



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEROIN & OPIOD PREVENTION PANEL SEEKS LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

(KINGSTON, NY) The members of the Legislative Chairman's Heroin & Opiod Prevention Panel commend County Executive Michael Hein for finally acknowledging there is a Heroin epidemic plaguing Ulster County and committing resources to get Narcan kits into the hands of first responders. Through the group's diligent efforts and hard work over the past two months, the groundwork had already been laid to make it easy for County Executive Hein to implement a plan for distributing Narcan kits.

Legislative Chairman Parete highlighted the Heroin and Opiod Overdose epidemic in his March 18 address to the Legislature and the need for funding of the Narcan kits stating, "It can save the life of a heroin addict, if they have it. If you are wondering about where the epidemics are, and where the problems are, and how the best of intentions can go astray: a tab of heroin costs \$5; easy to get; you can't buy cigarettes anymore – you need seven ID's, fingerprinted, and given an eye scan - but they can go out and get Heroin. One mistake, one mistake by somebody and they might be addicted for life. So one of the things I want to work on is maybe figuring out a way in the budget to establish dedicated funding for our police departments and our EMTs to get the necessary equipment that they need - equipment and medicines."

The discussion group is chaired by former Legislature Chairman Louis Klein and includes

- District Attorney D. Holley Carnright,
- President of the Ulster County EMS Council Richard Muellerleile,
- City of Kingston Fire Department EMS Director Chris Hyatt,
- Former SUNY New Paltz Police Chief Ray Bryant,
- Ulster County Sheriff Paul Van Blarcum,
- District 8 Legislator from the Town of Esopus Carl Belfiglio,
- District 1 Legislator from the Town of Saugerties Mary Wawro
- AWARENESS, Inc. Founder and Executive Director Marie Shultis,
- Ulster Prevention Council Director Cheryl DePaolo,
- Co-owner and President of Generation Monthly Magazine Les Kalmus,
- Chambers Elementary School Principal Stacia Felicello,
- Town of Olive resident Tom Kadgen,
- Licensed Master Social Worker Judy Hakam,
- Safe Sober Living Founder Elizabeth Berardi,
- Ulster County Sheriff Lieutenant Eric Benjamin,
- Ulster County EMS Coordinator Rich Parrish, and
- Legislative Chairman Parete.

These members have been working to not only establish the system of funding and distribution of these important kits, but also develop a long term, all encompassing plan to address the epidemic, including education, outreach, and addiction identification and treatment opportunities.

With the introduction of Resolution #276, what began as part of the long term, comprehensive plan developed into a legislative policy creating an EMS Advisory Board for Ulster County. The Board will focus on the changes in technology, policy and patient care and the need for one collective voice of EMS practitioners working in partnership with the Legislature to ensure the respect, safety, education, and training of these professionals, all Ulster County's residents, and it's visitors.

Legislative Chairman Parete stated, "EMS people are our friends and neighbors dedicated to saving our lives, each and every day. As I stated in my address, they do not have their own funding mechanisms. They have to hold yard sales and bake sales, and that's unacceptable. People who save lives each and every day, should never be going out on a rescue mission without the necessary equipment or medicine."

Legislators Carl Belfiglio and Mary Wawro have been instrumental in networking with prevention experts such as Cheryl DePaola of Ulster Prevention Council and Mary Shultis of Awareness, Inc. "The individuals who have come together to address this problem is impressive and inspiring," said Lou Klein who Chairs the group. "We recognize that proving an antidote to overdose can and will save lives, but isn't a long term solution to the problem. I hope County Executive Hein will continue to work with us to continue to combat this epidemic," he concluded.

##

[attached Resolution No. 276-14]

Creating An EMS Advisory Board For The County Of Ulster

Referred to: The Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee (Chairman Briggs and Legislators Gregorius, Loughran, Maio, and Ronk) and The Public Health and Social Services Committee (Chairman Lopez and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Litts and Provenzano)

Chairman John Parete and Legislators Carl Belfiglio, Thomas Briggs, Craig Lopez and Mary Wawro offer the following:

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article 5 Section [223-B](#) (EMS training and mutual aid programs) of New York County Law, “Any county may create a County EMS Advisory Board and may establish the office of county EMS coordinator”; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Resolution No. 253 of 2009, the Ulster County Legislature supported the creation of a Volunteer Coordinator For Emergency Medical Services in Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, Section C-11K of the Ulster County Charter authorizes the County Legislature to appoint citizens' committees, commissions and boards.” and Section C-16 of the Charter states, “Members of all citizens’ committees, commissions and boards appointed pursuant to § C-11K of this Charter shall serve at the pleasure of the County Legislature. They shall serve without compensation other than for actual and necessary expenses within appropriations made therefor, unless otherwise provided by resolution of the County Legislature. The Chairman of the County Legislature shall be a member ex officio of all such committees, commissions and boards.”; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature recognizes that volunteers and career personnel serve as the backbone of the local Fire Departments, Emergency Responders and Ambulance/ Rescue Squads and as such, is committed to supporting these professionals to ensure the safety of all Ulster County’s residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") are a branch of emergency services dedicated to providing out-of-hospital acute medical care and/or transport to definitive care, to patients with illnesses and injuries which the patient, or the medical practitioner, believes constitute a medical emergency; and

WHEREAS, the goal of EMS is to provide treatment to those in need of urgent medical care, with the goal of satisfactorily treating the injury / illness, and arranging for timely transportation of the patient to the next level of definitive care; and

WHEREAS, the term Emergency Medical Service evolved to reflect a change from a simple transportation system (ambulance service) to a system in which actual medical care occurred in addition to transportation; and

WHEREAS, it shall be the duty of such board to cooperate with appropriate state agencies in relation to such programs for EMS training, EMS-related activities and mutual aid; to act as an advisory body to the county government and to the county EMS coordinator in connection with the county participation in such programs for EMS training, EMS-related activities and mutual aid and mutual aid programs in cases of emergencies in which the services of EMS providers would be used; to perform such other duties as may be prescribed in relation to EMS training, EMS-related activities and mutual aid in cases of emergencies in which the services of EMS providers would be used; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Ulster County EMS Advisory Board shall consist of not more than 21 voting Members to be appointed by the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature bi-annually, and is hereby created and established for the purposes of:

- i) Advising the Ulster County Legislature on EMS-related issues
- ii) Advising the Legislature on the adoption, repeal or amendments to Laws and Regulations as they relate to Ulster County EMS-related functions;

and, be it further

RESOLVED, membership of the Ulster County EMS Advisory Board should include, but not be limited to, representatives from the Ulster County Fire Coordinator's Office, volunteer fire departments, ambulance / rescue squads, basic life support first responder agencies, health care professionals, and local government officials; and, be it further

RESOLVED, representatives from Ulster County government may be called upon from time to time to advise the EMS Advisory Board at the request of the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature or the EMS Advisory Board; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County EMS Advisory Board shall issue an annual report to the County Legislature no later than March 1st of the proceeding year,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: NOES:

Passed Committee: Law Enforcement and Public Safety on August 4, 2014

Passed Committee: Public Health and Social Services on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE