

**Public Health & Social Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: January 30, 2017 – 6:15 PM
LOCATION: COB, 6th Floor, K. L. Binder Library
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Craig Lopez
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Heppner, Roberts
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Ken Crannell Deputy County Executive, Michael Iapoce
Commissioner DSS

Chairman Craig Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.
Deputy Chairman Chris Allen arrived at 6:35 PM
Chairman Lopez opted to take Resolution No. 17 first as Commissioner Iapoce was present, and
Resolution No. 15 last as Legislator Allen was in transit.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve the Minutes of the December 5, 2016 meeting**

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Belfiglio, Heppner, Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes approved

Resolution No. 17: Confirming The Re-Appointment Of Michael A. Iapoce As Commissioner Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: Pursuant to Section C-62(A) of the Ulster County Charter and Section A11-1(A) of the Administrative Code there shall be a Department of Social Services under the direction of a Commissioner of Social Services, who shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature.

Motion No. 2: **Resolution No. 17 moved for discussion**

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

Discussion: Commissioner Iapoce shared his rewarding experience working for the County of Ulster since 1993 and especially looking forward to being reappointed as Commissioner of Social Services. The Chairman, Legislator Roberts and the entire committee thanked Mr. Iapoce for the good work he and his office have provided. Legislator Roberts asked the commissioner if there is drug testing on old or new applicants not actively looking for work, and what is the success rate of individuals going on and coming off Safety Net. Commissioner Iapoce noted drug and alcohol testing is not permissible however they screen individuals as a standard operating procedure for all public assistance programs. If they reveal they have a problem they are referred to treatment. By the time an applicant qualifies for the safety net program they have been disenfranchised by all the other programs and the system. At this point they work aggressively to always get them back on the right track. Over the past year the safety net success rate of those deemed employable is maybe 10%. Those who go off the system normally for not being able to meet the criteria tend to be somewhat nomadic. A study a few years back resulted in a wash - showing the same amount of old cases going off the program had the same new cases come on. Commissioner Iapoce will follow up with the committee to advise whether the 10% rate falls in line with the state average.

Motion No. 3: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 17**

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Belfiglio, Heppner, Roberts

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 16: Amending The 2017 Ulster County Budget To Annualize Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For A 0.2% Cost Of Living Adjustment – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution increases funding for a 0.2% cost of living adjustment as per the New York State Office of Mental Health to the 2017 UC budget.

Discussion: None

Motion No. 4: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 16**

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Belfiglio, Heppner, Roberts

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 38: 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

Resolution Summary: This resolution contract provides for food stamp employment and training program to transition individuals receiving aid to the workforce and self-sufficiency.

Motion No. 5: **Resolution No. 38 moved for discussion**

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: Chairman Lopez expressed this resolution contract is ongoing, designed to transition able individuals from public assistance into the workforce. Legislator Heppner qualified with Commissioner Iapocce the employment and training program administered by Gateway Community Industries is a requirement for individuals under the terms and conditions of the SNAP program.

Motion No. 6: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 38**

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Belfiglio, Heppner, Roberts

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 39: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Contract Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – James McGuiness & Associates Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution contract amendment with James McGuiness & Associates Inc. extends the term of the agreement for maintenance, support, modifications and consulting services for the Social Services Preschool Program software for 1-year. \$100% county \$27.5K

Motion No. 7: **Resolution No. 39 moved for discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: This annual resolution contract is for the use of standard statewide county used software, providing software helpdesk support, software modifications, and consulting services for the computer software - designed and used within the Department of Social Services' Preschool Program. Legislator Roberts inquired why the county runs the program and not the individual school district. Ken Crannell explained this special needs program is mandated by NYS designed for pre-school children 3-5 yrs. old. The school district runs school age programs and regular pre-school programs.

Motion No. 8: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 39**
Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Belfiglio, Heppner, Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 44: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Rehabilitation Support Services Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution contract with Rehabilitation Support Services Inc. with NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) & Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) grant funding – pass through to operate housing units and an alcohol recovery halfway house. \$697.7K, 100% State and Federal funded.

