

Human Development Committee
March 24, 2008

Present: Chairman Donald Gregorius, Legislators Glenn Noonan, Peter Loughran, Paul Hansut, and Catherine Terrizi

Absent: Legislators Jeanette Provenzano and Joseph Stoeckeler

Others Present: Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez; Deputy Commissioners Patricia Jelacic and Barbara Sorkin; Youth Bureau Director Krista Barringer; Finance Director Patricia Hinchey; Temporary Assistance Director Marijane Knudsen; Medicaid Coordinator Hermine Scheu; Food Stamps Coordinator Susan Barnes; Senior DSS Attorney Michael Iapoce; Youth Board member J. Edward Lewis; Medicaid Staff Darlene Breitenstein, Joann Mundhenk, Anne Dalluge; Ulster County resident Otto Scheu; DSS Secretary Christine Aiello

Chairman Gregorius called the meeting to order at 4:58 p.m.

Resolution: Amending the 2008 Ulster County Budget to Accept the transfer of Housing Initiative Funds from Ulster County Mental Health to the Department of Social Services

Attachment: 1

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Hansut and adopted.

Resolution: Authorizing The Chairman of The Ulster County Legislature to Enter Into A Lease Agreement With The Ulster County Community College Small Business Incubator For Social Services Offices – Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget – Public Works (Buildings and Grounds)

Attachment: 2

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Hansut and adopted.

Resolution: Urging The Governor And State Legislature To Remove Counties From The Fiscal And Programmatic Responsibility Of The Preschool Special Education Program

Attachment: 3

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Hansut and adopted.

Resolution: Urging The State Legislature To Oppose The Proposed Shift Of 100 Percent Of The Cost Of Juvenile Detention Facilities To Counties

Attachment: 4

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Hansut and adopted.

Resolution: Urging The State Legislature To Oppose The Proposed Shift of the State's Historic Share of Public Assistance To Counties

Attachment: 5

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Hansut and adopted.

Division Overview Presentations: Overview introductions and program changes and update were completed and handout distributed: Food Stamps and Medicaid

Commissioner's Report: Director of Finance Hinchey presented fiscal and Safety Net

Youth Bureau Report: Director of the Youth Bureau Barringer presented. She extended an invitation to legislators to attend the 8th Annual Youth Recognition Awards on May 29, 2008 at The Bruderhof, in Rifton.

IKON Contractual/Fiscal Cost Update: Finance Director Hinchey submitted a report on cost savings involved regarding leasing of copiers. A three year comparison of costs was presented with a handout, regarding leased vs. owned copiers, including maintenance costs and technology capabilities. A discussion followed regarding the State pilot imaging project and how to possibly incorporate the use of new equipment in the future.

Day Care Statistics Update: Commissioner Rodriguez presented day care statistics that had been compiled by Director of Resource Recovery Warman with various categorical comparisons, under the NYS Child Care Block Grant and under Title XX funding. Statistics included the population served, case and current provider types.

ACCESS Program Update: Director of Temporary Assistance Knudsen updated the Committee on proposed changes to the ACCESS Program, administered by SUNY Ulster. Under consideration is to offer short term certificates of completion for various program areas to assist with retaining students enrolled and to provide employable skills in shorter intervals. It was suggested that 3-6-9 month certificates of completion be offered to students that have difficulty with attendance as well as to provide an incentive regarding their commitment to further their education. For more committed students the completed certificates will be transferable and students will be able to continue their education toward an Associate Degree. This agreement between Social Services and SUNY Ulster will be finalized in May by Commissioner Rodriguez and President Dr. Katt.

Temporary Assistance Intake Applicants: Director of Temporary Assistance Knudsen presented statistics of new applicants within the last three weeks of February, Legislator Loughran motioned to supply funds for a study to be completed to show the projected costs, for the next five years to service this population. Motion was not seconded and no further discussion took place. Legislator Loughran motioned to request the cost of a project to actually conduct this study, Legislator Terrizi responded that when a cost is established she will then consider supporting such motion. No further discussion took place.

Staff Development: Legislator Noonan inquired about the vacancy of the position of Director of Staff Development. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that one candidate in-house and one outside the Agency have been interviewed by the Directors and Coordinators, and he will be interviewing them.

Being no further business, motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Terrizi, and adopted to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Gregorius
Chairman