

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2009 – 3:30 P.M.
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

Approved 11-10-09

Present: F. Proto, Chairman; M. Robertson; W. Burbank; G. Stevenson
Excused: T. Randall
Staff: P. Carey, Department of Social Services; N. Zahler, Youth Services; A. Cole, A. Hartwig, C. Chase, E. Cameron, Health Department; R. DeLuca, Mental Health; J. Mareane, P. Younger, K. Sutherland, County Administration; K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk
Guests: Tammy Zuccala, Nancy Stewart, IACC Day Care; Stacey Shackford, *The Ithaca Journal*

Call to Order

Chairman Proto called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Proto announced that later in the meeting the Committee would be introduced to a representative of the New York Department of State who is involved with the Health Benefits Consortium.

Approval of the Minutes of September 8 and 29, 2009

It was MOVED by Mr. Burbank, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of September 29, 2009, as presented. MINUTES APPROVED.

It was MOVED by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Burbank, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of September 8, 2009, as presented. MINUTES APPROVED.

Report from the Committee Chair

Mr. Proto asked for a report regarding the rescheduling of seasonal flu clinics. He also noted there was an article in the newspaper relating to the dGEIS for gas drilling operations, which noted the State may require local Health Departments to monitor wells during hydrofracking operations.

Report from the County Administrator

Mr. Mareane did not have a report.

Health Department

It was MOVED by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Ms. Robertson, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature. In response to Ms. Robertson's question, Ms. Cole said the over-target request for a sanitarian is to replace this position. *A request for the number of Public Health Sanitarians was made.* [This question was answered later in the meeting.] A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Legislator Randall). RESOLUTION APPROVED.

RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND – TERMINAL-PAY REIMBURSEMENT – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Health Department had a Public Health Sanitarian resign effective September 11, 2009, and

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

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

FROM:	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$1,159
TO:	A4090.51000595	Public Health Sanitarian	\$ 852
	A4090.58800	Fringes	\$ 307

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Introduction of Bioterrorism Coordinator

Ms. Cole, Public Health Director, introduced Adam Hartwig, who has filled the Bioterrorism Coordinator position for the County.

Update on Seasonal Flu Clinics and H1N1 Vaccine

Ms. Cole reported at this time the Health Department does not have any seasonal flu vaccine and it is unknown when it would be received. When received the clinics will continue from the point the vaccine ran out. It is estimated that one-half of the anticipated vaccinations are complete.

The H1N1 (Swine Flu) vaccine is starting to be delivered and at this time and the County has received the nasal mist version as well as one delivery of injection vaccine (4-5 doses). The first group to receive the vaccine is health care workers and first responders. Appropriate staff were notified and a clinic was held last week with two more scheduled for this week and next.

Weekly conference calls are continuing with the State regarding H1N1 and at this time it is unknown whether there will be any reimbursement for the additional work required due to the pandemic.

Ms. Cole spoke of the regulations that certain workers are required to receive the available vaccine by November 30th. This requirement is causing problems throughout the State due to shortages and concern that it is a requirement. County staff has been receiving the vaccinations, with ninety percent having received the seasonal flu and a portion have already received the H1N1 mist vaccine. It was noted the mist is appropriate for individuals between the ages of 2 and 49, who are not pregnant and are healthy. The vaccine approval standard for the H1N1 vaccine is the same as for the seasonal vaccine and has undergone clinical trials.

Mr. Burbank spoke of hearing of a study that indicated individuals who had received a seasonal flu vaccine would have a more severe case of H1N1 than those not receiving the vaccination. Ms. Cole said the study is from Canada and it has not been confirmed that the information is valid.

Ms. Robertson asked about the concern health care workers have over the required vaccine and was informed the State included the requirement as part of the intent to keep health care workers from passing H1N1 on to their patients. In response to a question of H1N1 cases in Tompkins County, Ms. Cole said it is not known since they are no longer tracking cases.

Temporary Food Service Permits

Ms. Cameron reviewed an information sheet provided to the Committee regarding temporary food service permit requirements. This information was developed to provide assistance to individuals planning events with privately-prepared food. It was noted that 300 temporary food permits have been issued to date in 2009.

The purpose of the permit process is to be able to know where the food is prepared to provide adequate

information should there be a health-related problem following an event. To date, they have not fined individuals or groups for lack of permit. Mr. Stevenson spoke of the Health Department's providing information and training regarding appropriate food preparation to the fire station, which has been well received and appreciated.

Public Health Sanitarians

At this time the Committee was informed there are 7.65 FTE Public Health Sanitarians (split between 11 individuals), and 4 Senior Public Health Sanitarians.

Well Monitoring

Ms. Cole said although there have been comments about having local Health Departments conduct well monitoring during hydrofracking operations, nothing has been received from the State at this time. It was also noted that if the State required local well monitoring, it could result in fees staying within the State's General Fund. Ms. Robertson expressed an interest in reviewing the newspaper article regarding the requirement for having local Health Departments conduct the well monitoring and providing comments to the State prior to the November 30th deadline.

Introduction of Department of State Staff

Ms. Myra Fedyniak, a representative of the New York State Department of State's Shared Municipal Services Incentive Division, was introduced to the Committee. Ms. Fedyniak worked closely with the County during the development of the Health Benefits Consortium. Ms. Fedyniak is seeking feedback on the program and other potential areas for shared services. It was noted the County received a \$250,000 grant from the State that covered the cost of the consultant during the development process of the Health Benefits Consortium.

Mr. Proto suggested the possibility of gas-well monitoring as a possible shared service with the State.

Department of Social Services

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Burbank, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION APPROVED.

**RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT WHEELS FOR WORK GRANT FROM
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY
ASSISTANCE (OTDA) – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, assisting eligible county residents to maintain if not increase their self-sufficiency through employment is a priority for the Department of Social Services, and

WHEREAS, lack of reliable transportation and ineligibility for access to financing to acquire said vehicles are frequently encountered obstacles to self-sufficiency, and

WHEREAS, the Department submitted a "Wheels for Work" application to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's Bureau of Housing and Shelter services to fund a subsidized car-loan program through two local credit unions, and

WHEREAS, the Department has received a notice of award from OTDA for \$140,000 in 100% Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) financing over a 12-month period beginning October 1st of this year (with equal additional funding available annually for up to a total of 3.5 years), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and the Budget, Capital, and Finance Committees, That the Department of Social Services is authorized to accept the award and accordingly contract with its partner agencies as per the state-approved program plan and budget,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is authorized to make the following adjustments to the Social Services' 2009 budget:

Appropriation: 6010.54400	Program	\$140,000
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Revenue: 6010.44610 Fed: DSS Admin \$140,000

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RESOLVED, further, That the following adjustments be made to the Social Services' 2010 budget:

Appropriation: 6010.54400 Program \$140,000

Revenue: 6010.44610 Fed: DSS Admin \$140,000

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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It was **MOVED** by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Burbank, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature. Mr. Proto explained this is a revision of a previous resolution regarding the pilot program for rural van service. Due to State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA) requirements, a determination was made that Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) could not support the pilot at this time and it was decided to contract with Ithaca Dispatch, Inc.

This program would be a two-year pilot to provide transportation to work for rural Department of Social Services clientele in the Enfield/Newfield areas. Clients would subscribe to the service, be picked up and delivered to downtown Ithaca where they could then ride a TCAT bus to their place of employment. In the event multiple individuals work for the same company it could be arranged to take them directly to work.

The pilot program information would provide statistical information to TCAT regarding the number of individuals requiring transportation and the time periods involved. This information could be used by TCAT for future planning to determine if a route in the area would be financially feasible. In addition, the pilot would address the viability of using a similar program in other areas of the County. Ms. Carey said the clients would also be provided information of other programs, including one that provides assistance for vehicle repairs.

Mr. Stevenson asked if there is a screening process to determine the clients are in fact using the transportation program for work purposes. Ms. Carey stated the Department already has a screening process in place for their clientele and it would be expanded to this program.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Legislator Randall). **RESOLUTION APPROVED.**

RESOLUTION NO. – AWARD OF RURAL SUBSCRIPTION VAN SERVICE PROPOSAL TO ITHACA DISPATCH, INC. – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Department of Social Services has identified a need to develop flexible rural transportation service to provide low-income rural residents with improved access to employment and other services, and

WHEREAS, the Rural Subscription Service is initially a pilot project in the Towns of Enfield and Newfield, which will be evaluated to advise the County of lessons learned for expanding service to other rural towns, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County duly advertised and solicited a request for proposals (RFP 09-04) for an operator to operate a demand-responsive rural service, to provide transportation for persons in rural locations not served by TCAT fixed-route service, and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2009, the County received only one proposal to operate rural demand-responsive service in the Towns of Enfield and Newfield from Ithaca Dispatch, Inc., to contract with the County at the following prices for the first year with subsequent years to be negotiated:

Contract Price: \$60 per revenue hour
Fuel escalation Clause Increase \$1.00 per hour for each \$.25 increase in fuel price above a baseline of \$2.25 per gallon, as determined by the Energy Information Administration average for Upstate New York.

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WHEREAS, the prices were reviewed, found acceptable, and determined to be within the budget estimate by Department staff, and

WHEREAS, Rural Subscription Service will be funded with Federal Transit Administration Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute grants NY-37-X053 and NY-90-X606, Section 5317 New Freedom grant NY-90-X608 and NYSDOT Community Solutions for Transportation Grants Years 7 and 8 up to \$275,000 for one year, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendations of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature awards the Rural Subscription Service proposal to Ithaca Dispatch, Inc., with the term of the contract to be two years, with an opportunity for three subsequent one-year renewals, subject to annual approval of funding by the County,

RESOLVED, further, That the Contracts Coordinator is authorized to execute an agreement with Ithaca Dispatch, Inc., on behalf of the County,

RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director is authorized to make payments from the Transportation Grant account 5631.54425 Service Contracts for this contract,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Department of Social Services staff is authorized to provide technical assistance to Ithaca Dispatch, Inc., to assist the operator to comply with Federal and State regulations, in order to successfully implement the scope of services in the Rural Subscription Service proposal.

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Office for the Aging

It was MOVED by Mr. Burbank, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve and submit the following budget adjustment to the full Legislature. ADJUSTMENT APPROVED.

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Appropriation Account</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
6793.44772	Federal Revenue	\$2,901	6793.51000559	Salary
6793.44772	Federal Revenue	\$1,099	6793.54880	Fringes
6793.44772	Federal Revenue	\$2,000	6793.54491	Subcontract

Explanation: Federal revenue increase for Aging Services Specialists will free up County money in HIICAP program; Federal revenue increase in HIICAP program; Federal revenue increase permits an increase in subcontract for HIICAP program.

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Youth Services

It was MOVED by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Burbank, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature. Ms. Zahler explained the grant would allow the work to begin in 2009 and extend into 2010. This grant is a continuation of previous grant awards, allowing another five years to continue the work on countywide prevention programs. She noted a survey of youth indicated an increase in pharmaceutical prescription abuse, which would now be added to prevention programs including tobacco and marijuana use. In the last year a working relationship was developed with Groton and Trumansburg School Districts, who will partner with the Department for the educational piece of the programs. Work with the grant will include outreach with parents to talk to their children about abuse issues. Ms. Zahler said the Groton School District has planned a community-wide event to bring attention to the sectors affecting their community.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Legislator Randall). RESOLUTION APPROVED.

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RESOLUTION NO. – ACCEPTANCE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION GRANT – YOUTH SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Youth Services Department is the fiscal and administrative agent for the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth, and

WHEREAS, the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth submitted a competitive application for Federal funds available through the Drug Free Communities Support Program of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to expand the coalition’s efforts to prevent and reduce substance use among youth countywide, and

WHEREAS, a five-year, \$125,000/year, grant was awarded to the Tompkins County Youth Services Department on behalf of the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth for the period October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2014, to achieve their goals, and

WHEREAS, there is no cash match required from Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, the expenses and revenues have already been budgeted for 2009 and 2010, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That Tompkins County accepts the five-year Federal Drug Free Communities Support Program grant to be administered by the Youth Services Department to prevent and reduce substance use among youth in Tompkins County.

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Update on Municipal Jobs Program

Ms. Zahler provided an overview of youth served in the program indicating 302 youth were served in 2009. Of this amount, 172 were specifically funded through the County Municipal Jobs program, with the balance served through funds from municipalities. As a result of the County Administrator’s reduction of funding for the program it is not known what the full impact would be due to municipal matching funds; some may decide to continue funding, others may not.

Mr. Stevenson was excused at this time (4:30 p.m.).

IACC Daycare Request

Mr. Proto said the discussion is the request from IACC Daycare asking for one-time funding of \$20,000 to cover a shortage they are experiencing due to a shift in clients.

Ms. Stewart, Co-Chairman of the IACC Board of Directors, said IACC Daycare is the oldest day care operation in the county, with 41 years of service as a not-for-profit agency. The Mission of the agency is to meet the need for high standards of day care for children in our community, regardless of race, creed, nationality, sex, or family income. She explained that as a result of the economic downfall last year combined with a shift in enrollment, the agency is experiencing financial difficulties.

Ms. Zuccala, Director, said the operation has been supported by a combination of private-paying clients, and clients receiving public assistance. From September 2007 through May 2008 the majority of children were private-paying families. Starting in May 2008, private-pay families left the agency and were replaced with children that were paid through Department of Social Service (DSS) reimbursement, causing a shift in revenue that created a deficit. She explained DSS reimbursements for childcare are paid at the minimum tuition rate charged at the Center, with the payment received after a month of service has been provided. In addition, payment to the agency is contingent upon the family having met the specific DSS requirements. If a child was not present, the agency did not receive funding, unlike a private-paying tuition that is received regardless of attendance.

In an effort to uphold the agency’s Mission, fees had been set on a sliding scale based on income. During the period of September 2007 through May 2008, DSS payments were at the lowest tuition rate,

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however, with a higher percentage of private-pay clients, it did not significantly effect the overall operation. When the shift to a majority of public assistance clients occurred, it caused a considerable loss of revenue for the agency.

Recently, in anticipation of a DSS market rate review, the agency increased its tuition for private-pay clients to \$200/week/child. By doing so, they will now receive the maximum for public assistance day care assistance of \$196/week/child.

In response to Ms. Robertson's question regarding market rate, Ms. Zuccala said the DSS rate, based on a variety of formulas, is amended every two years, with regional limits provided.

It was explained that there is a loss of revenue occurs when DSS only pays partial full-day or a partial total-days in attendance to the agency if the parents' who do not meet their DSS requirements. Ithaca Area Church and Community Daycare estimates it will lose approx. \$25 per pupil, per week for Department of Social Services client families in 2009-2010 in comparison to a private-pay family. Ms. Zuccala said if a child of any DSS family is sick, regulations will allow payment to the agency up to a certain number of days per quarter.

Since the deficit occurred, numerous changes have been made by the agency to alleviate the situation, however, it is not possible to recover the full amount. If the County were to provide the \$20,000 one-time funding it would reduce some of the debt that has occurred as well as save interest rates that would extend the deficit for several more years.

Ms. Robertson said that without the agency having a plan to move forward it would be difficult to justify the request. Ms. Robertson disclosed that she had worked at IACC when first out of college and asked if she would have to recuse herself from a vote. Mr. Proto appreciated her statement but did not note it was necessary for her to recuse herself from voting.

In response to a question whether the agency could amend how it provides day care service, Ms. Zuccala said the Mission of IACC is to provide daycare for the community without restrictions and would require a change in bylaws to amend the current practice.

Mr. Proto acknowledged the agency had already obtained \$10,000 of the \$40,000 initially needed to recover, and is seeking \$20,000 from the County. He asked what would happen if the agency does not obtain the additional \$10,000 it is seeking elsewhere. Ms. Stewart and Ms. Zuccala said they are working on grants and have made payment arrangements with creditors. Although they hope to be able to raise the additional funds, if not obtained it would take 3-4 years to pay off the existing debts.

Ms. Robertson noted the Drop-In Center had a similar problem several years ago. In order to stay open they had to amend enrollment policies and turn away some families in order to have a balance between the level of service provided and revenue. She has had conversations with Ms. Carey and recognizes DSS is limited in what they are able to do.

Mr. Proto said he would like to have a motion brought to the table and move the topic forward to the Budget, Capital, and Finance Committee. He noted this could be the first of many agency requests because of difficulties due to the economic situation. In addition, it is not yet known what the balance of the contingent fund is and what County Departments may need between now and the end of the year due to budget cuts. He suggested if Committee members wished to approve an action today it should be contingent upon getting answers to the questions on financial reports prior to moving ahead.

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Burbank, to approve a \$20,000 one-time allocation from the Contingent Fund to IACC Daycare, contingent upon receiving answers as noted. In addition, it was

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asked that a Committee be formed between DSS, Human Services Coalition, and the Day Care Council to meet with the agency to provide the Committee with an accurate accounting of their circumstances.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 3; Noes – 0; Excused – 2 (Legislators Randall and Stevenson). MOTION APPROVED.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk