

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: May 5, 2011

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Library Conference Room

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Deputy Chairman Parete, Legislators Harris, Maio, Briggs, Loughran and Stoeckeler

LEGISLATOR EXCUSED: Chairman Frey, Legislators Ronk and Petit

OTHERS ATTENDING: Nettie Tomshaw UC Legislature Staff. Please contact Legislative Clerk's Office for a complete copy of those in attendance.

- The meeting was called to order by Deputy Chairman Robert Parete at 6:00 PM, noting Chairman Frey was unable to attend.
- A motion by Legislator Stoeckeler was made to accept the April 21, 2011 Committee Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Legislator Harris, all were in favor, Carried.
- A motion by Legislator Stoeckeler was made to accept the April 26, 2011 Special Committee Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Legislator Harris, all were in favor, Carried
- Deputy Chair Parete offered round table introductions of the committee members.

Resolutions:

- 1.) Resolution Draft No. 0502, May 17, 2011: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement And Any Amendments To The Agreement With The New York State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Services For FY10 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) - Anti Terrorism Funds - Amending The 2011 Ulster County Budget - Department Of Emergency Communications Emergency Management And Department Of Health

Note, Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee already approved resolution at their committee meeting per Legislator Briggs.

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Loughran, Seconded by Legislator Stoeckeler, Unanimously in Favor, Carried.

- 3.) Resolution Draft No. 0505, May 17, 2011: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Inter-Municipal Agreements For The Preschool Special Education And Related Services Program With The Onteora Central School District And The Tri-Valley Central School District - Department Of Social Services

Legislator Loughran asked for clarification as to the nature of the program, Legislator Harris spoke to his question - children receiving special services prior to kindergarten - standardized preschool funding.

Legislator Briggs asked if Tri-Valley School District was in Ulster County? Just a small section of Town of Denning is in UC.

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

- 3.) Resolution Draft No. 0512, May 17, 2011: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With Kingston City School District For The Operation Of The FACETS Program - Department Of Mental Health

Deputy Chair Parete reminded committee this program once was available in multiple schools but due to budget constraints now only available in the Kingston school district - would like to see this non-mandated program offered throughout the county!

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Stoeckeler, Seconded by Legislator Loughran, Unanimously in Favor, Carried.

- 4.) Resolution Draft No. 0517, May 17, 2011: Appointing Members To The Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee

Deputy Chair Parete noted Leg. Maio is on the Trails Advisory Committee, Leg. Parete will soon be appointed as well. Noting this is a good, active volunteer committee. Also this resolution originated through this committee.

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

- 5.) Resolution Draft No. 0521, May 17, 2011: Confirming Appointment Of Members To The Ulster County Community Services Board's Mental Health Subcommittee

A couple of Legislators noted Cheryl Ronk is not related to Majority Whip Kenneth Ronk.

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

- 6.) Resolution Draft No. 0529, May 17, 2011: Requiring Healthy-Vending Options In County Buildings
Some discussion ensued which led to a friendly amendment offered by Legislator Harris, Seconded by Legislator Briggs & Loughran to reduce the percentage of healthy food in vending machines from 75% to 50%, unanimously in favor, carried.

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

Prior to committee meeting adjournment, public comment was granted to a group of Mental Health employees looking for answers/facts as to the future of the Mental Health department amid rumors - talks that the MH Department may be privatized. Concerns presented:

- MH is a non-mandated program/department & doesn't require Legislative approval
- Merging Health Dept. with Mental Health Dept. was expressed back in February
- Kingston Hospital losing money on Methadone clinic and may not renew contract - thus revert back to the county.
- UC made Kingston Hospital an offer; renew Methadone contract and UC chemical dependency unit will be included in the contract for hospital to be profitable. County waiting on hospital's decision.
- Executive's office strongly encouraging privatization of the Mental Health Department
- The company that may take over, the Institute of Family Health applied for an article 31 as their numbers have exceeded regulation and need to be in compliance - however this is viewed by some to be the first step in privatizing.
- Walkthroughs of department observed
- Doom and gloom budget talks convincing staff of the inevitable
- Recommend employees be adaptable vs. on the other side of the curve
- Grave concerns how this will affect their clients - people will fall through cracks and not be kept in the system

Deputy Chair Parete noted to dissolve a department requires Legislative approval - referencing the Charter.

General committee feeling was surprise at the lack of disclosure provided to the committee.

Legislator Stoeckeler recommended sending a letter to the Executive office from the committee asking for a written update, provided to both caucuses no later than May 9th (CAUCUS night) with an overview of recent efforts to privatize, abolish or alter the Mental Health Department.

The Committee unanimously approved the request.

Legislator Loughran requested to have Marshall Beckman and Dr. Hasbrouck attend next months June meeting.

Attachments provided to committee:

Abstract Report for May 17, 2011 Session

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Loughran, Seconded by Legislator Briggs, with all in favor, Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Robert Parete, Deputy Chairman /nt
Health & Human Services Committee**