

## Public Health & Social Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

**DATE & TIME:** July 8, 2021 – 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Legislative Chambers, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, C.O.B.  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Legislator Abe Uchitelle  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Nettie Tomshaw  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Bruno, Petit  
**ABSENT:** Legislators Lopez and Criswell  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Eve Walter, Deputy County Executive Marc Rider, Samadhi Center Founder and Executive Director David McNamara, Samadhi Board President Kathy Nolan, Barbara Hill

Legislator Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Legislator Uchitelle made a motion to preside over tonight's meeting as the Acting Chair in absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair. Motion was made by Legislator Uchitelle, second by Legislator Bruno. All in favor.

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**Motion No. 1:** Moved to Approve Minutes & Transcript of the June 3, 2021 meeting  
**Motion By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit  
**Discussion:** None  
**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 3  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Minutes/Transcripts APPROVED

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Acting Chair Uchitelle welcomed Samadhi Director McNamara and Board President Nolan to discuss their peer based addiction recovery work program.

Legislator Uchitelle welcomed Samadhi Executive Director McNamara and Board President Nolan who made a brief presentation about the peer based addiction recovery work being done in Kingston and Ulster County by Samadhi's Community Outreach Center and their proposal for funding from the American Rescue Plan to expand programs through renovating a large building on Broadway,

Kingston. The organization would like help with funding for capital work on the new building and program funding support.

- Non-profit Peer based organization
- Provided committee with HEAL grant program data report for past year
- HEAL program exposes the gaps and Samadhi fills them.
- Open door center – anyone with substance or mental health challenge
- All peers are trained and certified by the state
- Open approx.16 hours/day Monday-Saturday
- Offer basic needs – showers, food, place to sit
- Thru the COVID pandemic the outreach part of the program served over 1700 unique individuals in the past year – (323 overdose reversals this year)
- Referred over 500 people into residential treatment this past year -mostly 28/day program
- Need is so great, Phase 2 outreach center created – separate recovery from outreach center
- OASIS certified outpatient outreach center at 122 Clinton Ave., Kingston. Now 24/7.
- Currently serve 220 people/month
- New location 609 Broadway, Kingston (provided working draft of building renovation budget)
- Employ 11 certified recovery peer advocates, Medical Director Dr. Maya Hambright and Dr. Kathy Nolan, (3) Certified Addiction Substance Abuse Councilor’s
- New center requires 50% more staff, build out the respite - transition housing, units done by 8/15/21 – buildout balance of center will be done in stages
- Plans for outreach center will have (2) additional therapists under contract with Maverick Psychotherapy Group in Kingston office on premise and available 8-10 hours/day
- Contract with MHA – staff person on premise 18-20 hrs./week
- Member of SPOA
- Clinical Director of Samaritan Village in Ellenville 6 hrs./week
- Work with Arms Acres at facility 6 hrs./week
- Complete presentation audio available on Legislative committee website

Legislator Bruno confirmed the renovations are proposed for the Broadway location and some are currently underway. A pro-bono architect provided real numbers for the project.

Legislator Bruno applauds Samadhi’s success however expressed concern we are making it easier for Westchester Medical to not provide beds and services.

Legislator Petit confirmed the building lease is for 5 years and they are peer based. Also confirmed there will be billable services through OASIS come mid- 2022. Also, looking at trained advocates as a billable revenue stream.

Legislator Uchitelle confirmed they also work with homeless and people who are mentally ill.

Legislator Walter would like to see break down costs – funding, reimbursable costs, operational costs, bottom line amount asking for.

**Resolutions for the July 20, 2021 Session of the Legislature**

**Resolution No. 294:** Creating Two Full-Time Positions Within Department Of Social Services And Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution creates two Department of Social Services full-time positions to include an Early Intervention Specialist (\$48,616 – 2021 Annual Salary) and a Senior Typist (\$32,250 - 2021 Annual Salary) in the Department of Social Services to meet state mandates and to handle court emergencies.

**Motion No. 2** Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 294

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:** Deputy County Executive provided a history and work load overview. Legislator Petit confirmed they are restoring (2) positions that were previously cut out of the budget, and noted “we need more boots on the ground.” Committee discussion ensued.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 3

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Resolution adopted.

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**Resolution No. 295:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$27,500.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Anderson Medical, P.C. D/B/A Emergency One Urgent Care And Diagnostic Center – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment #1 with Anderson Medical, P.C. D/B/A Emergency One Urgent Care And Diagnostic Center for increased funding for drug and alcohol screening of certain clients. Federal 36%, State 29%, County 35%. Amended term 4/1/21 – 6/30/21.

**Motion No. 3** Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 295

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:** Deputy County Executive Marc Rider provided the committee with an overview for alcohol screening for clients – basically family court mandate. Committee discussion ensued.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 3  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution adopted.

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**Resolution No. 296:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$56,650.00 Entered Into By The County – Jennifer Heavey, LMSW – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract for \$56.6K with Jennifer Heavey, LMSW for child protective services clinical mental health collaboration. 100% State. Contract term 6/1/2021 – 1/15/2022.

**Motion No. 4** Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 296  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:** Deputy Executive Rider provided a brief overview.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 3  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution adopted.

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**Resolution No. 297:** Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Accept HEALing Communities Study Funding – Department Of Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2021 Ulster County budget to accept HEALing Communities study funding – Columbia University study. Net impact zero dollars.

**Motion No. 5** Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 297  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:** Deputy Executive Rider confirmed this is the last year for Columbia University funding for the HEAL study.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 3  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution adopted.

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**Resolution No. 298:** Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Addiction Services And Supports For A Cost Of Living Adjustment– Department Of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2021 Ulster County budget to accept increased funding from the NYS Office of Addiction Services (OASAS) and supports a 1% increase (COLA).

**Motion No. 2** Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 298

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Uchitelle

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bruno

**Discussion:** Legislator Uchitelle confirmed the total being \$6K and cost of living (COLA) - accepting state funding.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 3

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Resolution adopted.

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**New / Old Business:** None

Temporary Chair asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

### **Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Uchitelle

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 3

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**TIME:** 5:52 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: August 2, 2021