

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: November 3, 2011

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Library Conference Room, 6th Floor

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Frey, Legislator's, Harris, Loughran, Parete, Ronk

LEGISLATOR EXCUSED: Legislator's Briggs, Maio, Petit, Stoeckeler

OTHERS ATTENDING: Marshall Beckman Deputy County Executive, Lee Cane League of Women Voters, Nettie Tomshaw UC Legislature Staff

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Walter Frey at 6:00 PM.
- A motion by Legislator Loughran was made to accept the October 6, 2011 Committee Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, all were in favor, Carried.
- Chairman Frey reminded the committee of the upcoming budget review meeting to be held on Monday, Nov. 14, 2011, 5:00PM, COB, Library. Department heads from Health, Mental Health and DSS will present budget highlights.

ProAct, Terrance O'Neill: Update of Ulster County's ProAct Discount Card and New Initiatives

- Provided committee with current status of program, claims, savings and cards used.
- Ulster County monthly savings, claims and total card usage has been consistent month to month.
- Since program startup July 2010, 22,600 claims and \$800.7K price savings realized to UC residents.
- Statewide overall discount savings of \$64 Million filling over 2.2 million prescriptions.
- Increased foot traffic in pharmacies using the ProAct discount drug card produced increased sales for stores. Some pharmacists disagree - feel they are losing money!
- ProAct Press Releases are the most effective way to reach citizens. Still reaching out to people in Ulster County who can benefit from this program.
- Program is doing exactly what it was designed for - help residents who do not have insurance.

Resolutions:

- 1.) Resolution No. 245, November 15, 2011: Amending The 2011 Ulster County Budget - New York State Office Of Children And Family Services (OCFS), Supervision And Treatment Services For Juveniles (STSJP) And Detention Allocations - Department Of Social Services

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

Marshall Beckman summarized the resolution by noting the new funding encourages the use of preventive services by reimbursing the county at a higher rate. The detention funding has been capped by the state, thus every dollar exceeding the cap will be 100% county contribution.

Legislator Harris noted although this is a non-mandated program, we are being state funded through the prevention program.

- 2.) Resolution No. 246, November 15, 2011: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Application For The Medicare Improvements For Patients And Providers Act Grant Program With The New York State Office For The Aging - Office For The Aging

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

Marshall Beckman noted the grant monies will allow for additional Medicaid and Medicare Part B drug plan eligible outreach program services and out of office services performed by the UC Office for the Aging.

- 3.) Resolution No. 249, November 15, 2011: Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of The Golden Hill Health Care Center To A Local Development Corp

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Loughran, Seconded by Legislator Ronk. Motion Defeated 4 -1. (5 votes are needed to pass) Ayes (4) Harris, Ronk, Loughran, Frey. Noes (1) Parete.

Legislator Parete asked if there was a resolution to go along with this and what will be the process before and after the public hearing.

Legislator Harris responded there isn't one, however the LDC (6) member Legislative Committee formed by Chairman Wadnola will meet next Wednesday to facilitate the development and implementation of the LDC and discuss the concerns of the state comptroller's office on a general level. We needed to set a timely date for the public hearing due to budget time constraints.

Group discussion ensued.

A second public hearing will be required to adopt a local law for the public to provide input. Many questions/concerns were raised as to how the creation of the LDC bylaws will progress and how the legislature will come away with the best product for Ulster County residents. The committee expressed concern some members on the LDC committee will not be here in 2012. The LDC committee meeting next week will address these issues and more.

Legislator Parete stated he is opposed to full privatization and opposed to using the budget to bond in this manner. Also would like his recommendations heard and considered. He expressed displeasure in the creation and timing of the LDC unbeknown to the Legislature and the Legislative Golden Hill Task Force.

Legislator Loughran questioned why the full legislature is not privy to the Golden Hill RFP bid responses? Legislator Ronk explained it was the opinion of County Attorney Bea Havranek and Director of Purchasing Robin Peruso that it would be against the law.

Legislator Harris stated Legislative Counsel Ken Gilligan and County Attorney Bea Havranek are to meet and review the transcript of the recent informational meeting - concerns voiced by legislators, and discuss negative concerns the state comptroller has with LCD formations. The LDC committee will then work from the attorney's findings - draft.

Transfer of ownership deadline is believed to be 12/31/11. M. Beckman noted the longer we wait the poorer the chance to sell \$8m in bonds in 2012 - creating an unbalanced budget and knowing there isn't enough money in the contingency fund, ultimately would force services to be shut down.

4.) LATE Resolution Draft No. 1113, November 15, 2011: Supporting A Fair And Reasonable Contract For Benedictine Registered Nurses

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Parete, Seconded by Legislator Loughran, Unanimously if Favor, Carried.

Legislator Loughran expressed this is a memorializing resolution supporting the nurses at Benedictine Hospital to reach a conclusion - nothing more.

Legislator Ronk noted our Sheriffs Office has operated without a contract since 2007.

Legislator Harris noted the current economic climate isn't conducive to successful negotiations.

Discussion:

Abstract of Contracts for November 15, 2011 Session was provided to all committee members.

(Chairman Frey requested to see the contract for L34-21 on the abstract to assure hot meals will continue to be served to seniors - Meals on Wheels program)

Legislator Parete asked if any of the contracts on the abstract relate to the closure of the Mental Health program. (11/5/11 - Marshall Beckman advised this office the closure of the Chemical Dependency Clinics does not affect any of the contracts)

Chairman Frey shared a memo he received today referencing the Ulster Workforce Investment Board Governance Review from the NYS Department of Labor, Office of Employment & Training conducted back in June and received a final follow up letter October 14, 2011.

Legislator Ronk asked if we were assessed a penalty. (11/08/11 - Nancy Schaefer reported no penalties incurred)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Ronk, Seconded by Legislator Loughran, with all in favor, Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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