

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
APRIL 2, 2008 – 3:00 P.M.
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present: F. Proto, Chairman, M. Robertson, C. Chock, T. Randall (arrived 3:17 p.m.)
Excused: N. Shinagawa
Staff: P. Carey, D. Bodnar, Department of Social Services; S. Whicher, County Administrator; S. Martel-Moore, Deputy County Administrator; N. Zahler, N. Zook, Youth Services; L. Holmes, Office for the Aging; R. DeLuca, Mental Health; A. Cole, S. Connors, M. Titterington, B. Grinnell Crosby, J. Breedlove, D. Cooper, M. Ong, A. James, P. Jebbett, L. Mallery, A. Frith, Health Department; S. Whicher, County Administrator; L. Dillon, Tompkins County Action; M. Koplinka-Loehr, D. Kiefer, Legislators; M. Lynch, Public Information Officer; E. Marx, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works; K. Schlather, Human Services Coalition, A. Fitzpatrick, Personnel Commissioner; K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk
Guest: David Chase, CSEA; Sue Dale-Hall, Day Care Council; Helen Howard, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Dale Schumacher, Learning Web; Will Burbank

Call to Order

Chairman Proto called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of March 5, 2008

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously approved by voice vote by members present, to accept the minutes of March 5, 2008. MINUTES APPROVED.

Chair's Report

Mr. Proto reported the presentation on autism would be delayed until May to provide adequate preparation of the presentation. He then reported on the Article 7 Sanitary Code Well Permit Program, noting that it would be discussed at the April Board of Health meeting. Mr. Proto said following a public hearing the hearing officer does not believe there is a need for the program. He would like to address the topic at the May meeting. Mr. Proto provided a brief description of the program for Ms. Chock's benefit, noting it is to better separate wells from septic tanks or other hazards as well as providing historical information of well placement.

Office for the Aging

Update on Possible Co-Location

Ms. Holmes provided members with a copy of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and Lifelong prepared by Mr. Marx regarding co-location with LifeLong. Meetings are occurring every other week to discuss the proposal. Mr. Marx indicated the actual resolutions regarding the program move would be through the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee and then the Legislature in April, with Lifelong also bringing the MOU to their board for approval. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Whicher although this Committee could request to have the ability to approve resolutions, the appropriate program committee for any action regarding the co-location was Facilities and Infrastructure. Mr. Proto reminded members that at a previous meeting it was determined the Committee desired to be kept informed, but that the actions would take place through the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

A brief discussion regarding the proposal followed; Mr. Marx indicated the feasibility study was with regard to the location, configuration, costs, etc. He said the Lifelong board feels the project could be undertaken and he believes at the end of the feasibility study they would have good indications of how to fund the project. Ms. Holmes said Lifelong's building and development subcommittees have been meeting twice a month. It was also noted that the pace this proposal is taking coincides with the County timeline for a new location for the Office for the Aging.

Following discussion it was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously approved by voice vote, to determine a sense of the Committee. The Committee agreed it was a positive move to continue with the feasibility project.

Health Department

RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND FOR GREEN FLEET PURCHASES

MOVED by Mr. Randall, seconded by Mr. Proto. A brief discussion occurred during which it was noted that \$50,000 was set aside to assist in paying the difference between a regular vehicle and a "green" vehicle, following a review to determine feasibility of a hybrid purchase. Ms. Crosby said the resolution is being added due to the State contract build-out dates; if not brought forward at this time it would not be possible to purchase under the State contract pricing.

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

Mr. Whicher commended the Sustainability and Green Fleet committees for their efforts.

