

Health and Human Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 12, 2010 3:30 PM
Scott Heyman Conference Room

Approved February 10, 2010

Call to Order

Chair Proto called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

Temporary Appointment

Legislature Chair Robertson temporarily appointed Brian Robison.

<u>Attendee Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Status</u>
Will Burbank	Tompkins County Legislature	Member	Present
Frank Proto	Tompkins County Legislature	Member	Present
Martha Robertson	Tompkins County Legislature	Member	Present
Brian Robison	Tompkins County Legislature	Member	Present

Present: L. Holmes, Office for the Aging; A. Cole, B. Crosby, L. Cameron, Health Department; J. Mareane, County Administrator; R. DeLuca, Mental Health
Guests: S. Shackford, *The Ithaca Journal*

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of 12-8-2009 (DOC ID: 1696)

The minutes of December 8, 2009, were adopted as amended.

RESULT:	ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Martha Robertson, Member
AYES:	Will Burbank, Frank Proto, Martha Robertson, Brian Robison

Chair's Report

Federal Health Care Reform Concerns

Mr. Proto referred to correspondence received by Legislators from New York State Association of Counties that expressed concern over the proposed Federal Health Care legislation in its current form could have a significant affect on New York's financial responsibility. In his capacity as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee during the absence of the Chair of the Legislature and inability to reach the Acting Chair, he asked Mr. Mareane to assist in drafting a letter outlining the County's concerns to be sent to our Federal representatives. Copies of this letter were also forwarded to our local representatives and appropriate County personnel. To date, no response has been received.

Mammogram Screening

Mr. Proto spoke of recent reports indicating mammograms may not be necessary at certain ages. This topic was discussed at the Board of Health meeting earlier in the day and Dr. Klepack went over various concerns he had with these reports. Mr. Proto has spoken with Shawn Galbraith of the Cancer Research Center and has requested her assistance to develop a resolution outlining the concerns. He said if the Health and Human Services Committee could not support the resolution, which he hopes to have on

next month's agenda, he would bring it to the Legislature as a member-filed item. Mr. Proto said Dr. Klepack would be working with Ms. Galbraith on this issue.

Health Department

Resolution: Authorization to Accept Funds, Execute Contract, and Budget Adjustment – Healthy Neighborhoods Program – Health Department (DOC ID: 1705)

Ms. Cameron reiterated information contained in the explanation and that the grant may be extended for up to two years. Ms. Robertson was very pleased to receive the funding for a program that will assist in improving safety within homes. In response to Mr. Burbank's question, Ms. Cameron said part of the grant is offsetting cuts in other grants and she believes it will be possible to hire an individual on a full-time basis for a six to nine month period for this work as well as using existing staff. Ms. Cameron also said when necessary, staff would work with landlords to assist in improving the quality of homes.

The program will seek volunteer participants through educational outreach; in the event they are not forthcoming, workers will go door-to-door seeking volunteers for the program.

Ms. Cameron said representatives from various organizations would be included on an advisory council for the program, including a representative of the Asthma Action Coalition.

Ms. Crosby explained that although the grant amount is \$185,000, the reason the revenue is reduced to \$168,495 is due to absorbing a portion of the grant in other positions that had experienced a cut in the water program and are now working on this program.

Mr. Proto asked whether the grant would cover testing of soil on the outside of homes for lead content. Ms. Cameron said she believes the grant is only for inside dwellings.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Martha Robertson, Member
SECONDER:	Will Burbank, Member
AYES:	Will Burbank, Frank Proto, Martha Robertson, Brian Robison

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has awarded one-year grant funding, for a Healthy Neighborhoods Program for the period October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010, (with the possibility of two 1-year extensions), and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this funding will be to reduce injuries and deaths from residential fires, neighborhood lead poisoning, hospitalizations due to asthma, and exposure to indoor air pollutants, and

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Health Department is authorized to accept said funds,

RESOLVED, further, That the Department is authorized to execute any and all agreements necessary to complete the requirements of the grant,

RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director is authorized to make the following budget adjustment on his books for the Healthy Neighborhoods grant:

REVENUE:	4090.43489	Other State Grants	\$168,495
APPROPRIATION:	4090.51000595	Public Health Sanitarian	\$ 50,772

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.51000507	Keyboard Specialist	\$ 3,321
.52206	Computer Equipment	\$ 1,500
.52220	Departmental Equipment	\$ 500
.52303	Office Supplies	\$ 1,683
.54319	Program Supplies	\$ 66,016
.54330	Printing	\$ 2,000
.54412	Travel & Training	\$ 1,725
.54414	Local Mileage	\$ 12,870
.54442	Professional Service Fees	\$ 5,000
.54452	Postage	\$ 200
.54472	Telephone	\$ 1,000
.58800	Fringes	\$ 21,908

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Explanation:

The Tompkins County Health Department has been notified that they have received funding from the NYSDOH for a Healthy Neighborhoods Program in the amount of \$185,000. The goals of the Healthy Neighborhood Program are to reduce injuries and deaths from residential fires, neighborhood lead poisoning, hospitalizations due to asthma, and exposure to indoor air pollutants. The NYSDOH has indicated that the Health Department would be eligible for two 1-year renewals. The funds will be used to conduct healthy home surveys in homes in the Village of Groton, selected areas in the City of Ithaca, and in mobile home parks in the Town of Dryden. The grant also funds the purchase of “healthy home” supplies, such as smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, lead paint detectors, and other items to provide to the targeted residents.

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Resolution: Authorization to Accept Funds and Budget Adjustment – Office of Homeland Security Preparedness Funding – Health Department (DOC ID: 1711)

Ms. Crosby explained the Bioterrorism Preparation Coordinator position was previously funded by the State as a pass-through from the Federal government and subsequently only through the State. The position is now funded in part by the Federal government and as a result of work by the State, a portion is funded through Homeland Security. The grant provides funding through August 9, 2010. Ms. Crosby has received verbal approval of the funding but has not yet received the contract from the State.

Ms. Crosby said the funding for the Bioterrorism Preparedness Coordinator, a full-time position, is funded through the Preparedness Funding, the H1N1 funding, and the Homeland Security Preparedness funding. In response to Mr. Burbank’s question, Ms. Crosby explained the Bioterrorism Preparedness Coordinator work includes 7-8 years of work developing a policy and procedure plan that provides documents for guidance as well as conducting emergency drills. The course of action the Health Department followed for the H1N1 pandemic is a direct result of the plan that was developed. She stressed the work is not limited to “bioterrorism” but for all hazards.

It was noted the Preparedness Funds as well as the H1N1 funds totaled between \$300,000 to \$310,000. The H1N1 funding was received in three phases.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Martha Robertson, Member
SECONDER:	Brian Robison, Member
AYES:	Will Burbank, Frank Proto, Martha Robertson, Brian Robison

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Office of Homeland Security (NYSOHS) have provided support for public health emergency preparedness activities for the period August 10, 2009, through August 9, 2010, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the NYSOHS funding is to support activities that are consistent with the State's Homeland Security Planning & Preparedness Strategy, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Health Department is authorized to accept said funds,

RESOLVED, further, That the Department is authorized to execute any and all agreements necessary to complete the requirements of the grant,

RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director is authorized to make the following budget adjustment on his books for the Homeland Security funding:

REVENUE:	4010.44959	Federal Aid	\$36,075
APPROPRIATION:	4010.51000507	Keyboard Specialist	\$ 3,553
	.51000780	Bioterrorism Prep Coord	\$ 7,443
	.52220	Departmental Equipment	\$ 4,107
	.54303	Office Supplies	\$ 4,533
	.54330	Printing	\$ 1,000
	.54333	Education & Promotion	\$ 4,000
	.54342	Food	\$ 1,432
	.54354	Medical Supplies	\$ 3,800
	.54412	Travel & Training	\$ 800
	.54414	Local Mileage	\$ 50
	.54425	Service Contracts	\$ 545
	.54442	Professional Service Fees	\$ 359
	.58800	Fringes	\$ 4,453

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Explanation: NYSDOH worked with the NYS Office of Homeland Security to secure funding to help counties support the Preparedness Program previously funded by state dollars. Funds are designated to assist with Public Health Emergency Preparedness activities (planning, training, and exercising) that include all hazards, epidemiology, risk communication, informatics and laboratory.

Budget Transfer: 4010 Planning & Coordination (DOC ID: 1712)

The Committee was provided a copy of a budget transfer for informational purposes.

Update on Vaccinations

The Committee was informed the H1N1 vaccination clinics have been very successful. To date, the Health Department has vaccinated more than 6,000 individuals, 1,200 of them in the past week. Over the next three weeks more clinics will be held. It was recommended to go to the Health Department website for information; some of the clinics require appointments.

State Reimbursement

Mr. Proto said the State has been withholding payments for programs, however, the first quarterly payment for 2008 has been received. He then said the well program was cut by \$19,000. From January 1 through April 1 the Department will not be able to do any well testing due to this cut. He said Ms. Cameron is determining how to start testing after April 1st. Ms. Crosby said this is only one grant that the

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State has not informed them of possible funding. At this time she has not heard from the State regarding the majority of their grants. She believes her original projection will stand (\$130,000). Although the State has paid for the first quarter of 2008, they still owe almost \$800,000 for the second and third quarters.

55 Brown Road

Ms. Cole said the building is still experiencing a delay due to the problem with the tiles. The tentative move date is for late February, early March.

Youth Services

Three-Year Service Plan

Ms. Zahler reported that the Office of Family and Children Services has extended the Three-Year Service Plan to the end of 2010. The plan, which was prepared for 2007 – 2009, is mandated by the State to be completed by Youth Services in collaboration with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and Probation Department. The State is asking for a complete update of program goals and objectives identified by DSS and Youth Services. Although DSS had an update to go to the State today, they were informed by the State of other areas requiring information. Ms. Zahler said DSS Commissioners have some serious concerns about State requirements creating a burden rather than regulatory relief they are seeking. The Service Plan allows the County to receive funding for youth development and delinquency prevention programs.

State Budget Updates (DOC ID: 1733)

Ms. Zahler said much of the funding received is passed through the Department directly to not-for-profit agencies who run direct service programs for youth. In the Fall, the State Legislature's reductions of 12.5 percent within the Office of Family and Children Services. The exact amount of funding for calendar year 2010 was not received until last Friday and was almost the approximate calculation within her budget. It is approximately \$23,000 reduction to agencies funded, just over \$5,000 from State aid for department staffing to plan, fund, and coordinate Youth Services, and a \$7,000 reduction that will be spread across as small reductions to each municipality who receive State aid for their youth programs. Her department plans to issue 2010 contracts to the agencies and spreading the reduction across the total allocation. The overall reduction would then be approximately a four percent cut to agencies. She will be notifying agencies that they will enter into contracts at an amount less than the approved 2010 budget based on the new figures. The contract will also specify the County will pay no more than fifty percent of the contract in the first six months of the year; this is due to the unknown outcome of the Governor's budget. She is hoping any cuts would be for the 2011 calendar year versus mid-year 2010.

Mr. Robison asked if it would be appropriate to provide municipalities with information about the funding reductions. Ms. Zahler said it would be appropriate to say some additional State cuts will be coming to municipalities and they can contact the Youth Services for details. Ms. Zahler said the municipalities have done a remarkable job in planning, particularly with the cut of the jobs program as well. She said the State funding for the jobs program was not a large part of their program; the County and local funding was a larger portion.

Mr. Proto asked if the Department has discretion on how to absorb cuts. Ms. Zahler said the Youth Board reviewed programming using a blended approach and made a determination of how to allocate the funding. They eliminated one program the County funded and also reduced another by one-

half. Agencies that indicated they could more easily absorb a bigger cut due to an increase in Federal funding did.

Drug Prevention Grant Programs

Ms. Zahler reported that her department has been collaborating with the Health Department to bring about an awareness of prescription drug abuse by youths. Countertop posters have been distributed to all pharmacies in the County with the exception of WalMart and Rite Aid, whose corporate offices have not approved placement of the posters. A second initiative that has been a collaboration between the Health Department, Sheriff's Department, Solid Waste Division, Cornell University, as well as others to offer the County's first drug-collection day later in the spring (March 6). She said prescriptions should not be thrown away or flushed. The collection will take place at the Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit facility, with Sheriff's Department personnel on site to prevent theft of the prescriptions. Following the collection the prescriptions will be properly disposed of. Mr. Proto noted that "sharps" would be collected separately.

Municipal Jobs Program Alternatives

With the reductions eliminating the program, Karen Coleman has been working with municipalities to develop creative solutions to help with the reductions to the Jobs Program. Discussions are taking place with the towns and villages to develop a program for the loss of 100 paid youth jobs. As a result, discussions are taking place to develop a summer service project for the affected youth and hpe to utilize workers paid through the Federally-funded JobsLink program to help supervise the volunteers.

Town Hall Meeting

There will be a Town Hall meeting in late March or early April in Groton to discuss the work being undertaken by the Drugs grant. Trumansburg is also participating as well.

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County Administrator Report

Mr. Mareane reported he is putting together a search committee to assist with filling the Public Health Director's position. He has met with the Board of Health proposing the make-up of the Committee. He suggested a total of nine members: 2 members from the Board of Health; Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee; Chair of the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee; County Administrator; representative of the Health Planning Committee (Betty Falcao); representative of Finger Lakes Independence Center (Larry Roberts); County Department Head from the Human Service area; and a representative of the County Health Department. The Board of Health recommended the addition of an additional community representative and Health Department representative. The Board of Health will be contacting Mr. Mareane later in the week to finalize their input. The timeline is to meet on April first with a goal of having an individual in place by mid-June to allow for overlap.

Mr. Mareane offered to provide the job description as well as a listing of sites the position would be advertised. It was noted the position is exempt from Civil Service. He said Ms. Zahler's position does require a civil service test for the position; the test is being given on February 12th.

Member-Filed Resolutions

Resolution: In Support of H.R. 1362 and S. 1273 to Establish Permanent National Surveillance Systems for Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, and Other Neurological Diseases and Disorders (DOC ID: 1703)

Ms. Kiefer spoke of the proposed legislation, which she believes will assist in providing information to researchers that will help to get a handle on information not known about these diseases. She contacted Ms. Falcao of the Health Planning Council to see if the County has any information on these particular diseases and was informed there is nothing at this time. She recommended contacting the County Office for the Aging who had asked specific questions in the 2004 Needs Assessment. The Office for the Aging indicated the survey showed that of those individuals answering the survey, 119 (one percent) had Parkinson's Disease and 60 (.5 percent) had Multiple Sclerosis. Ms. Kiefer assumes it is an undercount since the survey was only reaching older residents. She spoke of many people having an early-onset of these diseases and noted a colleague had to take a disability retirement due to the disability caused by Multiple Sclerosis. She recommended members of the Committee read the Office for the Aging Needs Assessment for further information.

Mr. Proto asked who would have access to the information once the registry is set up. It was noted the legislation indicates the information would be used "to identify, build upon, expand and coordinate existing data and surveillance systems, surveys, registries, and other Federal public health and environmental infrastructure wherever possible".

In response to Mr. Robison's question, Ms. Kiefer said there is no local cost for this program.

Ms. Holmes said the Multiple Sclerosis registry redacts personal information from the information collected.

The Committee briefly discussed the two choices Ms. Kiefer offered and a friendly amendment was made to the resolution.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Martha Robertson, Member
AYES:	Will Burbank, Frank Proto, Martha Robertson, Brian Robison

WHEREAS, Parkinson's Disease (PD) and Multiple Sclerosis (MS) are progressively (and permanently) disabling neurological diseases for which there are no lasting therapies or cures, and

WHEREAS, annually in the United States (US) more than 60,000 persons are newly diagnosed with PD and more than 10,000 with MS, and

WHEREAS, although estimates exist there is no accurate count of how many individuals are currently affected by these diseases and consequently no comprehensive databases for researchers to draw on, and

WHEREAS, central nervous system drugs, including therapies for MS, PD, and other neurological diseases are the slowest in the drug-development pipeline, taking an average of 15 years post discovery for new therapies to reach the market, and

WHEREAS, the causes of MS and PD are not well understood, and

WHEREAS, studies have found relationships between both MS and PD and environmental and genetic factors, but those relationships are not well understood, and

WHEREAS, although there are several small and uncoordinated MS and PD disease registries, surveillance systems, and databases in the United States and worldwide, there is no separate, coordinated, national surveillance system that can:

- identify the incidence and prevalence of these diseases in the US,
- collect demographic and other data important to the study of MS and PD,
- produce epidemiologically sound data that can be used to compare with cluster information, Veterans Affairs data sets, environmental exposure data, etc., and

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- promote better understanding of causes, prevention, and treatment of disease, and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation known as “the National MS and Parkinson’s Disease Registries Act” has been introduced in the first session of the 111th Congress, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature supports enactment of H.R. 1362 and S. 1273, the National MS and Parkinson’s Disease Registries Act, a much-needed addition to our Public Health Service for the citizens of Tompkins County and the nation.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Office for the Aging

Appointment

It was MOVED by Mr. Burbank, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously approved by voice vote by members present, to recommend Pamela L. Jenkins-Smilely to the Office for the Aging Advisory Committee, for a term to expire December 31, 2012. MOTION APPROVED.

Mental Health

Mr. DeLuca said the largest programs receiving State aid is Mental Health and OASIS. He has not had any holdbacks in funding yet for the programs. There has been a ten percent cut \$17,000 MR/DD reductions, this would be \$13,000 to Challenge Industries, and \$4,000.

Next Meeting

Mr. Proto said an appointment would need to be made for the Board of Health spot that he temporarily filled to allow quorum. There presently are two additional openings, a Doctor representative and a Consumer position. Three or four resumes have been received for the Doctor position and the nominating committee has reviewed them. They believe they have an individual to move forward, if they are no longer interested they will again seek applicants. Mr. Proto noted the Board of Health bylaws permits the legislature to solicit for Cayuga Medical Society names for the position.

Youth Services Continued

Ms. Zahler announced they have informally been informed by the Office of Family and Children Services they do not anticipate hold-backs.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk