

Health and Human Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 8, 2009 3:30 PM
Scott Heyman Conference Room

Approved 1/11/10

Call to Order

<u>Attendee Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Arrived</u>
Will Burbank	Member	Member	Late	3:55 PM
Frank Proto	Member	Member	Present	
Duane Randall	Member	Member	Present	
Martha Robertson	Member	Member	Present	
Greg Stevenson	Member	Member	Present	

Present: S. Hess, J. Johnson, Youth Services; L. Holmes, Office for the Aging; R. DeLuca, Mental Health; J. Mareane, County Administrator; S. Connors, B. Crosby, A. Cole, L. Cameron, Health Department; J. Jurkowich, Planning Department; N. Burston, K. Schlather, Human Services Coalition

Guest: S. Shackford, Ithaca Journal

Changes to Agenda

The appointment of Jane Penrose to the Office for the Aging Advisory Board was added to the agenda.

Chair's Report

Mr. Proto reported on a meeting with the group working with the IACC Day Care. Three years of audited financial statements were requested and a follow-up meeting will be held upon receipt of said information.

The SPCA contract is being amended to coincide with the County's line-item budget to more clearly define what specific services are covered. Mr. Flash, Deputy County Attorney, is working with SPCA Director Abigail Smith to finalize the agreement.

As a result of Mr. Stevenson leaving the Legislature at the end of his term in December, concern was expressed that a temporary appointment to the Board of Health be made to maintain quorum. Mr. Proto offered to take on the responsibility.

Temporary Appointment to Board of Health

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

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Randall, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to recommend the temporary appointment of Mr. Proto to the Board of Health, effective January 1, 2010. MOTION CARRIED.

County Administrator Report

State Budget Reductions

Mr. Mareane said the \$3 billion State deficit reduction has not been defined and it is unknown how it may impact County departments. Preliminary information indicates Youth Services may have a 12.5 percent reduction, although it is unclear whether the reductions are based on the State fiscal year or calendar year. Mr. DeLuca said he does not have any information relating to Mental Health reductions; he will be attending meetings in the next week and will receive information on specific funding impacts.

State Retirement

Mr. Mareane reported that the Tier 5 for the State Retirement Plan has been put in place, however it would not provide any immediate significant relief for the County. As new staff members are hired, they will be required to continue to pay into the system. Over a period of time, this will result in a 2%-2.5% reduction in the County payment to the pension plan.

State Reimbursements

Mr. Proto asked if there is any information on the delay of State reimbursements, in particular the delay of payments to the Health Department. Mr. Mareane said there are other departments experiencing delays in reimbursement as well. He hopes that once the Governor's deficit plan is in place it will result in releasing the funds more quickly. Mr. Mareane said the Governor's plan only solves some of the problems and that the Governor is saving State funds by delaying payments. Those affected by delays in reimbursements are the Health Department, Mental Health, Tompkins Cortland Community College, and some small agencies.

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

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Mental Health

Appointments

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

The following appointments were unanimously recommended for approval:

Community Mental Health Services Board

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Nancy Rosen – term expires December 31, 2013
Stu Bergman – term expires December 31, 2013
Mary Hutchens – term expires December 31, 2013
Auguste L. Duplan – term expires December 31, 2013

Mental Health Subcommittee

Nancy Rosen – CMHSB Member representative; term expires December 31, 2013
Mary Hutchens – CMHSB Member representative; term expires December 31, 2013
Adrienne Lampert - Consumer representative; term expires December 31, 2013

Substance Abuse Subcommittee

Thomas Lipa – Community Member representative; term expires December 31, 2013
Stu Bergman – CMHSB Member representative; term expires December 31, 2013
Appointments

Office for the Aging

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

The following appointments were unanimously recommended for approval:

Personal Emergency Response Service Advisory Board

Liz Norton – Agency serving elderly or disabled representative; term expires December 31, 2011
Peter Meskill – Police Agency representative; term expires December 31, 2011
Joan E. Murphy – Agency representing the elderly or disabled; term expires December 31, 2011
Wilfred E. Drew – At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2010

Office for the Aging Advisory Committee

Ann Cedarholm - term expires December 31, 2012
Catherine K. Paddock - term expires December 31, 2012
Frances T. Sovocool - term expires December 31, 2012
Jane E. Penrose - term expires December 31, 2012

Mr. Burbank arrived at this time.

Budget Transfer - Salary for Temporary Employee

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

The following budget transfer was recommended for approval.

Revenue Acct	Title	Amt	Approp Acct	Title(s)
6772.51000	Salary	\$2,618	6778-51000	Salary

Explanation: Temporary Project Assistant position is extended until December 31, 2009.

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Health Department

Resolution (DOC ID: 1633): Authorizing Changes in Charge Structure - Tompkins County Home Health Care - Health Department

Ms. Crosby explained the fees are cost-based and the result of an analysis of current data. It was also noted that the fees are the maximum that could be charged; often the insurance companies do not pay the full cost invoiced and that private-pay clients are charged on a sliding scale.

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

WHEREAS, Tompkins County’s accounting consultant, Michael McCarthy, CPA, of McCarthy & Conlon, LLP has recommended changes in the Certified Home Health Agency fee structure to maximize Medicaid and Medicare revenues, and

WHEREAS, New York State currently promulgates rates on the day the County Legislature approves them and it is therefore, desirable for Tompkins County to adopt the 2010 rates in December 2009 for implementation on January 1, 2010, and

WHEREAS, all changes proposed were made to align charges with actual costs per unit of service as determined during Mr. McCarthy’s most recent review of our financial and statistical data, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget and Capital Committee, That the Tompkins County Health Department implements the charge structure below, as recommended by Michael McCarthy, CPA, in order to maximize Medicaid, Medicare and other third party revenues.

2010 Tompkins County Home Health Care Fee Schedule

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Skilled Nursing	\$165.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$215.00
High Tech Nursing	\$190.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$240.00
Physical Therapy	\$112.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$155.00
Speech Therapy	\$105.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Occupational Therapy	\$105.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$118.00
Medical Social Work	\$105.00	no fee set	no fee set	no fee set

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Home Health Aide	\$ 45.00/hr	\$45.00/hr	\$48.00/hr	\$53.00/hr
Home Health Aide	\$ 90.00/visit	\$90.00/visit	\$96.00/visit	\$96.00/visit

RESOLVED, further, That the Department sets the per hour Nursing Administrative Charge at seventy-two dollars (\$72.00) per hour, for services as appropriate (i.e. rabies post exposure, hypertension screening clinics, immunization administration, etc.)

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II - 20

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Note: The fees are established to maximize dollars from Medicaid, Medicare and other third party payers. The department maintains the use of a sliding fee scale for those patients paying for services out of pocket. In addition we have negotiated agreements with a number of insurance providers and accept payment in full from them. The department continues to maintain the ability to waive a fee in special circumstances.

The following are allowable costs used to determine our average cost per visit:

Administration Costs: Salary and Fringe Benefits for administrators, directors, supervisors and others, Contractual services including Care at Home, Software Support/Maintenance, Cost Reporting Services, etc.), Supplies, Telephone, etc., Depreciation, POM (Plant, Operations, and Maintenance), Transportation and In-direct Costs.

Direct Services Costs: Salary and Fringe Benefits, Contractual Arrangements, Drugs, Depreciation, POM (Plant, Operations, and Maintenance) and Transportation.

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Resolution (DOC ID: 1644): Authorization to Declare 2010 the International Year of the Nurse in Tompkins County and to Support a Proposal to the United Nations to Declare 2011 to 2020 the United Nations Decade for a Healthy World

Ms. Connors provided an overview of the resolution and noted that there are 36 registered nurses in the Health Department, as well as other registered nurses within the Department of Social Services and at the Public Safety Building. Ms. Robertson commented on how Tompkins County has 1,000 of the 19,000 registered nurses statewide. In response to Mr. Burbank's question regarding celebrations, Ms. Connors believes State and National agencies would be making announcements at a later time.

