

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

(Chairman Oliverio, Legislators Othmer & Tamagna)

Wednesday

June 13, 2012

6:30 P.M.

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

Item #3) Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2012

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4) Recognition of Bill Huestis/Former Director of Office for Aging

Legislator Othmer called upon former Director of Office for Aging Bill Huestis to be recognized and honored with a Certificate for his years of dedication as well as his years of service.

Mr. Huestis stated he is going to see where his retirement takes him, as he feels he a little young to retire. In looking around the room, Bill reminisced about all of the families that he has worked with throughout the years, and remembered them all fondly. He thanked everyone for the acknowledgement.

Chairman Oliverio stated that Bill's presence in Putnam Valley will never be forgotten, and thanked Bill for the creation of the Putnam Valley Senior Center.

Item #5) Update/Pro-Act/Terence O'Neill

Mr. O'Neill gave the Committee a brief update on Pro-Act, stating that Putnam County is one of 51 Counties across New York State, who have exclusively endorsed this discount Prescription Card Program. These Counties have collectively saved residents over eighty nine million dollars by filling more than 2.7 million prescriptions. Since the program's inception, we have seen over one thousand prescriptions filled utilizing the discount card program. There were over 450 discount cards used.

Mr. O'Neill thanked the Committee for the opportunity to bring the update forward.

Chairman Oliverio stated that he is surprised, as well as pleased, to see the amount of usage of these cards, as this is a new opportunity for the residents.

Item # 6) Monthly Update/Commissioner Mike Piazza

Commissioner Piazza stated that the area that he will be reporting on this month is in the area of Mental Health. There has been a Medicaid redesign and Managed Care is taking over for what was Fee for Service. The long term concern is the solvency of Putnam County Community Services.

Chairman Oliverio questioned who would pick up the slack.

Commissioner Piazza stated the discussion we are having for the future, is it going to be survival of the fittest? There are Agency's out there that would take over regionally and simply take over. Westchester County is also going through the exact same issues as Putnam County. It is uncertain just what the future will hold for us here.

The State Department of Health is taking over the lead of a lot of the Mental Health issues. The State Office of Mental Health is really receding. The initiative is Medicaid redesign, which in reality is really cost cut. The State Clinics are a new thing, and the State Hospitals are closing down. Case Management is transitioning to another Managed Care, and that Managed Care entity is going to be responsible for those patients who leave the hospitals for psychiatric or a rehab bed. Outpatient treatment is the County's responsibility, and we have to assign a Case Manager. The real question is who should provide the governmental oversight.

Another issue is the return of the Veteran's from active duty. Every day we get information about what is happening statistically, to some of these returning Veteran's, as there is one suicide every day.

Legislator Tamagna questions if the help that is being given to these Veteran's is enough.

Commissioner Piazza stated that at this time, we really do not know exactly what our Veterans are entitled to. We are just beginning to share information from different resources.

There was a brief discussion about perhaps putting some sort of information on the Veterans driver's licenses that would alert authorities that this person is a returning Veteran.

Item #7) Other Business

There was no Other Business to discuss

Item #8) Adjournment

Being no further business to discuss, Chairman Oliverio made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. Seconded by Legislator Tamagna.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:
Claire E. Muller
Administrative Assistant