

Public Health & Social Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: June 4, 2018 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: COB, 6th Floor, Legislative Chairman's Office
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Craig Lopez
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Nolan, Joseph Maloney, Petit, Wawro
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEE: Kenneth Crannell Deputy County Executive

Chairman Craig Lopez welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
Legislator Petit left at 6:05 PM due to a prior commitment.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve the Minutes of the April 30, 2018 meeting**

Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Joseph Maloney (arrived after the vote) Petit, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the June 19, 2018 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 210: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 9 Of 2018, A Local Law To Adopt Countywide Notification Requirements For The Trapping Of Free Roaming, Feral And/Or Stray Cats

Resolution Summary: This resolution is for the adoption of Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2018, for a countywide notification for the trapping of free roaming, feral and/or stray cats.

Motion No. 2: **Moved for DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Discussion:

Legislator Petit explained after the public hearing was held a philosophical debate over whether one supports euthanasia or TNR, thus all references to TNR have been removed – resulting in notification legislation which was the original intent of the law. Legislator Nolan requested additional language amendments including the striking of some wording in SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS A): ~~in order to sterilize, vaccinate, ear tip and place for adoption or return the cats to their owner or to the location where they were captured.~~ Also, SECTION 5 RECORDS vii): strike ~~conducting the euthanasia~~ and add *providing the written certification for euthanasia*. This amendment would allow certified individuals to continue euthanasia practices, however a veterinarian would need to order the act. All amendments stated are not significant to merit a second public hearing per Legislative Counsels. Committee discussion ensued as to forms and fees for maintaining chip information on file.

Motion No. 3: **Moved to AMEND Resolution No. 210**

Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Wawro

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution AMENDED**

Motion No. 4: **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 210 as AMENDED**

Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Wawro

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED as AMENDED**

Resolution No. 207: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Ulster County Board Of Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Kathleen Rogan to the UC Board of Health. This is City of Kingston Mayor Noble's recommendation pursuant to the UC Charter. Ms. Rogan is replacing Elizabeth Kelly.

Motion No. 5: **Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 207**

Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Joseph Maloney, Petit, Wawro

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 211: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 11 Of 2018, A Local Law Prohibiting Conversion Therapy Upon A Minor Within Ulster County

Resolution Summary: This proposed local law prohibits therapists who practice in the county from using conversion therapy, reparative therapy or other practices that seek to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of anyone under the age of 18. The proposed local law would require that applicable licensing boards be notified of the crime. Conversion therapy is the use of psychological or spiritual intervention in an attempt to change an individual's sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual. The proposed local law would also ban the use of such therapies on transgender and non-binary gender individuals.

Motion No. 6: Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 211
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Chairman Lopez noted Legislator Heppner could not make tonight's meeting due to a prior commitment, however no changes were made since last month's meeting and the legislation is in its original form. Legislators Nolan and Petit asked that their name be added as sponsors.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Joseph Maloney, Petit, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 214: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Astor Services For Children & Families – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution is for State mandated per diem foster care & related services. The services provided are regulated by NYS, paid through its Welfare Management System (WMS) & providers are licensed & approved through NYS. Paid at NYS set rates, funding 36% Federal, 29% State, 35% County, Contract dates 7/1/18-6/30/20

Motion No. 7: Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 214
Motion By: Legislator Wawro
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion:

Chairman Lopez provided an overview of the mandated services. Ken Crannell provided history of how the county processed the contracts and where we are today. Legislator Joseph Maloney asked for clarification of the state and state percentage breakdown of funding. (Note- Clerk confirmed the Chairman's assumption there was a typo, whereas Ulster County pays 35% of the set rates – 36% Federal, 29% State, 35% County)

Legislator Nolan was impressed with the diversity of programs and quantity of services provided. Committee discussion ensued.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Joseph Maloney, Petit, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Motion No. 8 **Resolve to Block & Approve Resolution Nos. 215 - 232 for June 29, 2018 Session**

Resolution Summary: All resolutions are two year contracts – State mandated per diem foster care & related services. The services provided are regulated by NYS, paid through its Welfare Management System (WMS) & providers are licensed & approved through NYS. Paid at NYS set rates, funding 36% Federal, 29% State, 35% County, Contract dates 7/1/18-6/30/20

Discussion: Legislator Nolan confirmed Resolution No. 219 – Schedule A & B was available.

Legislator Maloney noted Resolution No. 220 – Equinox, Inc. could not be located on the county vendor list. Committee discussion ensued. Ken Crannell will look into and advise.

(Note - Ken Crannell advised the following day the vendor is on the county listing. The contract is identifiable through both the County financial system and the public list of county contractors provided through the County website as part of the County's ongoing transparency initiative called Citizens Access. Link: <http://ulstercountyny.gov/programs-initiatives/county-contacts>)

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Text of Motion: Resolution No. 215 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Berkshire Farm Center & Services For Youth – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 216 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Children's Home Of Kingston - Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 217 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Children's Home Of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 218 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Catholic Charities Of The Diocese Of Albany, Community Maternity Services – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 219 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Devereux Foundation– Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 220 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Equinox, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 221 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Green Chimneys Children’s Services, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 222 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Hillside Children’s Center – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 223 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Jewish Board Of Family & Children’s Services, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 224 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Kidspace National Centers Of North America Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 225 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – LaSalle School – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 226 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Mental Health Association In Ulster County, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 227 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Parsons Child And Family Center – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 228 – 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

Resolution No. 229 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – St. Christopher’s, Inc.– Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 230 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – St. John’s Bosco Child & Family Services – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 231 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Vanderheyden Hall, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 232 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – William George Agency For Children’s Services, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Voting In Favor:	Legislators Lopez, Nolan, James Maloney, Wawro
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	4
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Resolutions adopted

Old Business

– Legislator Nolan reminded the committee discussed recognizing foster parents at Session with a Pride of Ulster County Award to raise awareness – with a full presentation.

- Ken Crannell extended an invitation for committee members to visit the Social Services Department.

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By:	Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Wawro
No. of Votes in Favor:	4
No. of Votes Against:	0

TIME: 6:31 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: June 4, 2018

Need for additional caseworker positions at the Ulster County Department of Social Service—May 2018

The child welfare system across the United States is under extreme pressure due to the growing impact of opioid addiction, and Ulster County is not immune from the effects of this national public health crisis. Currently, there is a critical need to amend the 2018 Ulster County Budget to authorize three additional caseworker trainee positions at the Ulster County Department of Social Services in order to address the increasing workload in the Foster Care and Preventive Services Units.

It is to be noted that the number of child protective services investigations continues to grow and this has resulted in a significant number of children being removed to out of home placement. For comparison, in 2014 the CPS Unit had 52 removals and in 2017, the unit had 61 removals. Most notably, of the 61 cases in 2017, 48 removals resulted from parental drug use. Thus far in 2018, there have been 28 removals involving 43 children, and 23 of the 28 removals are a result of parental drug/alcohol misuse.

Historically, the Ulster County Department of Social Services has 125 to 130 children in foster care (2014—119 children in care, 2015—126 children in care), but due to the rising impact of heroin and other addictive opiates, the number of children in our care and custody has risen approximately 29% to 167, and continues to grow. Additionally, the Department's Permanency Unit, which deals with children who could not remain safely in their home and who have been placed on a neglect petition with relatives, has also experienced a serious increase of 25% from 2017 to 2018.

In 2017, an additional four (4) caseworker trainee positions were added to the CPS Unit to manage the emerging caseload growth trend. The high number of removals, combined with the severity of the issues involved and the need for court ordered services, has understandably resulted in a significant increase in the number of families requiring preventive services. In the last year, the number of children receiving preventive services has grown by almost 28%, from 226 children to 309.

Escalating turnover has exacerbated the problem of escalating caseloads. In 2016 the Services Division lost five (5) workers. In 2017, six (6) workers left, but in the first four months of 2018, seven (7) workers have already left their positions due to retirements, resignations and unsuccessful probationary periods. Compounding this situation is the lengthy mandated training and the fact that trainees are not able to assume a full caseload for 9-12 months. All of these factors have resulted in a staffing crunch that must be addressed during the current fiscal year. .

With the mid-year addition of 3 caseworker trainees, the Department will be better prepared to address the readiness of new caseworkers and balance the staffing needs associated with emerging caseload trends. This additional staff will result in manageable caseloads, assist the Department in meeting mandates, ensure quality service and avoid potential liability.