

Public Health and Social Services Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: March 10, 2014, 6:15 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Craig V. Lopez
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Craig Lopez, Jeanette Provenzano, Chris Allen, Carl Belfiglio and Herbert Litts, III
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislative Counsel Erica Guerin, Kenneth Crannell Deputy County Exec., Marie Shultis Awareness, Mike Shultis Life Safer Inc.

Chairman Craig Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

MOTION NO. 1 To Approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2014
Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts
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. 82 – March 18, 2014**
Text of Motion: Resolve to Approve Resolutions No. 82 – Calling On The Ulster County Senate And Assembly Delegation To Support The State Takeover Of The Safety Net Program Thereby Relieving Ulster County Property Taxpayers Of This Unfunded State Mandate

Motion / Discussion:

Motion made to open discussion by Legislator Belfiglio, 2nd Legislator Litts.

Legislative Provenzano provided a detailed overview/history of the Safety Net program to engage the newer legislators with a better understanding of how Safety Net evolved – whereas additionally the resolution outlines the UC Legislature calling for our Senate and Assembly delegation to advocate for the State takeover of the Safety Net program, relieving Ulster County property taxpayers from a substantial unfunded State mandate.

Legislator Provenzano noted NYS does place a two year limit on cash assistance, and there is no time limit for rent or utilities – you can be on it forever. Whether you abuse drugs or alcohol, whether you accept treatment or not, you still qualify for assistance. Leg. Provenzano will provide more information to the committee at the next meeting.

Motion Made By: Legislator Provenzano

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

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. 83 – March 18, 2014

Text of Motion:

Resolve to Approve Resolutions No. 83 – In Support Of New York State Senate Bill S966-2013 and New York State Assembly Bill A2386-2013 the “Public Assistance Integrity Act” To Prohibit the Sale or Purchase of Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco Products or Lottery Tickets with Public Assistance Benefits

Motion / Discussion:

Motion made to open discussion by Legislator Belfiglio, 2nd Legislator Litts.

Chairman Lopez gave an overview of the resolution, whereas the resolution closes the loop hole by creating legislation preventing the misuse of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards at liquor stores, casinos, lottery tickets, tobacco products, and adult oriented entertainment via automatic teller machines (ATM), as part of the program can be used for cash. The UC Legislature supports the New York State Senate bill

S966-2013 and urges the passage of NYS Assembly bill A2386-2013 to protect Ulster County taxpayers from fraud and abuse. The bill passed through the Senate in June, however the Assembly won't take it up.

Ken Cranell noted that this is a federal law requiring states to adopt a plan and restrict what venues can use ETB cards. End of January, the state office for temporary displaced assistance implemented this restriction administratively through the Executive branch. Currently at this time none of these venues are accepting ETB cards. Included in the proposed state budget are financial penalties to vendors who allow the use of ETB cards.

Committee discussions ensued as to further understanding of the bill and misuse of public funds.

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

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. 4 Resolutions No. 91 – March 18, 2014

Text of Motion: Resolve to Approve Resolutions No. 91 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Motion / Discussion:

Motion made to open discussion by Legislator Litts, 2nd Legislator Provenzano.

Legislator Belfiglio asked for confirmation if county money was being applied. Ken Crannell confirmed it was 100% state money – pass through.

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Provenzano

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. 5 Resolutions No. 112 – March 18, 2014

Text of Motion: Resolve to Approve Resolutions No. 112 – 2014
Appropriation for Awareness, Inc. - Legislature

Motion / Discussion:

Motion made to open discussion by Legislator Provenzano, 2nd Legislator Belfiglio.

Legislator Belfiglio considered going into executive session – made a motion and withdrew his motion - discussion ensued as to leave or not to leave the room, ultimately executive session did not take place and all members remained in the meeting.

Marie Shultis with Awareness Inc. a non-profit organization 501c3, provided an over view along with a program brochure handout to committee members. Awareness Inc. offers peer to peer education specifically oriented toward adolescent offenders who received alcohol/substance abuse related sentencing in Ulster County Courts.

Sheriff VanBlarcum asked Ms. Shultis to convey to the committee his full support of the program.

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Allen, Litts

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: (3) Lopez, Allen, Litts

Abstention: (2) Provenzano, Belfiglio

Legislator Belfiglio abstained - he is involved in investigating the Awareness program and attended a couple of meetings as well. While his name is on the Awareness brochure as an advisory member, he was never inducted into the group.

Legislator Provenzano abstained – currently sits on the advisory board.

Disposition: Carried

Note: After the committee voted, Legislator Provenzano publically thanked Marie Shultis for all her hard work and for staying with the program against all odds, noting the program really works.

Old / New Business:

Health Alliance: Chairman Lopez reached out this week to the President and CEO David Scarpino requesting that he meet with the committee to better understand his plans for the future of the hospitals. Mr. Scarpino is tentatively scheduled to attend the May 5th committee meeting.

Prescription Medications Pharmacy Update: Legislator Belfiglio serves on the Ulster Prevention Council and has been working with Counsel Guerin to create a local law mandating that pharmacy's display the location of all the drop boxes in Ulster County. They also considered having the "Patient Package Insert" modified to reflect the drop box locations, however further research revealed federal law does not allow for any modifications. Leg. Belfiglio explained there are 7 drop boxes for unused prescription medications in various police stations around Ulster County, by law 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 additional public awareness. While Legislator Belfiglio does not want to put an undue burden on Pharmacy owners, he will continue to pursue ways of posting drop box locations at Ulster County Pharmacy's.

Informational Flyer Handouts: Health Insurance Information Session – Thursday March 13th, and Putnam County Legislative Forum – Saturday March 15th.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time 7:30 PM

Dated the 25th day of March, 2014

Nettie Tomshaw Legislative Employee

Minutes Approved on: March 31, 2014