

Public Health and Social Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: December 1, 2014, 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Craig V. Lopez
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts, Provenzano
EXCUSED: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Erica Guerin Legislative Counsel, Ken Crannell Deputy County Executive, Amy Russell CPMH

Chairman Craig Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Sheriff VanBlarcum had a scheduling conflict and could not be in attendance. Chairman Lopez will reach out to Sheriff VanBlarcum.

MOTION NO. 1 To Approve the Minutes of November 3rd & 18th, 2014 Meeting
Motion Made By: Legislator Carl Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Jeanette Provenzano
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts, Provenzano
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. 463
Text of Motion: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Office Of Children

And Family Services For Day Care Registration And Inspection
Program Funding – Department Of Social Services

Motion Made By: Legislator Provenzano

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion: Chairman Lopez provided an overview whereas the program provides funding for processing initial day-care facility registration applications, renewals of existing registrations, complaint investigations and safety assessments. \$139,787.00 dollars that is 100% federally funded.

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 3 Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 464

Text of Motion: Amending The 2015 Ulster County Budget To Accept A New York University School of Medicine Grant – Department Of Social Services

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Provenzano

Discussion: This resolution is to amend the budget to accept a federal sub-award from the New York University School of Medicine in the amount of \$38,734.00. This award is part of the University's ATLAS (Applying a Trauma Lens Across Systems) project. The funds will be used in support of the initiative to make the NYS child welfare foster care system more responsive to the needs of children and their families, and thereby improve outcomes at the individual and systemic level. This is an ongoing program whereas only Ulster County and NYC were selected.

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 4 Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 465

Text of Motion: Confirming Re-Appointment To The Ulster County Board of Health

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: Chairman Lopez asked that the committee receive Dr. Tack’s resume prior to caucus. Dr. Tack came before the committee last month to discuss Ebola preparation at Health Alliance Hospital in Kingston.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts, Provenzano
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 5 Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 467

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Occupations, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Motion Made By: Legislator Provenzano

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: This resolution is for a contract with Occupations, Inc. – a NYS mandated agreement for the Agency to receive NYS OMH funding to provide crisis intervention services to children and adults in the community who have behavioral health concerns, and who are in crisis situations, mobile crisis services. The agency will provide rapid response, assessment of the individual, and resolution of the crisis situation in an effort to reduce avoidable psychiatric hospitalizations, readmissions, and emergency department visits. 100% state funded.

Ken Cranell announced an additional \$300K contract revision will be awarded shortly to allow for an Ellenville office for further penetration -making this program extend county wide. An 800 number will be established with operating hours 1PM – 11 PM with a long term goal offering a 24hr. service.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Litts, Provenzano
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 6Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 468

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – NYU School Of Medicine – Department Of Social Services

Motion Made By: Legislator Allen

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion: Legislative Counsel noted the resolution should reflect the breakdown of the county indirect costs. This contract Amendment – No. 2 to the revenue agreement for the ATLAS Project – foster care system tracking and evaluation \$43,950.00 - 100% funded. Some travel involved for house visits and other work-related responsibilities at a cost of \$3K. Ulster County - DSS indirect cost is \$4695.00. Barbara Sorkin and Cheryl Qamar head the effort. This contract runs through to 9/29/2015.

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 7Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 469

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – St. Catherine's Center For Children – Department Of Social Services

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Discussion: St. Catherine's Center for Children is located in Albany. This is an agreement to purchase foster care and related services. The services provided are mandated by NYS and are paid by NYS through its Welfare Management System (WMS). The County's Finance Department reconciles the WMS accounts, through which NYS transfers funds and make payments to vendors. The NYS Comptroller's office audits the accounts annually. \$250K 7/1/2014 thru 6/30/2016 - 37% Federal, 31% State, 32% County

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

New Business:

Legislator Allen updated the committee regarding his conversation with David Scarpino – President and Chief Executive Officer of Health Alliance in regards to the equalization – reimbursement rates for Medicare & Medicaid pay out. Mr. Scarpino was recently in Washington DC lobbying our local representatives – Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Congressmen Gibson & neighboring Sean Patrick Maloney. Mr. Scarpino feels he must lobby for bi-partisanship support to create change. Legislator Allen also had a conversation with Senator Schumer who explained the complexities of the issue - geographical zones etc., determined by a federal board. Both Health Alliance and St. Peters Hospital in Poughkeepsie (2 miles away from Vassar) fall in between “zones”, however Kingston receives 25% less reimbursement than St. Peters, Vassar Brothers and Northern Dutchess. Kingston falls in the same “district” as Vassar Brothers in Poughkeepsie. St. Peters Hospital partners with a health network company based out of Westchester County, and Vassar and Northern Dutchess partners with the Quest Network. Hospitals that partner with certain health networks appear to be a factor in determining reimbursement rates. Legislator Allen feels the explanations provided are hard to rationalize and wants to further pursue the issue. Legislator Provenzano commended Legislator Allen for his efforts, noting for years our representatives have tried to correct this inequity on behalf of both Golden Hill and Kingston Hospital but to no avail.

Legislator Provenzano provided the committee with an American Cancer Society E-Cigarette fact sheet explaining they contain carcinogens – including diethylene glycol - a toxic ingredient found in antifreeze. Legislator Provenzano is passionate the legislature make every effort to discourage young people from being exposed to smoking and e-cigarette products. Legislator Provenzano asked for the committee’s support to pass Resolution No. 443 going before the full legislature on Session night December 17, 2014.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Legislator Belfiglio and seconded by Legislator Litts, all were in favor, and Chairman Lopez declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Dated the 29th Day of December, 2014

Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Employee

Minutes Approved on: February 10, 2015