

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD VIA AUDIO WEBINAR**

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Jonke

Wednesday

6:30PM

April 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 6:30 P.M. by Chairwoman Sayegh who requested that Legislator Jonke lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Addonizio, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – February 7, 2022 and March 8, 2022 Meetings

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/Application/NYS DEC Funding Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is an annual resolution to support the Hazardous Waste Collection Event. She stated the Health Department is planning two (2) events in 2022, one (1) on April 30th and the other is planned for October 1st.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Application/NYS DEC Funding Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 22A019/Historian/Reimburse Printing Costs for the Publication of “Putnam Valley: A Look Back”

Chairwoman Sayegh stated anyone interested in purchasing this book can contact the County Historian’s Office or the Putnam Valley Historical Society. She thanked Deputy Historian Sallie Sypher for researching and writing this book.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 22A019; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 22A025/Health Department/Office Supplies, Computer Equipment, and Desk Phones for new Fellowship Positions

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the Fellowship program was discussed at the Personnel Committee meeting. She stated these purchases are 100% reimbursed through the Fellowship grant.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 22A025; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #7 - FYI/Youth Bureau/Highway Safety Grant Application through the NYS DMV

Youth Bureau Executive Director Janeen Cunningham stated this has been a very successful program. She stated it is now in the Town of Carmel and Town of Kent Courts. She stated there has already been four (4) cases through this program. She stated these cases are youth that have been pulled over for speeding or other traffic infractions; and have had different recommendations such as an interview with a police officer or community service. She stated the Youth Bureau is trying to expand this program in the schools and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned how youth are sent through the Teen Driving Court instead of regular Traffic Court.

Executive Director Cunningham stated the judges refer the case to the program.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned when the program began in the Town of Carmel.

Executive Director Cunningham stated it started around December.

Chairwoman Sayegh clarified that this grant is used for multiple programs such as: Parents as Driving Partners and Teen Driving Court.

Legislator Addonizio stated she is glad to see this move forward as it is a great program. She thanked Executive Director Cunningham for her efforts.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Executive Director Cunningham for pursuing grant funding.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how this program has been working.

Executive Director Cunningham stated it has been working very well. She stated it helps the youth learn. She stated there have been instances of youth speeding very fast on Interstate 84 that could have resulted in many points on their license, but the cases were referred to the Teen Driving Court. She stated there has been positive feedback from the kids and parents.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if it is the same structure as regular court.

Executive Director Cunningham stated it is the same structure as the Youth Court. She stated usually, a high school senior acts as the judge. She stated they are also paired with a youth mentor to walk them through the process before they get to court. She stated the mentor also shows them the consequences they would be facing if not for the Teen Driving Court Program. She stated the parents are very thankful for this aspect. She noted that if the individual has another traffic offense, they cannot go back to the Teen Driving Court.

Youth Services Specialist Pamela Philips Zeller stated there is also a group of youth that are designing presentations to give to the schools. She stated they have also presented to the Town of Kent Police Department.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Specialist Philips Zeller for the information and her efforts.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if a youth from another county has a traffic violation, would they be eligible for the program or would they go directly to regular court.

Executive Director Cunningham stated they have already been referred a Westchester County resident, even though they planned on only taking Putnam County residents. She stated the parents were very impressed with the program and hope it expands into Westchester. She stated if the State sees that this program works, it could be a model for other counties.

Specialist Philips Zeller stated they are going to be reaching out to the DMVs in Beacon and Peekskill because they have found that residents on the western side of Putnam County go to those DMVs. She stated they have also learned that 50% of the agreements being signed in the Brewster are from out of county residents. She stated they hope this will show the State that this is a program worth expanding.

Legislator Gouldman stated this is a great initiative. He suggested partnering with the Putnam Valley Court.

Specialist Philips Zeller stated they are currently looking at the Putnam Valley or Philipstown Courts for expansion.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated it is fantastic that the Youth Bureau is looking to expand this program.

Executive Director Cunningham thanked the Legislature for their support.

Item #8 - Other Business – None

Item #9 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:55 P.M., Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.