

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

**DATE & TIME:** August 1, 2016 – 6:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** COB, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, K. L. Binder Library  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairman Craig Lopez  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Nettie Tomshaw  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Heppner  
**ABSENT:** Roberts  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Herbert Litts, Lee Cane, League of Women Voters, Evelyn Gross Whitebay, M. Ed., Dyslexia Educator

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

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

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Resolutions for the August 16, 2016 Session of the Legislature

**Resolution No. 131:** Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2016 (A Local Law Protecting Children From Exposure To Toxic Chemicals) To Be Held On Tuesday, September 13, 2016 At 6:00 PM

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution sets a public hearing for Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 6:00 PM to allow the public to comment on Proposed Local Law Number 3 of 2016.

**Motion No. 2:**                    **Resolution No. 131 moved for discussion**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Lopez  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Allen

**Discussion:**

Chairman Lopez reiterated a bill was passed that may cover all bases locally. Chairman Lopez will follow up with the sponsor.

**Disposition:**                    The Committee took no action on the Resolution.

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**Resolution No. 366:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution provides a youth advocacy reunification program for the UC Department of Social Services, (DSS). The program will serve families with youth who are at high risk of residential placement as a result of a Person In Need of Supervision (PINS) and/or Juvenile Delinquency (JD) proceeding through the Family Court, or who are receiving services through the County's Coordinated Children's Services program. This contract begins October 1, 2016 and ends September 30, 2017. YAP is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization exclusively committed to the provision of community based alternatives to out-of-home care through direct service and advocacy.

**Motion No. 3:** Resolution No. 366 moved for discussion

**Motion By:** Legislator Belfiglio

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Allen

**Discussion:**

Committee discussion ensued as to who will be providing the service and why it is being outsourced. Does the county have the expertise within DSS? The contract will be awarded to "Youth Advocate Programs, Inc." out of Harrisburg, PA with a local office on Aaron Court, Kingston. Legislator Belfiglio noted he would follow up with Deputy County Executive Kenneth Crannell as to why the county outsources this DSS PINS youth program.

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

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 4

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Resolution adopted

(See information below Deputy Executive Ken Crannell emailed the committee upon return from vacation)

To help clear up some of the confusion, the contract is with a not-for-profit organization by the name of "Youth Advocate Programs, Inc," which has had local offices at Aaron Court in Kingston since about 2002.

This contract will support the Department of Social Services with a variety of services designed to help families with youth who are at high risk of residential placement as a result of a Person In Need of Supervision ("PINS") and/or Juvenile Delinquency ("JD") proceeding through the Family Court, or who are receiving services through the County's Coordinated Children's Services program. As you can see from the Schedule A, services include mentoring, counseling, parenting skills instruction and tutoring using youth and parent advocates.

This contract is supported by funding through NYS' STSJP -- Supervision & Treatment Services for Juvenile Programs. We applied for, and were awarded, additional funding because of Ulster County's excellent track record of using diversion to keep kids who are risk from being removed from their homes. The youth who participate in this program historically have better grades, remain enrolled in school longer with better attendance, decrease criminal activities, and increase their affiliation with positive role models in the community, including mentors matched by this program.

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Evelyn Whitebay, M. Ed., Experienced Dyslexia Educator – Dyslexia Awareness Update

Chairman Lopez welcomed and thanked Ms. Whitebay for coming before the committee once again to provide the committee with an update of her progress made over the last eight months. Last October Ms. Whitebay came before the committee and the full Ulster County legislature promoting dyslexia awareness. Ms. Whitebay's written comments provided to the committee are listed below. Legislator Belfiglio to follow up for additional information to assist Ms. Whitebay with a committee letter of support, being our Health Committee NYSAC liaison.

**Dyslexic Day ## 8.1.2016Text2Ulster County Public Health and Social Services Committee**

**RE: Promoting Dyslexia Awareness and Dyslexia Awareness Month**

**An update as to what is going on for the future:**

- In the future we will continue our efforts in all of the areas mentioned on the update list. Focusing on the general population, primarily, we will promote and develop awareness regarding dyslexia, tell our stories, support parents and families.
- We will educate, and support New York State Legislators with their legislation and higher education in achieving provision and training goals that enable dyslexics in public schools to learn proficient reading and related skills according to their potential and learning style.
- We will celebrate the strengths and attributes of dyslexia and its positive impact on individuals and contributions to society, expecting a turn-around in our public educational system K-12-vocational school-graduate school.
- We ask on behalf of our parent constituents and their children that October be again designated: OCTOBER IS DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH 2016. We hope to have actual and/or virtual events related to this month.

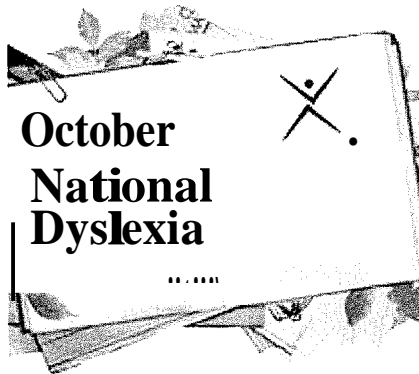
**Dyslexic Days NY, Access Dyslexia, and The Divided States of Dyslexia Documentary Film**  
**Project Updates include:**

1. Prior to March 15, 2016 there was a memorializing resolution passed by the Ulster County Legislature for declaring October 2015 as Dyslexia Awareness Month for one year. One of the few or perhaps only in NY State or the US. We applaud you and your effort and support.
2. In the fall of 2016, we are hoping to have Herb Litts speak about engineering (and perhaps other areas like his political service) and the Tappan Zee Bridge Project to LD and other students at Highland Elementary and encourage the students to focus on strengths, potential, and abilities.
3. Dyslexic Days NY did Lobbying in NY to try and secure NYS dispensation of funding to reduce the threat or cuts in the public school budget of programs like the unique 16-year-old ongoing public school program using *the Orton-Gillingham Based Multisensory Approach! Multisensory Structured Literacy Approach* for Dyslexia/Specific Learning Disabled students in Highland.
4. Library Initiative at Plattekill Library started in the fall 2015, and we will meet with Highland Library soon. Access: Plattekill Library is looking to purchase more dyslexia font books, books on tape and e books to enhance the development of the knowledge base in SLD/Dyslexic students, and computer keyboards and programs, etc. that accommodate dyslexic learners. Bravo, Plattekill Library, and catalysts, Barbara Jacobini and Donna Banks. They expressed interest in access to screenings for dyslexia. Regional library board has expressed interest in learning about dyslexia and perhaps trainings.
5. Grew a Dyslexic Days Team of parents and students.
6. Dyslexic Days events for families started so we can hike, bike, support our children or socialize equitably
7. Dyslexic Days Team NY attended the First Dyslexia Awareness Day at the NYS Capitol, meeting with seven NYS Assembly or NYS Senate or their staffers, presenting our stories and our case. The event was sponsored by Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon and Senator Martin Golden and was endorsed by several others.

8. At this First Dyslexia Awareness Day at the NYS Capitol, a Dyslexia Awareness Resolution was passed by both houses declaring March 15, 2016 as Dyslexia Awareness Day.
9. Dyslexic Days had more outreach through presentations for public school districts, legislators, and general public to educate Boards of Education about Dyslexia.
10. NY Bill A4330 and S05439 regarding early identification and teacher training. After 2 years the bill is still pending.
11. Dyslexic Days has reached out to Decoding Dyslexia NY, NJ CT, PA, and USA to further promote awareness and action throughout the USA and several provinces.
12. Dyslexic Days – now has a non-profit FaceBook Page for information, personal stories, Library Initiative, Jenn's Vlog, the Young Film Makers Project through Director Producer, Stephen Polk at Providence Media, resources, and comments and a link to The Divided States of Dyslexia Documentary Film Project at Providence Media with Stephen Polk, Director, Producer.
13. June 25, 2016 Dyslexic Days New York held a successful annual celebration of dyslexia event gratefully attended by parents, Herb Litts and guest, Library personnel, math and reading teachers, tutors and educators, reading therapy dog, children, grandparents, film and photo crew, Decoding Dyslexia NY attendees, and DC College student support office.
14. July 11-15, 2016 our teams convened in Washington DC for DYSLEXIA HILL DAY EVENT Hill Day events and meetings to urge them to become aware about dyslexia and its affects, and join the Dyslexia Caucus. Meeting were with
  - a. Senator Gillibrand's (NY) legal staff member and legislative correspondent Sarah Reingold in the Russell Senate Office Building
  - b. Melissa Wilson and Evelyn Gross Whitebay met with Senator Tonka after meeting with his aide
  - c. Senator Schumer's aide, Morgan Brand
  - d. US Congressman Chris Gibson's aide
15. Potomac Center Plaza building, through Chareese Ross, National Engagement Team, Office of Communications and Outreach, U.S. Department of Education:  
Dyslexic Days, Access Dyslexia, The Divided States of Dyslexia Documentary Film Project and Decoding Dyslexia met with two Department of Education staff: Ruth Ryder Deputy Director, and Sue Reynolds. John B. King tweeted us – as a new team that evening. Ruth Ryder said to meet again next month and encouraged us to apply for the new reading center.
16. Dyslexic Days – attended #SAYDYSLEXIA RALLY AT US CAPITOL at Constitution & Third NW: Among the speakers were: Hal Malchow, President of the International Dyslexia Association, Ameer Baraka, Actor, Writer, Advocate, and many others
17. Dyslexic Days – attended the showing of the Movie Being You, about succeeding despite dyslexia. We met the actors, others, and Ollie (Olegario) D, Cantos VII, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary Office for Civil rights, US Dept. Of Education who is very supportive.
18. Dyslexic Days – attended Decoding Dyslexia's Senate Luncheon, Senate Dirksen Office Building, where Senators presented their work and efforts
19. Dyslexic Days – attended Senatorial Reception RAYBURN where I met Ameer Baraka, Meghan Friedman of IDA, and many others
20. Dyslexic Days – attended the National Center for Learning disabilities Congressional Breakfast House and Senate, at the Capitol Visitors Center. I introduced myself to Congressman Lamar Smith, Co-Chair Dyslexia Caucus, who liked my Brainbow 1 & 2 Research proposal idea – met aides and gave my contact info. I followed up with an email.
21. Friday, 7/15/16 – Evelyn was interviewed at the International Dyslexia Association office in Baltimore, MD by Meghan Friedman. Evelyn: It was great to meet all the people that make this organization. I enjoyed Megan's tour and introductions- interview. I only hope my interview will help further public awareness, promote training of teachers, educators and tutors, early screening for identification, and focus on what IS POSSIBLE for our dyslexic/SLD students/children (those with a unique learning style). Also, address "the school to prison pipeline" issues.

22. Dyslexic Days NY: I was asked to present at our area's Pediatric Association in the near future.
23. Dyslexic Days NY: An "All About Dyslexia Blog" is being launched locally.

**Pictures from the Plattekill Library! After the Dyslexic Days NY Initiative for Dyslexia Awareness:**



## GROUP TUTORING

for dyslexic,  
reluctant, and/or  
atypical readers



4 Week Group Tutoring  
Wednesdays 4:30 • 5:30

## Reading Therapy Dog

Reading Storybooks to Dogs...What Could Be Cuter?

Tuesd Srpt 11:00 @ 5:00pm

Sarda.S..pt 12:00 @ 100J>m

!! w<IM\$d•

!!S,rpl. 16:00 @ 4:30pm

T<ts& 'l, Sept- 22:00 @ 5:00pm

Srpt- 22:00 @ 5:00pm

Information required

Plattekill Public Library  
2047 State Route 22  
Marion, NY 12548  
845-222-2222  
<http://plattekilllibrary.org>



## GROUP TUTORING

For dyslexic, reluctant,  
and/or atypical readers begins.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th



4 Week Group Tutoring  
Wednesdays 4:30 • 5:30

Summary for Ulster County Public Health and Social Services Committee Presentation

For Chairman: Craig V. Lopez and Deputy Chairman: Chris Allen and

Members: Carl Belfiglio, Kevin A. Roberts, Jonathan R. Heppner, Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr.

DATE: Monday, August 1, 2016, 6:30 PM, 6th Floor RE: Promoting Dyslexia Awareness and Dyslexia Awareness Month

Presenter: Evelyn Gross Whitebay, M.Ed., Experienced Dyslexia Educator, Dyslexic Day - Ambassador

Dyslexia: awareness and action. An estimated 20 % of our population, including our student population, is dyslexic. Reading is a learned skill. Students with Dyslexia have difficulty breaking the code, or decoding the written word, making it hard to read, write, and spell and sometimes doing math, since it too is a language. The learning differences and existence of Dyslexia, and the intervention that ameliorates it have been proven (The National Institute of Health and Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, CT). They have documented structural differences between the uniquely structured brain of dyslexics and the standard brain. Due to 2009 technologies like the MRI machine, we can now observe the reading brain, and learning differences before and after effective intervention. The correct intervention makes the difference.

**Helping people to learn to read is an upstream tactic to make both individuals and community better. A study conducted per the Department of Justice indicates *the link between academic failure and delinquency, violence and crime is welded to reading***

*failure.*<sup>1</sup> Statistics from the National Institutes of Health report that:

- 85% of all juveniles who interface with the court system are functionally illiterate<sup>1</sup>
- 63% of prison inmates can't read<sup>1</sup>

In terms of children, who are all very, very important --the National Institute for Literacy notes that:

- 2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare.<sup>1</sup>
- 43% of adults at Level 1 literacy skills live in poverty compared to only 4% of those at Level 5.<sup>1</sup>

According to US Government statistics cited in March 2015 by Governor Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, 17.5 % of the general population is Dyslexic. That is an estimated 1-in- 5 people. According to the International Dyslexia Association, "15 -20% of the population as a whole – have some symptoms of Dyslexia, including slow or inaccurate reading, poor spelling, poor writing, or mixing up similar words." This is a huge problem. However, there are solutions to this huge problem and effective interventions that match the learning style of our dyslexic students. These need to be utilized on a broad basis.

Evidence-based structured literacy interventions like the Orton – Gillingham Based Approaches or the Structured Multi-Sensory Instructional Approach effectively address the reading and language-based difficulties facing dyslexics. Currently, in New York State, Dyslexia is lumped in with Specific Learning Disabilities and Learning Disabilities terminology, but it needs to be included as a designation as does the designation of its appropriate interventions that are evidence-based structured literacy interventions. These designated approaches are necessary for students that are dyslexic. This needs to be included in the Individual Educational Plan. We also need early screening to identify dyslexic students so the intervention can begin as soon as possible to assure they are receiving the appropriate intervention, thus assuring a brighter future for these students.

17.5% of students are not getting the appropriate effective instruction that is necessary for them to learn to read, spell and write at this time. Currently, they are experiencing failure in the classroom. Besides illiteracy, this can lead to social and emotional problems. Our dyslexic students require the appropriate instructional help and supports.

Governor Malloy of Connecticut signed Substitute Bill No. 1054. New Jersey has similar bills and action. Connecticut Commissioner of Education shall designate an employee of the Department of Education to be responsible for providing information and assistance to local and regional boards of education and the parents or guardians of students relating to the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy interventions for, students with Dyslexia. A bill like this in New York would change people's lives ...for the better. Please support New York Bill A4330 and 505439 regarding early identification and teacher training that will address dyslexia in our population.

Unidentified and unaddressed dyslexia affects the welfare and health of our dyslexic children, and that of our communities.

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## **New Business**

### **Vending Machine Food Policy**

Chairman Lopez shared a written request from Legislator John Parete, Chairman of the Government Efficiency & Review Committee to revisit the parameters of healthy snack products sold in county vending machines based on Purchasing Director Marc Rider's audit feedback memo.

Legislator Belfiglio, Deputy Chair of the Gov't. Efficiency & Review Committee agrees with Dir. Rider's assessment to repeal the policy. Committee discussion ensued. The committee acknowledged healthy dietary snacks are good for everyone and contributes to lower health care costs, noting healthier snack options have evolved over the past six years. If sales are down our vendor should adapt accordingly to market trends and offer healthier options and or purchasing should look into other vendors who offer healthy snacks, touting healthy Ulster. Legislator Heppner feels the intent of the policy isn't being fulfilled, noting healthy vending machine options are utilized in state buildings in Albany today which products might not have been available when the policy was written. Legislator Heppner feels it's in the county's best interest to offer options for employees. Legislator Allen noted some people on the go utilize vending machines as a substitute meal source. Legislator Allen explained the difference between good and bad fats. Chairman Lopez summed this up as overreach - individuals can make their own decisions. Let the market regulate itself. The committee will discuss the topic further next month.

### **Tobacco Retail License Statistics**

Chairman Lopez shared a memo he received from Commissioner Carol Smith in response to a request from the Government Efficiency & Review Committee for an update on applications and licensing regarding Local Law No. 6 of 2015. The policy effective January 1, 2016 states no person shall sell, offer for sale, or permit the sale of Tobacco products to consumers in Ulster County, without possessing a valid Tobacco Retail License issued by the Ulster County Dept. of Health. No new tobacco retail licenses will be issued to establishments located within 1000 feet of a school. The thrust of this law is to reduce youth exposure to tobacco products. Legislator Allen, Belfiglio and Chairman Lopez provided history leading up to this local law for new member Leg. Heppner.

Legislator Belfiglio passed a Narcan sample kit around the table previously distributed at the Free Community Narcan training event held at the Esopus Town Hall in Port Ewen on July 14th. Legislator's Belfiglio, Allen and Heppner all attended Narcan training in their respective districts and all were well attended and received.

Legislator Belfiglio noted one of the UCAN recommendations was to develop more state regulations for sober housing. At their last meeting they discussed there aren't any guidelines for private sober housing that doesn't receive OASIS funding. Legislator Belfiglio believes all sober housing should have guidelines protecting residents who seek refuge from continued drug



exposure. Currently sober homes experience drug activity on the premise – undermining people that want to help themselves. There needs to be unannounced spot inspections and screening. Legislator Belfiglio will forward a letter he received from Tom Kagen regarding the matter. Legislator Belfiglio plans on crafting a resolution to present to NYSAC.

Legislator Heppner agreed noting Suffolk County tried to implement guidelines for private providers only to have the state nix it due to strict NYS healthcare oversight guidelines. There currently is legislation on the state level but has been stagnant. Committee discussion ensued.

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

### **Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Belfiglio

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Heppner

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**TIME:** 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: September 7, 2016