

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Health Services Committee

**DATE:** January 22, 2009

**TIME:** 6:30 PM

**PLACE:** Library Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
County Office Building

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairman Robert S. Parete, Legislators T.J. Briggs,  
Joseph Stoeckeler, Laura Petit and Ken Ronk

**LEGISLATORS ABSENT:** Legislators Philip Terpening and Joe Roberti

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deputy County Executive Marshall Beckman  
Richard Engnath  
Lee Cane, LVW

Chairman Parete called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Chairman Parete motioned to enter executive session. Motion seconded by Legislator Briggs. All in favor.

Legislator Briggs motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk to leave executive session.

2. Resolution - **Confirming Appointment Of Dr. Edward J. Brown As Commissioner Of Mental Health**

Discussion regarding appointment - resume on file.

Legislator Stoeckeler motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk to approve resolution.  
Unanimous 5 - 0.

3. Representatives were present for discussion of proposed local law which would require chain food service operators to post calorie information on menus. The following people introduced themselves and spoke briefly regarding the proposed local law which encourages healthier residents:
  - Lillian Jones, Regional Advocacy Director, American Cancer Society - she mentioned that the local law was based on the Westchester County model. She spoke about the highest risk factors: tobacco and obesity and believes passing local law can only encourage healthy choices for County residents.
  - Nancy Huehnergath, Director, NYS Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Alliance - she distributed information regarding organizations supporting a calorie labeling law or regulation in Ulster County and stated that passing a calorie labeling measure mandating calorie posting on menus and menu boards helps residents make informed choices. Also included in the information packet was a list regarding calorie labeling studies and surveys. (Information on file in Committee Reports in the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature).

- Neil Eisenberg, local business owner - he is a lead volunteer for the American Cancer Society.
- Laurie Deutsch Mozian, MS, RD, Community Heart Health Coalition of Ulster County - she has been involved with the BodyWorks Program which received funding through the Healthy Eating and Living (HEAL). HEAL-Ulster was created by Chairman Parete in 2007 and distributed mini-grants to organizations that demonstrate an interest in the development of educational and outreach efforts to combat obesity in our communities.

Further discussion regarding the proposed local law continued covering the penalties, input from County restaurant chains, parental roles, behavioral traits and personal responsibility. Education was key in bringing down the numbers of smokers and education can be instrumental in reducing obesity.

(Chairman has discussed permitted facilities with Dean Palen, Public Health Director, Department of Health, who will look into matter).

Procedure: proposed local law needs to be reviewed by Counsel to the Legislature, reviewed by the Laws and Rules Committee and a public hearing set.

Legislator Briggs motioned, seconded by Legislator Stoeckeler to approve resolution to set a public hearing (**Setting A Public Hearing On Introductory Local Law No. 2 Of 2009 (A Local Law Requiring Chain Food Service Operators To Post Calorie Information On Menus) Be Held On Wednesday, March 4, 2009 At 6:00 PM**).  
Unanimous 5 - 0.

Representatives thanked committee; departed.

4. Resolution referred to committee by Legislator Dart - **Amending Personnel Policy Manual For Ulster County And Ulster County Employee Handbook To Provide Health Insurance Benefits To Include Heterosexual Domestic Partners Of Employees Of Ulster County Equal To Those Currently Provided To Spouses**

Discussion regarding proposed resolution and past resolution to amend policy for same-gender benefits: benefits are taxable, criteria which was developed, costs, history of resolution, sub-committee which was charged with determining costs. Committee members requested backup on computation of costs. Resolution must go to Human Development and Personnel and Ways and Means for review.

Legislator Briggs motioned, seconded by Legislator Petit to approve resolution.  
Unanimous 5 - 0.

5. Legislator Ronk mentioned a memorializing resolution regarding gym membership tax. He will draft a letter.
6. Legislator Ronk motioned to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Briggs. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Binder  
Deputy Clerk, Ulster County Legislature