WHEREAS, the 2008 Budget includes \$50,000 in the Contingent Fund for the purpose of supporting the marginal cost of the purchase of "green" vehicles that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, the Green Fleet subcommittee of the County's Sustainability Committee developed a procedure for reviewing applications for use of this fund, and the procedure was reviewed and approved by the Government Operations Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Green Fleet subcommittee reviewed and analyzed three proposals submitted for use of the funds in accordance with that procedure, and

WHEREAS, two proposals are being recommended by the Green Fleet subcommittee and the County Administrator for funding at this time, and

WHEREAS, additional applications may be made throughout the remainder of the year and will be evaluated by the Green Fleet subcommittee and the County Administrator in the same manner as those submitted to date, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and the Budget and Capital Committees, That the amount of \$8,542 be appropriated from the Contingent Fund to allow the purchase of two hybrid vehicles by the Health Department,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance be directed to make the following budget adjustments:

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Approp Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>
1990.52231	Vehicles	\$4,271	4016.52231	Vehicles
1990.52231	Vehicles	\$4,271	4090.52231	Vehicles
4095.43401	PH State Aid	\$2,403	4016.52231	Vehicles
4095.43401	PH State Aid	\$2,403	4090.52231	Vehicles

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Certificate of Need

Ms. Crosby provided a brief description of the Certificate of Need process the Health Department is required to undergo prior to the construction phase of the capital project on Brown Road. It was explained that the Health Department accountant, Michael McCarthy is familiar with the process and is preparing the necessary documents to complete the filing. She said that with Heal NY funding becoming available there will be many Certificate of Need applications being submitted to the State Department of Health and it is important for the County to have their submitted as soon as possible.

RESOLUTION NO. – RECOMMENDATION TO DISCONTINUE SPONSORSHIP OF WOMEN INFANT AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Chock. Ms. Connors provided a background of the history of the Women Infant and Children (WIC) program that has been sponsored by the Health Department since 1980. The present five-year contract will expire on September 30, 2008. She said that due to the increased need for mandatory services by the department, programs that are not necessary are undergoing review for discontinuation, and the WIC program falls into this category. It was explained that New York State awards program sponsorship through a Request for Application (RFA) process, which is anticipated to be issued later in April. Depending on the response to the RFA and action by the State, sponsorship could be shifted to another agency. It was noted that perhaps other agencies such as Tompkins Community Action, Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, or other agencies could apply, or it could be shared with another county. The Committee was informed that in the event another agency were awarded sponsorship it is anticipated the shift could not occur by the time the contract expires and the County would assist in maintaining the program until the appropriate time.

In response to Ms. Chock it was noted that of the 107 WIC sponsors, 24 are operated by counties, and 83 are other than county agencies. Ms. Firth noted that of the 83, 93 percent are health-related agencies. It was asked what the positive/negative of not having a county-operated WIC clinic would be; it was noted it is hard to determine an answer as each operation is different. Ms. Connors spoke of the difficulty of the County to maintain the salary and benefits of employees due to the level of funding by the program. Ms. Cole reported the State has consistently stated Tompkins County has one of the most expensive programs for administration, even though the County provides program space and administrative support on an in-kind basis, the fixed-rate outside funding often fails to cover overhead costs.

At this time Mr. Proto, Legislators, employees of the WIC program, and others present to have an opportunity to express their statements on the proposed discontinuance of the program. The staff spoke of their varied experiences working for the program and requested that no determination be made at this time. Ms. Howard of Cornell Cooperative Extension stated she supports the continuation of the program in its present form and noted that her agency has not indicated any desire to submit an application to the State. Mr. Chase, CSEA Representative stated he is not supportive of the proposed discontinuance of the program.

Mr. Whicher stated his department is in the process of obtaining and reviewing material associated with the program and could have it available prior to the next meeting for review.

It was MOVED by Mr. Randall, seconded by Ms. Robertson, to postpone action on the resolution until the May 7, 2008 meeting of the program committee. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Legislator Shinagawa). MOTION TO POSTPONE APPROVED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County WIC Program has been sponsored by the County since 1980,
and

WHEREAS, it is the Department's recommendation to discontinue sponsorship of the program when a transition plan is approved by New York State Department of Health, and

WHEREAS, pending the approval of another entity as the sponsor of the WIC Program by the New York State Department of Health, we hope to transition by November 2009, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Tompkins County Board of Health, Health and Human Services, Government Operations and Budget and Capital Committee, That the Department not seek renewal of the WIC Program from New York State Department of Health, and

RESOLVED, further, That the Department work to ensure a smooth transition to the approved new sponsoring agency including consideration of an extension of the contract until award is granted.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Explanation: Our current WIC contract expires on September 30, 2008 and will be extended until a new entity is approved and the transition is complete.

Mental Health

RESOLUTION NO. – IN SUPPORT OF S4616 – AN ACT TO AMEND THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW, IN RELATION TO FEES FOR SERVICES RENDERED PATIENTS HELD IN STATE INPATIENT FACILITIES PURSUANT TO COURT ORDERS

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Randall. Mr. DeLuca reviewed the information, noting that although there is not presently an Assembly bill, his information is that Assemblyman Rivera will be bringing this forward.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Legislator Shinagawa). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, proposed New York State legislation S4616 – An Act to amend the Mental Hygiene Law, in relation to fees for services rendered to patients held in State inpatient facilities pursuant to court orders, will limit the counties fiscal responsibility for court-ordered confinement for a maximum of thirty-days, and

WHEREAS, although the majority of examinations and confinements do not exceed the thirty-day period, rare exceptions occur that are out of the control of local governments, and can create an unreasonable and extreme burden on local governments that can be particularly disproportionately burdensome in small and mid size counties, and

WHEREAS, when a person is continuously hospitalized/confined to a psychiatric facility or a developmental center for more than thirty days, this is considered clinical care and treatment of a chronically disabled person that is traditionally a one-hundred percent State charge, and

WHEREAS, any inpatient service provided in state mental hygiene facilities is, under State and Federal law and rules, a one-hundred percent State charge and that the existing chargeback process to counties for criminal and family court-ordered placements contradicts this policy and practice, and

WHEREAS, State authorities exercise control over judges, courts and State mental hygiene facilities that order or provide these particular services for which counties must pay a share, and that said counties cannot authorize, approve, limit or plan for these services, and

WHEREAS, a court-ordered confinement at a New York State Department of Mental Hygiene facility at local government expense could prove to be an exorbitant, unanticipated mandate, and

WHEREAS, this bill would amend an anachronistic statutory provision which permits counties to be billed for services provided by state operated facilities for one solitary cohort of patients that is inconsistent with the other laws and mechanisms enacted over the past thirty years under which other

similarly disabled State facility patients have their net costs fully paid for by the State without the imposition of a local charge,

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That Tompkins County urges the New York State Legislature to support S4616 – An Act to Amend the Mental Hygiene Law, in relation to fees for services rendered patients held in State inpatient facilities pursuant to court orders,

RESOLVED, further, that the Tompkins County Legislature shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Paterson, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Department of Social Services

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT WITH NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

WHEREAS, Tompkins County Department of Social Services was awarded a \$70,000 Federal Community Solutions for Transportation (CST) grant pursuant to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program for 2008, to be contracted with the New York State Department of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, Department of Social Services will use the CST grant for transportation services targeted to eligible participants, which are defined as family assistance and persons with incomes under 200% of federal poverty rate, in accordance with procedures established by the New York State Department of Transportation and the New York State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance as follows:

Program	Amount
TCAT Pass Program	\$8,000
Ridesharing, Guaranteed Ride & Subscription Van	\$52,000
RIDEWISE Public Education and Marketing	\$10,000
CST Total	\$70,000

, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Department of Social Services is authorized to enter into a contract worth \$70,000 to pay for TANF Community Solutions for Transportation program in 2008,

RESOLVED, further, That the Commissioner of Social Services here hereby authorized to execute said agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

RESOLUTION NO. - AWARD OF RIDEWISE PROPOSALS TO CORNELL COOPERATIVE EDUCATION OF TOMPKINS COUNTY, INC.

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

A brief discussion occurred, noting the bid is being awarded to Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) due to their having provided a clear outline of how they would perform outreach services. In addition, CCE has an extensive history of providing outreach to the targeted groups of individuals. It was noted that the other firms had marketing strategies but no clear outline of outreach. This work would utilize the Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant (JARC) funds.

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

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Department of Social Services, in cooperation with Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council, Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, GADABOUT Transportation Services, Ithaca Car-Share and other transportation providers, identified a need to create a comprehensive consumer education and outreach program on transportation alternatives for Tompkins County residents called RIDEWISE, and

WHEREAS, RIDEWISE will provide accessible information on current and future transportation options targeted to people with low incomes, people with disabilities, seniors and also the general public, and

WHEREAS, RIDEWISE will be funded with Federal Transit Administration Section 5317 Job Access and Reverse Commute grant NY-37-X010 up to \$156,184, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County duly advertised and solicited proposals (RFP 08-01) for consultants to develop the RIDEWISE curriculum, program and to conduct training workshops for individuals, groups and employers, and

WHEREAS, proposals were received from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, Inc., Staples Marketing, and Nelson/Nygaard and opened on February 8, 2008, and were evaluated by Department staff, and

WHEREAS, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, Inc.'s proposal most clearly indicated a strong strategy for reaching the target population, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature awards the RIDEWISE proposal to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, Inc., in the amount of \$129,800, to be paid from the Federal Transit Authority Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant NY-37-X010.

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Explanation:

RIDEWISE was created to provide a single source of consumer information on all transportation alternatives (to driving alone) for county residents. Program development will be fast-tracked with educational outreach to begin in 6 months.

Youth Services

Update on Homeless Youth Housing

Ms. Zook spoke of her work with homeless youth and noted that 253 took advantage of the programs offered by Bridges for Youth, Red Cross Shelter, and Youth Outreach through the Learning Web. She reported that eighteen years ago the first grant request for homeless youth was submitted to the Federal Health and Human Services Department, and subsequent work has continued over the years. Recently, Mr. Schumacher, Director of the Learning Web, took over the work and submitted a grant this past year.

Mr. Schumacher spoke of the Youth Housing Task Force whose survey identified the need for affordable housing for homeless youth in the community. The Learning Web applied for a housing grant,

however did not believe the grant would be awarded to the Learning Center. He then approached the City of Ithaca Urban Renewal staff to request funding to undertake the project that had been submitted for the Federal grant and found sources of funding. He was then notified that the program was awarded the Federal grant and would be receiving \$192,000 per year for five years operation of the program.

He explained the program would provide homeless youth with housing and utility payments for an 18-month period. In return participants are required to sign a contract stating they would continue to participate in the Youth Outreach programs. During the eighteen-month period participants would be building a savings account that at the end of the period would provide funds for security deposits and other needs to exit the programs and obtain their own housing. Because of the two funding streams, the Ithaca Urban Renewal funding will assist youth 18 to 25, and the Federal grant funds will assist those 16 to 21. He noted that it is believed very few youth under the age of 18 would be within the program. An advisory group is being created to assist in the application and administration process; they would also be responsible to determine an eviction process for participants not meeting the goals of the program. Mr. Schumacher said at this time there is a list of individuals wanting to participate in the program. He hopes the program will start in May of this year.

A brief discussion period took place during which it was noted that some landlords have indicated support but more are needed. Meetings are occurring daily to work through the logistics of the program. It was noted that transportation needs have to be considered when determining location of apartments, thus most are located in the City area. Ms. Carey said there are discussions regarding JARC funding in the Groton area, which could alleviate this particular concern. The apartments could be for an individual or family, most of which appear to be a single-parent household. Mr. Schumacher said the Youth Outreach goal is to provide skills to the youth that will enable them to become self-sufficient.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk