

Item # 6 - Correspondence/St. Christopher's Inn/Chemical Dependency Funds/Discussion

Chairman Oliverio questioned if St. Christopher's Inn is partially State or Federally funded.

Commissioner Piazza stated they are funded through Medicaid. He stated funds do not come through the County; however there is tremendous fiscal pressure on St. Christopher's Inn. He stated the Inn is providing better treatment than other agencies, even to those individuals who reside outside of the County. He stated the clinic provides shelter and is cheaper than others, making their inpatient cost the same as many other outpatient costs. He stated a fiscal test was recently done by the State to see how clinics would do as the new programs were implemented. He stated specifically, St. Francis Hospital is losing behavioral health beds. He stated once these beds are lost, an individual who is acutely psychotic is placed back into the community rather than kept long enough to receive the full help they need.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned what the State expects the County to do.

Commissioner Piazza stated the County is working with the State to decipher what services are going to be needed within the community. He stated these services may include housing and peer advocacy programs.

Chairman Oliverio stated the original intent of St. Christopher's Inn was to care for those with alcohol addictions. He stated rather than receive remediation, those individuals who are forced back into society will likely go down the same path and possibly end up in jail.

Legislator LoBue stated this is a scary issue.

Commissioner Piazza stated in order to make a plan the County and the State must work together. He stated in the past, services that were put in place by the State were taken away in the long run. He stated if a homeless individual comes to DSS with a substance abuse issue, they are sent to St. Christopher's Inn.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned if there is anything the County can do for St. Christopher's Inn.

Chairman Oliverio stated he would like to send a response letter to St. Christopher's Inn.

Legislator Tartaro questioned where the patients are going following the closing of the psychiatric centers.

Commissioner Piazza stated the patients that were in Hudson River Psychiatric Center were transferred to Rockland Psychiatric Center. He stated Rockland has taken on the load of three centers that have closed.

Legislator Tartaro questioned if there is a possibility to receive State funding if the County was in a position where services needed to be provided.

Commissioner Piazza stated they had received funding for four apartment beds for those who are Putnam residents and are discharged from Rockland Psychiatric Center. He stated there is some funding for case management for those people as well. He stated as Medicaid is changing, the concern is the support of the community services such as Putnam Family Community Services and State Outpatient Clinic. It is vital to keep these supported so they can provide their services to those in need.

Item # 5 - Approval/Resolution in Support of Bill A04973A/Proposing Banning use of Polystyrene Foam by Contractors who deal with the State through State and Municipal Contracts

Legislator Scuccimarra stated polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) is not biodegradable and stays in the environment for 500 years. She also stated once this material is heated, it releases dangerous toxins, often times into food as it is used for containers. She stated Assemblywoman Sandy Galef put this forward as well. She stated she would like to send support of this resolution to Albany, but also to enact it in Putnam County. She also stated Albany County has passed a local law regulating the use of this product.

Chairman Oliverio asked the Committee if they agree to move this to the Rules Committee to discuss enacting a local law in Putnam County and to support the memorialization. The Committee agreed.

Legislator LoBue questioned if this was solely for food service waste reduction.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated it is focused on food service waste reduction and that this is where she would like to start.

Legislator Tartaro stated this is the only plastic that is not recyclable.

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to discuss approving this on a local level at the Rules Committee meeting and to approve the memorialization from the State at the Full Legislature Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item # 7 - Approval/Fund Transfer 13T419/Department of Social Services/For Year End Close Out

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 13T419; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item # 8 - Approval/Fund Transfer 13T420/ Department of Social Services/For Year End Close Out

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 13T420; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item # 9 - Approval/Fund Transfer 13T421/Department of Social Services/For Year End Close Out

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 13T421; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item # 10 - Approval/Fund Transfer 13T423/Department of Social Services/For Year End Close Out

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 13T423; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item # 11 - PROACT

- a. Sample Promotional Items/FYI**
- b. Update/December 2013**

Chairman Oliverio stated the PROACT card has been extremely successful within the County. He questioned the status of the dental card.

Legislative Clerk Diane Schonfeld stated an update on the dental card will be provided at the March Health meeting.

Item # 12 - FYI/New Dedicated Specimen “Prep” Room Opens at Putnam’s Department of Health

Chairman Oliverio stated Commissioner Beals gave a tour of the Specimen Prep Room within the Health Department to those who are on the Board of Health.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned what is being prepped.

Chairman Oliverio stated animals that were brought in with rabies would be dissected and examined right on a desk. He stated the prep room is great.

Legislator Tartaro stated the room was done in house, at no cost.

Chairman Oliverio stated Dr. Beals is quite good at cost cutting and saving money where he can.

Item # 13 - Other Business

- a. Disaster Preparedness Meeting January 30, 2014**

Legislator Gross stated that he attended the Disaster Preparedness Meeting on January 30, 2014 and learned that schools were very accepting of the free flu shots being provided by the Department of Health.

Chairman Oliverio stated Putnam County has one of the lowest flu rates in the State and he was very proud.

Legislator Tartaro stated in one day the Health Department administered 6,000 flu shots.

Item # 14 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:48 P.M. Chairman Oliverio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.