

Health and Human Services Committee
 Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2010 3:30 PM
 Scott Heyman Conference Room

Approved 3/10/10

Call to Order

Chair Proto called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Frank Proto	Tompkins County Legislature	Chair	Present	
Will Burbank	Tompkins County Legislature	Member	Present	
James Dennis	Tompkins County Legislature	Member	Excused	
Kathy Luz Herrera	Tompkins County Legislature	Member	Present	
Nathan Shinagawa	Tompkins County Legislature	Member	Late	3:55 PM

Present: J. Mareane, County Administrator; R. DeLuca, Mental Health; L. Holmes, Office for the Aging; P. Carey, D. Bodner, Social Services; K. Schlather, Human Services Coalition; S. Martel-Moore, Human Rights Commission; A. Cole, B. Crosby, Health Department; N. Zahler, Youth Services; L. Dillon, Tompkins Community Action; S. Shackford, The Ithaca Journal

Mental Health Department

Resolution (DOC ID: 1767): Appropriation from Contingent Fund for Terminal-Pay Reimbursement - Mental Health Department

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kathy Luz Herrera, Member
SECONDER:	Will Burbank, Member
AYES:	Frank Proto, Will Burbank, Kathy Luz Herrera
EXCUSED:	James Dennis, Nathan Shinagawa

WHEREAS, during 2009, Mental Health employees terminated their employment with Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County allows for reimbursement of terminal pay to the Department through the Contingent fund, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to make the following budget appropriation:

FROM:	A1990.54400	Contingent Fund	\$ 47,581.87
TO:	A4310.51000285	Salary - Psychiatric Social Worker	\$ 1,732.01
	A4310.58800	Fringe	\$ 623.52
	A4310.51000535	Salary - Sr. Caseworker	\$ 32,071.76
	A4310.58800	Fringe	\$ 5,201.14
	A4311.51000591	Salary - Community Mental Health Nurse	\$ 5,415.24
	A4310.58800	Fringe	\$ 1,017.92
	A4311.51000591	Salary - Case Aide	\$ 1,117.85
	A4310.58800	Fringe	\$ 402.43

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Minutes Approval: January 12, 2010 (DOC ID: 1808)

RESULT:	COMMITTEE APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Kathy Luz Herrera, Member
AYES:	Frank Proto, Will Burbank, Kathy Luz Herrera
EXCUSED:	James Dennis, Nathan Shinagawa

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Report from the Chair

Mr. Proto asked if the Governor’s proposal to allow wine and liquor sales in the grocery stores would require the Health Department to check sales to minors. Ms. Cole said the Department would not have this responsibility.

Report from the County Administrator

Mr. Mareane reported on his attendance at the New York State Association of Counties Legislative Conference and noted that although there are items in the Governor’s budget proposal that cause concern, the major impact would have more affect on schools. He said discussions occurred regarding how to approach the State Legislature to ensure that if they reject the Governor’s proposal as it relates to schools the focus would not be shifted to counties.

Mr. Mareane attended two presentations, one by the current and one by the former budget director, which affirmed that if the Governor’s budget passed intact the State deficit will still grow to \$20 billion in three years. It is not possible to cut \$7 billion per year to offset the anticipated deficit.

The gas drilling issue was in the forefront of discussions at the conference. The panel discussion was well attended and Mr. Marx, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works, provided an excellent presentation on the topic. Following the discussion an open forum took place with approximately 20-30 in attendance. A wide variety of views were heard and although no consensus of what to do regarding drilling resulted, it made a strong case for carefully moving ahead.

In response to a question by Mr. Proto regarding the Health Department monitoring wells, Mr. Burbank said although it was talked about nothing specific was mentioned. Mr. Proto said the Board of Health passed a resolution opposing the added expense being passed to the County.

Mr. Proto asked about the shift to put pre-kindergarten expenses within school budgets rather than county budgets. Mr. Mareane said there were not any significant discussions. The Early Intervention program growth would be capped at two percent. He said while counties should endorse the program change, which would reduce the county burden, it is difficult to see how it would occur at the present time when schools have to deal with reductions in aid.

There are some areas being cut within the Health Department. These areas are what the State calls “non-core” services. One of these is the Medical Examiner that is proposed to be funded through the Department of Criminal Justice Services instead of Public Health. The Home Care program and the Early Intervention 3-5 transition program administration portion would also be affected by reductions.

Mr. Proto asked whether reimbursement rates for Lakeside would be affected. Mr. Mareane said the rate changes would affect county-owned nursing homes, therefore, it would not affect the County.

Mr. Burbank said Val Washington, a Deputy Director of the Divisions of Solid and Hazardous Materials, Environmental Remediation and Mineral Resources for the New York State Department of

Environmental Conservation, was a presenter at the gas drilling panel discussion. She will be responding to the comments on the dGEIS. She said the gas companies will be required to disclose the makeup of the chemical solutions used to the Department of Environmental Conservation and homeowners. The gas companies will also have to test wells close to the gas well drilling area.

Health Department

Appointment: Appointment Board of Health Consumer (DOC ID: 1786)

Ms. Cole said next month they would be bringing forward the physician position, which would fill all seats on the Board.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kathy Luz Herrera, Member
SECONDER:	Will Burbank, Member
AYES:	Frank Proto, Will Burbank, Kathy Luz Herrera
EXCUSED:	James Dennis, Nathan Shinagawa

Patrick McKee – At-Large Representative – term to expire December 31, 2015.

Resolution (DOC ID: 1787): Approval of Amended Bylaws of the Tompkins County Board of Health – Health Department

Ms. Crosby said the largest amendment was in relation to the State requirement to re-credential the Medical Director every two years.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Kathy Luz Herrera, Member
AYES:	Frank Proto, Will Burbank, Kathy Luz Herrera
EXCUSED:	James Dennis, Nathan Shinagawa

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Board of Health bylaws have been revised to reflect the appointment of the Medical Director as it applies to Diagnostic & Treatment Center regulations, and re-organized for clarity, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the bylaws of the Tompkins County Board of Health be and hereby are approved,

RESOLVED, further, That a copy of the revised bylaws shall be kept on file with the Clerk of the Legislature.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Testimony before the Joint Legislative Committee on Health Regarding the 2010-11 Executive Budget Proposal

Ms. Cole referred to the document shared with the Committee relating to the Executive Budget Proposal testimony provided by Cynthia Morrow, MD, MPH, and President of the New York State Association of County Health Officials, and noted the area of most concern is the proposed shift in

funding for Medical Examiners from an entitlement program under the New York State Department of Health to an undefined program under the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services. She said ninety percent of unattended deaths that call for the Medical Examiner are medical investigations, not criminal investigations. She is also concerned that the Medical Examiner would not want to work in the District Attorney's area, rather would want to stay in medical environment; this could cause a potential problem with recruitment. It is not known whether the funding shift would provide additional funding for the position.

Mr. Shinagawa arrived at this time.

55 Brown Road Building Update

Ms. Cole said that there are still problems associated with the replacement LEED certified flooring tiles adhering to the floor. This will extend the timeline for moving into the building.

Legislator Appointment to Board of Health (DOC ID: 1770)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Proto, Chair
SECONDER:	Kathy Luz Herrera, Member
AYES:	Frank Proto, Will Burbank, Kathy Luz Herrera, Nathan Shinagawa
EXCUSED:	James Dennis

Will Burbank, Legislator Term expires December 31, 2013.

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State Reimbursement Update

Ms. Crosby said no more reimbursement funds have been received from the State. The amount of arrears is \$800,000 with the fourth quarter claim being filed this week, adding to this amount.

Department of Social Services/Human Services Coalition

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Funding Update

Ms. Carey said the "Housing First" program, funded by a grant in the amount of \$2.43 million, has been operational since October 26th. Seventy percent of the grant is designated for the programs, and the balance funds the case management staff. Ms. Bodner said the funds are used to rapidly re-house individuals in shelters, to prevent a situation of homelessness, and housing for others who are at-risk. The program has several categories: (1) Short-term assistance that includes rental arrears, security deposits, and utility arrears; (2) Assistance for on-going rent, and (3) Case management to establish a housing-stability plan to avoid homelessness.

Within the past four months \$328,000 has been spent to assist 238 families (\$600-\$650 per person) for rental arrears. In addition, \$33,000 was expended for security deposits for 61 households, \$65,000 in utility arrears for 76 households, and \$10,000 for moving expenses. As a result, there are no more funds available for the arrears program.

For the on-going rent and case management program there are currently approximately 200 households (600-650 individuals) either being provided or in the process of receiving assistance. Initially eligibility was open, however, due to cost-projections of those currently receiving assistance, including

the step-down, \$1 million will need to be encumbered. The balance of approximately \$200,000 will be used to assist only those people in the shelter or at imminent risk of being homeless (3-day notice) through eviction. The number of cases reviewed within the past four months falling into this category is 45.

Ms. Carey said it is important to know the programs are committed to case management, how to prevent the situations clients have found themselves in, and making a plan for the future. Ms. Schlather said approximately 800 people were screened for this program. Ms. Carey said a lot of the cases are very complicated with many different things going on in their lives. The goal was to quickly get people into safe, appropriate, and affordable housing. Ms. Bodner said a benefit of the program is that due to the required assessment of housing by a case manager, problems with the housing are immediately addressed and the landlords are improving the property.

Mr. Burbank asked what the long-term effects of the program would be. Ms. Carey said the goal was to work toward long-term housing. It has helped to let people know not to wait until it was too late if they were behind on rent so that discussions with landlords could take place. In addition, informing people to contact 211 for information has been very helpful. The focus has been on prevention and to shift the way of thinking about homelessness to prevent it.

Ms. Schlather said she will be studying the demographics of those served and noted clients were located throughout the county. Ms. Carey said in the event more funding of this nature becomes available, information on how the program was designed and the outcomes would be used to refine the program manner to serve clients quickly.

Ms. Bodner said the program has enabled domestic violence victims to find safe housing quickly and that individuals with medical issues were able to find stable housing. Ms. Carey noted that many of the clients served had not been in any programs previously and had been attempting to handle the situations on their own. She said the case managers meet weekly, which has been helpful to provide coordination of services with a team approach.

Mr. Burbank asked if it was known how many individuals are homeless. Ms. Schlather said the official number from the shelters are 17-18, down from 30. The Point in Time survey of homeless individuals took place on February 4th and she will provide the information when compiled.

IACC Day Care Funding Request

The Committee was provided a brief history of the request for \$20,000 in funding for the agency. Ms. Schlather said several meetings of the group assigned to meet with the agency and IACC Daycare staff have taken place. The agency has worked on an ambitious two-year sustainability plan and are aware of the issues and making adjustments that are required to alleviate them. Ms. Carey said the agency could use funding assistance as their plans move forward. The group that has been meeting with the IACC staff are planning to continue to provide recommendations and help as much as they can.

Ms. Carey noted the agency has been very cooperative with providing the information. The sustainability plan will help to focus on particular areas that had not been a higher priority in the past.

Mr. Proto requested a written status report and a copy of the sustainability plan for the March meeting.

Human Rights Commission

Appointments to the Human Rights Commission

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Nathan Shinagawa, Member
AYES:	Frank Proto, Will Burbank, Kathy Luz Herrera, Nathan Shinagawa
EXCUSED:	James Dennis

The Committee withdrew the resume for Ms. Reistetter to determine if employment with the County made her ineligible.

The following individuals were recommended for appointment to the Human Rights Commission:

- Charles M. (Mac) Larsen – term to expire December 31, 2011
- Barbara L. Coman – term to expire December 31, 2012
- Josephine Carcich – term to expire December 31, 2012
- Joyce Muchan – term to expire December 31, 2011

Office for the Aging

Ms. Holmes announced the Foodnet “Mayors for Meals” event being held March 24th and invited members to participate in the preparation and delivery of meals to residents in their districts. She said Mr. Griffin, Director of the program, is very flexible and if it is not possible on the event date he would be happy to accommodate them at another time.

Human Services Coalition

Ms. Schlather announced the annual luncheon would be held on February 19th from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Marcia Forte. This will be the last time this event will be held in the Women’s Community Building due to demolition and reconstruction.

Youth Services

Ms. Zahler passed out the latest edition of the OJ Guide to Teen Services and Activities. The printing was paid in part by a grant from the United Way Youth and Philanthropy Initiative. They will be distributed through schools and have coupons for local businesses in the back of the publication.

Ms. Zahler announced the Drug Collection Day will take place on Saturday, March 6th, at the Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit Center located at 737 Willow Avenue. The project, enabling residents to properly dispose of unused drugs, is a collaboration of many groups throughout the County and is the first of its kind. Ms. Zahler said volunteers are still needed to assist on the actual day of the project. It was noted that sharps would not be collected at this time. Mr. Proto said Ms. Lynch will assist with press releases about the project.

Mr. Burbank thought it was a wonderful effort that was being done, yet expressed his dismay that new sealed products, such as unused needles, could not be used rather than discarded. It was suggested that he contact the Ithaca Health Alliance to see if they could be donated.

Mr. Shinagawa asked what prescription drug laws are relating to sharing unused portions of prescriptions with others. Ms. Zahler said she would try to find that information.

Tompkins Community Action

Magnolia House

Ms. Dillon, Executive Director, said she is in the process of submitting a grant application for project-based vouchers to supplement funding for a project called Magnolia House. Magnolia House will have 14 enhanced studios to provide residence for women in recovery and their children. An application was submitted to New York State Homeless Housing Assistance Program and it is anticipated funding of the \$2.7 million will be approved. Once approved for the grant, final approval by the State Comptroller's office is required. Project-based vouchers that would be attached to each unit and the grant would also provide some capital funding to assist in constructing the kitchen and smaller items (\$150,000). Magnolia House would attach to Chartwell House on Meadow Street, with an elevator and communal lobby area. The building would be three stories and have the ability to open some of the units up to become suites for larger families. Two of the fourteen units will be for a single person.

Continuum of care subcommittee had members travel to view similar programs and learned that the women in the units had lost their older children; some younger children were still residing with them.

Early Head Start

Ms. Dillon reported she was in Washington, D.C. to learn more about the Early Head Start program. The County received funding that will assist 92 families with childcare, pregnant women, and infants and toddlers throughout the County. Twenty-four of the families will be helped at the Groton Sykes Avenue location by the addition of a classroom for the babies and toddlers. The preliminary plans will also add a Rural Resource Center to the facility that would be available for use by the community.

\$1.7 million was provided for the start-up year, which will help to fund 36 home-based slots for the Child Development Council, 24 center-based slots in Groton, and 32 home-based slots for Tompkins Community Action use. Ms. Dillon said the funding now allows assistance to families for a longer period of time as the child grows.

Housing First

Tompkins Community Action is responsible for the medium- and short-term rental assistance portion of the Housing First program.

HEAP

To date there have been approximately 800 cases. Last year over 900 families were assisted, which was due in part to extra benefits made available.

Job Skills Training Program

The program has fourteen 18 to 24 year-old youth working in the Early Childhood, Energy Services, and IT Programs as well as going to school. One is signed up for the pre-construction certificate program, one has been hired to work for the agency as well. This program is supported by Community Service Block Grant funding. It is hoped that the funding can be extended beyond one year to provide stipends for the youth.

After School Programs

Ms. Dillon expressed concern for the after school programs and primary school programs. The after school programs at Boynton and DeWitt Middle Schools, shown on the State budget as Advantage After School, have been zeroed out in the Governor's budget proposal. These programs presently are filled to capacity and cuts would affect 76 students at Boynton and 54 at DeWitt. The programs include pregnancy prevention, wrap-around sports and school clubs, assist with homework help, etc. She has been looking into the possibility of reaching out to regional partners to apply for funding services in order to maintain them.

In response to Mr. Burbank's question on staffing for Magnolia House, Ms. Dillon said it would require the addition of 2-3 staff, and that although not a 24/7 staffed facility she is considering 24/7 staffing for the first six months. In addition, she said the facility would be secure from the outside as well as each unit.

Ms. Carey said as part of the continuum of care, with the assumption that some of the cases would be open child protective services cases, services would be determined for the clients.

Ms. Dillon said that they are working with NYSEERDA for the energy piece of the construction and are installing solar hot water system for use in both units. Once completed it is estimated the annual cost for hot water would be \$500.

Committee Business

Legislature appointments to Greater Ithaca Activities Center Board and Recreation Partnership and Liaison Assignments

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Nathan Shinagawa, Member
AYES:	Frank Proto, Will Burbank, Kathy Luz Herrera, Nathan Shinagawa
EXCUSED:	James Dennis

Greater Ithaca Activities Board – Nathan Shinagawa - Term expires December 31, 2011

Recreation Partnership – Frank Proto – Term expires December 31, 2011

Human Services Committee Liaison Assignments (Non-Voting)

Alcohol and Drug Council of Tompkins County – Kathy Luz Herrera

Community Mental Health Services Board – Will Burbank

Health Planning Council – Frank Proto

Homeless and Housing Task Force – Will Burbank

Tompkins Community Action – Kathy Luz Herrera

Tompkins County Youth Services Board – Kathy Luz Herrera

Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk