

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: September 9, 2010

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: UCOB, Library Conference Room, 6th Floor

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Deputy Chairman Parete, Legislators Harris, Petit, Ronk

LEGISLATOR EXCUSED: Chairman Frey, Legislators Briggs and Stoeckeler

OTHERS ATTENDING: Marshall Beckman Deputy County Exec, Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck Public Health Director, Lee Cane LWV, Nettie Tomshaw, UC Legislature Staff

- The meeting was called to order by Deputy Chairman Parete at 6:40 PM.
- Attendance
- A motion by Legislator Ronk was made to accept the July 1, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Legislator Harris, all were in favor, Carried.

Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, Public Health Director:

Dr. Hasbrouck began by thanking everyone for their support for the recent loss of his father.

Annual State Audit Update: On going - purpose for the DOH to identify any over or under payments of state claims for 2006 thru 2009 for Article 6 program. Preliminary report should be complete by the end of September.

Healthy Ulster Update: March was the Healthy Ulster Summit, June released the Healthy Ulster Public Report Card - establishing partisan public health planning councils which is our link to the community, focusing each committee around Healthy Youth (focusing on auto accidents, tobacco use, and obesity), Healthy Women (focusing on chronic diseases, maternal child health and tobacco), Healthy Seniors (utilize The Office for the Aging caravan) and Healthy Environment (ozone and indoor air quality) groups. Dr. Hasbrouck's Health Education Unit is managing the groups. The 4 groups plan on having quarterly updates. They plan to have another Healthy Ulster Summit again next summer - June.

Legislator Parete - Suggested promoting women's heart attack symptoms - noting they are different from male symptoms. Also consider suicide prevention and eating disorders. Dr. Hasbrouck felt Mental Health will take the lead on suicide and eating disorders. Dr. Hasbrouck has also asked each group to think outside the box and encouraging the caravan usage for more than blood pressure etc., when reaching out to the community.

Clinic Consolidation : (see attached spread sheet time line) Currently 4 locations at a cost of \$107K, Ellenville, Kingston B'Way, New Paltz and Saugerties. The plan is to close Kingston B'dway, New Paltz and Saugerties current locations. Kingston & New Paltz will be relocated to Kingston Willow Park (main

hub). Utilizing the VFW & Jewish Community Center (free) in the New Paltz Village along with a Church site in Saugerties - twice a month @ \$200 month. After Clinic Consolidation, projected cost \$37K, realizing a \$70K projected overall savings. Consolidation completion by the end of November.

Legislator Parete - Was the driving force to consolidate simply a cost savings effort? Marshall Beckman replied we had full time space with a part time need. Also Leg. Parete asked if Bldg. & Grounds played a role in the consolidation. Dr. Hasbrouck said Jim McTague negotiated a lease for \$11.75 SF - huge help.

Legislator Petit - Questioned duplication of services such as Mid Hudson Care Center across the street. Dr. Hasbrouck said certain services may be repetitive but are state mandated for indigent customers and also the state has been urging the WIC hub program to relocate to a more centralized location.

Legislator Harris - Glad to see the New Paltz location closing due to the expense incurred and underserved location. Leg. Harris also requested the Highland area be notified of the changes.

State DOH Golden Hill Report: The committee was provided a copy of the State Dept. Of Health Golden Hill Health Care Center Recertification Survey Report along with Director Sheree Cross response to the statement of Deficiencies. Dr. Hasbrouck noted they focused on the Environmental Health Services Division. Basically we received a clean bill of health on everything. The violations covered internal controls of reporting and entry of permits, customer services and enforcement of the permits - turn-a-round. We do an informal preliminary hearing in house then, if they don't adhere then we have to go to a formal hearing and hire an attorney and arbitrator. The county just put a contract through so we can have our own attorney for our behalf - they were happy with the plan but it wasn't fully activated yet.

Legislator Parete - Felt the Charter called for the Board of Health's responsibility was to be the enforcement body. Marshall Beckman said the board is mostly comprised of doctors that don't have time to hold hearings - they would quit the board first - just not practical. The county attorney's office couldn't pick up the additional load. The only way to work this out was to bring an attorney on.

Legislator Harris - How often do we require arbitration? Dr. Hasbrouck said a hand full every couple of months.

Legislator Petit - What is the bulk of the cases? Dr. Hasbrouck stated mostly sewage and sanitation systems.

National Preparedness Month: Dr. Hasbrouck noted a press release went out today to recognize September as "National Preparedness Month". The campaign is a nationwide effort designed to increase awareness as well as encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies. County wide emails will go out every week, series of press releases, Kingston community radio; American Red Cross will come and speak to the department to go over check lists. More information see website www.ready.gov.

H1N1 & Flu Shot : Will be a combined vaccine this year - 1 shot. We have a few small lots in now. Probably start ramping up the end of the month.

Resolutions:

- 1.) **Resolution Draft No. 0901 - September 21, 2010:** Confirming Appointment Of Members To The Ulster County Youth Board

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

Note: Deputy Chairman Parete asked that all committee member names be added to the resolution.

- 2.) **Resolution Draft No. 0903 - September 21, 2010:** Urging United States Congress To Equalize The Medicare Reimbursement For Hospitals In Ulster And Dutchess Counties

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

Note: Deputy Chairman Parete asked that all committee member names be added to the resolution. Some discussion if the wording "Dutchess County" should be striked from the Resolution title.

- 3.) **Resolution Draft No. 0908 - September 21, 2010:** Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The Kingston School District For The Operation Of The FACETS Program - Department Of Mental Health.

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

Some discussion as to the status of the overall FACETS Program - schools dropping out due to lack of funding - not a mandated program, Mental Health follow-up with schools to sign up again, current and long term cost effects.

Washbourne House Resolution offered by Leg. Gregorius and Zimet - neither Legislator came before this committee to make their case - no further discussion took place.

CRREO Report - Doctor Recruitment and Retention in the Hudson Valley. Legislature adopted an initial plan and sent it to the Board of Health. Legislator Parete has been invited to speak before the BOH on Monday 9/13/10 to convey the Legislature's intent of the Resolution and ask for their help to draft an effective tool. Legislator Parete extended an invitation to the committee to show support. Legislator Parete will report back to this committee at next months meeting to develop a time line and move forward. Legislator Petit noted there are similar programs out there for physicians, dentists - targeted area where we can recycle the information.

Volunteer Review Session Available for the Health & Human Services Committee (and other Legislators) for the Proposed 2011 County Budget. (attendance will not be taken, not an official Legislative meeting)

Dates and Times are as follows: Wednesday, October 13th, 1:00 - 5:00 PM and Thursday October 14th, 1:00 - 5:00 PM.

Committee members expressed concern that most will not be able to attend in the middle of a work day. Marshall Beckman stated the mtgs. allow the committee a better understanding of the

breakdown of mandated vs. non-mandated services. Dept. Social Services, Veterans has increased in volume and cost), Mental Health, Office of the Aging, Youth Bureau, Golden Hill and Public Health which is a very complex budget, has the most optional and mandated programs. Leg. Parete asked Lee Cane to sit in on the meetings on his behalf.

Discussion:

Legislator Petit received two calls over lack of response time in the Dept. Social Services, turn-around time evaluating/notification if an applicant is eligible for services. Marshall Beckman follows up on every problem brought to his attention. He will look into it. Every story has two sides.

Legislator Ronk, L20-3 on Abstract, DSS, Rondout Legal Services - why does the Sheriffs Dept have such a long turn over? Marshall Beckman said the Sheriff will be at both Caucus's to address the issue in its entirety.

- Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Harris, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, with all in favor, Carried.

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