

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
PROGRAMS, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES, HELD IN THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE CHAMBERS,
ULSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, KINGSTON, NY, ON
MARCH 3, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

WAYNE HARRIS, Chairman
DAVID B. DONALDSON, Deputy Chairman (Excused)
CARL BELFIGLIO
CATHERINE TERRIZZI
DONALD J. GREGORIUS
JACK HAYES
MICHAEL MADSEN

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

MARK KOMDAT, Dean of Administration, SUNY Ulster County Community College
CHRIS MARX, Director of Continuing & Professional Education, SUNY Ulster CCC
JAMES COSGROVE, Ulster County Library Association
VIC MELVILLE, League of Women Voters
JANET SALANITRI, Adm. Assistant, UCCC, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2011. Such a motion was made by Leg. Belfiglio and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and upon voice vote the minutes of the meeting of this committee of February 8, 2011 were unanimously approved. At this time Chairman Harris recognized Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration at SUNY Ulster County Community College.

Ulster County Community College:

Dean Komdat said he would not be doing a financial report this evening as it is too close to the end of the month. He passed out a printed Overview of the Collegian Program, which is a concurrent program allowing students to earn both college and high school credits by taking college courses in their high schools. He said the program is currently being offered in many of the area high schools and we are always looking to expand the program. We currently serve about one thousand students per year.

The Dean advised that this program is designed to help high school students in many ways. It helps them to get a start on their post-high school education. This should help to reduce the need to provide remedial level course work for when they do get to college. It also helps relieve some of the pressures of the first year.

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Dean Komdat then, in response to the request of this committee regarding more information on the college's "green" programs, which are more formally known as Clean Energy Technology, introduced Chris Marx, Director of Continuing & Professional Education at the Business Resource Center.

Mr. Marx stated that working toward local economic development and work force development are extremely important goals for SUNY Ulster's Continuing & Professional Education. Courses and programs are geared towards industry standards and developed in response to the training currently needed to keep up with local business demand. For example, he cited in the 1970's Administrative Assistants were greatly in demand and in the 1980's and 1990's Computer Programming and Computer Applications were heavily subscribed. Now the demands are more in the "green" area, which encompass all of the training programs for energy sustainability and building sciences. Students include people looking to train for new professions, as well as people who own their own businesses, including architects and builders. This area is growing so fast, said Mr. Marx, that learning about things like clean energy and energy efficiency technology is the only way to stay competitive. He distributed a hand-out and brochures on several programs being offered.

Mr. Marx stated that SUNY Ulster received a \$466,000 NYSERTA Clean Energy Technology Training Consortium grant in which SUNY Ulster is the lead college in a 5-college consortium including SUNY Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, Rockland and Westchester.

Mr. Marx discussed the other grants obtained by SUNY Ulster for other "green" training programs and explained the qualification of "so far". He said that he had submitted two more grant applications to NYSERTA just last week.

The green energy technology area mainly consists of Small Wind Turbine Installation, Solar Thermal Installation, Geothermal and Photovoltaic. Mr. Marx said these are not just installation courses. They are marketing and sales courses also, and he has had manufacturers come through so their employees have an understanding of the systems and how they work. He said the instructors in all courses are of the highest quality. He said over 1500 persons have been trained in Clean Energy Technology and Energy Efficiency Courses and 40% of them are representing a business or plan to start a business. He discussed some of the programs' success stories.

Continuing, Mr. Marx discussed The Building Performance Institute, which provides Certifications in Basics of Building Science, Building Analyst, Envelope Professional and Heating Professional. He discussed the NYS Legislature's campaign for "Green Jobs, Green New York" whose goal is to have one million homes weatherized in NY State in the next five years. This program consists of NYSERDA-funded energy audits for homeowners, 50% reimbursement of tuition on certification courses and \$500,000 in funding to the Hudson Valley region for outreach and training. He believes this will

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increase the demand for Building Performance Contractors to perform this work and to increase the potential for grant funding for local not-for-profit agencies and for SUNY Ulster.

Mr. Marx advised that at SUNY Ulster's Business Resource Center there is a Continuing Education and Training Resource Room that is staffed by volunteers. This provides information on what is new and available in terms of clean energy and efficiency. This is a free service and the volunteers are paid for by this grant. His presentation being concluded, Mr. Marx opened the floor to questions.

Chairman Harris said he thinks Mr. Marx and the college are doing a great job. He said the Community College always responds to the needs of the businesses in the area and has always impressed him. He asked if this program had ever worked with the Ulster County Community Action Weatherization Program. Mr. Marx said they have in a very minor way, working with Carol Furman, one of their Directors in charge of their funding through the stimulus program.

Leg. Terrizzi said it was awesome that the college is taking the initiative on this very impressive subject and it looks like they are staying on the cutting edge. She was interested in Green Jobs, Green New York NYSEDA funded energy audits for homeowners, and asked how she could get more information. Mr. Marx said he would get it and have it available to put in the minutes.

(Recorders note: The following was supplied by Chris Marx for the minutes.

Green Jobs Green New York info. at <http://getenergysmart.org> Click on appropriate home size.

Direct link to the program for single family homes:

<http://www.getenergysmart.org/SingleFamilyHomes/ExistingBuilding/HomeOwner/GreenJobsGreenNewYorkEnergyAudits.aspx>)

In response to questions from several of the Legislators, Mr. Marx said that all classes were held at the Business Resource Center in Kingston and he would provide the hours the Green Resource Room was open to be inserted in the minutes of this meeting.

(Recorder's note: The following was supplied by Chris Marx for these minutes. The Green Resource Room at the Business Resource Center is open:

Tuesday	= Noon to 2:00pm
Wednesday	= 1:30pm to 5:30pm
Thursday	= 9:00am to 1:00pm

Leg. Gregorius said that with all of the problems in the economy this seems to provide some excellent opportunities. He asked if anyone kept track of how the students do after they take the classes. Mr. Marx said we work with SBDC and with SCORE counselors who are also working with many of these students; however, at the present time it is really too early to tell.

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The presentation of Chris Marx on Clean Energy Technology Training and SUNY Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Harris brought forth a Resolution on behalf of Ulster County Community Action.

Ulster County Community Action

Chairman Harris, on behalf of Ulster County Community Action presented a proposed Resolution. He said that one-third of the membership of their Board of Directors is designated by the Legislature and due to the expiration of terms, these are reappointments. The resolution calls for the appointment to the Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. Board of Directors for the term commencing on January 1, 2011 and expiring December 31, 2011 of the following:

Hon. Wayne Harris
Hon. Peter Loughran
Hon. James M. Sottile
Hon. Dean Fabiano
Hon. Jeanette Provenzano

A motion to approve the resolution as presented was made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Madsen and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote the proposed resolution to appoint the above-named five (5) individuals to the Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. Board of Directors was unanimously approved.

Resolution -Leg. Walter G. Frey, Jr. / Ulster County Youth Bureau

At this time Chairman Harris brought forth a proposed memorializing resolution being submitted by Leg. Walter G. Frey Jr., requesting New York State to maintain the funding streams for the Youth Bureau and further elimination of competitive bid funding. Chairman Harris asked for a motion on the proposed resolution. There were several questions and as Leg. Frey was in the area he was asked to appear before the committee.

Leg. Frey said that under the Governor's budget proposals for 2011-2012, there is the recommendation for the development of a proposal to slash the current allocation of funding for the Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention, Special Delinquency Prevention Program and Runaway and Homeless Youth Act by 50%. The budget proposal eliminates these funding streams and offers the distribution of funds on a competitive bid basis to counties which will result in the elimination of funding to many rural counties who cannot compete against populated counties such as Albany, New York County and Buffalo. The original funding stream was developed through a formula-driven allocation through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services which takes into account the differences between all of the counties.

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Leg. Madsen asked if it would be feasible for Ulster County to join with other area counties and bid on a regional basis. Leg. Frey said regional bidding is not permitted. The direct financial impact to Ulster County if the competitive bid funding were allowed would be the loss of Youth Bureau revenue to the County. When asked by Leg. Terrizzi, Leg. Frey said the Youth Bureau's budget is about \$600,000 and we get about \$350,000 in revenue from the state.

Leg. Terrizzi asked if this had to be done by resolution and Leg. Frey said it was a memorializing resolution. Leg. Gregorius asked if, since this goes to the various elected officials listed, it would be appropriate to ask them to join in. Also, the question arose as to exactly where the information giving rise to the resolution had come from.

Mr. Frey said the information had come from Arlene Reynolds at the Youth Bureau who was notified by the state that this was being proposed. Leg. Frey said he understands that the state is in a financial crisis but this is only to retain procedures the way they were. We are not looking for any additional funding. Leg. Terrizzi said her concern is about doing this by resolution. Chairman Harris said we could always just get a letter from this committee which he would prepare. He asked for a motion from the committee to send such a letter. No motion was forthcoming. A discussion followed on the merits of a letter and/or a resolution.

Leg. Hayes said he would like to see some documentation from the state that this is really what they are saying. Leg. Frey will follow up with Arlene Reynolds and obtain same. Chairman Harris suggested this committee hold a very short meeting prior to the full Legislature meeting to discuss this further once this documentation is obtained. At that, this matter was tabled by the committee.

Office for the Aging – Sub-Committee on Home Delivered Meals

Chairman Harris asked for a report from the sub-committee appointed to look into the home-delivered meals situation. Leg. Terrizzi, as Chairman of this sub-committee reported. She said her committee which includes herself and Legs. Belfiglio and Madsen had met with Bob Sudlow and good attendance from the Office for the Aging. At that time there were about twenty seniors on the waiting list. She has been promised that everybody would be receiving hot meals until December 31, 2011 when the contract with Prestige is due to expire. She said her concern is that the quality be acceptable.

Leg. Terrizzi said she did not have a full report at this time; however, they will be meeting again and she will have something formal to report for the April meeting. A general discussion of the meals on wheels program followed. Leg. Terrizzi said the contract with Prestige is currently being negotiated. We will be continuing with this sub-committee; however, once we get this report presented it may not be necessary to meet until the RFP is issued in August.

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Cornell Cooperative Extension

Chairman Harris announced that Cornell Cooperative Extension would be hosting their annual Open House and Meet the Staff Night on Monday, March 9, 2011 from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm at their offices on Westbrook Lane. He said Lee Reidy and her staff go to great lengths to welcome the Legislators and urged all present to attend.

Leg. Hayes distributed a brochure for an event administered by CCE titled "Ag Vehicle and Traffic Safety Program" to be held at SUNY Ulster County Community College on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 from 9:30am to 2:15pm. This seminar covers information about the regulations affecting farm trucks, tractors and implements on the road.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chairman Harris requested a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made by Leg. Belfiglio and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and upon Chairman Harris asking for a voice vote unanimously approved and Chairman Harris declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri
Adm. Assistant, SUNY Ulster, Recorder