

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held in Room 318**  
**Putnam County Office Building**  
**Carmel, New York 10512**

**(Chairman Oliverio, Legislators Scuccimarra & DiCarlo)**

**Tuesday** June 11, 2013 **6:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Oliverio. Legislator Scuccimarra lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Scuccimarra and DiCarlo and Chairman Oliverio were present.

**#3) PARC Transportation/cost Savings/Discussion**

Chairman Oliverio stated that Vincent Tamagna, Chairman of the Transportation Task Force along with the Commissioner of Planning Anthony Ruggiero, will be speaking along with Dr. Beals regarding the PARC Transportation issue, as soon as they arrive.

Chairman Oliverio stated that he and Dr. Beals as well as the County Executive have sent a letter to the State asking them for assistance in the funding of PARC to re-establish the rates that are most realistic to keep the program running and also they discussed cost savings through transportation. He would like to move forward through Committee, the investigation and problem solving of this dilemma. At the time when he had met with County Executive Odell, they had discussed the possibility of having parents participate in driving their own children to the PARC program.

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to accept the additional. Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

A list of Center Based Programs for 2013-2015 Contract with Putnam County was handed out to the Committee.

Commissioner of Health, Dr. Beals stated that at this time our transportation expenses are approximately 1.8 million dollars.

Chairman Oliverio is asking the Committee and Chairman Othmer to contact these organizations that are on the Center Based Programs List, requesting that when they get new enrollees into their program, that they offer the option that the parents of these children can drive the children to a local point or the school itself and there would be some type of compensation for that. The difficulty is that what that compensation should be. That is where Commissioner of Planning Anthony Ruggiero and Transportation Task force Manager Tamagna come into play.

Mr. Tamagna stated that first he would like to say that there are unintended consequences to everybody and this needs to be approached with caution. If we do not have a critical mass of people jumping on to the new program, whatever that may be, it could wind up costing us more

in the end. He has looked very closely at the law and it was very interesting that one of the first items in the law for Pre-K and Early Intervention for transportation is to first encourage the parents to provide transportation for their own child. He believes that part of the incentive for the parents is going to happen if we all work together. Again this is all premature as the recommendations are just coming out tomorrow night officially at the Physical Services Committee Meeting, and once the Task Force gets direction they can move forward. We have 26 recommendations at this time that we will get tomorrow.

Chairman Oliverio went on to stated that he would like to still contact these organizations and stress the fact that when there are new enrollees, or when students return and they do their annual review, that they bring up the point of transportation with some type of compensation.

Dr. Beals stated that he needs to emphasize that it is not just the critical mass of the number of people, but which people and where are they located, otherwise we could increase our cost for the transportation.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated he believes Dr. Beals brings up a very good point. It seems that there is a service that is missing here.

Dr. Beals stated it would take a very long time to get a school designated.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated he believes it is not only the transportation issue.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that Westchester County has come across the same exact problem. They had reached out to parents and tried through the school districts that the parents are able to transport. What they found out was many of these parents work. This is an issue, as some of these students with issues need Aids on the bus, therefore cannot put them in cars. The other issue is Westchester County adds school district to their BOCES consortium, to save money by which they pull their routes together to be cost effective. He would like to know if Putnam could speak with some of the neighboring school districts to see if there is a way to partner. That may produce a cost effective result.

Mr. Tamagna stated they have met with the school Superintendents from all over the Putnam County and also the Lakeland Schools. They have opened the dialogue to them and their Transportation Managers will be taking a look at who we are transporting right now.

Chairman Oliverio stated he feels as though he is putting the cart ahead of the horse with this, and feels we need to see Mr. Tamagna's presentation at the Physical Services Committee Meeting first prior to sending anything out. He does not want to jump the gun on this. The points that Dr. Beals has raised were very well received.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated that when the presentation is heard tomorrow from Mr. Tamagna, that will make some things clearer. In his opinion, in the end, there will be multiple solutions to this problem.

Chairman Oliverio stated that the Committee will wait until the presentation is made tomorrow evening.

Legislator Albano asked if there was another version of this item that had been done when Dr. Amler was Commissioner of Health.

Gail Maisel of Early Intervention stated that yes there was, and they had developed a central collection location where children could come from two different busses and get on a single bus and go down to their destination.

Dr. Beals stated that when he took on the role of Commissioner of Health, he had realized that approximately 50% of his budget went to Early Intervention and Pre-School. We did initially last summer, make some modifications and there was a savings of \$60,000.00.

**#4) Putnam County Health Department/Discussion/Commissioner Beals**

**a) County Litter Patrol**

Chairman Oliverio called upon Legislator LoBue to express her concerns regarding the County Litter Patrol.

Legislator LoBue would like to know what the process is for her district. There is a huge amount of garbage along the side of the roads, and would like to know how to get this cleaned up.

Dr. Beals stated that the Litter Patrol is contracted with PARC, which are out on a daily basis with three crews. If there are any particular areas that they miss or are somehow troublesome, they can contact Mary Rice of the Health Department, who is the Solid Waste/Recycling person. She will then ask to have that particular problem addressed. There is a \$90,000.00 budget for that Department and they are very responsive if there are any issues.

**b) Tobacco Ban for Pharmacies**

Commissioner Beals stated this issue had been addressed a few months ago about our high level of lung cancer in Putnam County. There had been a presentation to address the Radon Issue in this County, which is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Unfortunately it is still somewhat elevated although the level of tobacco smoking has been decreased over the years. It seems that when you smoke and that coupled with Radon, is perhaps why we have higher levels of lung cancer. Over 25,000 people in New York City die of tobacco related illness. One of the ways that some of the municipalities have approached this is to ban the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies under the premise that traditionally a pharmacy is where there is a contact for medical care or advice. It does not seem consistent, that you should be buying a tobacco product right alongside where the prescriptions are. The New York State Pharmacy Association and the United States Pharmaceutical Association are very much in favor of this type of Legislation. Albany County is now in the process of trying to put through similar Legislation. He is asking this Legislature to simply ban the sale of tobacco products in places that have a pharmacy within them or actual pharmacies themselves.

Dr. Beals handed out an Amended Resolution to the Committee which states: **“A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM, NEW YORK PROHIBITING THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN PHARMACIES AND RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS CONTAINING A PHARMACY IN PUTNAM COUNTY.”**

Chairman Oliverio stated for the Historical Record, Putnam County, in the Hudson Valley, was the first County to ban smoking in the workplace. That was done back in the late 90’s and early 2000. Through the Health Department we powered this through, and it was a tough fight. We had been challenged by the Courts, and it finally was brought before the Legislature and Senator Liebell took this to Albany and the State banned smoking. New York City did it, Putnam County did it, and it all just fell into place. He himself is a big advocate for anything that turns down the dial on smoking, as his Dad passed away from cancer induced by smoking.

Chairman Oliverio went on to state that he has no problem asking our Legal Department to take a look at this Resolution and moving it forward, but he wants to hear from his colleagues.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she has no problem with this.

Dr. Beals stated that there is plenty of data at this time showing that the point of sale displays are carefully designed to attract children. How evil and insidious it is to get children to try tobacco products. The problem with the banning of the point of sale, raises First Amendment issues of advertising and he does not want to suggest something that would come down to massive litigation. That did happen to the Town of Haverstraw about a year and a half ago, as they did pass a Point of Sale ban and immediately were sued by the seven major tobacco companies and convenience stores, under the First Amendment. Even if they can prevail, and they might be able to, they did not have the resources as Haverstraw had one part time attorney. Dr. Beals is not suggesting that we get embroiled in that; especially that he has been in communication with New York City and their Legal Department. They have been sued as well.

Legislator Nacerino asked if this Resolution would mandate big box stores like Walmart and stores of that nature that have in house pharmacies along with other things under its roof.

Commissioner Beals stated yes.

Legislator Gross stated he has a problem with this as he feels this is going too far. What is next candy, soda and the like? There is still the First Amendment issue to be dealt with here. This is a very slippery slope that we are addressing and Legislator Gross feels that we have to be very careful.

Commissioner Beals stated that he agrees 100% but he thinks the tobacco issue is different but it is certainly worthy of a debate.

Chairman Oliverio stated that they had the same issue with the smoking ban issue. He went on to state that he would like our Legal Department to take a look at what Dr. Beals has prepared and give us an opinion on what the risks would be. We are not proposing to bad smoking, we are

trying to eliminate the sale of tobacco products, but banning the sale of tobacco products where pharmaceuticals are sold, and where Health is an issue.

Chairman Oliverio asked the Committee if they were on board with asking our Legal Department for an opinion.

The Committee was in agreement with Chairman Oliverio.

**c) Funding for County Employees to Attend “Suicide Safe Talk”**

Chairman Oliverio stated that the Legislature was told last evening by the Coroners that the two highest causes of death in Putnam County were heart attacks and suicide. Five people in the past three months have died from suicide.

