

Public Health and Social Services Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: June 1, 2015, 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Karen L Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Craig V. Lopez

LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw

PRESENT: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts

EXCUSED: None

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Kevin Roberts, Erica Guerin Legislative Counsel, Dr. Carol Smith MD MPH, UC Commissioner Dept. of Health & Mental Health, Dr. Marc Tack, Infectious Disease Control Specialist

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

MOTION NO. 1 To Approve the Minutes of the May 4, 2015 Meeting

Motion Made By: Legislator Carl Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Chris Allen

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

Chairman Lopez introduced and welcomed Legislator Kevin Roberts, sponsor of Resolution Nos. 251 & 252 being considered by the committee for the June 16, 2015 Session. Legislator Roberts asked for their support by bringing awareness to a debilitating disorder that has afflicted his family. He shared with the committee his daughter's experience leading up to and being diagnosed with a multi-organ manifestation - characterized by tangled blood vessels in the brain, lungs, liver, nose, skin, and intestines. This rare disorder (1 in 5000), Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT), is also known as Osler-Weber-Rendu Syndrome. Although there is no known cure or prevention, Legislator Roberts spoke to the need of early diagnosis - preventing needless disabilities and deaths. Legislator Roberts also urged the passage of HR 1849 before Congress, (reflected in Resolution No. 252) a federally led and financed initiative for early diagnoses and appropriate treatment of HHT, whereas requiring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct research and public awareness programs. As yet there is no sponsor in the Senate.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION NO. 2	<u>Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 251</u>
Text of Motion:	Proclaiming June 2015 As Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) Awareness Month In Ulster County
Motion Made By:	Legislator Carl Belfiglio motioned for discussion.
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Herb Litts
Discussion:	<p>Legislator Belfiglio asked if this would be an annual event. Legislator Roberts was unsure going forward as his sights are focused on the present.</p> <p>Legislator Allen inquired as to the different levels of severity and number of undiagnosed patients afflicted with HHT. Legislator Roberts noted every patient is different – symptoms progress as they get older – battery of tests required on major organs, invasive surgery, etc.</p> <p>Legislator Provenzano inquired if there was support in the Senate. Legislator Roberts noted not at this time - being such a rare disorder, a much needed celebrity or high profile spokesperson would help promote the cause.</p> <p>The committee expressed their best wishes and support for Legislator Roberts and his family.</p>
Motion Made By:	Legislator Provenzano
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Herbert Litts
Voting In Favor:	Legislators Lopez, Provenzano Allen, Belfiglio, Litts
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	5
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Carried

MOTION NO. 3**Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 252**

Text of Motion:	Urging The Passage Of HR 1849 To Create A Federally Led And Financed Initiative For Early Diagnoses And Appropriate Treatment Of Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia
Motion Made By:	Legislator Herbert Litts
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Chris Allen
Discussion:	Legislator Roberts noted they are making progress in Congress – sponsored by two Congressmen. (See Legislator Roberts comments above)
Voting In Favor:	Legislators Lopez, Provenzano Allen, Belfiglio, Litts
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	5
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Carried

Chairman Lopez welcomed Dr. Carol Smith, Ulster County Commissioner Department of Health and Mental Health, along with Dr. Marc Tack, Infectious Disease Control Expert at Health Alliance, back once again providing an update on tick borne illnesses in the Hudson Valley as May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month. Committee discussion ensued, and whereas committee members shared their own family and personal experiences of Lyme disease symptoms and treatments. Literature was provided to committee members and is on file with the Clerk of the Legislature.

- Tick-borne Diseases in New York State include; Lyme Disease (bacteria), Babesiosis (parasite), Anaplasmosis (bacteria), Ehrlichiosis (bacteria), Rocky Mtn. Spotted Fever (bacteria), and Powassan Encephalitis virus – had 60 cases reported in the United States concentrated in the North East – can be fatal)
- Health Alliance Hospital Lab is newly certified / trained to do parasitic blood smears - testing for Babesiosis disease (American version of malaria). Results are available in 1 hour. Wasn't seen in the Hudson Valley 15yrs ago - previously seen only in Cape Cod and Fire Island
- Funding is needed to promote / advertise prevention awareness
- Lyme Disease is caused by bacteria transmitted through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick
- Not all tick bites lead to illness
- Simple Precautions include; proper clothing covering skin, repellent, bathe/shower once indoors, perform full body check
- Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics
- If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, heart, and nervous system
- In general, ticks need to be attached for 36-48 hours before they transmit Lyme disease bacteria – the sooner a tick is removed the less likely bacteria will be transmitted
- Blacklegged ticks can spread other diseases in addition to Lyme disease such as Babesiosis & Anaplasmosis

- Early Lyme disease symptoms include; skin rash, fatigue, chills & fever, headache, muscle & joint pain, swollen lymph nodes
- Call your doctor if you develop a fever or rash
- Information posted on the County Health & Mental Health Department Website

MOTION NO. 4

Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 186A

Text of Motion:

Urging The New York State Legislature To Amend Section 18 Of The New York Public Health Law

Motion Made By:

Legislator Belfiglio for Discussion

Motion Seconded By:

Legislator Allen

Discussion:

Counsel Erica Guerin and Leg. Belfiglio offered recommendations / enhancements to the resolution, and upon further discussion Legislator Chris Allen, the sponsor of the resolution, made a motion to approve the committee recommendations, and whereas seconded by Legislator Provenzano – all were in favor. Leg. Allen thanked Counsel and the committee for their input and support.

Also Legislator Belfiglio asked if there were any potential sponsors / interest in the Assembly and Senate. Legislator Allen noted he has spoken to his liaisons about sponsorship, such as Assemblyman Kevin Cahill and his legislative aids in Albany, and District 110 Assembly member Phil Steck among others. Leg. Provenzano noted once the memorializing resolution is passed, the Clerk of the Legislature would send it to both houses for their support / action.

The recommended committee changes are as follows:

On Page 2, the second and fourth paragraphs in their entirety were removed. Also on Page 2 in the first Resolved, the following words were removed: ~~to correct the aforementioned flaws within New York Public Health Law Section 18, Subdivision (8), and~~

The word “to” was added before permit, and replaced the word “files” with “records.”

The Amended First Resolve Reads:

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature hereby requests that the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly amend Section 18, Subdivision (8), of the New York Public Health Law to permit qualified persons to correct erroneous patient information without restriction, and permanently expunge incorrect information from patient records; and be it further

Motion Made By: Legislator Allen on the Amendments.
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Provenzano
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion Made By: Legislator Allen on the Resolution as Amended.
Motioned Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio - All in Favor.

MOTION NO. 5 Resolve To Have The Chairman Write A Letter of Support for Resolution No. 186A To Be Included With Resolution To State Representatives If Passed At The June Session

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen
Discussion: Legislator Provenzano feels it's redundant as all memorializing resolutions automatically go to both republican and democrat state representatives. Chairman Lopez concurred stating the resolution speaks to the point.

Motion Made By: Legislator Allen
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 6 Resolve to Block Vote Resolution Nos. 233, 234, & 235

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen
Text of Motion: Resolution No. 233 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Jewish Board Of Family & Children Services Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 234 – Approving The Execution Of A Contact Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – St. Catherine’s Center For Children – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 235 – Approving The Execution Of A Contact Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The William George Agency For Children’s Services - Department Of Social Services

Discussion: Committee and Counsel reviewed funding of contracts, etc. – noting all three resolutions are for foster care. Legislator Litts noted it’s a substantial amount of money. Legislator Belfiglio shared concern for the increase in funding needed for foster care – weakening economy.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 7 Resolve to **Approve Block Vote** - Resolution Nos. 233, 234, & 235

Motion Made By: Legislator Allen

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

Old Business:

- Safe Staffing Nursing Resolution: Chairman Lopez anticipates introducing a memorializing resolution next month.

New Business:

- Legislator Carl Belfiglio shared with the committee his research and thoughts regarding the State Medicaid Wavier Program. This program places - reintroduces physically and mentally challenged adults such as patients at the North East Trauma Center in Lake Katrine, back into the community by locating an apartment, providing a home health aide, food and money so they can once again live independently. However, the individual becomes isolated and many times return back to the

facility after a failed attempt at independent living. This is all at tax payer's expense. Legislator Belfiglio approached Senator George Amedore about his concerns with the program and asked if Ulster County could receive funding for a residential apartment complex with the required amenities to improve their quality of life and ability to succeed. The State Health Dept. monitors the program. The North East Center is the only facility like it in the state – and is an economic engine for Ulster County. Legislator Belfiglio feels it could save the state and county money as well in Medicaid expenses. Currently in the infancy stage – will update the committee accordingly.

Legislator Provenzano expressed Kingston Hospital would be ideal for this type of program – the building could be converted and is centrally located. Legislator Belfiglio noted he also spoke with Assemblyman Peter Lopez.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Legislator Litts, and seconded by Legislator Allen, all were in favor, and Chairman Lopez declared the meeting duly adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Dated the 18th Day of June, 2015
Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Employee
Minutes Approved on: July 6, 2105