

Health and Human Services Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 3:30 PM

Scott Heyman Conference Room

Call to Order

Mr. Proto, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Will Burbank	Member	Present	
Frank Proto	Member	Present	
Duane Randall	Member	Present	
Martha Robertson	Member	Present	
Greg Stevenson	Member	Present	

Present: A. Cole, B. Crosby, Health Department; R. DeLuca, Mental Health; J. Mareane, Administration, K. Schlather, Human Services Coalition

Guest: S. Shackford, *The Ithaca Journal*

Minutes Approval

The minutes of September 29, 2009, and October 13, 2009, were approved as amended.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Greg Stevenson, Member
SECONDER:	Will Burbank, Member
AYES:	Burbank, Proto, Randall, Robertson, Stevenson

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Changes to Agenda

Ms. Robertson requested a report on how gas drilling (hydrofracking) could potentially impact the Health Department workload.

Chair's Report

IACC Contingent Fund Request – Discussion

Mr. Proto had hoped to have more information to provide Committee members, however, due to the agency being short-staffed, the meeting planned for last Monday was postponed. He noted the agency had been requested to provide financial information for review by the same individuals (K. Schlather, Human Services Coalition; P. Carey, Department of Social Services; S. Day-Hall, Day Care Council), who assisted the Drop-In Center when they had a similar request, as well as the County Finance Director, Mr. Squires. Ms. Schlather said the meeting could possibly take place later this week. Mr. Proto said he may might call a special meeting of the Committee upon receipt of the information to discuss further whether to move the request forward to the Budget, Capital, and Finance Committee for their consideration.

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Mareane reported the Governor is in the process of calling the Legislature together to discuss the State deficit reduction plan. At this time it is not certain how this would fully affect the County,

although preliminary information indicates the Mental Health Department is an area of concern. He noted the proposed reductions would require Legislative action. Mr. Mareane's recent meeting with Kevin McCabe did not provide any additional information on the Governor's plan and he will notify Legislators when he is provided with more information. A summarized memorandum of the County budget concerns, the request for State approval to increase the mortgage tax, and the importance of the COPS program, was provided to Mr. McCabe. *Ms. Robertson requested a copy of the memo be provided to the Legislature.*

Health Department

Gas Drilling Report

Mr. Stevenson, member of the Board of Health, reported Environmental Health had a resolution containing their dGEIS comments had been on the Board of Health agenda for consideration, however, due to the thirty-day extension of the comment period it was withdrawn to allow more comprehensive information be included. It is anticipated the resolution would come forward at the December Board of Health meeting. Mr. Proto inquired if the pending move to 55 Brown Road would have an adverse affect on staff's ability to respond to the dGEIS. Ms. Crosby believes the staff should be able to complete the additional work on the resolution. Mr. Proto noted Ms. Cameron would be presenting information to the Water Resources Council as well. Ms. Crosby noted Ms. Cameron has been in contact with other counties as well.

Ms. Crosby said that with regard to potential work for the Health Department as a result of gas drilling there is a question of funding that has been raised. Article 6 reimbursement may be applicable; but it is only 36 percent, or possibly less two percent less to do lab analysis. At this time there is no indication from the State for additional funding for the work. Mr. Proto noted the original document also spoke of the possibility of collecting data on water wells. Ms. Crosby said she believes the gas companies may be responsible for submission of the lab test sample, which also caused concern. The three major areas in question by the Board of Health are: (1) treatment of the water; (2) acres for disposal of waste materials; and (3) the testing arrangements.

Mr. Proto said municipalities controlling wastewater treatment plants are concerned as well. The Water Resources Council will meet November 16th to address the topic. He spoke of the concern of the New York City Watershed exemption for drilling and believes other areas of the state should be treated in the same manner and governed by the same rules. Ms. Crosby believes Ms. Cameron is working on an executive summary of the Environmental Health Division concerns.

Report or Discussion Item (ID # 1523): H1N1 Update

Ms. Cole reported the department held a clinic at Newfield schools and provided 456 doses of vaccine to students. It was well organized and volunteers from the Rotary club assisted. She said as part of the Bioterrorism Deliverables there is a requirement for a "point of dispensation" exercise, Beth Harrington of Emergency Response completed the evaluation of the clinic. Future school clinics will be based on the availability of the vaccine.

Mr. Burbank asked about parental consent for the vaccines; Ms. Cole said schools are coordinating the consent forms and almost all are allowing vaccination of their children. All schools will have initial vaccination clinics before the Health Department returns to schools to vaccinate students who may have missed the first clinic. With regard to the second vaccination, Ms. Cole noted children under ten years of age should have the second does. She said Onondaga County has made a determination to have the County Health Department provide the initial dose and have parents take children to their

primary physician for the second dose. It has not been decided whether the Health Department would make a similar request.

Ms. Cole said the level of disease within the County has fluctuated. Some local schools have high absenteeism and the colleges are showing a decrease in affected students. The County website is consistently updated with information as it is received, and she is presently providing updates on the local radio station weekly. Ms. Cole said staff is getting tired due to the labor-intensive work being required.

Mr. Proto asked how Rotary club members are being used; Ms. Cole said Karen Bishop has been coordinating the volunteers who provide ancillary services at the clinics.

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Report or Discussion Item (ID # 1524): BT and Homeland Security Grant Information

Ms. Cole reported the position had been eliminated due to lack of funding earlier this year, however, the Office of Homeland Security has now provided grant funding for the Bioterrorism program and the H1N1 response efforts. The County requested funding in the amount of \$360,384 that would be used for the period of August 10, 2009, through August 10, 2010. At this time confirmation of funding has been received for all but the \$49,297, which required additional information from the County. It is anticipated within the next several weeks confirmation of the last amount will be received. The majority of the funding will be used to cover additional staff hours for vaccination clinics.

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State Reimbursement of Article 6 Services

Ms. Crosby reported that at this time the State is behind in payment of Article 6 reimbursements. As of October 26th, the State paid reimbursements for the fourth quarter ending December 2008. The applications for 2009 have been approved, but no funds for the first or second quarters have been received. The third quarter submission is in the process of being signed by Mr. Squires for submission. Ms. Crosby said there are several contracts that have not yet come back from the State for grant funds. The Governor's proposal is to reduce budgets and claims ten percent of unspent money by December 1st. The County cannot claim or get paid without having the contract back, and therefore, these contracts could be subject to the ten percent reduction based on the grant award, not unspent money. In response to Mr. Proto's question on the contract amount, Ms. Crosby is not certain without going through all contracts; it could be several hundred thousand dollars.

Ms. Crosby has contacted New York State Association of County Health Officials who is assisting her on the matter. Previous requests to them have been helpful in getting the State to respond.

It was noted the Article 6 Early Intervention is excluded from the proposed reduction.

Update on 55 Brown Road

Ms. Cole said the building is ninety percent complete. The State inspection still has to be completed prior to occupancy to receive the proper certification for the two clinic areas of the building. Initially a preliminary inspection had been scheduled for last week, however, it was rescheduled by the State to November 23rd. The State inspector said depending on what is observed at the location, it could be either the preliminary or the final inspection. Ms. Crosby said she noted areas to be reviewed and has provided them to Mr. LeMaro.

With regard to the actual move, the outer perimeter of the Department will move into the building first, followed by the rest of the staff, and it is anticipated the move will take several days. Ms. Cole said the public will be notified and clinic schedules will be modified to accommodate the move. She is in the process of meeting with three moving companies who are on the State contract list of approved contractors. With regard to confidential information, Ms. Cole said all movers will be required to sign a nondisclosure of information. Ms. Cole said the medications housed at the department are minimal and would be moved by staff.

In response to Mr. Burbank's question, Ms. Cole said there would be a grand opening ceremony planned but would be after the divisions have completed the transition to the new building.

Department of Social Services

Report or Discussion Item (ID # 1527): TC DSS Monthly Statistics - September 2009

The Committee received the monthly report for review.

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Mental Health Department

Reimbursements

Mr. DeLuca noted his department reimbursements are being received in the usual manner and he is not experiencing the delays noted by the Health Department.

Appointments (ID # 1529): MR/DD Subcommittee

The following appointments were recommended for approval to the full Legislature:

Mental Retardation/Developmental Disability Advisory Board

Joseph K. Ryan	Community Member	Term to expire December 31, 2012
Sheila Foote	Community Member	Term to expire December 31, 2011

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [4 TO 0]
MOVER:	Greg Stevenson, Member
SECONDER:	Will Burbank, Member
AYES:	Will Burbank, Frank Proto, Duane Randall, Greg Stevenson
AWAY:	Martha Robertson

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RESOLUTION (ID # 1559): AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT FROM NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES - MENTAL HEALTH

Mr. Deluca, Commissioner, said the grant is a result of efforts by his department and Information Technology Services (ITS). He expressed appreciation to Information Technology Services for the work done on the application for the grant. The Request for Proposals process has begun that will enable the department to start to move its records to an electronic database to improve information management and billing processes. Mr. Proto noted fifty-cents of every document fee through the Clerk's office is put into

the State Archives fund. Mr. Proto said three years ago the State took part of the funds (several million dollars) and now the collections are reduced, which may account for the grant award being \$25,000 less than requested.

RESULT: RECOMMENDED [4 TO 0]
MOVER: Martha Robertson, Member
SECONDER: Will Burbank, Member
AYES: Will Burbank, Frank Proto, Duane Randall, Greg Stevenson
AWAY: Martha Robertson

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Department and the Information Technology Services Department (ITS) have been notified of a Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant award in the amount of \$50,847, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Archives LGRMIF grant was submitted to develop an Electronic Medical Records System (EMRS) with an improved business process to create efficiencies for client information management and retrieval as well as billing processes. The primary records include client charts and billing information for Tompkins County Mental Health Department. now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the County Administrator or designee be authorized to execute all contracts related to this award,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is authorized and directed to make the following budget adjustment:

APPROPRIATION	A4310.54442	Professional Services	\$50,847
REVENUE	A4310.43089	Other State Aid	\$50,847

SEQR ACTION: TYPE-II-20

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Budget Adjustments

Mr. DeLuca said the reduction for the Racker Center is not a matter for concern, rather, the Racker Center can now shift to a Medicaid waiver which is more beneficial over time. The Managed Addiction program was a program that ended several months ago. The Budget Adjustments are an accounting function and do not require any reimbursement to the State.

RESULT: RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER: Greg Stevenson, Member
AYES: Burbank, Proto, Randall, Robertson, Stevenson

Revenue Acct	Title	Amt	Approp Acct	Title(s)
4338.43495	OASAS Managed Addiction Treatment	-\$124,295	4338.51000	Personnel Services
4322.43493	OMRDD Racker Center	-\$ 91,922	4322.54400	Program Expense

Explanation: The annual allocation from the State Office for Alcohol and Substance Abuse (OASAS) to the Mental Health Department for the program Managed Addiction Treatment Services (MATs) has been decreased from \$162,048 to \$37,753 for the 2009 Fiscal Year. The revenue for this program will only be used for salaries as indicated; all other accounts under 4338 will be at \$0.00. The annual allocation from

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Office of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disability (OMRDD) to the Franziska Racker Center has been decreased from \$209,869 to \$117,947 for the 2009 Fiscal Year. The Program Expense for the Racker Center is also decreased by the same amount.

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Office for the Aging

RESOLUTION (ID # 1581): APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND - TERMINAL-PAY REIMBURSEMENT - COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Greg Stevenson, Member
SECONDER:	Martha Robertson, Member
AYES:	Burbank, Proto, Randall, Robertson, Stevenson

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Office for the Aging had a Senior Account Clerk/Typist retire effective October 30, 2009

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

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:

REVENUE	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$4,392.85
APPROPRIATION	A6772.51000529	Senior Account Clerk/Typist	\$4,392.85

SEQR ACTION: TYPE 11-20

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RESOLUTION (ID # 1561): ACCEPTANCE OF COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM GRANT - OFFICE FOR THE AGING

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Duane Randall, Member
AYES:	Burbank, Proto, Randall, Robertson, Stevenson

WHEREAS, the Federal Community Living Program assists individuals who are at risk of nursing home placement and spending down to Medicaid to remain at home through the provision of home and community-based services, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office for the Aging was awarded a Federal Community Living Program grant and wishes to partner with the Tompkins County Office for the Aging on its implementation, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County residents in need of long term care services will gain greater access to home and community-based services and avoid nursing home placement as a result of this grant, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Office for the Aging will be awarded, pending final approval, a two-year grant of \$50,000 to implement the Community Living Program, and

WHEREAS, the duration of the grant will be from September 30, 2009, through September 30, 2011, now therefore be it

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RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the County hereby accepts this grant of \$50,000

SEQR ACTION: TYPE 11-20

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RESOLUTION (ID # 1562): ACCEPTANCE OF AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER GRANT

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Duane Randall, Member
AYES:	Burbank, Proto, Randall, Robertson, Stevenson

WHEREAS, the federal Administration on Aging is expanding Aging and Disability Resource Centers nationwide to increase public awareness and access to the full array of long term care services, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office for the Aging was awarded an Aging and Disability Resource Center grant and wishes to partner with the Tompkins County Office for the Aging on its implementation, and

WHEREAS, this grant will provide long term care consumers in Tompkins County with streamlined access to long term care services, empowering them to make informed choices about their care, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Office for the Aging will receive \$150,000 to administer the Aging and Disability Resource Center grant, and

WHEREAS, the duration of the grant will be from September 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, that the County hereby accepts this grant of \$150,000.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE 11-20

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Liaison Assignments

No member gave a report.

Human Services Coalition

Ms. Schlather reported the Home Prevention and Rapid Re-housing program started on October 26th, with agencies doing an excellent job of implementation. Four agencies are coordinating the services and a system is in place to allow all agencies to come up to a single-screen that provides information on individual eligibility for the program.

Mr. Proto said next month there would be a discussion regarding the salary survey provided by Human Services Coalition. It was explained the salaries are equalized to determine an hourly wage to evenly compare salaries.

Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.