MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES, HELD IN THE LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, COUNTY OFFICE BLDG, KINGSTON, NY ON MARCH 8, 2011, AT 5:15 PM.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

WAYNE HARRIS, Chairman
DAVID B. DONALDSON, Deputy Chairman
CARL BELFIGLIO (excused)
CATHERINE TERRIZZI
DONALD J. GREGORIUS
JACK HAYES
MICHAEL MADSEN (arrived at 5:18 PM)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

ROBERT SUDLOW, Deputy County Executive
ARLENE FOY REYNOLDS, Director, Youth Bureau
VICTORIA FABELLA, Deputy Clerk, Ulster County Legislature

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm and asked Arlene Foy Reynolds to explain the funding stream and the need for Resolution No. 73, March 15, 2011, Requesting NYS to Maintain Funding Streams for Youth Bureau and Further Elimination of Competitive Bid Funding.

Arlene handed out 3 documents; 2011 Agency Funding for Youth Programs from NYS Office for Children and Family Services, 2011 Distribution to Municipalities, and Adoption Subsides/Committee on Special Education/B2H/PPIP.

Arlene explained that the funding that currently goes to the Youth Bureau is on a per capita basis, based on the number of youth, 0 - 21, from the 2000 census. UC has 48,862 youth. She referred to the handouts saying the Municipality funding demonstrates how it works. Looking at Recreation Eligibility, OCFS said for 2011 they would give 75¢ per kid. Those municipalities that applied for this recreation money then could get that funding but because not everyone applied, the left over funds were redistributed to the municipalities that did apply, therefore getting 95.8¢ per kid from the Youth Bureau.

Deputy Chair Donaldson: Q./ When they apply do they have to have a program that they are going to use the funds for? A./ Arlene: There is an application, but we don't get to decide. Essentially if they apply, they get the funding and are required to make a report at the end of the year. The Youth Bureau doesn't get to decide whether they get the funding or not. Chairman Harris: It's a matching from the Municipality, 50/50. Arlene: Yes, it's prescribed as

to how much money, whereas with the contract agencies we review those programs and choose which ones will receive funding.

Arlene said the Service Eligibility is the same thing. OCFS gives 67.5 ¢, where the YB was able to give $1.586 per kid because fewer applied for that.

Legislator Gregorius: Q./ Why would fewer apply? Because they don't have the programs to qualify or they didn't know? A./ Arlene: There is an application process and the amounts of money are not large. There is a person from the Town of Olive on the Youth Board and she said the application is long and they don't have somebody at hand to do it. The person is only there in the summer time and the application has to be in earlier. So, they somehow miss out on this. A./ Chairman Harris: Besides that reason you do have to have a 50/50. So if you are not spending the amount of money on a program, then you wouldn't apply for it. But it goes annually so anyone can decide next year that they want to put in for it.

Legislator Gregorius: Q./Do we notify each of the towns? A./ Arlene: Yes. They are given the application and told the deadline. I was thinking we should do training for municipalities to explain how to complete the application so they would feel less overwhelmed.

That thought however was before the governor's budget came out. The governor's budget takes YDDP, SDPP, RYHA funding, plus COPS and summer employment and so forth and puts it into the Primary Prevention Incentive Program (PPIP). It's a competitive program and it's not really clear as to how this funding would be awarded. According to the description on the handout it is based on need; kids that are already at risk. Whereas the beauty of Youth Bureau is funding kids before they get to that point.

Arlene further explained the handouts and said that currently the amount of money received is based on the youth population. So UC that has 48,000 youth gets a proportional amount as compared to OC with 190,000 youth. Under this new competitive issue, it could be that OC that's got Newburgh and Middletown would be more competitive then us. If it's going to be year to year more competitive, then the gangs leave Newburgh come to Kingston the following year, we become more competitive and you never know what your funding stream is going to be. That was the issue the Youth Bureau thought we needed to raise. Otherwise, the YB could be out of the money. The Chair of the Youth Board wrote a letter to our state elected officials, and Arlene sent a copy of the YB's annual report with a letter saying here are the programs we have and please consider not changing the funding mechanism and keep it on a per capita basis. Even if they move forward with eliminating the funding for the other programs, we would still want funding on a per capita basis for the PPIP. Arlene also pointed out that the County budget works on a calendar year and the state budget is not in sync. The County has already appropriated monies and everything will have to be revised based on the state's actions. At the very least, we would want the State to push back the July 1, 2011 effective date of the new process to January 2012 so the County can finish with the agencies we've already negotiated with.

Arlene requested the title of the Resolution be changed from "Requesting New York State To Maintain Funding Streams For Youth Bureau And Further Elimination Of Competitive Bid Funding," to "Requesting New York State To Maintain Funding Streams For Youth Through A Per Capita Formula And Elimination of Competitive Bid Funding."

Arlene also said the 7th "Whereas" should be changed from "the current funding through youth bureaus' structures ensure appropriate local monitoring, evaluation and accountability," to "the current funding mechanism ensures appropriate local monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

Finally, Arlene advised the number of children stated in the 2nd to last "Resolved" should be changed from 26,000 to 48,862.

Chairman Harris stated the Committee needs to be added to the Resolution.

Legislator Terrizzi expressed concern that not all municipalities have been taking advantage of the available funding. Although it may be irrelevant based on what the State decides to do, if things do not change, there should be more outreach and collaboration to get more towns on board.

Resolution No. 73, March 15, 2011 – Requesting New York State To Maintain Funding Streams For Youth Through A Per Capita Formula And Elimination of Competitive Bid Funding

A motion to approve the resolution as amended was made by Leg. Hayes and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi, with all in favor. Unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Chairman Harris thanked Arlene for attending the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made by Leg. Madsen and seconded by Leg. Donaldson. Chairman Harris declared the meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Victoria Fabella, Deputy Clerk
Ulster County Legislature