

Public Health and Social Services Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: February 6, 2014, 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Craig V. Lopez
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Jeanette Provenzano, Chris Allen, Carl Belfiglio and Herbert Litts, III
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislative Counsel Erica Guerin, League of Women Voters Observer Lee Cane

Chairman Craig Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

MOTION NO. 1 To Approve the Minutes of the January 29, 2014
Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio and Litts
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 2 Resolutions No. 67– February 18, 2014

Text of Motion: Resolve to Approve Resolutions No. 67 – Amending the 2014 Ulster County Budget To Accept Additional Reinvestment Funding For Family Of Woodstock, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Resolution No. 67 Summary: This Resolution would amend the Ulster County Budget to accept additional funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health Reinvestment Funding for Family of Woodstock for the operation of an Office of Mental Health (OMH) Outreach Program as outlined in a letter dated December 23, 2013.

Discussion: Legislator Allen noted that it is “pass thru” money from the State.

Legislator Belfiglio said these are good programs and the committee supported both

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 3 Resolutions No. 68 – January 29, 2014

Text of Motion: Resolve to Approve Resolutions No. 68 - Amending the 2014 Ulster County Budget To Accept Additional Reinvestment Funding For Gateway Industries, Inc. – Department of Mental Health

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Resolution No. 68 Summary: This Resolution would amend the Ulster County Budget to accept additional funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health Reinvestment Funding for Family of Woodstock for the operation of an Office of Mental Health (OMH) Outreach Program as outlined in a letter dated December 23, 2013.

Discussion: Legislator Provenzano said that there was a growing need for these services because the State of New York has closed down so many residential facilities. She commended both Family of Woodstock and Gateway Industries, Inc for a great job they do assisting individuals and felt have become vital programs for individuals with mental health issues.

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

New Business

Changing the Meeting day and time

Legislator Lopez opened a discussion about moving the Public Health and Social Services Committee meetings. There was a consensus to move the meetings to the first Monday of the month at 6:15.

Old Business:

Health Alliance: Legislator Provenzano told the committee that Glenn Decker, former Ulster County Commissioner of Social Services, had been appointed Chairman of the Board of the Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley (HAHV). She reminded the committee that last month, Legislator Belfiglio suggested the committee meet with the leadership of the HAHV to keep abreast of their plans for the future of the hospitals. She felt since the Legislature had such a good relationship with Mr. Decker when he was commissioner, it would be good to reach out to him to establish this line of communication.

Lyme Disease: Legislator Allen discussed the ongoing problems Ulster County residents are having with Lyme disease and other tick bourn illness. Legislator Provenzano and Counsel Guerin explained the work of the Lyme Disease Committee last year and the ongoing public outreach being done by the Ulster County Health Department.

Legislator Allen outlined two schools of thought on the treatment of Lyme Disease and expressed frustration that the Center for Disease Control protocol do not appear to be effective and up to date. There was a discussion of treatment in other parts of the country and the world.

Legislator Provenzano recognized these differences and noted that the committee did not have the medical expertise to make judgments about the best course of treatment. She felt the Lyme Disease Committee had done a good job of making the information available and suggested individuals must take responsibility for choosing medical professionals who offers the treatment they want.

Prescription Medications: Legislator Belfiglio serves on the Ulster Prevention Council and described a growing problem of the misuse of prescription medications. He said a recent survey found that 15% of 10 grade students reported experimenting with prescription medications. He told the committee that there are 6 drop boxes for unused prescription medications in various police stations around Ulster County, these boxes can only be located at police stations and they cost about \$900 each. These boxes were very busy when they were first installed but he feels there is a need for more public awareness. While

Legislator Belfiglio does not want to put an undue burden on Pharmacy owners, he wondered if it would be possible for them to include information about local drop boxes when they fill prescriptions.

The Committee discussed various methods of informing the public including public service announcements, adding information to the printed information included with prescriptions, signage in the pharmacies and police stations, and providing additional drop boxes.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:36 pm

Dated the 6th day of February, 2014

Fawn A. Tantillo, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved on: March 10, 2014