

Public Health & Social Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: February 9, 2018 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: COB, 6th Floor, K. L. Binder Library
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Craig Lopez
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Nolan, Joseph Maloney, Petit, Wawro 6:10PM
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Marie Shultis Executive Director Awareness Program, Kenneth Crannell Deputy County Executive

Chairman Craig Lopez welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

Legislator Mary Wawro delayed due to a prior commitment noted upon arrival and for the record, she is in support of all resolutions on the committee agenda.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2017 meeting**

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

Resolutions for the February 13, 2018 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 22: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Awareness, Inc. For The 2018 Appropriation - Legislature

Resolution Summary: This resolution agreement with Awareness, Inc. authorizes administrative costs to provide counseling services to at risk youth. Back in August of 2007 at the request of the Honorable Senators Bonacic, Larkin and Assemblyman Cahill requested the county form a three month pilot program providing peer to peer educational services to youths 16-25 in need of behavioral support to encourage youths to recognize necessary behavioral changes and provide positive consequences to help change the youths' behavior with the end goal of positively affecting their future.

Motion No. 2: **Resolution No. 22 moved for discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Joseph Maloney

Discussion:

Awareness Executive Director Marie Shultis earlier in the week provided the committee with literature on the Peer To Peer Education Program, along with Narcan training information to be held at New Paltz High School on Thursday, February 8, 2018. Ms. Shultis attended the meeting to answer any questions the committee may have. Ms. Shultis provided an overview of how the program works. Legislator Joseph Maloney confirmed previous contract language clarifications that have since been worked through. Legislator Kathy Nolan expressed her support and offered assistance to review possible long term sustainability financial help for the program. No one in the organization receives a salary. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell offered to brief all new legislators as to how the program has impacted the alcohol and substance abuse service operation over the last two years.

Motion No. 3: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 22**
Motion By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Joseph Maloney

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Maloney, Petit
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 37: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution contract amendment #2 increase is for shelter and related professional services for homeless individuals and families at its Darmstadt and Family Inn. 51% Federal, 49% County, Sole Source Amended Amt. \$99.5K Total Amt. \$1,648,511.49

Motion No. 4: **Resolution No. 37 moved for discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Laura Petit

Discussion:

Chairman Lopez called upon Deputy Executive Ken Crannell, who provided an overview of the contract.

- UC Dept. of Social Services contract with Family of Woodstock Inc. to operate two shelters, The Family Inn for family emergency housing and the Darmstadt Shelter for single housing both located in mid-town Kingston
- The County is required by state law to provide anyone who is eligible in need of emergency housing
- Homelessness has increased across the country
- The shelters are less expensive compared to hotel rooms

- Shelter rates are per person/per day
- Although the county attempts to project annual usage, the contract requires amending - approx. \$100K to close out 2017 primarily due to two large families in need of help
- The county is required to make every attempt for children to stay within their school district – including transportation to school if out of district
- All services are reimbursed to Ulster County 100% by federal and state sources & 71% for people who don't qualify for (TANF)
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- State Welfare Mgmt. System is used for reimbursement & transactions – not county system

Legislator Nolan confirmed the Ways & Means committee postponed this resolution due to expenditure questions.

Legislator Nolan and Legislator Laura Petit qualified reimbursement percentages listed on contract and reimbursement turn-around time.

Motion No. 5: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 37**
Motion By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Laura Petit

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Maloney, Petit
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 48: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Office Of Alcoholism And Substance Abuse Services – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution contract with NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, (OASAS) will be used to support chemical dependency and problem gambling treatment, prevention and recovery services in Ulster County as defined in the State Aid Funding Authorization. 2018 appropriations period 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2018, \$730.7K Federal, \$224.6K State, Total \$955.4K (Final approved funding to be determined after passage of state budget)

Motion No. 6: **Resolution No. 48 moved for discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Joseph Maloney

Discussion:

Chairman Lopez called upon Ken Crannell who explained for the past 25 years this state aid agreement was approved at the departmental level to accept funds. The Executive's office upon the O'Connor review determined per the UC Charter this inter-municipal agreement should go before the Legislature. These extremely regulated state aid agreement/programs sets potential funding levels for multiple agencies. New York State determines the type of programs and selects providers; the County identifies need and provides regulatory oversight of the programs. For the record Legislator Petit confirmed this

resolution is to receive funding only and the individual contracts will come before the Legislature for their approval at a later date. Committee discussion ensued –locations, record keeping, vendors, etc.

