

**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: August 9, 2016 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: COB, 6th Floor, K.L. Binder Library
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Mary Wawro
RECORDER: Danielle Wayman, Program Assistant, Ulster County Community College
PRESENT: Legislators Donaldson, Schwartz Berky, Delaune, and Lopez
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Lydia Reidy- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, Alan Roberts- President, Ulster County Community College, W. John Dunn- Vice President for Administrative Services, Ulster County Community College, Chris Nguyen- Vice President for Administrative Services, Ulster County Community College, Evelyn Clarke- Ulster County Youth Bureau, Ken Crannell- Deputy County Executive, Kelly McMullen- Ulster County Office For The Aging, Kathy Nolan- Senior Research Director ,Catskill Mountainkeeper and Ulster County Advisory & Tourism Committee, Legislator Bartels, and Legislator Rodriguez.

Chairman Wawro called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2016, meeting**

Motion By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion:
None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Lopez, Delaune, Schwartz Berky, and Chairman Wawro

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes approved

Chairman Wawro asked Kelly McMullen- Director, Ulster County Office For The Aging to address the committee. Director McMullen shared that the programs are going well and that there is a big push to get out across the County. Director McMullen explained where their funding comes from. Director McMullen distributed a brochure. Director McMullen explained that they have switched to Gateway for home meal delivery. The clients were surveyed (twice in one year) and it was determined that they would switch back to the hot meal option. Director McMullen added that every client is asked to complete a survey at the completion of a service (legal transportation, etc.).

Legislator Donaldson asked how many meals are served. Director McMullen responded that they serve 310 meals. Director McMullen stated that the number of meals served has come down. They are required to serve the low income Medicare recipients who do not meet the Medicaid Insurance requirements first, adding that if you have Medicaid Insurance, you can receive home delivered meals through your insurance. The minimum requirements for the meals are 600 calories per day, five days per week. The benefit of the meal deliveries is not just the meals, but the monitoring as well. Director McMullen explained that the recipients have a choice between hot or frozen meals; they also receive a grocery bag monthly. Director McMullen added that they are exploring a breakfast bag once per month. Director McMullen explained to the committee other services that Ulster County Office For The Aging offers: case management services, Medicare counseling services, Medicaid Savings Program, legal services, and home care services.

Legislator Bartels asked how people are informed of the services provide by Ulster County Office For The Aging. Director McMullen stated that they do a lot of community education events. In 2016 Office Of The Aging reached out to faith based agencies, in an attempt to reach more of the aging population. Legislator Bartels asked if Ulster County Office For The Aging is connected with the caseworkers from area hospitals. Director McMullen said that they are connected, but the problem is that when a patient is discharged from the hospital they have to have a discharge plan in place, so they have to have the services in place ahead of time. In addition, each service recipient must have a completed compass assessment (required by New York State Office For The Aging) before services can be provided. Director McMullen added that most of the referrals don't come from the hospitals, the come mostly from family members, emergency services, doctors, and neighbors. Legislator Bartels complemented Director McMullen on the brochure she distributed and asked to have them so they can be placed in the Town Hall.

Director McMullen briefly discussed the Elder Abuse Prevention Task Force, especially the education programs regarding financial scams targeted towards the elderly. Director McMullen added that in July 2015 the Ulster County Office For The Aging took over RSVP (including the neighbor to neighbor transportation program- which has doubled since its takeover). Director McMullen added that Ulster County Office For The Aging has a contract with UCAT for transportation at little or no cost to the service recipients. Director McMullen added that transportation is the number one concern of seniors as they age in place. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell added that the County dollars allow for more flexibility to programs, for example, a senior can now be provided transportation to visit their spouse in a nursing home).

Legislator Bartels asked how the Office For The Aging gets volunteers. Director McMullen stated that they have about 400 volunteers at 39, not for profit agencies across the County. Director McMullen added that they are looking for volunteers everywhere they go. Legislator Bartels suggested that Director McMullen present to the Legislature.

Director McMullen shared with the committee that when you call the Office For The Aging the phones are answered by real people. There is always a case manager available so that a senior could walk in that day and meet with someone. Director McMullen added that the Office For The Aging is big on partnerships. The Alzheimer's Association (Poughkeepsie) comes two days per month. There is also an option for clients to use the Social Security Skype portal so that they do not have to travel to Poughkeepsie. Director McMullen added that they are very mindful of where the seniors are in comparison to where the services are located.

Legislator Schwartz Berky asked how the seniors living in poverty are being reached. Director McMullen stated that NY Connects works to find the seniors living in poverty that are not open to Medicaid. Director McMullen stated that Medicaid is great insurance for seniors as they age. Director McMullen acknowledged that literacy could be an issue when trying to apply for benefits. The forms can be very complicated and confusing. Legislator Schwartz Berky asked if looking at all the seniors served if there is a demographic that is missing. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell stated that there is currently a Human Services Transportation Planning Study that will have a lot of the information that Legislator Schwartz Berky is looking for.

Legislator Donaldson asked about the Adult Daycare Program. Director McMullen added that Always There is licensed by the Department of Health as a social adult daycare. Director McMullen added that this program is underutilized, and she has been decreasing her contract. Legislator Donaldson asked about the Senior Friendship sites and how often they operate. Director McMullen stated that some are five days, some are two days per week, and some are two days per month. The Kingston site is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Director McMullen again stressed the importance of partnerships.

Legislator Donaldson asked about educating seniors in regards to spending down trusts. Director McMullen confirmed that they provide a lot of consultation on spend downs and pooled trusts as well as spousal refusal.

Deputy County Executive Crannell added that it's about the management. Deputy County Executive Crannell credited Director McMullen with taking on this challenge. She has done a fantastic job of looking at all the programs and understanding how the dollars flow, and how to make the most of those dollars, maximizing the return for the County.

Legislator Donaldson agreed with Legislator Bartels that Director McMullen should come back and speak to the entire Legislature. Legislator Donaldson added that it would be televised. He added that he is surprised by the number of people that watch the televised meetings. Legislator Schwartz Berky added that 23.4% of the population is 60 and older.

Chairman Wawro asked Evelyn Clarke Director of the Ulster County Youth Bureau to address the committee. Director Clarke stated that the two programs being discussed are run by the Family of Woodstock. The runaway and homeless programs are certified by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. The Family House Program is for young people up to the age of 16, or an 18-year-old with a child, or someone with an infant. This program allows them a short-term shelter (up to 30 days). If they need to stay an additional period of time, they need to get approval. The total time they are allowed to stay in this program is 60 days. Legislator Donaldson asked about the contracts, and if they have changed in the dollar amount. Director Clarke stated that the State increased their amount. Director Clarke stated that it is now a 60 (State)/40 (County) split. The other program is Transitional Living. There are two locations: Kingston and Ellenville. The Transitional Living is for persons age 18-21 with no place to go. Some will stay until they age out, others will finish high school and possibly even enroll in college. Chairman Wawro asked how many people are in these programs. Director Clarke stated that were about 120 in the Family House program last year and that they can provide emergency shelter for up to 14 runaways. Legislator Donaldson and Legislator Schwartz Berky asked what happens to the youth after their 60

days are up. Director Clarke stated that each person requires a discharge plan. For most the plan is to go back home, some other options are Transitional Living and foster programs. Director Clarke stated that they work with families to get the kids back home. Deputy County Executive Crannell added that case management is key and that they need to identify the issues that lead to the children ending up here, and what they need to do to get those children back home.

Resolutions for the August 9, 2016, Session of the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee

Resolution No. 368: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County- Family of Woodstock, Inc. - Youth Bureau (Emergency Residential & Related Respite Services)

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County –Family of Woodstock, Inc.- Youth Bureau (Emergency Residential & Related Respite Services).

Resolution No. 369: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County- Family of Woodstock, Inc. - Youth Bureau (Transitional Living Program)

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County –Family of Woodstock, Inc.- Youth Bureau (Transitional Living Program)

Motion No. 2: Moved to consider Resolution Nos. 368 and 369 as a block

Motion By: Legislator Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion:

None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Lopez, Delaune, Schwartz Berky, and Chairman Wawro

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution 368 and 369 to be considered as a block

Motion No. 3: Moved to adopt Resolution Nos. 368 and 369

Motion By: Legislator Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion:

None

Voting In Favor:	Legislators Donaldson, Lopez, Delaune, Schwartz Berky, and Chairman Wawro
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	5
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Resolutions adopted

Chairman Wawro asked Dr. Alan Roberts President of SUNY Ulster to address the committee. President Roberts began by introducing the new Vice President for Administrative Services Christopher Nguyen. President Roberts stated that the anticipation for the fall semester is overwhelming. President Roberts announced new initiatives that will take place this academic year including the exploration of partnering with Empire State College (2+2) to provide a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The hope is for a fall pilot, but if not in the fall the pilot will take place in the spring with a group of 12-24. President Roberts reported on the Prison Program and stated that the College will be working with Shawangunk Correctional Facility and that there are 76 interested. Legislator Bartels asked if the 76 participants were inmates. President Roberts confirmed that they were inmates. Legislator Donaldson asked if the inmates would work towards a GED or a college degree, and if the State was paying. President Roberts stated that they would be working towards and receiving an Associate's degree. President Roberts noted that the State would not be paying the tuition, but a private organization out of New York City will be paying the tuition. Legislator Donaldson discussed why the State is no longer paying for the tuition. Legislator Donaldson also discussed the recidivism rates and the benefit of the reduced rates. President Roberts explained the Early Pell Grant to the committee. The most recent recipients of the Early Pell Grant were prison programs that were already in place. Legislator Schwartz Berky stated that she taught at the Bard College prison program. Legislator Donaldson added that he taught at the jail for a while. Legislator Bartels asked if the program would be at a maximum security facility. President Roberts confirmed that Shawangunk Correctional Facility is a maximum security prison. Legislator Bartels asked if any inmate was eligible. Vice President Dunn stated that an inmate must have completed their GED and be college ready, the inmate must be recommended for good behavior, and the inmate's sentence must last long enough for them to finish. Vice President Dunn stated that the College would not be involved in the placement process; it would be up to the agency they're working with. Legislator Schwartz Berky asked if the inmates would be able to transfer their credits to another institution. President Roberts confirmed that the credits would be transferable.

President Roberts discussed enrollment and explained to the committee that he would not have a number for them until September. Legislator Donaldson asked if Vice President Dunn would be leaving now that Vice President Nguyen has been hired. Vice President Dunn explained that he has an obligation to finish out the year (August 31st). Vice President Dunn stated that he wanted to see the budget and the capital projects through. There will be a Board of Trustees meeting next week, where they will present the budget, and report that there will be an addition the fund balance. The addition is being attributed to summer enrollment, new partnerships, the Foundation paying for some scholarships, and the College Association paying for the salaries for the coaches. Vice President Dunn stated that once the Board sees the budget next week, the committee will be able to review the report. Vice President Dunn added that the six year 2017-2022 capital program is ambitious, twelve million dollars over the next six years. The County was involved in the creation

of the capital plan. The plan is going to go before the Board next week, and will also come to the committee for approval. Vice President Dunn also stated that two additional capital projects will be moving forward (a water tank and windows in Hardenbergh). Vice President Dunn added that the resolutions would be forthcoming.

Chairman Wawro asked Lee Reidy- Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County to address the committee. Executive Director Reidy also sits on the Fair Board as the representative for Cornell Cooperative. Executive Director Reidy began by thanking everyone for coming out for the Opening Ceremonies at the Ulster County Fair. Executive Director Reidy reported that the Fair had a banner year (50,591), while the days did not seem to be heavy, they were slow and steady. Executive Director Reidy reported that the 4H youth had great opportunities to meet and connect with the community, the auction went well, and the educational exhibits were well received. Executive Director Reidy added that the ride company was really good. Executive Director Reidy reported that the Fair is going to have to do something in regards to parking stating if you are elderly or in a wheelchair the parking lot is horrendous. Sunday drew a big senior crowd (mainly before 4:00 PM). Executive Director Reidy added that the Fair buildings are ADA accessible, but the parking lot is not. Executive Director Reidy acknowledged that it is County property, but suggested getting a specialist in to look at the parking, especially since the property is not just used for the Fair but other events throughout the year (April-October). Legislator Bartels complimented Executive Director Reidy on the Opening Day ceremonies but asked why Opening Day ceremonies do not occur on the opening day of the Fair. Executive Director Reidy reported that Tuesday has been added on to the Fair dates, it is carload night, and the Fair does not open until 4:00 PM. Legislator Bartels asked why the opening day ceremonies couldn't be pushed back to right before the concert, especially since there are children receiving scholarships, who should be recognized. Executive Director Reidy explained that it is hard to accommodate, because of the bands, mainly their sound guy. They want to make sure everything is up and running in advance of the concert. Legislator Schwartz Berky had questions but thought they would be more appropriately addressed by the Fair Board. Executive Director Reidy was not sure who the Fair Board reports to. Legislator Donaldson pointed out that the Fair Board should be reporting to the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee. Executive Director Reidy added that the Fair Board usually deals with the Buildings & Grounds Committee, as that is where most of the issues are (maintenance). Legislator Donaldson added that the Committee could request that the Fair Board report to them. Legislator Schwartz Berky agreed with Legislator Donaldson, adding that items like the budget should be reviewed by the committee. Legislator Rodriguez added that other issues that should be addressed were recycling (Legislator Schwartz Berky agreed) and the relationship between the Fair/Fair Board/Buildings & Grounds citing restroom issues. Legislator Rodriguez pointed out that there is a new administration in Buildings & Grounds. Legislator Bartels also pointed out an issue with the handicap stall in the women's bathroom being blocked. Legislator Schwartz Berky added that these issues were only the beginning of the list of items that need to be addressed. Chairman Wawro stated that the Fair will be added to the agenda under New Business, and that these issues and concerns will be addressed.

Executive Director Reidy added that she is working on the budget proposal for Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the committee will have it before the next meeting (September).

Chairman Wawro asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:43 PM

Respectfully submitted: Danielle Wayman, Program Assistant, Ulster County Community College

Minutes Approved: September 12, 2016