

Public Health and Social Services Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: August 3, 2015, 6:30 PM

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Craig Lopez

LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw

PRESENT: Legislators Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts

EXCUSED: Legislator Provenzano left at 6:50 PM due to a prior commitment

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Erica Guerin Legislative Counsel, Lee Cane League of Women Voters, Ken Crannell
Deputy County Executive, Judy Tienken

Chairman Craig Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

MOTION NO. 1 To Approve the Minutes of the June 6, 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

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION NO. 2 Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 294

Text of Motion: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board's
PW/DD Subcommittee

Motion Made By: Legislator Jeanette Provenzano

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Carl Belfiglio

Discussion: The committee reviewed Ms. Gonyea's application noting Ms. Gonyea's family is
also very active in the community.

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. 3Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 299**Text of Motion:**

Supporting The Passage Of The Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act

Motion Made By:

Legislator Jeanette Provenzano

Motion Seconded By:

Legislator Chris Allen

Discussion:

Chairman Lopez reminded the committee of the nurse-to-patient ratio presentation by Minerva Solla, who came before the committee in April to promote awareness and ask for support via resolution for the “Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act” bills introduced both in the Assembly 1548 January 12, 2015, and Senate 782 January 7, 2015. Legislative Provenzano, sponsor of the resolution provided additional insight, denoting staffing requirements included in Senate Bill 782. All committee members asked that their name be added to the resolution.

Voting In Favor:

Legislators Provenzano Allen, Belfiglio, Litts

Voting Against:

None

No. of Votes in Favor:

5

No. of Votes Against:

0

Disposition:

Carried

MOTION NO. 4Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 300**Text of Motion:**

Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – United Way Of Ulster County, Inc. – Department Of Social Service

Motion Made By:

Legislator Carl Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By:

Legislator Herbert Litts

Discussion:

Ken Crannell explained this resolution is to provide Career Ladder “payroll services” for safety net clients who participate in the county’s new pilot program funded in this year’s county budget.

Ken went on to say the Career Ladders program addresses the gap between federal and state programs – helping clients transition from welfare to being self-sufficient. The United Way of Ulster County will issue payroll checks to program participants who will be placed at work sites in the private for-profit, private non-profit, and public sectors, with the goal of being hired. Thirty businesses have been identified as prospective employers. Ken noted this program is cutting edge – stating he couldn’t identify any county in the state with such a program. This 3-month pilot program will fund (25) people, whereas (300) people are currently on safety net. The contract runs from 8/3/15 through 12/31/15 whereas the county has the option of (2) additional one (1) year periods. 49% county, 51% federal funded.

Voting In Favor:

Legislators, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts

Voting Against:

None

No. of Votes in Favor:

5

No. of Votes Against:

0

Disposition:

Carried

MOTION NO. 5 Resolve to Block Vote Resolution Nos. 301 & 302

Motion Made By: Legislator Chris Allen

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Herb Litts

Text of Motion: Resolution No. 301 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Rolling V Bus Corp. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 302 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Arthur F. Mulligan Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 6 Resolve to Approve Block Vote - Resolution Nos. 301 & 302

Motion Made By: Legislator Chris Allen

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Herb Litts

Discussion: Committee discussion as to what the contract entails – costs etc., comparing previous contracts from 2014 -2016. The fees are regulated by law - the state education department.

Both contracts are three year agreements providing mandated transportation for preschool children with special needs who are receiving mandated services through the County's Preschool programs. Exact expenses are undetermined, however expected to exceed \$50K/year.

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 7 Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 303

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Children’s Home Of Poughkeepsie NY, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Motion Made By: Legislator Carl Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Chris Allen

Discussion: Chairman Lopez explained this is an amendment which increases the not-to-exceed amount for Foster Care professional services due to an increased number of children placed in the agency’s program. 36% federal, 29% state, and 35% county.

Legislator Belfiglio researched previous resolutions and expressed (4) foster care contracts have increased from \$1.9 million to \$3.7 million dollars for 2014 -2015 and questioned where is the money coming from – the general fund? He was unable to find a budget line for these services. Why are there more children going into group homes – not individual family homes, and why are there more children in need of foster care in Ulster County? Legislator Belfiglio will email Ken Crannell tomorrow, as Ken left the meeting early. He would also like to hear Commissioner Michael Iapoce, Esq. take on the matter as well. Although he’s confident in moving the resolution forward, Legislator Belfiglio doesn’t want to speculate.

Voting In Favor: Legislators, Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 8 Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 304

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Motion Made By: Legislator Carl Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Herb Litts

Discussion: Chairman Lopez explained this resolution provides for the food stamp employment and training program for recipients of Supplemental National Assistance Program benefits (food stamps) in accordance with the Food Stamp Act of 1977 and 1985.

Voting In Favor: Legislators, Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 9 Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 305

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Multi County Community Development Corporation – Department Of Social Services

Motion Made By: Legislator Herb Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Chris Allen

Discussion: This program provides mandated PINS (Persons In Need of Supervision) Case Management services. Services include crisis intervention, case management, and liaison for youth who are on Diversion status or on court-ordered supervision.

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 10 Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 306

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Service

Motion Made By: Legislator Herb Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Chris Allen

Discussion: This resolution provides the support and diversion services through the Supervision and Treatment Services for juveniles program (STSJP) for youth who have received Person In Need of Supervision (PINS) or Juvenile Delinquent (JD) petitions through the Family Court.

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 11Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 308**Text of Motion:**

Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Department Of Health To Continue The Drinking Water Enhancement Program – Department Of Health

Motion Made By:

Legislator Herb Litts

Motion Seconded By:

Legislator Chris Allen

Discussion:

This resolution / five year contract allows for funds for personnel costs enabling the Department of Health to improve its ability to oversee and implement the public drinking water supply program, including new programmatic and regulatory requirements, as well as other initiatives in the area of drinking water protection. Funding schedule April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2020 - pass through monies.

Voting In Favor:

Legislators, Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts

Voting Against:

None

No. of Votes in Favor:

4

No. of Votes Against:

0

Disposition:

Carried

MOTION NO. 12Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 309**Text of Motion:**

Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The United States Geological Survey To Continue The Joint Funding Agreement For Water Resources Investigations – Department Of Health

Motion Made By:

Legislator Herb Litts

Motion Seconded By:

Legislator Chris Allen

Discussion:

This is a five year agreement with the United States Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, to continue the joint funding agreement to operate and maintain the gauging station on the Esopus Creek in Mount Marion, New York, which provides flood plain elevation data in the lower Esopus Creek Basin.

Legislator Belfiglio expressed befuddlement as Resolution No. 308 accepts state money to improve our drinking water, yet this resolution puts meters in the water to watch turbidity go right into our drinking system. Counsel noted this funding agreement measures/collects flood plain elevation data for flooding purposes.

Voting In Favor:

Legislators, Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts

Voting Against:

None

No. of Votes in Favor:

4

No. of Votes Against:

0

Disposition:

Carried

Old Business:

Legislator Belfiglio confirmed next month's meeting will be held at the Northeast Center for Traumatic Brain Injury Center in Lake Katrine on August 31, 2015, also extending an invitation to UCAN committee members and the full Legislature. The facility tour will concentrate on disabilities relating to heroin overdoses.

New Business:

Legislator Litts was invited to attend a seminar the day before on Dyslexia as his daughter showed signs of being dyslexic, only to find out he also has symptoms of Dyslexia. He stated Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability. It's how people learn, and people learn differently. Twenty percent of the population tends to learn visually instead of through reading, noting a large faction of the population tend to be farmers, engineers, and politicians who also happen to be problem solvers by nature. He noted the education department recognizes the symptoms as a learning disability and not Dyslexia. Legislator Litts distributed literature to the committee members. He feels this affects the general public's overall health and requested the presenters come before this committee to bring awareness, and possibly create legislation regarding detection and recognition of Dyslexia - creating state education screening and better practices policy, via a memorializing resolution. Plans are set to have a presentation at the October meeting. Legislator Litts noted the State of Connecticut passed an act concerning students with Dyslexia – to use it as a model. Committee discussion ensued.

Chairman Lopez called upon invitee Judy Tienken, who introduced herself as an advocate for family court and CPS reform. Ms. Tienken shared her family experience / history, including "Munchausen By Proxy" syndrome, Ulster County Child Protective Services and Family Court.

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 7:40 PM.

Dated the 20th Day of August, 2015
Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Employee
Minutes Approved on: August 31, 2015