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

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Health Department supports a resolution to declare 2010 'The International Year of the Nurse' in Tompkins County in memory of the Centennial of Florence Nightingale's death [1910], and

WHEREAS, Florence Nightingale is known for her pioneering work in nursing and was named 'The Lady with the Lamp' from her habit of making rounds at night to tend injured soldiers during the Crimean War in 1853, and

WHEREAS, Florence Nightingale opened the first school of nursing in 1860 to train nurses to care for the ill in hospitals and in their homes, to care for the poor with compassion and a commitment to patient care, she went on to establish the foundations of modern nursing and nursing education, and

WHEREAS, Florence Nightingale was an articulate public communicator, community and social activist, environmentalist and ardent advocate for human rights and worldwide social reform, she influenced national and international leaders and fought to keep the issues related to health in the public

eye, and

WHEREAS, the Nightingale Declaration Campaign is a program of the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health, a grassroots, nurse-inspired movement to increase global public awareness about the priority of health and to empower nurses and concerned citizens to stand for a healthy world everywhere, and

WHEREAS, The Nightingale Initiative for Global Health has proposed a United Nations resolution to declare 2011 to 2020 the United Nations Decade for a Healthy World in memory of the Bicentennial of Florence Nightingale's birth [1820], and

WHEREAS, the 'Nightingale Declaration for Our Healthy World' is "*We, the nurses and concerned citizens of the global community, hereby dedicate ourselves to the accomplishment of a healthy world by the year 2020. We declare our willingness to unite in a program of action, sharing information and solutions to resolve problems and improve conditions, locally, nationally and globally, in order to achieve health for all humanity. We further resolve to adopt personal practices and to implement public policies in our communities and nations, making this goal for the year 2020 achievable and inevitable, beginning today in our own lives, in the life of our nations and in the world at large*", now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Tompkins County Board of Health, and the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature supports the Health Department initiative to declare 2010 'The International Year of the Nurse' and to support a United Nations resolution to declare 2011 to 2020 'The United Nations Decade for a Healthy World.'

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Explanation:

Debra Dibartolo, RN, on the Board of Directors for District 3 of Professional Nurses, brought a request for support of the Nightingale Declaration Campaign to the Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD). The Campaign has two major initiatives, the first being a United Nations Declaration from the UN General Assembly to declare 2010 'The International Year of the Nurse' in memory of the Centennial of Florence Nightingale's death. The second initiative is a proposal for the UN to declare 2011 - 2020, 'The Decade for a Healthy World' in memory of the Bicentennial of Nightingale's birth. Ms. Dibartolo noted that of the 19,000 Registered Professional Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and Nurse Practitioners in New York State, over 1,000 reside and work in Tompkins County.

Nurses in the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health envisioned these resolutions as recognition of the nursing principles of caring, compassion and education brought forth by Florence Nightingale, often thought of as the founder of nursing. To date, signatories from over 106 countries have signed the Declaration, which began circulation in 2007 with hopes that it will be signed by millions of nurses, health care professionals, educators and other caregivers across the world. It is being used as a catalyst to gather local, national and global support for a worldwide celebration of the 2010 International Year of the Nurse and 2011-2020 Decade for a Healthy World. More detail can be found at www.nightingaledeclaration.net.

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Report - H1N1 Update (DOC ID: 1625):

Ms. Connors reported that at this time, the Health Department has vaccinated over 3,000 individuals in the high-risk categories. The vaccination of children in the rural schools have been completed and the Ithaca City School District clinics will start this week. It is anticipated that by the end of the month 5,000 individuals will have been vaccinated at Health Department clinics. Ms. Connors said clinics are held as vaccine is received. Priority groups are offered the vaccination and that between school clinics other eligible individuals are vaccinated based on the supply. Mr. Burbank noted students have commented positively on receiving the mist vaccine rather than the shot.

