

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: February 3, 2011

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Library Conference Room

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Frey, Legislators Parete, Ronk, Petit, Maio, Briggs, Loughran and Stoeckeler

LEGISLATOR EXCUSED: Wayne Harris

OTHERS ATTENDING: Marshall Beckman Deputy Co. Executive, Ed Brown Commissioner Dept Mental Health, Cheryl Qamar Dept Mental Health, Jennifer McGahan Direct Connect - Office of Community Research POK., Rik Flynn Ulster Corps, Tyler Owitz New Visions, Lee Cane LWV, Nettie Tomshaw UC Legislature Staff

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frey at 6:00 PM.
- Attendance
- A motion by Legislator Briggs was made to accept the December 9, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Legislator Petit, all were in favor, Carried.

Resolutions:

- 1.) Resolution Draft No. 0213, February 15, 2011: Confirming Appointment Of Members To The Ulster County Community Services Board And The Mental Health Subcommittee

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Parete, Unanimously in Favor, Carried.

Note: Legislator Petit asked if the UCCSB member application personal data sheet attached is a new form. Leg. Petit likes the form and would like to see it standardized. Chairman Frey will follow up with the county execs. office.

- 2.) Resolution Draft No. 0224, February 15, 2011: Amending The 2011 Ulster County Budget For The Disability Employment Initiative Program - Department Of Employment And Training

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, Unanimously in Favor, Carried.

- 3.) Resolution Draft No. 0227, February 15, 2011: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Understanding With The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services (OCFS) For Day Care Registration And Inspection Program Funding - Department Of Social Services

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, Ayes (8), Noes (1) - Legislator Petit, Carried.

Legislator Petit noted this is specifically for registrations and not for single mothers or low income families. Chairman Frey offered to send a letter to the state on Laura's behalf if she would like to draft a letter.

- 4.) Resolution Draft No. 0228, February 15, 2011: Amending The 2011 Ulster County Budget For The Employment Network / Ticket To Work Program - Department Of Employment And Training

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Parete, Seconded by Legislator Briggs, Unanimously in Favor, Carried.

- 5.) Resolution Draft No. 0231, February 15, 2011: Amending The 2011 Ulster County Budget For Six Months Of Operating The County's Certified Home Health Agency License And Long-Term Home Health Care Program - Department Of Health

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Petit, Unanimously in Favor, Carried.

Legislator Parete asked if this will be finalized this year. Marshall Beckman was also surprised to see it again - still not approved by state - slow moving process, no problem w/vendor or us.

Chairman Frey gave a brief overview of the hot home meals committee:

- Staying with hot meals for 2011
- Using volume pricing - more cost effective 10,001 meals/month
- Funding available
- Frozen meal used for emergencies
- Minutes from subcommittee hot meal meeting will be circulated to committee

Direct Connect, Jennifer McGahan of Office of Community Research, Poughkeepsie NY, Ed Brown and Cheryl Qamar of UC Department of Mental Health:

Cheryl Qamar contacted Jennifer McGahan three years ago to help link kids and families with substance abuse troubles by utilizing an online directory for a full range of services offered throughout our county vs. antiquated printed brochures, etc.

Cheryl introduced Jennifer McGahan of Direct Connect and Posit Plus who guided the committee through a video online directory presentation using the Direct Connect computer program.

Jennifer also provided a resource packet to all committee members.

Direct Connect is a web hosted virtual directory of resources. Direct Connect was developed by the Ulster County Adolescent Substance Abuse Task Force under the direction of the Office of Community Research.

Direct Connect is a strategy to mobilize the entire county to address linking youth and families to the broad spectrum of services available in Ulster County. It employs an online resource directory which can be expanded to include a full range of services as well as web-based screening tool to catch youth vulnerable to substance use and abuse and link them to the right supports for their level of need. The initiative includes a mapping feature that shows resources by location to make finding accessible services easy and convenient.

Direct Connect can support community planning and sustainability through real-time, evidence based local data. Direct Connect will generate a comprehensive resource profile representing all sectors of the community, health, education, law enforcement, commerce, etc. They offer geo-mapping technology which allows for communities to generate study and analyze multiple data sets which demonstrate the relationship between local needs and local resources.

Ed Brown, Commissioner of Mental Health noted this technology can be updated by the user - on the fly. This tool can be utilized throughout the county such as UCAT, Tourism, Red Cross - emergencies, Food Pantries, Daycare Center etc. Also has a tracking mechanism. The program links to the county website and has social networking capabilities - broad and endless application possibilities to connect people to services. The state of Wisconsin has adopted this tool across the state. This service would require a development cost and maintenance cost.

**** A sample on line demo for Direct Connect will be forwarded to the Legislative Office which will then be forwarded to committee members. (not made available as of 2/14/11)

UlsterCorps, Rik Flynn and Tyler Owitz:

Rik Flynn of UlsterCorps introduced himself and thanked the committee. Mr. Flynn defined UlsterCorps as a county-wide volunteer resource organization (501C3 non profit) working with individual agencies to encourage volunteer use, facilitate successful volunteer placements, and nurture collaborations among agencies. UlsterCorps is committed to fostering a spirit of service among the community's youth and includes youth representation in its leadership. UlsterCorps collaborates with service organizations, schools religious organizations and other nonprofit agencies as well as with business volunteer programs. Rik Flynn feels Ulster County has a tremendous amount of resources to work with but the gaps need to be connected.

UlsterCorps has turned their attention to eliminating hunger in Ulster County. They have reached out to Ulster County BOCES New Visions Health Class to take on the task of developing a comprehensive "blueprint" illustrating there can be adequate, nutritious food accessible every day, for every man, woman and child in Ulster County.

New Visions students are a highly motivated group of students in their senior year of high school. They are enrolled in a competitive program of intensive study in a particular career area. Sixty percent of

their school year is dedicated to hands on, internship experiences in professional areas. The New Visions class of 2010-11 along with UlsterCorps has committed to take on the issue of existing hunger in Ulster County. Tyler Owitz a senior at Onteora and New Visions Boces program explained the challenge presented to design and execute a system to bring food, different groups and Ulster County needy residents together via soup kitchens, farms, transportation etc. The hours of operation of the different food pantries was the most difficult obstacle to overcome - each different.

UlsterCorps will be hosting a Service Summit held in April on the campus of SUNY New Paltz - all local leaders coming together to brainstorm community service. Rik Flynn plans to speak before the Legislative Programs, Ed., Comm. Services Committee as well.

Legislator Frey would like Ulster Corps and New Visions along with Diane Reeder of Queens Galley Kitchen to go before the entire Legislative body in May to share their vision and goals.

Attachments provided to committee:

Abstract Report for February 15th Session

UlsterCorps Literature

BOCES New Visions Literature

Direct - Connect Literature, Office of Community Research, POK

UC Dept of Mental Health Overview

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Maio, Seconded by Legislator Loughran, with all in favor, Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Walter Frey Jr., Chairman /nt
Health & Human Services Committee**