

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: May 13, 2010

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: UCOB, 6th Legislative Chambers

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Frey, Legislators Rob Parete, Harris, Petit, Ronk, Stoeckeler

LEGISLATOR EXCUSED: Briggs

OTHERS ATTENDING: Legislator David Donaldson, Legislator Peter Loughran, Legislator Mike Madsen, Marshall Beckman Deputy County Exec., Roberto Rodriguez Commissioner DSS, Rita Wood DSS, Lee Cane LWV, Nettie Tomshaw Legislative Staff

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frey at 6:30 PM.
- Attendance
- A motion by Legislator Harris was made to accept the April 8, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Legislator Parete, all were in favor, Carried.

Early Intervention & Preschool Special Ed Programs Department Module - DSS, Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez, Rita Wood: (provided literature and participation fact spread sheet by District)

Child Find

- County program that identifies and tracks infants and children, birth to two who are at risk for developmental delays
- UC Public Health Nurses provide family w/ resources, educational material - growth & development
- Ensure children have primary health care providers and health coverage
- Provide referrals for appropriate community services including the Early Intervention Program

Early Intervention Program, UC Department of Health Program - mission is to identify all eligible children in the community - to identify resources available and to act as a liaison between children and families, programs & legislative bodies.

- For Children with special needs from birth through two + years of age
- Emphasize the earliest possible ID of disabilities
- Service provided with no cost to eligible families in Ulster County - appeal process available
- Reimbursement is sought thru third party payers, Insurance, Medicaid, State, then our local split is 51%, Pre-school 49.5% - actual 41%.

- Services agreed upon between Ulster County and the parents - reviewed every 6 months.
- Based on a child's individual needs - 33% delay
- Screening / evaluations for children suspected of having developmental delays
- UC Health Dept. nursing support through Child Find Program
- Program under the direction of the State Department of Health
- Services available, Special Education, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Counseling, Hearing, Vision
- Try to maximize re-imbusement program bills.
- Total County expense last year \$1.7 million approx.
- Program reviewed / audited through the State -IPRO every other year

Preschool Special Ed Program, mission is to serve all children in the least restrictive environment to ensure that children with disabilities are served with the same considerations as children without disabilities.

- Under the direction of the New York State Education Department - lead agency and flows through the school district
- Services children three to five years of age
- Similar services to the Early Intervention Program
- Child must be classified as having a disability
- Program works in conjunction with the child's school district to provide appropriate services
- Once the education plan / program is put in place the county contracts for the required services
- County contracts with NYSED approved evaluating agencies, special Ed classes, and transportation, work in collaboration with the Head Start Program as well.

Chairman Frey asked what the program looks like coming out of Albany? Not known at this time. Also asked what UC success rate is transitioning children into the mainstream? Quick answer, probably 50% success rate. Also asked for any State or audit reports be shared with the Legislature.

Legislator Stoeckeler asked school district count and noted the high expense per child. 14 Districts. Out of the 14 districts how many diligently follow through on the IEP plans? All of them - consistently.

Legislator Harris stated once it's in the IEP your held captive. The inconsistency may come before the IEP is actually developed and approved. Also asked how many employees on Rita's staff. Including herself 20.

Marshall Beckman stated the Federal Gov't. recovers 3 billion dollars back thru audits - they have full intentions of reclaiming monies back - main goal.

Legislator Parete stated the face of what government and county government represent should be to help and care for children with desperate needs. Also asked, do you have a relationship with pediatricians for the Out Reach Program? Yes and daycare centers, Family of Woodstock, Wick etc. Also will there be nurses available with the upcoming elimination? Marshall stated yes. The only thing that is discontinuing is the home health care component of the department. Commissioner Rodriguez stated Rita Woods sits on the NYSAC committee for Early Intervention and Preschool - up to date and hands on, and does a very good job.

Legislator Petit requested that Resolutions be reviewed at the beginning of each meeting.

- 1.) Resolution Draft No.120, May 18, 2010: Confirming Appointment Of Member To The Ulster County Community Services Board

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Harris, Seconded by Legislator Sweeney, Unanimously in Favor, Carried.

- 2.) Resolution Draft No. 141, May 18, 2010: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The New Paltz Central School District For Substance Abuse Prevention Services – Department Of Mental Health

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

- 3.) Resolution Draft No. 147, May 18, 2010: Directing That The Cost Of All Of The Assistance And Care For Which Towns And Cities Are Responsible Shall Be A Charge On The County Social Services District And Administered Under The Direction Of The County Commissioner Of Social Services, Pursuant To Section 72 Of The Social Services Law

Motion offered to open for discussion moved by Legislator Parete, Seconded by Legislator Petit, Unanimously in Favor, Carried

Discussion: Legislator Donaldson stated this topic has been ongoing for many years. Discussed the inequities the City Of Kingston has endured. Feels the County should take over Safety Net - long over due - only county in New York that charges back. Kingston and Ellenville really are the only community in UC that has stepped up to the plate establishing affordable housing. City is considering suing the County. It's the only County service that gets charged back. Legislator Loughran echoed Legislator Donaldson's concerns. Also feels it is unfair the residents are charged for services not received. It's a County service regardless of where they live within the county. Legislator Harris can not go back to his constituents with any increase at this time. However will vote for the resolution to go to the floor.

Legislator Parete will support resolution - it's the right thing to do. Considered phase in - noting it goes to the floor even if defeated in this committee, as it was submitted on time.

Legislator Stoeckeler feels communities that have been progressive like Kingston and Ellenville by supporting affordable housing through infrastructure are being discriminated against - penalized. Ellenville will have 100 new subsidized housing (social services) being filled with out of county residents from NYC.

Chairman Frey feels Albany should take over the Safety Net program completely.

Legislator Ronk will not be supporting the resolution, still digesting the numbers.

Legislator Petit would like to have more time to evaluate the spread sheet provided.

Motion offered to move Resolution forward, Long Roll - Ayes, Parete, Harris, Stoeckeler, Noes, Petit, Frey, Ronk - Defeated 3 to 3.

- 4.) Resolution Draft No. XXX, June 15, 2010: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With NYS Office Of Homeland To Support Public Health Preparedness Planning Efforts – Department Of Health

Some discussion ensued whether or not to vote on the resolution. Marshall Beekman felt his department did not have all the facts at this time - recommends presenting for June session. Legislator Parete sent Dr. Hasbrouck information – thoughts and proposal to help recruit doctors. Will ask Dr. Hasbrouck to attend next months meeting.

Motion offered to Table Resolution for 30 Days, moved by Legislator Ronk, Seconded by Legislator Parete, Unanimously in Favor, Carried.

Chairman Frey noted new legislation for Tobacco will be presented with the Cancer Society, tobacco products locked behind counters and such - website for patches etc.

Adjournment:

The meeting was respectfully adjourned at 7:50 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Ronk and Seconded by Legislator Harris, with all in favor, carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Walter Frey, Chairman /nt Health & Human Services Committee**