

Public Health and Social Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: March 31, 2014, 6:15 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Craig V. Lopez
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Craig Lopez, Jeanette Provenzano, Chris Allen, Carl Belfiglio, Herbert Litts, III
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Kenneth Crannell Deputy County Exec., Tina Lee Director of Public Relations, National Alliance on Mental Illness, (NAMI) Mid-Hudson, Lee Cane League of Women Voters

Chairman Craig Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

MOTION NO. 1 To Approve the Minutes of March 10, 2014
Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio and Litts
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 2 To Move Committee Meeting Start Time from 6:15 PM to 6:00 PM.
Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Provenzano
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio and Litts
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition:

Carried

Tina Lee, Director of Public Relations (NAMI) Mid-Hudson, National Alliance on Mental Illness:

- Chairman Lopez welcomed Tina Lee, Director of Public Relations (NAMI) Mid-Hudson to the committee meeting and proceeded with round table introductions of committee members.
- Tina Lee provided literature to committee members for review, and shared her personal family experiences dealing with mental health illness issues, along with an overview of the organization.
- The organization is based out of Dutchess County – however sees the need in Ulster County. Monthly Family Support Group, 1st & 3rd Monday of every month, 300 Aaron Court, Kingston, 6-8PM.
- 165 volunteer members 501C3 – focus on children 5-18yrs of age – educating the parents.
- Held a SSI / SSDI Mental Health Dutchess County workshop, sponsored thru the office for the aging, where Ulster County consumers, social workers and other UC advocates attended, and was well received – with a 68 person waiting list!
- Invited committee members to their ribbon cutting.
- Requested funding for advertising purposes and continued support in our community – volunteer based.
- Slogan – “Find Health, Find Hope”

The Mission of NAMI – Mid Hudson: is to assist individuals with mental illnesses and their loved ones. Specific objectives include: Advocate, Eradicate, Support, Educate, Work, and Promote.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nations’ largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI advocates for access to services, treatment, supports and research and is steadfast in its commitment to raise awareness and build a community for hope for all of those in need. NAMI is the foundation for hundreds of NAMI State Organizations, NAMI Affiliates and volunteer leaders who work in local communities across the country to raise awareness and provide essential and free education, advocacy and support group programs.

NAMI’s Services are Free of Charge – Family Support Groups

- Family-to-Family (F2F): Twelve week course, educational program for families and caregivers of adults with mental illness.
- NAMI Basics: Educational program for families and caregivers of children and adolescents with mental illness.
- NAMI Connections: Peer run support for people actively dealing with mental illness.

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- Parents and Teachers As Allies (PTAA): NAMI's signature school outreach workshop.
 - In Our Own Voice (IOOV): People with mental illness integrate their stories into a professional program at hospitals, businesses, schools, and other community organizations
 - Peer-to-Peer: Ten week recovery education course for adults with mental illness.
 - Monthly Speaker Series
 - Information Help Line

Ken Cranell added mental health is part of the public health equation. Ulster County is the only county that does not have a crisis hot line.

Legislators provided avenues Ms. Lee could pursue for financial funding – radio, grants etc.

Chairman Lopez and the committee thanked Ms. Lee for coming before the committee - presenting an informative review of NAMI Mid-Hudson.

MOTION NO. 3

Resolutions No. 131 – April 15, 2014

Text of Motion:

Resolve to Approve Resolutions No. 131 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Cornell Cooperative Extension – Department Of Social Services

Motion / Discussion:

Motion made to open discussion by Legislator Provenzano, 2nd Legislator Belfiglio.

Chairman Lopez gave an overview of the resolution - 100% federally funded, whereas the 2013-2014 agreement is to provide the Eat Smart NY “SNAP-Ed” nutrition education program, with Cornell providing the service per the terms of the federal grant. The Federal government passes the funding through the County, in turn the County must contract with Cornell to provide the nutritional education program(s) to low income families in the County.

Legislator Belfiglio expressed, nutrition education a child receives is invaluable – noting it's difficult for families to eat healthy always being on the go.

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio and Litts

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 4 Resolutions No. 132 – April 15, 2014

Text of Motion: Resolve to Approve Resolutions No. 132 – Confirming Re-Appointment To The Ulster County Board Of Health

Motion / Discussion:

Motion made to open discussion by Legislator Belfiglio, 2nd Legislator Allen.

The committee noted that all appointments going before this committee moving forward – including re-appointment resolutions should include a resume. Dr. Delma’s resume will be forwarded to committee members as soon as possible.

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Provenzano

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio and Litts

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

MOTION NO. 5 Resolutions No. 133 – April 15, 2014

Text of Motion: Resolve to Approve Resolutions No. 133 – Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease With Lily Lake, LLC For Space To Be Used As A Coordinated Children’s Services Mental Health Clinic – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)

Motion / Discussion:

Motion made to open discussion by Legislator Belfiglio, 2nd Legislator Allen.

Chairman Lopez gave an overview of the resolution along with committee discussion – authorizing the lease of a satellite office with Lily Lake LLC, in Highland, as the previous office in New Paltz is no longer available for the NEXIS program, which provides intervention and treatment services for families whose children are at risk of placement into therapeutic foster care, psychiatric hospitalization or residential treatment facilities, in an effort to keep the child safely in the home and avoid costly out-of-home placement. The new location is comparable to the New Paltz office – 1100 SF @ \$13/SF, 5yr lease, 60 day termination clause, and landlord responsible for taxes and insurance. 62% state & 38% county monies.

Motion Made By:	Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Litts
Voting In Favor:	Legislators Lopez, Provenzano, Allen, Belfiglio and Litts
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	5
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Carried

New Business:

Legislator Provenzano made the suggestion to committee members to email Ken Crannell any questions they may have before the day of the meeting to help better understand the resolutions going before the committee.

Both Chairman Lopez & Deputy Chair Provenzano expressed interest in touring the UC Mental Health facility.

Legislator Belfiglio and the committee discussed presenting an UC Proclamation at May's Legislative Session - Mental Health Awareness Month - details to follow – Mental Health Association- Helen Pentagar.

Legislator Allen inquired if Ulster County has an Ombudsman program, noting Greene County through the Department of Aging employs (2) full time Ombudsman for (4) nursing facilities. Discussion ensued, resolving on behalf of the committee, Legislator Belfiglio will contact the UC Office for the Aging for more information as to how the county addresses nursing home complaints / grievances on behalf of the resident. Also how the county interacts with nursing homes – county services offered if any now that Golden Hill is privately owned and, ombudsman, resident councils, family councils, ADA coordinators, etc. in our community.

Legislator Allen is also working on two memorializing resolutions: (1) to the State Legislature – adding specific language to State Penal Code Law, Section 175 - falsification of business records. Language which would direct law enforcement how to conduct investigations that take place when there is falsification or omissions of business records in the health care industry; and (2), to the US Congress to reform HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act – for family accessibility of electronically transferred information between doctors and insurance companies when coverage is denied – without going through litigation, etc. More information will follow at a later date.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Legislator Litts and seconded by Legislator Belfiglio, and Chairman Lopez declared the meeting duly adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Motion Made By:	Legislator Litts
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Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time 7:55 PM

Dated 10th day of April, 2014
Nettie Tomshaw Legislative Employee
Minutes Approved on: May 5, 2014