Motion No. 7: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 48**
Motion By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Joseph Maloney

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Maloney, Petit
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 49: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement For The Preschool Special Education And Related Services Program With The Onteora Central School District – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes an inter-municipal agreement with the Onteora Central School District for preschool education and related services program for the period 7/1/17 – 6/30/19. Approved services include direct individual and /or group instruction to preschoolers with disabilities by a certified special education teacher. 2017 - \$2K / 2018 - \$4K / 2019 - \$2K / State 60% County 40%

Discussion: None

Motion No. 9: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 49**
Motion By: Legislator Joseph Maloney
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Maloney, Petit

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 50: Amending The 2018 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Additional Allocation Of Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services To Continue Safe Harbour Programming – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2018 County budget to accept additional funding from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for the Safe Harbour Program. The program works out of the UC Social Services Dept. seeking to raise public awareness and educate human services and law enforcement professionals about the exploitation and trafficking of youth for both sex and labor. The goal is to identify, respond to, and empower at-risk and trafficked youth with trauma-informed rehabilitative services including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, crisis intervention, educational and vocational counseling, and legal services. 2018 calendar state additional funding \$102K

Motion No. 10: **Resolution No. 50 moved for discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Joseph Maloney

Discussion:

Ken Crannell explained this program has a multi-disciplinary theme that operates out of the Ulster County Department of Social Services. Ken offered to have the Commissioner and staff attend a future committee meeting to help new members better understand this very cutting edge program. Ulster County is only one in a hand full of counties that receive funding.

Motion No. 11: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 50**
Motion By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Joseph Maloney
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Maloney, Petit

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

LATE Resolution No. 62: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution contract amendment #3 with the Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church allocates an additional not to exceed \$30K for the continued and uninterrupted operation of the mandated warming shelter due to extreme weather conditions our region is experiencing. 12/15/17 – 4/30/18, 51% Federal, 49% County, New Total \$95K

Motion No. 12: **Resolution No. 62 moved for discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Laura Petit

Discussion:

Ken Crannell provided an overview, whereas this shelter offers people who are homeless or choose to refuse county services can come in out of the elements for food and shelter during extreme weather conditions. Ken estimated twenty people - county wide are in need of this service.

Motion No. 13: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 62**
Motion By: Legislator Kathy Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Laura Petit

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Nolan, Maloney, Petit
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Old Business

Legislator Kathy Nolan provided a handout focusing on why Ulster County should “break the age connection” - raising the minimum age for the purchase of tobacco products from 18 to 21 (see below). Legislator Nolan would like to bring forward a proposed local law similar to legislation Legislator Bartels introduced at the end of last year. Legislator Nolan will contact Legislator Bartels, forward a draft version of the PLL for committee review with anticipation of legislation introduction next month. Ken Crannell explained current county funding from the Tobacco Use Prevention Education Programs (TUPE), vendor check points, and limited tobacco permits issued to convenient stores to sell in close proximity to school measures were discussed, etc. All committee members agree tobacco is addictive and closely connected to cancer, stroke and heart disease.

- Smoking related diseases kill almost 500,000 Americans annually
- More Americans die prematurely from smoking diseases in 2 yrs. than in all the wars in US history
- 4 out of 5 of the leading cause of premature death in UC are closely connected to smoking
- UC’s adult smoking rate is 7 points higher than the NYS average & nearly 5 points higher than the Mid-Hudson Valley average
- UC cannot continue its progress in becoming the healthiest county in NY unless smoking rates come down
- UC taxpayer’s annual local share of Medicaid costs attributable to smoking exceeds \$11.2 million
- Smoking costs NY businesses over \$14.2 Billion a year in medical costs, insurance premiums & lost productivity
- According to CDC research, 95% of addicted adult smokers began smoking before age 21
- It’s much more difficult to get addicted adult smokers to quit smoking than it is to prevent young people from becoming smokers in the first place – raising the purchase age is a widely recognized and highly effective deterrent.

Committee discussion ensued whereas Legislator Petit asked when the tobacco class action law suit revenue stream will end. Ken Crannell proceeded to provide an overview of how Ulster County entered into a securitization program along with many other counties to use the advanced revenue stream to finance bond payments that paid off tremendous loan debt, with the notion that the county knew smoking rates were declining rapidly. The county formed an LDC “Ulster Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation, (UTASC) that meets once or twice a year. The role of the Board and the role of management in the implementation of the mission is to insure that the bond payments are made timely, recordkeeping is maintained, and that the financial statements accurately portray the financial condition of the authority. (See UTASC info below for reference)

Authorities Budget Office Policy Guidance

Authority Mission Statement and Performance Measurements

Name of Public Authority: Ulster Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation

Public Authority's Mission Statement:

The Ulster Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation (UTASC) is a local development corporation created pursuant to the not-for-profit corporation law of the State of New York. UTASC was created as a financing entity whose purpose is to issue and sell bonds to defease outstanding debt secured by tobacco settlement revenues (TSRs), which are paid by cigarette companies as part of their settlement with 46 states, including the State of New York, and other U.S. Territories. The County sold its right to receive TSRs to UTASC.

Date Originally Adopted:

July 20, 2010

List of Performance Goals

- ☐ Monitor and review at least annually the payments made under the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA), the receipt of those payments by the Trustee, and the application of those payments for the uses intended by UTASC.
- ☐ Review opportunities to increase the value received from the MSA payments, and thereby increase the benefit to Ulster County, by refunding existing UTASC debt payable from the payments under the MSA or by other means.
- ☐ Annually monitor the performance of accounting, legal, banking, and other service providers to the UTASC for quality of services and cost effectiveness.

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Kathy Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Joseph Maloney

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: March 5, 2018