Motion No. 9: **Resolution No. 44 moved for discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: Legislator Belfiglio did not support this resolution last year and will continue to speak out against this contract noting facility inspections are deficient, whereas anyone can enter and leave the rehab facility without oversight. They need to keep the drug dealers and drugs out of the facility. He did note the facility is staffed 24 hours a day and they do follow regulations. He also expressed the need for individuals to seek facilities away from their home town where they are less likely to relapse. This State and Federal pass through of funds for an 18 bed half way house – could and should be more cost effective, noting funding for the building alone is \$242K. He also noted the Town of Esopus is in litigation with rehabilitation support services for another project.

Legislator Roberts qualified there are other sober homes in Ulster County and they all receive funding from the state and federal government. Committee discussion ensued.

Motion No. 10: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 44**

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Heppner, Roberts

Voting Against: Legislator Belfiglio

Votes in Favor: 3

Votes Against: 1

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 45: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – PEOPLE Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution contract with PEOPLE Inc. with NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) & Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) grant funding – pass through for various support services for psychiatrically labeled individuals. \$273K

Motion No. 11: **Resolution No. 45 moved for discussion**

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: None

Motion No. 12: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 45**

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Heppner, Roberts

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 46: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Contract Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Health Alliance Hospital – Broadway Campus – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution contract amendment #2 increases the contract amount by \$149.00 due to the cost of living assessment increase by NYS OMH.

Discussion: None

Motion No. 13: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 46**

Motion By: Legislator Lopez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Heppner, Roberts

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 15: Opposing The Repeal Of The Patient Protection And Affordable Care Act

Resolution Summary: This memorializing resolution sponsored by Legislator Jonathan Heppner opposes the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Motion No. 14: **Resolution No. 15 moved for discussion**

Motion By: Legislator Heppner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: Legislator Heppner, sponsor of this straight forward memorializing resolution, provided the committee with an overview opposing the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, noting his action was in response to a state report potentially effecting 20,000 Ulster County residents losing coverage and jeopardizing \$3 million in direct funding. Legislator Heppner, an ardent supporter of the Affordable Care Act noted he personally obtained health insurance through the open exchange.

A healthy 1-hour committee discussion ensued including the review of each whereas and resolve, and also briefly discussed an alternate memorializing resolution No. 71 – same topic, sponsored by Legislator Allen however withdrawn at this time. The overall consensus resulted in committee member fundamental and philosophical differences and with the possibility of discontinuing memorializing resolutions the sponsor felt there wasn't time to resubmit.

Motion No. 15: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 15**

Motion By: Legislator Heppner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Voting In Favor: Legislator Heppner

Voting Against: Legislators Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Roberts

Votes in Favor: 1

Votes Against: 4

Disposition: Resolution defeated

New Business

Legislator Heppner and Legislator Allen updated the committee regarding their research to possibly have Ulster County model Rensselaer County's Jail program aimed at stopping heroin addiction. When a Rensselaer County jail inmate is about to be released they have the option to enter the county's anti-opioid program. Days before an inmate is released they are given a shot of the drug Vivitrol – a form of Naltrexone, which block the body from feeling the high associated with heroin or alcohol. Currently Ulster County offers their inmates Vivitrol only while incarcerated. Legislator Heppner plans to reach out to Rensselaer County to learn more about their best practice policy, how they are able to pay for the program, and the success rate of the program to see if it's a viable option for Ulster County. Committee discussion ensued.

Legislator Belfiglio advised the NYSAC Public Health and Mental Health committee have submitted Resolution #4 (Calling on the Office Of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services and the Governor of the State of New York to Provide State Funding to Support the Treatment of Individuals with Substance Use Disorders, Who Are Incarcerated in County Jails, in Order to Help Combat the Heroin and Opioid Abuse Epidemic and Other Addictions, Save Lives, and Reduce the Rate of Recidivism.)

Legislator Roberts inquired about having a NARCAN training in his community – possibly September.

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: February 27, 2017