Ms. Connors said that a second wave of H1N1 is anticipated. It is widespread in Tompkins County and the Health Department will continue to vaccinate and long as the vaccine is received and residents are interested. She noted the seasonal flu has not yet come to the area and that all seasonal vaccine supplied to the Health Department has been used. Local physicians have reported having received the remainder of their seasonal vaccine which is a very limited supply.

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Resolution (DOC ID: 1621): Comments to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on Draft Supplemental GEIS

The Committee reviewed the resolution and proposed amendments. It was noted that the departments, advisory boards, and Legislature would be sending separate resolutions to the appropriate individuals and that the Legislature resolution packet would not include the other material. *Ms. Robertson requested that all Legislators be provided the individual resolutions submitted.*

Mr. Stevenson was excused at this time (4:26 p.m.).

The Committee completed the review of the proposed amendments to the resolution. Ms. Robertson expressed appreciation to all staff contributing to the resolutions, noting they had done a tremendous job.

Mr. Burbank asked if there was a need to include any comments concerning Radon gas emission as a result of the gas-drilling operations. Ms. Cameron said that although it is noted as an increase of Radon, it is not a new issue and has been addressed in the work of the Water Resources Council.

Ms. Robertson believes a comment should be included regarding air pollution. Ms. Jurkovich believes the Department of Environmental Conservation would believe the area was covered in their documents.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of members present to propose additional language be prepared regarding air pollution and present it to the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee for consideration.

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

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has released the *Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program: Well Permit Issuance for Horizontal Drilling and High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing to Develop the Marcellus Shale and Other Low-Permeability Gas Reservoirs* (hereinafter referred to as the "Document"), and

WHEREAS, the deadline for submitting comments on the Document is December 31, 2009, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Health Department, the Tompkins County Planning Department, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council, and the Tompkins County Water Resources Council, among others, are planning to submit comments to the Department of

Environmental Conservation on the Document, and

WHEREAS, in addition to the important technical comments provided by those groups, the Tompkins County Legislature has a duty to provide leadership to the community in evaluating the possible impacts associated with the proposed drilling of the Marcellus Shale, and

WHEREAS, many entities, including Tompkins County, are now striving for an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and it is understood that natural gas could serve as a lower-emissions fuel source as the nation transitions to renewable sources of energy, and

WHEREAS, it is also recognized that natural gas is a finite resource and that total extraction of New York State's natural gas resources will only meet national energy needs for a limited period of time that will be measured in years or decades, yet environmental damage, particularly to water, arguably New York State's most valuable finite resource, could be permanent, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County does not believe that the Document establishes adequate specific conditions, criteria, and thresholds to allow drilling permits to be issued without extensive additional environmental review needing to be conducted for each permit issued, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County and its municipalities have a responsibility to preserve and protect natural resources, water resources, highway infrastructure, public health, and quality of life for our residents now and in the future, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee and the Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature submits the following comments on the Document:

