

Public Health & Social Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: July 2, 2018 – 5:00 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 5:10 PM.
Legislator Wawro arrived at 5:15 PM.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve the Minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting**

Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Joseph Maloney, Petit
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the July 17, 2018 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 286: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Jacob Moss of Woodstock to the Community Services Board replacing Susan LaPorte, and he is eligible for reappointment. Term 8/1/2018~12/31/2021.

Motion No. 2: **Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 286**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

The committee reviewed Mr. Moss's resume including a B.S. in Psychology. Legislator Maloney expressed he would like to have the opportunity to interview all appointments that come before the committee prior to voting – not just rubber stamping each appointment. Discussion included the possibility of creating a more formal process.

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. 287: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board's Mental Health Subcommittee

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Jacob Moss of Woodstock to the Community Services Board's Mental Health Subcommittee replacing Susan LaPorte, and he is eligible for reappointment. Term 8/1/2018~12/31/2021.

Motion No. 3: **Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 287**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Discussion: Subcommittee – same candidate.

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. 293: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Arthur F. Mulligan Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Arthur F. Mulligan Inc. – first of two options to extend the term of the agreement and increase rates for the County's Preschool and Early Intervention Programs, (CPI) for Preschool and Special Education transportation services. State 59.5%, County 40.5%, Contract 8/31/2018 – 8/31/2019. Estimated amended amount \$2,252,383.00, Total Amt. \$5,450,674.00.

Motion No. 4: **Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 293**
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

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. 294: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Rolling V Bus Corp. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Rolling V Bus Corp. – first of two options to extend the term of the agreement and increase rates for the County’s Preschool and Special Education transportation services. State 59.5%, County 40.5%, Contract 8/31/2018 – 8/31/2019. Estimated amended amount \$70K, Total Amt. \$209.4K.

Motion No. 5: Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 294
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. 295: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Unlimited Care Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a second contract amendment with Unlimited Care Inc. for professional nursing services provided to preschool children during transport due to an increase number of students requiring services. State 59.5%, County 40.5%, Contract 7/1/2018-8/31/2019. Amended amount \$115K, Total Amt. \$238K.

Motion No. 6: Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 295
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion:
Legislator Petit confirmed a nursing professional would escort the child for the day including transport to and from the facility. Deputy County Executive noted the funding covers only two children.

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. 296: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Rondout Legal Services Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Rondout Legal Services Inc., exercising the first of two options to extend the agreement for legal process services. Federal 53%, State 26%, County 21%, Contract 10/31/2018 - 10/31/2019. Amended amount \$110K, Total Amt. \$440K.

Motion No. 7: **Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 296**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Discussion:

Legislator Petit noted Rondout Legal Services is a good organization.
Legislator Nolan confirmed legal services provided are mostly for child support social services - DSS.

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. 297: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Family of Woodstock to provide professional support and diversion services to youth who have received “Person in Need of Supervision” (PINS) or “Juvenile Delinquent” (JD) petitions. DSS provides support and diversion services through the “Supervision and Treatment Service for Juveniles Program” (STSJP). Included are various supportive programs for juveniles and their families, including aftercare case management. Federal 37%, State 52%, County 11%. Contract 11/1/2018 – 10/31/2019, \$57.6K

Motion No. 8: **Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 297**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Legislator Petit confirmed the PINS program will continue even with the new judicial diversion programs.

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. 304: Amending The 2018 Ulster County Budget To Accept Funding From The New York State Children's Alliance To Support The Family And Child Advocacy Center – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2018 County budget to accept a grant of \$7000.00 to be used to support the training of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) staff at the Family and Child Advocacy Center during the calendar year of 2018, as per the NYSCA award letter dated June 15, 2018. The funds will be used exclusively to train members of the MDT, to investigate all reports made to the State Central Registry for child abuse and maltreatment with allegations of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse including any child fatalities and domestic violence.

Motion No. 9: Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 304
Motion By: Legislator Wawro
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion:

Deputy County Exec. Ken Crannell confirmed the funding will be used to train the staff.

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. 305: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Department Of Health To Continue The Tobacco Enforcement Program – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a 5-year contract with the NYS Department of Health to continue to enforce compliance checks of all tobacco retail dealers and vendors in Ulster County. \$318.8K for the period 4/1/2018 – 3/31/2018. If funding for this program is reduced or eliminated, the program will be reduced accordingly or eliminated.

Motion No. 10: **Moved for Adopt Resolution No. 305**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Legislator Nolan and Deputy County Executive Crannell explained funding will be used for education and compliance checks.

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

New Business

Legislator's Petit and Maloney expressed the need to have the Law Enforcement Center- CMC health care bid expedited – committee concurred. The committee discussed the logistics moving the bid forward and whether there are multiple quality care providers.

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: July 30, 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.