

## Public Health and Social Services Committee

### Regular Meeting Minutes

**DATE & TIME:** May 5, 2014, 6:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Karen L. Binder, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, COB, Kingston, NY  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairman Craig V. Lopez  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Nettie Tomshaw  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Craig Lopez, Jeanette Provenzano, Chris Allen, Carl Belfiglio, Herbert Litts, III  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Thomas Kadgen & Lee Cane League of Women Voters, David Scarpino President & CEO of Health Alliance, Stephen Rice Trails Advisory Committee

Chairman Craig Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

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**MOTION NO. 1** To Approve the Minutes of March 31, 2014  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Provenzano  
**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

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Committee Members and Guest Speakers provided round table introductions.

**Guest Speakers:** Three (3) guest speakers were in attendance at the meeting.

#### **1.) Thomas Kadgen, League of Women Voters, Presentation - Safe To Talk:**

Chairman Lopez welcomed Tom Kadgen who provided literature to committee members along with presenting a brief video promoting the “SafeToTalk” initiative, which is a national tip hotline program run by the Safe to Tip Foundation. This video can be viewed at [www.safetotalk.org](http://www.safetotalk.org). Although Tom is a member of the League of Women Voters, he stated he is not here tonight on behalf of the League. Tom

noted his presentation derives from the Public Safety Advisory Committee that met for about a year last year. He would like the committee to consider funding the program through the UC Mental Health Association which would cost approximately \$1.00 per student per year. Tom has seen firsthand young people in his community addicted to heroin – whose lives he feels are over before they began.

This anonymous school tip line would allow students to report violence, bullying, sexual harassment, suicide threats and drug activity, essentially making the school a safer place and possibly save lives. The idea is to allow friends, classmates, etc, to alert the professional community that an adolescent is showing signs of having a problem and may be in need of assistance.

Legislator Allen spoke to his own experience with bullying.

Legislator Belfiglio stated he and Erica Guerin, Legislative Counsel both participated on the Public Safety Advisory Committee along with Tom Kadgen. Legislator Belfiglio noted the school system needs to buy into it for accountability.

Chairman Lopez and Legislator Provenzano along with the entire committee shared praise in the merits of the presentation and program, as they expressed interest for further review of the program's viability, parameters and cost of possible implementation.

## **2.) David Scarpino, President & CEO Health Alliance:**

- Formerly CFO of Health Alliance – in new position of CEO for 9-10 months
- In all his years in the health care industry, he has not seen such rapid change like the present.
- Proud of his Emergency Department success – however needs more work with patient experience and satisfaction on the floors.
- Regional healthcare delivery system changing – redesigning the health care landscape accelerated by the Affordable Care Act. – Still a lot of uncertainties.
- Looking to Partner with larger affiliates and community physicians as dramatic changes in health care delivery are here and now, which could mean new health care jobs will be needed in the overall community - less employees for the hospital, more working with other providers.
- Contingent on locating an affiliate partner along with state input will help decide which campus will eventually become the primary hospital – consolidating to a single campus.
- The federal government is changing the current system of healthcare to a more balanced system, equalizing procedures & care, patient satisfaction, quality of care, and costs, with the goal to decrease in-patient hospital stays.
- Hospital payment incentive structure has changed from inpatient incentive dollars to being financially penalized if a patient returns within 30days of discharge, thus promoting quality care, and a better patient experience from the start, to reduce repeat hospital visits.
- The federal and state government will measure and pay hospitals based on the number of people they “keep healthy” by keeping them out of the hospital, vs. being paid on in house volume.
- The intent is to shift the care of individuals by using less expensive outside medical providers, which is less expensive than hospital stays & repeat hospital stays.

- Nursing Homes and outside provider volume will grow, and hospital volume will shrink.
- Electronic Health Care Records will be held in a central location – shared by all health care providers, following the patient from doctor to hospital and continuing across the health care continuum which will help eliminate unnecessary tests.
- Provided “Enhanced Regional Planning Approach” flyer to committee members
- Health Alliance was awarded 6.5 million dollars from the State in September 2013 to help find an affiliate / partner, and to organize their physicians.

Committee discussion ensued.

Chairman Lopez expressed concern over a patient’s right/control to solicit care or not, and also loss of patient privacy all in the name of reducing state and national medical costs.

Legislator Provenzano stated change starts with patient education. Also inquired if there is a possibility a medical or dental school could utilize the campus once vacant. Mr. Scarpino stated anything is possible, however unsure what the future holds – and unclear as to which Kingston location will remain open until a larger affiliate partners with Health Alliance.

Legislator Belfiglio noted Health Alliance is conforming to a model/mandate from the state and federal governments. He went on and asked what can the Legislature / County do to help the hospital move forward. Mr. Scarpino expressed the number one need is higher re-imburement, and to have understanding and community support going forward. Mr. Scarpino meets with the County Executive once a month.

Legislator Allen noted he had a discussion earlier in the day with Senator Gillibrand over equalizing the re-imburement rates to be more in line with Dutchess County rates.

Chairman Lopez thanked Mr. Scarpino for coming before the committee. Mr. Scarpino would like to revisit with the committee once an affiliate is named. He also offered his time if anyone has future questions.

### **3.) Stephen Rice, Trails Committee:**

#### **Re-Establishing the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee**

- Resolution No. 153 was put before the committee to re-establish the Trails Advisory Committee which advises the legislature on the adoption, repeal or amendments to Laws and Regulations as they relate to Ulster County Trails.
- Steve Rice gave a brief overview of the Advisory Committee history & past work accomplished.
- Provided committee members with the 2013 Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee Annual Report along with a 10K/sf color map of the Multi Use Trail System.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**MOTION NO. 2**

**Resolutions No. 153 – May 20, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 153 – Re-Establishing The Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee – Ulster County Legislature

**Motion / Discussion:**

Motion made to open discussion by Legislator Litts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislator Belfiglio.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Litts

**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

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**MOTION NO. 3** **Resolutions No. 161 – May 20, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** Resolve to Approve Resolution No. 161 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Independent Home Care Inc. – Department Of Social Services

**Motion / Discussion:** None

**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

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**New Business:**

Legislator Allen updated the committee on a conversation he had today with Senator Gillibrand expressing the reimbursement rate inequities between Ulster and Dutchess County. Although this has been ongoing for years, the Senator was open to looking into the matter being health care is in a state of flux. Also, Leg. Allen offered information/literature to the Senator in regards to HIPPA rates.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Legislator Litts and seconded by Legislator Provenzano, all were in favor, and Chairman Lopez declared the meeting duly adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Dated 19th day of May, 2014  
Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Employee  
Minutes Approved on: June 2, 2014