

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2007 – 3:00 P.M.
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present: N. Shinagawa, Chair (3:25 p.m.), M. Sigler, Vice Chair, F. Proto, M. Robertson (3:10 p.m.), M. Koplinka-Loehr

Staff: A. Cole, B. Grinnell-Crosby, T. Schiele, S. Connors, S. Allinger, T. Lyczko, F. Croteau, Health Department; M. Lynch, Public Information Officer; N. Zook, Youth Services; P. Carey, Commissioner of Social Services; L. Holmes, Office for the Aging; N. Burston, Health Planning Council; J. Wood, County Attorney, K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

Vice Chair Sigler called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Addition to and Deletions from the Agenda

There were no additions to or deletions from the agenda at this time. [Later in the meeting Chair Shinagawa added the topic of the proposed T-19 Local Law.]

Health Department

Extension of Transportation Contract with Birnie Bus Service

Ms. Allinger informed the Committee of a request to extend the present contract with the Birnie Bus Service for pre-school and early intervention transportation. The present contract is for a three-year period, with an option to extend for another two-years. Presently the County pays \$75.86 per child, per day for transportation, with the total 2005-2006 (school year) costs of \$677,657.67. Additionally, Ms. Allinger explained the extension would provide time to explore alternative means of transportation for the children to their programs.

Mr. Proto inquired whether previous safety concerns regarding the present provider had been resolved. Ms. Allinger stated all concerns had been resolved, with minimal problems over the course of the contract. She also reported that the buses now have aides on board, which was part of the significant increase from \$53 per day per child to \$71 per day per child at the start of the contract period. Also, she reported the reimbursement for the transportation is minimal at \$12 per child per day. At this time, the contract is running at nine percent over the cost of last year due to increased insurance and fuel costs.

Following the discussion it was the sense of the Committee to pursue the two-year extension of the present contract with Birnie Bus Services.

Ms. Robertson arrived at this time.

**RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZATION TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF TOBACCO
FREE ZONES AROUND ALL COUNTY FACILITIES**

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Ms. Robertson, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

Ms. Connors introduced Mr. Shiele who operates the Tobacco-Free Tompkins Project, an initiative sponsored by the New York State Department for Health Prevention Control Program. The Tobacco-Free Zone program, designed to provide smoke/tobacco-free entrance and egress at businesses, began in July 2006, with 45 businesses voluntarily registering for the program. Ms. Cole, Health Department Director registered for the program, and following discussions with Ms. Fitzpatrick, Commissioner of Personnel, the desire to extend the initiative to County buildings has been expressed. Ms. Fitzpatrick has completed necessary steps to endorse this initiative and is now coming forward to the Legislature for support.

A discussion occurred during which it was noted that the program as designed is voluntary and does not have any form of enforcement or regulations. It was noted that the Tompkins County Public Library has also volunteered to participate and that the Mental Health Building presently has a seventy-five foot tobacco-free zone to reduce client smoking immediately outside the building. Mr. Proto stated he had not supported the initiative at the Board of Health and will not do so at the Committee. He believes the initiative suggests that smokers do not have the same rights as others. He believes that if there is to be a restriction the County should provide an area where smokers may go to smoke without any safety concerns.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 3 (Legislators Koplinka-Loehr, Robertson, and Sigler; Noes – 1 (Legislator Proto); Excused – 1 (Legislator Shinagawa). MOTION APPROVED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Health Department in July 2006 introduced the Tobacco Free Zone program in part as a voluntary tool to protect the health and safety of County employees, residents and visitors by improving air quality of building entryways and outdoor areas frequented by the public, and

WHEREAS, Local Law No. 6 of 1990 implemented smoking restrictions reflecting the Board of Representative's concern for the health and safety of County employees and members of the general public that use County-owned or -occupied buildings and vehicles, and

WHEREAS, Local Law No. 3 of 2003 implemented smoking restrictions designed to protect the health and safety of County residents by improving indoor air quality in bars, restaurants and places of employment, and

WHEREAS, a Report of the Surgeon General released on June 27, 2006, cites “massive and conclusive scientific evidence” that “there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke,” and that “exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer,” and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive survey of Tompkins County residents conducted in June 2006 shows that an overwhelming majority of Tompkins County adults (92.7%) consider exposure to secondhand smoke to be harmful, and

WHEREAS, the same June 2006 survey shows that 85.6% of Tompkins County adults favor restricting to certain areas, or not allowing at all smoking in the area around public building entryways in Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, a Tobacco Free Zone, which is intended to designate an outdoor area where the public will not be exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke, may be used to clearly demonstrate a preference for smoking restrictions to enhance public safety and comfort, and

WHEREAS, comprehensive efforts to further reduce the social and economic burden of tobacco use in Tompkins County must include reducing the initiation of tobacco use among youth, and

WHEREAS, while parents and schools can have a major role in youth smoking prevention, exposure to tobacco use outside of home and school has been shown to greatly influence youth tobacco use, and

WHEREAS, reducing smoking in areas around public building entryways, doors and common areas will both reduce the exposure of all individuals to harmful secondhand tobacco smoke and reduce youth exposure to common and casual tobacco use, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Tompkins County Board of Health, and the Health and Human Services and Personnel Committees, That the Tompkins County Legislature supports the Health Department initiative to designate voluntary Tobacco Free Zones at buildings owned or occupied by the County for the purpose of conducting County business, or as a workplace for County employees,

RESOLVED, further, That County Department Heads shall, upon due consideration of this resolution and the best interest of the County, its employees and citizens, take action as seems appropriate in designating Tobacco Free Zones at their worksites,

RESOLVED, further, That the Commissioner of Personnel or her designee shall respond to inquiries pertaining to the Tobacco Free Zones at County workplaces and worksites,

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Update on the Health and Safety Program

Ms. Cole referred to the material included in the agenda packet related to Mr. Croteau's position. She reiterated that the position was formerly funded in a manner to receive State aid, however, the funding is no longer available, causing a shortfall of approximately \$16,000. Ms. Cole had been asked to suggest various options to cover the shortfall; she has included suggestions in the material received by the Committee.

Mr. Shinagawa arrived at this time.

A discussion followed regarding the recommendations as well as the cost benefits as a result of Mr. Croteau's position. It was noted that over the course of the past 23+ years, the position has assisted in a reduction of ergonomic injuries as well as elimination of fines for safety issues. The following items were also noted during the discussion:

- Mr. Proto noted the savings realized by the County as a result of the position. He would like to see the County continue to fully fund the position.
- Ms. Cole would prefer to see it continued to be funded through the fringe benefit account line, however, Mr. Squires has indicated it does not have enough reserve to support the position at this time.
- Mr. Koplinka-Loehr said of the options provided he would like inquire about the feasibility of the County charge municipalities for hearing screening; offer fit testing to community agencies as a fee for service; and reduce the position from 35 hours per week to 30 hours per week. He did not feel the Administrative Assistant should be eliminated from this department.
- Mr. Proto suggested contacting municipalities for their response to a request to charge a fee for Mr. Croteau's service. He also would like to have considered increasing the department budget in the required amount to fully fund the position.
- Mr. Croteau said if his position were decreased by five hours per week he would reprioritize tasks, particularly for municipal hearing testing and providing safety training to other municipalities.
- Ms. Robertson was in agreement that municipalities and other agencies be contacted to determine their willingness to pay for Mr. Croteau's services.
- Mr. Shinagawa agreed that municipalities should be contacted; he also would like to see if the required funds could be fit within the Health Department budget for 2008.

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT PREVENTIVE DENTAL SERVICES GRANT AND ASSOCIATED BUDGET

**ADJUSTMENT – HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICE**

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Ms. Robertson, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

The Committee was informed this grant had originally been applied for in 2005, however, notification of the grant award was just recently received. The original grant for the dental program expires March 31st. This grant award will provide primarily the same coverage as the previous grant, however, the target clientele is to be pregnant women and pre-school children. A new employee will be hired to provide outreach for the specified target group, while Ms. Stevenson, the present employee working on dental programs, will continue to work with school-age children. Ms. Carey indicated that she believes that the position will continue to be funded through Medicaid funding upon State review of the benefits of the program. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Proto regarding previous dental care coverage provided by Medicaid, Ms. Carey indicated the State has eliminated the inequities and errors in their funding areas to only provide minimal services. When an apparent need for dental care services not covered is required, Ms. Stevenson acts as an client advocate to encourage the dental care be provided to the client.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Health Department has been awarded a \$42,700 grant by New York State Department of Health to support a program to be managed by the Tompkins County Department of Social Services’ to enhance access to dental care for pregnant women, young children and children with special health care needs as well as to individuals facing significant psychosocial and cultural barriers to dental health care in Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, this grant will expand the already successful dental case manager services implemented under the Department of Health grant “Improving Health Care Access and Service Delivery for Children and Youth, Component B: Innovative Dental Service Delivery Models” and

RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Health and Human Service Committee, That the Health Department is authorized to accept and contract said funds to the Department of Social Services, and be it further

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is authorized to make the following budget adjustment on his books:

REVENUE	A4010.43489	Other State Grants	\$42,700
APPROPRIATION	A4010.54442	Professional Service Fees	\$42,700

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T-19 Draft Local Law

Mr. Wood, County Attorney, provided a draft of the proposed Local Law that would increase the legal age of tobacco product sales to 19. He explained the law is very much like the existing law stipulating the age of 18 for the purchase of tobacco products. The amendments would require specific obligations for local retailers regarding sales of tobacco products, would require the Health Department to provide enforcement of the new law, and would require the County Attorney to prosecute offenders. In addition, the cost of revising all appropriate signage to be posted at points of purchase would be the responsibility of the County. Mr. Wood provided an explanation of how the enforcement process would occur in relation to the law. This local law will be reviewed by the Board of Health at its meeting on Tuesday, March 13. Mr. Shinagawa anticipates this item to be included at the next Health and Human

Services Committee meeting. *Mr. Proto requested information of how many violations of the present law there have been recently; Mr. Koplinka-Loehr would like to have financial projections of the total expense this local law would require to enact.*

Department of Social Services

Journal of the American Dental Association Article on Tompkins County Dental Case Management

Ms. Carey referred to an upcoming article referring success of the Tompkins County Dental Case Management program, now in its third year. Ms. Carey said she is very pleased with how the program has been functioning.

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING 1.0 FTE POSITION AT NO LOCAL COST TO IMPROVE PRE-NATAL AND TODDLER ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Proto, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

Ms. Carey reported the State is encouraging municipalities to utilize the Medicaid cap and increase staff according to need. This position is to provide much the same services as the County Dental Case Management program, but specifically targets preschool children. Ms. Carey spoke of the statistics that point to better lifetime-health when individuals receive proper dental care at a young age. A friendly amendment was requested by Mr. Proto to add language indicating the position is contingent upon grant funding. It was noted this is one year of a three-year grant; it is required to resubmit annually.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 0; Temporarily out of room – 1 (Legislator Proto). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Department of Public Health has been awarded a Preventive Dental grant by the New York State Department of Health on the strength of an application describing a case management program targeting infants and toddlers to be run by the Department of Social Services, and

WHEREAS, the state-approved program calls for a dedicated Senior Social Welfare Examiner to staff the program and the Department has a vacant, unfunded position in that title on the books, and

WHEREAS, the Department hopes to be given spending authority and to begin staffing the program as of May 1st, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget and Capital Committees, That effective May 1, 2007, the Department of Social Services’ vacant, unfunded, full-time (35-hour) Senior Social Welfare Examiner position #1061 be reactivated;

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is authorized to make the following pro-rated 2007 budget adjustments to reflect both the additional spending authority and the offsetting revenue identified above for the final eight months of the year:

Social Services Adjustments

REVENUE:	A6010.41894	Social Services Charges	\$38,349
APPROP:	A6010.51000.558	Salary – Sr. Social Welfare Examiner	\$27,589
	A6010.58800	Fringes	\$10,760

RESOLVED, further, the positions are contingent on receipt of grant funding.

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RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING ADDITION OF 3.0 FTE POSITIONS AT NO LOCAL COST TO IMPROVE BOTH HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND RESOURCE RECOVERY – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Proto, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

Ms. Carey reported that following her attendance at the New York Public Welfare Association in Albany, a meeting was held with Commissioner of Medicaid Deborah Bachrach. Ms. Bachrach spoke of the need for counties to aggressively increase their Medicaid outreach. Following the meeting a letter was received indicating there are 10,000 eligible residents in the county who are not receiving benefits. She recommended that Commissioners hire adequate staff to locate eligible residents and provide services to them. Ms. Carey said at the present time there are approximately 9,000 residents on Medicaid, with current employee caseloads at 400 for community Medicaid and 1,200 per worker for nursing home/long-term care Medicaid. The outreach initiative will also require additional application processing. Ms. Carey said there will be changes in regulations to amend the six-month re-certification process requirement of the client coming to the office to an annual process; however, the caseworker will still be required to verify income and alien-status via electronic checks. These positions will be funded through Medicaid. Mr. Koplinka-Loehr asked if the outreach completed by outside agencies would be affected and was informed the State will increase their outreach contracts with the agencies for facilitated enrollment. Ms. Carey said facilitated enrollment is a process designed to assist the client in completion of application forms as well as coordination of documentation required to certify.

With regard to the resource recovery component, Ms. Carey stressed that the department carefully looks at what resources (estates, property, etc.) may be recovered to offset the Medicaid costs; however, it is done in a manner that does not unnecessarily evict individuals or put their safety in jeopardy by doing so. The recovery aspect is work to be completed by the paralegal.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, New York State has announced changes in the Medicaid program which will significantly increase caseloads, add to the average workload per case, and establish a new emphasis on resource recovery, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services believes it can meet these challenges through the addition of three new staff to its Medicaid Division, and

WHEREAS, the Department will receive a mix of Federal and State reimbursement which, combined, will cover 100 percent of the additional administrative costs associated with these new positions, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget and Capital Committees, That effective April 1, 2007, the Department of Social Services' vacant, unfunded, full-time (35-hour) Social Welfare Examiner position #792 be reactivated; and that a new, full-time position (35-hour) position in the Social Welfare Examiner title be created in that Department, together with a new, full-time (35-hour) Paralegal Aide position.

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is authorized to make the following pro-rated 2007 budget adjustments to reflect both the additional spending authority and the offsetting revenue identified above:

Social Services Adjustments

REVENUE:	A6010.44601	Federal – Medicaid	\$57,447
	A6010.43602	State – Medicaid	\$57,446
APPROP:	A6010.51000.565	Salary – Social Welfare Examiner	\$56,037

A6010.51000.619	Salary – Paralegal Aide	\$26,620
A6010.58800	Fringes	\$32,236

RESOLVED, further, the position is contingent on receipt of Medicaid funding.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Explanation: Governor Spitzer and Acting State Department of Health Commissioner Daines have announced plans to revamp and revitalize Health Insurance programs overseen by DOH. Their goals are to maximize enrollment in both Medicaid and Family Health Plus and to make it easier for clients to maintain their coverage. At the same time, local districts will be expected to do more work confirming ongoing eligibility by performing online database matches, as well as doing more to recover resources from applicants and their families, where appropriate. TCDSS believes it will need 3.0 new FTEs (two Social Welfare Examiners and a Paralegal Aide) to respond to these changes effectively. Fortunately, the Medicaid Cap guarantees that all new or increased costs associated with Medicaid administration that are not covered by Federal reimbursement will be paid by New York State.

RESOLUTION NO. - BUDGET ADJUSTMENT SUPPORTING INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT TO NON-COMPLIANT FAMILIES AT NO LOCAL COST – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

MOVED by Mr. Sigler, seconded by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

Ms. Carey explained the resolution is a result of the State’s concern regarding potential Federal sanctions relating to the Welfare to Work legislation. At this time, the State has been able to delay any sanctions for the current year and desires to determine how to increase the employment levels of welfare benefit recipients to the mandated fifty percent. As a result the State will provide short-term funding for a position to assist in determining what are the barriers for individuals able to work but do not. Ms. Carey has contacted a former employee who is familiar with the County operations to assist in this project. She is confident that although it is a short period, sufficient information will be obtained to increase the County’s work rate from the present twenty-nine to thirty percent to the mandated fifty percent. Ms. Carey indicated often clients are provided appropriate tools for employment but do not act in the required timeframe to complete the process.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes –0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, New York State has recently awarded the Department of Social Services \$27,685 to fully fund a short-term, experimental program targeting Temporary Assistance recipient families whose members have failed to comply with work requirements, and

WHEREAS, the approved plan features intensive case management services provided by a family services caseworker for a four-month period, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget and Capital Committees, That the Department of Social Services’ vacant, unfunded, full-time (35-hour) Caseworker position #792 be activated and filled from March 1st through June 30th,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is authorized to make the following pro-rated 2007 budget adjustments to reflect both the additional spending authority and the offsetting revenue identified above:

Social Services Adjustments

REVENUE:	A6010.44651	Federal – TANF	\$27,685
APPROP:	A6010.51000.562	Salary – Caseworker	\$15,345
	A6010.58800	Fringes	\$5,985
	A6010.54424	Automobile Rental	\$5,545

A6010.54306

Automotive Supplies

\$810

RESOLVED, further, the position is contingent on receipt of State funding.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST BIDS AND CHOOSE EMERGENCY HOME FURNISHINGS VENDOR – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

MOVED by Mr. Sigler, seconded by Ms. Robertson, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. Mr. Proto asked if the department utilizes donations received and was informed that although at times donations are received and immediately distributed as best as possible, the department does not have the ability to store furnishings. Mr. Proto suggested that the State contract be examined as one alternative, noting the Dormitory Authority often has excess furniture available.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services spends approximately \$40,000 annually on emergency purchases of certain home furnishings for client families, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services and Purchasing Department have agreed it is not in the county's interest to renew the contract with the previous vendor, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Department of Social Services, with the assistance of the Purchasing Department, is authorized to solicit bids for provision and delivery of these goods.

RESOLVED, further, That the Department of Finance is authorized to award the emergency home furnishings contract as per County fiscal policy.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST BIDS AND CHOOSE SECURITY SYSTEM UPGRADE AND ANNUAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE VENDOR – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

It was MOVED by Mr. Sigler, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously approved by voice vote by members, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Human Services Building's Secure Access System software, control panel interfaces, and associated firmware need to be upgraded in order to assure uninterrupted, reliable service, to the building and its occupants, and

WHEREAS, it will be prudent to have the provider of this upgrade also accept responsibility for providing preventive maintenance for the system, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services has funding for both the upgrade and the preventive maintenance agreement in its 2007 budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Department of Social Services, with the assistance of the Purchasing Department, is authorized to solicit bids for the security system upgrade and a preventive maintenance agreement for the system.

RESOLVED, further, That the Department of Finance is authorized to award the contract for these as per county fiscal policy.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Explanation: The Human Services Building's security access system of sensors, card swipes, keypads, and magnetic door locks need to be upgraded. The control software that operates and monitors the hardware components is no longer supported, and is incompatible with the replacement parts that are presently available for the system's components. The Department of Social Services has paid for the annual Preventive Maintenance agreement for the vendor chosen by the county when the HSB was first constructed. Because the cost of the system upgrade is high enough that the county's fiscal policy requires that work be put out to bid, DSS and the Purchasing Department have agreed to bundle the PM agreement with the upgrade. DSS' approved 2007 budget included \$15,000 for the upgrade and \$3350 for preventive maintenance.

Ms. Robertson requested that a presentation regarding homeless individuals be provided to the Committee in the next several months. She was informed a quarterly report would be provided.

Youth Services

Review of 2006 Results from Contracted Agencies

Ms. Zook reviewed sample 2006 results from contracted agencies, municipalities, and Recreation Partnership and highlighted the following:

- Primary School Family Support (TCA) – primarily families in Dryden and Groton are participating and have a waiting list of five or six families for the program. As a result, there may be an evaluation process for this program.
- Teen Pregnancy – the number of teen pregnancies is reduced; however, there is an increase in the number of teens requesting services or homeless.
- Homeless Street Count Survey – the survey was completed recently; information is being compiled and it is hoped to have it complete by April.
- Summer Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) – Jobs for Teens – there has been an increase in funding for summer employment. A notice of the program will be mailed to all families receiving TANF services.

Notification of Grant Submission – Drug Free Communities Support Program

Ms. Zook informed the Committee this is a request for the third year of a five-year grant. Previous years' work included an extensive survey completed at Ithaca Middle and High Schools; it is hoped that subsequent funding will allow a broader look at the topics covered to date. It is hoped that \$100,000 will be awarded that will assist with working with the Health Department Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention programs.

Appointments

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously approved by voice vote by members, to recommend approval of the following appointments to the full Legislature:

Youth Services Board

Jane Powers – At Large – Term to expire December 31, 2008

Bernice Yarosh – At Large – Term to expire December 31, 2008

Office for the Aging

Update on Lakeside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Ms. Holmes reported the official notification from New York State on the closure of Lakeside has been received by Mr. Deptula. Two weeks ago, Mr. Deptula and others went to speak to New York State Department of Health officials and presented them with an updated plan for Lakeside that addresses concerns in the Berger Commission report point-by-point, encompassing each stipulation. Ms. Holmes said Mr. Deptula stated the plan was well received by the Department of Health, with the only area not meeting all the stipulations is that Lakeside's plan calls for a reduction in skilled nursing beds rather than an elimination of all of them. The State Health Department is more interested in information detailing the actual community need for skilled nursing beds. There will be a meeting at noon of the local working group on March 12th to discuss further what can be done to provide skilled nursing bed information. In response to a question by Mr. Proto about what to provide, particularly since the report from Peregrine clearly shows the need for the nursing home beds, Mr. Shinagawa said other counties do not have a history of keeping residents in their homes as long as possible. Ms. Carey said the State's view is that there may be individuals in nursing care facilities who can be better served in other programs; there is a need to evaluate and determine that individuals are best served in a nursing home and that simply having all beds full does not signify a need.

Mr. Proto said if the State wants to keep people in their homes as long as possible would it be possible to request the State provide assistance in increasing home health aide salaries to do so. It was noted it may be possible to do so. It was suggested that perhaps a resolution be written to address this topic, with a copy going to New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) as well.

Ms. Robertson said at Tompkins Cortland Community College the nursing program does not have the ability to increase the number of nursing students, because presently there is not enough room for educational placement in hospitals.

Ms. Holmes spoke of an assessment having been done prior to Mr. Deptula's meeting with the State Department of Health. As part of the revised plan Lakeside has done a reassessment of all current residents, that indicated that sixty residents would be eligible to use an assisted living program which is Medicaid eligible, leaving the need for between 80 – 120 skilled nursing beds.

Approval of Minutes of February 7 and 20, 2007

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Proto, and unanimously approved by voice vote by members, to accept the minutes of February 7 and 20, 2007, as submitted.

Chair's Report

Goals

Mr. Shinagawa provided revised goals to the Committee and reviewed the material. Items were added to reflect work to be completed by the Health Department, Youth Services, and Office for the Aging.

T-19

Mr. Shinagawa indicated he would like to discuss the T-19 initiative at the March 21st meeting. Ms. Robertson indicated she would need to be excused for the March 21st meeting, as she will be out of town.

Recreation Partnership Update

Mr. Proto spoke of a recent retreat of the Recreation Partnership Board, which was a very well attended four-hour retreat with an excellent facilitator. The goal of the retreat was to plan the development of a revised Recreation Partnership Agreement. A resolution was approved indicating that the revised draft will be completed by May 2007. The Recreation Partnership will meet again on the 14th for a work session on the agreement. Mr. Proto also reported that Dominic Frongillo was voted as Chair of the Board. Mr. Proto hopes a draft would be available in April for the Committee's review.

Mr. Proto reported there were concerns regarding program participation, including what type of program works best in each community, the idea of participation by several municipalities in a program, and the feasibility of additional utilization of school district facilities for programs.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr spoke of the importance of determining whether the Legislature will desire to continue its participation in the Recreation Partnership. Mr. Proto spoke of how the Recreation Partnership is the epitome of municipal cooperation. He will report back to the Committee regarding the follow-up meeting and will provide municipalities desired level of participation. At this time there are no municipalities desiring to leave the partnership.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk