age of 18? A - Yes, track sex offenders to see if they re-offend. Also informally track who ends up in the criminal system.

Co-Chair Parete asked how the department communicates with families to make them aware of services and what barriers do you face? A - Through walk ins, referrals from Mental Health, schools, hospitals, probation intake etc.

Legislator Harris asked the size of staff & longevity. A - 21 total - seasoned employees 10- 15 years. Also who does the MST subcontracting? A - Ulster County and Penelope supervises it directly - noting the hardest high risk cases go into MST).

Co-Chair Parete asked what the drop out rate from school is compared to other counties? A - Exact count unsure but they do measure and follow each youth.

Chairman Frey asked if the youths that use detention bed days, do they eventually enter into your program? A - If in detention yes, otherwise moved into the regular services. Chairman Frey also went on to ask if their budget has been reduced for 2012? A - Yes 10% across the board for contracts along with the incentives offered for employees and also complied with the County Executive guide lines, thus a budget that's applicable to local share cost. Chairman Frey noted this is the most misunderstood department in the county and the needs of the department or program should be considered vs. the mandate and non-mandates when reviewing budgets.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated the Heap program lost employees that had institutional knowledge to the early retirement incentive program - will be a real challenge. The state also stopped early enrollment sign ups due to the overflow of applicants.

- Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Harris, Seconded by Legislator Parete, with all in favor, Carried.

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