

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: April 8, 2010

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: UCOB, 6th Legislative Chambers

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Frey, Legislators Rob Parete, Harris, Petit, Ronk, Briggs, Stoeckeler

LEGISLATOR EXCUSED: All Present

OTHERS ATTENDING: Erison Rodriguez ProAct Inc., Michael Kavanagh Majority Counsel, Marshall Beckman Deputy County Exec., Roberto Rodriguez Commissioner DSS, Marijane Knudsen DSS, Paul Fowler, Christine Summers HARMD.ORG NY State Rep, Patricia Doxsey Daily Freeman, Lee Cane LWV, Nettie Tomshaw Legislative Employee

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frey at 6:35 PM.
- Attendance
- A motion by Legislator Stoeckeler was made to accept the March 4, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes, seconded by Legislator Parete, all were in favor, Carried.

ProAct Inc., Pharmacy Benefit Management Co., Mr. Erison Rodriguez:

- ProAct is a pharmacy benefit management company headquartered in Onondaga County, NY
- Discount Prescription Drug Card Program
- No cost to County or participants - no age limitation
- Voluntary program - Free to county residents
- Provides reduced medicine costs
- NYSAC endorsed
- Any UC resident can use it but best results occur for the uninsured or underinsured
- Administered by ProAct Inc., a subsidiary of Kinney Drugs Inc.
- Will be mailed to every household by ProAct
- Covers Vision, discounts on Eye Exams up to 20% off, Frames up to 50%, Lenses up to 50% & Contacts up to 20%
- Covers Lasik, discounts up to 50% off retail price
- Hearing, savings of 35% to 65% on Brand Name Hearing Aids and Products
- Not an insurance but a discount for families with no prescription drug coverage
- Can be used at any participating pharmacy in Ulster County or anywhere in the US.
- Covers all prescription medications, brand or generic
- 10-20% average savings on brand names and 20-50% on generic medicine

- Other Counties currently using this program, Albany, Onondaga, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Seneca, Madison, Fulton and Franklin
- ProAct does the mailings and contacts the pharmacies, currently 85% partake
- Can be used for pets

Legislator Parete - Will there be participating pharmacies? Yes currently 85% of local pharmacies participate and letters will be sent to all non participating pharmacies as well. Do you have a Canadian drug component? No. Do you have mail order? Yes, ProAct has there own mail order facility in upstate NY. Is there a waiting period? No, instant availability, card is active. Do you negotiate the rates on a daily basis for a lower price? Our pharmacy network (Restat) negotiates the rates. Do we sign a contract and for how long? Yes, 1 year for the purpose of the upfront investment made on our part. Can you work with Ulster RX our current drug card provider? No can't share priority information between companies and would want to start fresh within each community. What's the name of the program? Ulster County Prescription Drug Card administered by ProAct. Do you offer a dental program? No not at this time but feels something is in the works. Any County contribution? No, none at all - we make a very small administrative fee for every sale, and creates a relationship with the County.

Legislator Petit - How does this work if you already have insurance? Can't combine both and can't discount your deductible or co-pays. The pharmacist will advise which way is cheaper however savings are achieved mostly for the uninsured. Can the client receive brand names if desired? The pharmacist will provide whatever the prescription states.

Chairman Frey - County trends will be tracked - information with a monthly report provided to County. We already spoke to the County Attorney about liability and such and will supply all the information to us. Also looking to find a discount Dental Program for the County. They will also send out tapes to air on local radio stations to promote at no cost.

Legislator Ronk - What is the County Executives position on this program? Marshall Beckman answered, he feels it's a fine program and supports the Legislatures efforts.

Golden Hill Legionnaire Disease Update, Marshall Beckman: Third round of testing successful allowing us to lift restrictions at facility. Continuing to come up with a long term solution and continue to test with heat & flush process. Five residents still considered to be at risk will not have the ban lifted. In general situation is much better - trying to get back to normal routines.

Chairman Frey - Looking at a preventive measure with the ionization system, looking at the water quality - high alkaline levels and compatibility with the system to correct it once and for all.

Legislator Parete - Water testing to be quarterly? At least, once we have a permanent system in place possibly be able to cut back.

Methadone Clinic, Marshall Beckman, Paul Fowler and Christine Summers: Marshall asked Kingston hospital methadone clinic administrator Al Lace if he would look into an arrangement to be open a 7th day - possibly in the emergency room on Sundays. To open the methadone clinic for a 7th day would cost \$20K dollars per year. Also invited Ms. Summer's to meet with him at a later date. Paul Fowler noted Dutchess County clinic is open 7 days - a small window 8:30 - 11:00 on Sunday and holidays - very successful. Ms. Summer's is asking that the weekend distribution of medication change by opening the Ulster County Clinic 7 days a week. Ms. Summer's does not want drug addicts to have the ability to have surplus drugs provided them for the weekend because the clinic is closed

- and in turn sharing them with young people with deadly consequences as happened to her son. Ms. Summers provided Literature to the committee on Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) policy for unsupervised medication take-home, Material Safety Data Sheet etc.

Chairman Frey - Stated that this committee is committed to figure out a way to come up with a solution.

Legislator Stoeckeler - Gave condolences for Ms. Summer's loss. Leg. Stoeckeler stated he has been on this committee for over 5 years, and feels when it comes to the quality of care or the delivery of a service, decisions made are not necessarily driven by money - money is not the beginning or the end to it.

Legislator Ronk - Asked Marshall Beckman if the Kingston Hospital Representative can attend our next meeting to shed more light on the clinic.

Department Module - DSS, Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez, MaryJane Knudsen Dir. Temporary Services: (provided detail literature including Safety Net) Mary Jane gave an overview of the following assistance programs:

- Temporary Assistance, Family Assistance 838 cases and Safety Net Assistance 809 cases, 422 employable. Safety Net Determination of Town Responsibility: Client Address, Landlord Statement, Tax statement by Landlord, Review of RPSV4 screen to validate town responsibility.
- Basic Grant Family of One = \$414.00/month
- Day Care, 615 cases
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) 6268 applications, 153 participating dealers in UC. Second Benefit Authorized effective 4/7/10 of \$200 fuel & \$100 electric/gas
- Drug & Alcohol Assessments, 132 TA Intakes, 60 Recerts, 19 Review
- Employment, Gateway, RISE Program, VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)
- Housing Unit, 60 Motel Placements = 67 Adults & 38 Children, Family Inn 9 Adults & 17 Children, Darmstadt Residence 16 Adults
- Operational Initiatives, 130 caseloads per employee - should be 70
- SOAR - Stepping Stones To Recovery- new state initiative to stream line SSI process to get the federal dollars out and save safety net
- Commissioner Rodriguez rec'd an award on behalf of UC DSS VITA site by NYSOTDA, appreciation letter dated April 5, 2010 by Executive Deputy Commissioner Berlin NYSOTDA.

Legislator Parete - For the record he pulled out his myth buster sheet from last meeting and was able to bust one of the myths while at a social gathering. Is there a waiting list for placing clients? No, by law we must find emergency housing for everyone.

Legislator Petit - Basic allowances haven't changed much? Some, 2011 another increment will happen. To give you an idea, MJ stated 36yrs ago the Basic Allowance was \$300.

Legislator Harris - Within the Basic Grant Allowance which includes a Home Energy Allowance, is this separate from HEAP Allowance? Yes Do we have employees attached to the VITA?

Yes, 4 social examiners are trained. Day Care - The child is the driver of the benefit approval not the grandparent - the grandparents can work - has nothing to do with benefits provided to the child.

Legislator Briggs - Is it cost effective to place a family of three in a motel vs. finding affordable rent? Comm. Rodriguez explained the housing allowance is minimal. He plans on addressing the State to demonstrate the severe economic stress and to ask approval to go to market rate, although this will be very tricky and will be limited.

Chairman Frey - Safety Net Zip code 12401 concern - MJ stated Landlord documents (see above) drive town safety net responsibility not zip codes. Multiple check process if unsure. When people relocate a payment recovery process takes place - manual process. PO Box nuances - etc.

- 1.) Resolution Draft No. 0406, April 20, 2010: Increasing The Maximum Amount Of Payment For Burial And Purchasing Of Grave Markers For Indigent Veterans And Their Families

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

- 2.) Resolution Draft No. 0410, April 20, 2010: Amending The 2010 Ulster County Budget – Child Support Incentive Allocation – Department Of Social Services

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

- 3.) Resolution Draft No. 0411, April 20, 2010: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into Certain Inter-Municipal Agreements For The Community Work Experience Program – Department Of Social Services

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

- 4.) Resolution Draft No. 0419, April 20, 2010: Confirming Appointment Of Member To The Ulster County Community Services Board And The Subcommittee On Mental Health

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

- 5.) Resolution Draft No. 0426, April 20, 2010: Endorsing The Establishment Of ProAct Discount Prescription Drug Card Program And ProAct Discount Vision, Lasik And Hearing Discount Program For Residents Of Ulster County And Authorizing The County Of Ulster To Execute An Agreement With ProAct, Inc., For Said Programs

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Parete, Seconded by Legislator Stoekeler, Unanimously in Favor, Carried

- 6.) Resolution Draft No. 0427, April 20, 2010: Creating A Special Task Force To Study The Policy Decisions Needed To Examine The Long Term Financial Viability Of The Golden Hill Health Care Center

Discussion:

Legislator Stoeckler - Hopes that the task force will contact the Executive Office or Legislature for consulting purposes before they make a decision. Renovation, Reimbursement costs, etc. Recommends this committee draft requirements to be met. Recommend Leg. Ronk draft more detail criteria for the next meeting.

Legislator Ronk - Member criteria - more specific material needed - may need a new engineer study to go on. Ken will draft.

Legislator Parete - Member names should be on resolution. Feels County Exec. should name members - be consistent using same logic with Golden Hill.

Legislator Briggs - Executive put the ball in our court during his county speech.

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator T.J. Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Harris, Unanimously in Favor, Carried.

7.) Resolution Draft No. XXXX - April 20, 2010: In Support Of New York State Assembly Bill No. A10140 And New York State Senate Bill No S6276 Authorizing The Use Of Surplus Funds From The Greater Catskills Flood Remediation Program By Ulster County

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk - Already passed Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee. Agrees with Leg. Parete.

Legislator Parete - County has the obligation to enforce the laws. Wants the Board of Health to bring corrective action against NYC government.

Chairman Frey - Our job to enforce laws.

Legislator Briggs - NYC says the aqueduct is not leaking - not contributing to the flooding!!

Add committee name to resolution

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

8.) Resolution Draft No. XXXX - April 20, 2010: Re-Establishing The Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee - Ulster County Legislature

Discussion:

Legislator Frey - Does committee still meet - stand? Legislator Parete, yes and this resolution makes committee Charter compliant. Asked if Trails members can come to our next meeting - very interesting. Leg. Parete will setup. Also wants to add one more name to resolution - will advise.

Legislator Harris - Trail and Rail questions. If approved Leg. Hochberg will serve on both? Yes.

Legislator Ronk - Asked Counsel Michael Kavanagh, should reappointing resolutions have the names of people listed on the resolution. Not on Charter. Code has no guide lines to state names.

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Parete, Seconded by Legislator Stoeckler, Unaminously in Favor, Carried

Adjournment:

The meeting was respectfully adjourned at 8:30 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Briggs and seconded by Legislator Ronk, with all in favor, carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Walter Frey, Chairman /nt Health & Human Services Committee**