

HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES
October 16, 2008

Present:

R. Parete J. Stoeckeler
P. Terpening K. Ronk
L. Petit T. Briggs
J. Roberti

UCMHD: E. Brown

GHHCC: Sheree Cross

Guest: Lee Cane

Chairman Parete called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

1. Legislator Ronk requested an amendment to the minutes of last month's meeting. The amendment is as follows: Add "Legislator Ronk gave an overview of Introductory Local Law #12 of 2008, (A Law Barring Smoking Within 50 Feet Of All Building Entrances On Property Owned Or Leased By Ulster County)."
2. Sheree Cross made a presentation on the revenue portion of her 2009 proposed budget. She indicated that as a result of additional revenue from Inter-governmental Transfer Funds (IGT) there will be no local tax levy dollars required to meet the GHHCC's 2009 budget request. She advised the Committee that Medicaid rate rebasing will take effect January 1, 2009 and the implications of this are not known at this time. In April of 2009 the rebasing of the Medicaid rate will be based on Medicaid only residents. The 100M Public Facility Grant will be ending March 31, 2009. GHHCC has received all of the funds from this source that are due the County.
3. A resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute a contract and any amendments to the contract with the New York State Department of Health for public health emergency preparedness program was moved by J. Stoeckeler, seconded by P. Terpening and passed unanimously.
4. A resolution adopting Local Law No. 3 of 200-8 was moved by J. Roberti and Seconded by J. Stoeckeler. Local Law No. 3 of 2008 is the Local Law Prohibiting Smoking Upon All Real Property Owned Or Leased By The County Of Ulster. Legislator Briggs reported on a meeting that he participated in with UC Community College representatives. At that meeting concern was raised that an immediate and total smoking ban on the UCCC campus would have negative impact on enrollment and could create significant safety issues as a result of people assembling on Cottekill Road to smoke. Legislator Briggs reported that the College recommended that the smoking ban on the UCCC campus be written to preclude smoking within 200 feet of any building. This would allow for smoking at the far ends of the parking lots. The College said they would offer smoking cessation programs and that there be a phase in of the smoking ban over a period of time. This led to additional discussion regarding the implementation of any plan to ban smoking. Legislator Stoeckeler offered that any plan to be successful will require an education and support program. He indicated that he believed at least 1 year was needed to roll out and implement a ban. During this time the County should hold informational meetings, develop support programs and provide nicotine replacement therapies. He proposed that the smoking ban be phased in with the full effective date of January 1, 2010. Following some additional discussion, Legislator Stoeckeler offered a friendly amendment seconded by J. Roberti. The proposed amendment phases in the smoking ban as follows: Effective January 1, 2009, smoking is banned within 50 feet of entrances to all property owned or leased by Ulster County except on the UCCC campus, where smoking will be banned within 200 feet of all buildings. Effective January 1, 2010, smoking is banned on all property owned or leased by Ulster County. The resolution was passed as amended by a unanimous vote of the committee. Following the passage of the

- resolution there was uncertainty as to whether the changes require a public hearing. Legislator Parete will confer with the County Attorney on this issue.
5. A resolution Adopting Introductory Local Law No12 of 2008, was tabled.
 6. A resolution requesting an amendment to the membership of the Ulster County Substance Abuse Prevention Board was moved by T.J. Briggs, seconded by K. Ronk and approved unanimously. The resolution adds members from the Tobacco Free Action Coalition (TFAC) and a current or former consumer of chemical dependency treatment services.
 7. Ed Brown updated the Committee on the progress of the billing/EMR software project. He reported that the County issued an RFP for the Project on October 2, 2008. Proposals are due back by October 30. The RFP committee will meet to review proposals and view demonstrations in November. The RFP committee will select a vendor and make its recommendation by early December. Brown advised the committee that UCMHD would bring forth a resolution at the November Committee meeting to allocate funding for the software project. The amount of the funding to be requested will be based on the proposals received in response to the RFP.
 8. Mr. Brown advised the Committee that there was no new information on the Golden Hill building renovation project.
 9. Chairman Parete distributed a copy of a memorandum from the County Attorney's office explaining the County Attorney's concerns regarding the funding of the FACETS program. In the memo the County Attorney raised questions about the legality of the funding arrangement. Legal counsel for the NYS Office of Mental Health has indicated that it disagrees with the county's position on this matter. Both attorneys will explore the issue together to determine if Ulster will allow the contracts to go through. M. Beckman has been in contact with Legal Counsel for NYS OMH. OMH is drafting a response to the County Attorney.
 10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Brown
Deputy Director, Ulster County Mental Health Department