Commissioner Beals stated that he had not put this item in his budget as it is a small amount of money. He stated that considering the fact that we interface with the Community so much and we have a very important role in times of emergency and times of stress, he feels it is important to have this type of training, to identify warning signs to do something prior to an incident taking place. At this time there are 30 people signed up. The cost is \$8.00 per person.

Chairman Oliverio asked Commissioner of Social Services, Michael Piazza if this is something that he too would like to entertain.

Commissioner Piazza stated that it is wonderful that Commissioner Beals has this Suicide Safe Talk in place at this time. They have on Monday evenings the same type of “Suicide Safe Talk” for first responders of the Emergency Operations Center.

Commissioner Piazza’s Department is also looking into other vehicles as well by which to help these individuals.

Chairman Oliverio asked Commissioner Piazza if he has a budget line for that item.

Commissioner Piazza stated he will need to create one.

Chairman Oliverio stated that he would ask the Committee to put forward a Resolution that \$500.00 be provided to the Board of Health so that the Board of Health can send whomever they so choose to take the “Suicide Safe Talk” class.

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to move forward a Resolution to take \$500.00 from contingency for “Suicide Safe Talk” class. Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Chairman Oliverio stated this Resolution will be going to our next Full Legislative Meeting.

(This item will not be going to the July full as Per Bill Carlin’s conversation with Bill Orr the next day. Money will be found within Health Departments Budget)

**d) Proposed Purchase of Emergency Crank Radios**

Dr. Beals stated that September is National Preparedness Month and with cooperation with the Bureau of Emergency Services, they are preparing a telephone survey to assess the level of readiness of our community with the emphasis on a Nuclear Event or Storm. They had felt that the events that they will be promoting will come in conjunction with the people who make crank radios that would be used in the event of a loss of power. Commissioner Beals has already been in negotiations with manufactures of crank radios to negotiate a reduced price. They will have a couple on hand for the event, and will have a raffle for the radios.

Chairman Oliverio asked for a motion that \$100.00 be moved from contingency for crank Radios. This Budgetary will be moved to the Audit Committee.

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to move to the Audit Committee Meeting the approval of \$100.00 from contingency to purchase crank radios. Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

(This item will not be going to the July Full as Per Bill Carlin's conversation with Bill Orr the next day. Money will be found within Health Departments Budget)

**e) Solar Power for Kern Building**

Dr. Beals stated had applied for a grant from the DEC a few months ago, and they granted the County \$150,000.00 for retroactive expenses for Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling program.

Dr. Beals went on to state that being that the Grant money has been given to the County, he had looked into the impact of Solar Power for his building , the (Kern Building) as well as the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) The cost would be approximately \$150,000.00 and he was also given rebate/Grant money of \$60,000.00 from NYSERTA. The net effect would be about \$90,000.00 at cost. Immediately you would gain about 22% - 24% of our electric expense which is roughly about \$6,800.00 per month. That would be an immediate savings on projections for these solar panels, they are there for the next 25-30 years. Over the course of 25 years, it would be a savings of approximately \$300,000.00. This is something that will need to be looked into as well as be considered, as it appears it would be fiscally prudent for the county.

Chairman Oliverio asked Dr. Beals if he would prepare his specs and have the Commissioner of Planning Anthony Ruggiero and Commissioner of Highways and Facilities Fred Pena take a look at his figures, as this is outstanding.

Dr. Beals stated he would do that.

Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker stated that he has had a meeting today regarding Solar Power, and they are still working on the financials at this time.

**f) Correspondence/Community Water System Owners/Fluoridation  
Optimal Dental Health/FYI**

Dr, Beals stated that about 80% of our water in this community are private wells, as are most of the other 20% is non-fluoridated water. The children in those communities have the worst dental issues then in the city because we do not have fluoridated water. There are options out there that can be purchased to fluoridate their water. It is hard to believe that 30% of people 60 years of age in the United States do not have any teeth. It starts with cavities with the children. The Health Department does have dental screenings for all children in the fourth grade. The community dentists do these types of screenings, and they do refer to other Dentists, on a sliding scale, for these children to get the repairs that they need for their teeth.

**#5) Health Department Construction Projects/Verbal Update/Beals & Pena**

Dr. Beals stated that he had spoken to Commissioner Pena, and the need for a room to examine specimens is on the Docket at this time.

**#6) Approval/Putnam County Solid Waste Management Plan**

Chairman Oliverio stated that the chain of command be changed as the Executive and Legislative Branch of government need to be placed on the same line. With that one change, Chairman Oliverio would like to move this forward for adoption.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated that this would need to be gone over by our Legal Department.

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to approve Putnam County Soil Waste Management Plan, with the change in Chain of Command after being approved by our Legal Department. Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

**#7) Pro-Act Prescription Drug Discount Card/Update/Terrence O'Neill**

Chairman Oliverio stated that the Representative for the Pro-Act Prescription Drug Discount Card, Mr. Terrence O'Neill was unable to be here this evening, but he has sent the Committee a List of Claims. In looking over the List of Claims, the amount of savings is increasing each month along with the number of people who are using this card. That is a very good sign.

Legislator Albano asked if Mr. O'Neill would look into the Dental Plan for Pro-Act and discuss it with the Committee at our next Health Committee Meeting.

**#8) Approval/Memorialization/Ulster County Resolution/Opposing Governor Cuomo's  
Proposed 2014 Budget Cuts to the NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities'  
Budget**

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to Approve/Memorialization/Ulster County Resolution/Opposing Governor Cuomo's Proposed 2014 Budget Cuts to the NYS Office of

People with Developmental Disabilities Budget. Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

**#9) Putnam Family & Community Services/Request of Letter of Support/Commissioner Michael Piazza**

Commissioner Piazza stated that the Putnam Family & Community Services have had funding reductions from the state and also methodology changes as well, and it puts them in a jeopardized financial position. That is the reason for the request.

Chairman Oliverio requested that Commissioner Piazza send a copy of his letter to the Clerk at the Legislature.

Commissioner Piazza stated he would send the letter to the Clerk of the Legislature.

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to approve the Letter of Support for Putnam Family & community Services. Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

**#10) NYSAC Resolutions**

**a) Approval/Memorialization/Resolution #1- Calling on the Governor and State Legislature to Further Reduce the County Share of Medicaid Costs by Passing Along to Counties a Share of the Savings that Automatically Accrue to New York Upon Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and by Leveraging all additional Flexibility Allowed under the (ACA) that can Lead to Lower State Medicaid Costs.**

**b) Approval/Memorialization/Resolution #2- Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Avoid Shifting New Costs to Counties as they Implement a State Takeover of Local Medicaid Administrative Functions.**

**c) Approval/Memorialization/Resolution #3- Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Continue to Work with Counties to Encourage Self-sufficiency and Long Term Independence for Recipients of Temporary Assistance and Safety Net by Encouraging Employment.**

**d) Approval/Memorialization/Resolution #4 – Urging New York State to Restore the Historic 50/50 State/Local Cost Sharing for the State’s Safety Net Program, and Provide More Program Control to Local Social Service Districts Commensurate with Counties’ Increased Fiscal Responsibility for the Program.**

**e) Approval/Memorialization/Resolution #5 – Urging New York State to Renew its Commitment to the Safety, Service Delivery, Permanency, Continuing Care/Adoption, and Well-being of children by prioritizing and adequately funding child welfare financing in 2013 and beyond**



**f) Approval/Memorialization/Resolution # 6 – Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Continue to Work with Counties to Successfully Reform Juvenile Justice Programs while Avoiding Significant Cost Shifts to Local Governments**

Chairman Oliverio asked Commissioner Piazza to give the committee an overview of the Resolutions for the Committee, so they could be approved.

Commissioner Piazza gave a thorough overview of all the Resolutions to the Committee.

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to approve all of the NYSAC Resolutions at the same time. Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

**11) Other Business**

**a) Discussion/Medication Take Back Lock Boxes/Legislator Scuccimarra**

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she would like to look into options regarding lock boxes for take back drugs. She has spoken to Mary Rice of the Health Department, and there is funding available for the boxes and would like to really explore this.

Dr. Beals stated that his initial response is that one solution for drop off of medications is to rotate the facilities that we have now to different parts of the County. That way it would make it easier for people to comply. The issue with the lock boxes is that we do this in cooperation with the Hospital and particularly with the Sheriff's Department, as they are the ones that have the greatest misgivings. The reason is that they feel that a bomb, or syringe needles or something harmful along the same lines can be put in these disposal boxes, which would create a dangerous situation wherever the boxes would be located. Dr. Beals has no problem exploring this further, but he mentioned once again that he feels that there is no reason why we cannot do the same as Household Hazardous Waste, and the response is equally fantastic. This is an extremely important program and there is no reason why we cannot explore a solution.

Chairman Oliverio stated he totally agrees with Dr. Beals.

There being no further business, at 7:30 P.M., Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Claire E. Muller, Administrative Assistant.