1. New York counties should not be required to bear the financial costs of implementing the natural-gas water-well monitoring and tracking described in the Document. This cost should be paid for by either New York State or the natural-gas industry. In describing the proposed approach to tracking the results of private well monitoring and responding to complaints concerning private well water quality, the Document states the NYSDEC's intention to rely on county health departments, potentially requiring a large commitment of County resources to undertake such an unfunded mandate. Should the final regulations continue with this approach, New York State should provide 100% funding to county health departments in order to fully provide the staffing and other resources needed to track well monitoring results and to respond to public complaints and concerns. Funds for implementing this program should be provided to local health departments through gas well permitting fees. Fees cannot be raised directly by the local health departments since the NYSDEC has sole regulatory authority over gas wells.
2. Groundwater monitoring needs to be conducted near Marcellus shale gas wells; however, the program proposed by the NYSDEC is inadequate to detect and remediate contamination of drinking water aquifers. Water quality monitoring programs should focus on monitoring the groundwater resource, not just existing drinking water wells. Water supply wells should not be the sole means of determining if groundwater contamination has occurred near a Marcellus shale gas well due to the unknown or varying construction, operation, and availability of these wells. The permit applicant should be required to install and monitor groundwater wells to detect groundwater contamination before it reaches individual or public supply wells. At least 3 monitoring wells should be installed around each well pad and each centralized flowback water surface impoundment and these wells should be sampled and analyzed at the same frequency as the private water supply wells. The NYSDEC (in conjunction with the NYS Department of Health) should establish what is required to be tested for and what are the acceptable levels. Sharing the results of all sampling programs with the public should be a requirement.
3. In many places throughout the Document, specific mitigation measures are "proposed," "encouraged," "suggested," etc. Regulations must require the most protective mitigation measures or best management practices available to assure the protection of the public health and welfare and the natural environment.
4. The Document, in several places, most notably page 7-64, identifies additional mitigation measures for well-drilling operations in the New York City Watershed. Such standards must apply equally to all watersheds with municipal water supplies. In Tompkins County this would

include the entirety of the Cayuga Lake watershed.

5. To alleviate adverse road use impacts, the Document (page 7-109) requires operators to “attempt to obtain a road use agreement with the municipality or document the reasons for not obtaining one.” The Document should require, not just the attempt, but the development and execution of binding road use agreements. Operators should be required to notify all local municipalities, including villages, towns, cities, and counties, that their vehicles will travel through, even if there is no drilling operation in the municipality itself. Operators should then be required to sign binding road-use agreements for those municipalities, as well as with municipalities where the drilling operation is located.
6. Tompkins County has established a policy to “Reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by at least 2 percent of 2008 base year emissions per year to reach, at a minimum, an 80% reduction from 2008 levels by 2050.” [Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan: Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element, 2008] In response to a request from the NYSDEC, Tompkins County reiterated this commitment by signing on to the DEC’s Climate Smart Communities Pledge in April 2009. According to the Document, over the 30-year well lifetime, emissions from 100 one-well projects will more than double all community emissions in Tompkins County over that same 30-year time period. The result is that the proposed gas drilling, if implemented, will make it impossible for Tompkins County to meet its greenhouse gas emissions goals. The cumulative impact of drilling in the Marcellus Shale may make it impossible for New York State to meet its greenhouse gas emissions goals. This cumulative impact should be clearly evaluated in the Document. The Document should require operators to detail how their drilling operation will meet specific emissions thresholds, and what mitigation measures will be implemented to accomplish those emissions levels.
7. EAF Addenda should be required before drilling permits are issued. Furthermore, EAF Addenda should be required to be submitted to local, county, and regional planning boards for review and comment to the DEC prior to drilling permits being issued. Page 7-2 of the Document proposes that EAF Addenda be submitted for all permits. In addition, page 7-23 of the Document states that many adverse impacts may be avoided by planning a drilling operation to fit site characteristics, like avoiding steep slopes and maintaining sufficient separation from environmentally sensitive features, such as streams and wetlands. Finally, Page 7-111 of the Document indicates that “the EAF Addendum submitted with each well permit application will require the applicant to attest to having reviewed any existing comprehensive, open space and/or agricultural plan or similar policy document(s).” Such EAF Addenda should require that well permit applicants comply with the existing plans and the addenda should be submitted to local, county, and regional planning boards for review and comment as such agencies are in the best position to identify the potential site-by-site environmental impacts of proposed drilling operations and are best suited for determining the consistency of proposed drilling operations with existing plans and policies.
8. The method described in the Document for disposal of flowback water and fracking fluids is totally inadequate. Although methods of disposal are discussed in the Document, it is also stated that flowback water must be characterized before the suitability of a treatment option can be determined. The problem is that the constituents of the flowback water cannot be known until after drilling activity has occurred and the wastewater produced. The document acknowledges that some potential constituents of the flowback water could make it unsuitable for treatment at a previously designated treatment plant. In addition, the type and concentrations of flowback-water constituents can vary daily, which makes the entire concept of characterizing flowback water suspect for use by waste water treatment plants. We face the prospect of holding ponds of toxic wastewater scattered across our landscape indefinitely. No drilling can be permitted until it is determined that a safe method for disposal of flowback water and other wastes is in place. It should be required that storage facilities for such wastewater be enclosed, covered tanks, not open ponds.
9. The Document does not address in any meaningful way the cumulative impacts of Marcellus

Shale development on a substantial region of New York State. And yet every EIS is supposed to focus on cumulative impacts rather than allowing segmentation. We recognize the challenges of this requirement, but that does not mean it should be brushed off as “difficult”.

- Industrial use. Permitted development in Tompkins County could result in a cumulative area of industrial land use equal to or greater than the entire current amount of industrially developed land in Tompkins County. In virtually every instance, existing industrial land use was sited after years of careful planning at the municipal level and review of site plans for specific activities and sites. This planning process assured that industrial land uses were located in areas that have infrastructure sufficient to support the activity, including major highways and public water and sewer infrastructure, and that do not conflict with the protection of valued natural resources. Gas drilling, by contrast, is likely to occur in areas that are not designated or suitable for industrial land uses, that have little or no infrastructure adequate to support the activity, and that have not been subjected to a comprehensive planning process to evaluate impacts of this development.
- Local landscapes. Furthermore, local authority to review gas drilling activity has been precluded by the State of New York. The result will almost certainly be the degradation and fragmentation of our natural areas and rural landscape with serious negative impacts on a rural way of life and the function of some of our natural and wildlife resources. Invasive species of plants and animals thrive particularly at the “edges” of forests and fields, and the proliferation of drilling pads and centralized impoundment areas will introduce significantly more land with such edges.
- Water resources. Water withdrawals are insufficiently regulated and the cumulative effects of removing billions of gallons of water from the ecosystem, effectively permanently, are barely addressed in the document.
- Gas processing and transmission. Pipelines and compression stations are not addressed by the Document; the NYSDEC must establish a mechanism to coordinate with the Public Service Commission, requiring that cumulative effects of the entire industry are considered together.
- Thresholds. In sum, there is no attempt in the Document to establish thresholds of activity that the environment could sustain without permanent damage. In the Document, the spacing unit is the only limiting factor on development. The NYSDEC must establish a pace and level of development that it deems the human and natural environment could tolerate, rather than leaving the pace and extent of development to be determined by the industry (e.g., by the number of drill rigs available).

The failure to address cumulative impacts on the landscape and on communities is a fatal flaw that undermines everything else in the Document.

10. The only conclusion that can be drawn from the Document in its current form is that it does not comply with the SEQRA requirement to evaluate the impacts of Marcellus Shale drilling on the environment and public health, and does not propose mitigation measures that sufficiently protect the public health and environment to allow permitting of drilling in the Marcellus Shale to proceed. The many flaws in the Document, including failure to assess the life cycle analysis of greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas and the fact that the EPA will soon begin a study of Marcellus Shale drilling, require that the entire process be reevaluated and a moratorium on drilling maintained indefinitely until and unless an adequate review is completed, and that the results of the EPA study be included in that review.

SEQR ACTION: Not a SEQR Action

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Youth Services

Report on Community Coalition for Healthy Youth Report (DOC ID: 1645)

Ms. Hess reported on the \$100,000 per year five-year Youth Drug Prevention Federal Grant previously received for reduction of teen use of alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco within the Ithaca City School District. Due to the success of the completed work, the department received a second five-year grant in the amount of \$125,000 per year, which will allow the program to expand to the five rural schools as well.

The “Community Coalition for Healthy Youth” created a first goal of a strong collaboration, uniting government, Ithaca City School District, youth serving agencies, businesses, law enforcement, etc. The grant requires representatives from twelve different community sectors. It was determined by the Coalition that engaging a strong and effective coalition is the best way to change community values and norms regarding teenage drinking and drug use.

Started in 2004, the board has 12 members and only a few committees, with the organizing work completed by staff. Presently, there are over 30 members, many who have taken leadership roles and are actively engaged and work cooperatively.

The second goal of the Coalition is to reduce substance abuse among 6th-12th grade students. A 2003 Ithaca District survey provided the baseline, with 2,400 students self-reporting their attitudes and behaviors. A second survey was completed in 2008, with 2,300 student responses. Four core questions that are used nationally as the most important indicators for teen drug use were asked to determine a measurement of change.

By 2008, on 13 quantitative measures, there was improvement in 9 measures. The highest rate of reduction is in cigarette smoking.

Ms. Johnson said that in 2010 work would begin with the five rural districts; it is hoped that Newfield will decide to participate as well. The initial work will include the Dryden, Groton, and Trumansburg school districts with discussions regarding action steps to take and understanding of interest and priorities within the districts. Ms. Jurkowich clarified that this project includes work with not only school districts, but also with towns and other groups as well.

In response to Ms. Robertson’s question of whether students are asked about what they perceive is occurring regarding drug and alcohol abuse, Ms. Hess said norms such as these have been suggested. Often perception creates an over-estimation of people using alcohol and drugs. When faced with estimates that indicate the number is not as high creates a counterbalance perspective.

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Human Services Coalition

Salary and Benefits Survey

The Committee was provided with an updated Salary and Benefits survey. The survey had been sent to 77 not-for-profit agencies and businesses that have paid staff. Forty-three responded to the survey and it was noted the respondents may not be the same as in previous surveys, but analysis provides a benchmark. Overall, salaries are not keeping pace with inflation. The number of full-time equivalents is not increasing and the cost to support existing positions has increased, mainly due to the cost of benefits.

Overall, businesses said they anticipate 22 percent lay-off of staff due to financial difficulties, 25.6 percent combined jobs and/or reduced employee work hours in the past year, 35 percent did not fill vacant positions, 40 percent have had difficulty recruiting employees, and 51 percent anticipate a turn-

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over of senior staff within the next three years. On average, there is a 12 percent increase in health insurance expense, and 74 offer some type of retirement benefit.

Following a brief discussion a question was raised as to whether it is possible to determine how many of the original respondents had replied to this round. It was noted this information was not available. Mr. Proto commented that some agencies opted to keep wages level rather than having to pay a higher cost for health insurance.

Ms. Burston said some of the respondents had cut back hours to help with increased expenses. In addition, the positions were equalized to be one FTE to enable an accurate comparison of wages.

Ms. Schlather said that when the survey was completed the respondents had noted difficulty in filling positions and the anticipation of turnover with senior staff, however, due to the change in the economy these concerns may not be present at this time; many individuals seeking employment elsewhere or others looking to retire have changed their plans.

Ms. Robertson expressed a desire to have the Human Services Coalition continue to track agencies funded by the County with regard to living wages, noting she is hoping to develop a policy related to the requirement. She also noted the Industrial Development Agency is in the process of determining how to survey applicants of what their benefits are. Ms. Mattick and the Workforce Investment Board are assisting the Industrial Development Agency in this effort.

Update on Website

Ms. Schlather announced the new website is now online. It is very user-friendly and provides a great deal of information, particularly with the 2-1-1 information directory.

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)

Ms. Schlather reported the first full month of the program designed to find or maintain housing has been very positive. All agencies involved have worked cooperatively to make the application process as smooth as possible.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk.