

HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Held In The
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512
Members: Chairman Oliverio, Legislators LoBue and Scuccimarra

Wednesday

December 11, 2014

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

Item #3 – Approval of Minutes – November 12, 2014

Legislator LoBue made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item #4 – Discussion/Putnam Community Action Program (CAP)

Putnam CAP Board Member Ann Voss stated she has been a part of the program for many years. She stated Putnam CAP just completed their Thanksgiving Food Drive and they were able to feed over 450 families. She stated the elderly population is in need and should be considered when opportunities to assist this population are present. She stated she understands that she missed speaking with the Legislature during the budget season, however she would like the Legislature keep in mind of the potential grants that Putnam CAP can be eligible for. She stated she is also a current advocate for those with traumatic brain injuries. She stated United States Senator Kristen Gillibrand discussed with her about a potential brain injury grant to assist in paying for equipment.

Putnam CAP Member Bill Hammond stated the Putnam CAP assists the community by providing a soup kitchen, school supplies to children, and clothes to those in need. He stated Putnam CAP provided approximately 750 children with toys for the holidays.

Legislator LoBue questioned where the location of the soup kitchen is.

Putnam CAP Member Hammond stated the soup kitchen is located at the Baptist Church on North Main Street in the Village of Brewster. He stated funding through grants have decreased. He stated Putnam CAP also financially assists those who need help in paying for their electric, heat or medical bills. Year to date \$18,991.00 has been given to those who need assistance in paying these bills.

Legislator LoBue made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Putnam CAP Member Hammond stated Putnam CAP receives part of the Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) which provides approximately \$161,000.00. He stated last summer Putnam CAP had a Summer Youth Program which was supported by an approximate \$41,000.00 grant.

Chairman Oliverio questioned if Putnam CAP has a designated grant writer.

Putnam CAP Member Hammond stated he believes Putnam CAP Assistant Director Marisa O’Leary is the grant writer. He stated the Putnam CAP’s Budget is approximately \$269,000.00 a year and most of the funding is based on donations.

Legislator LoBue questioned if there was an increase in the amount of Thanksgiving Baskets given this year.

Putnam CAP Member Hammond stated yes, there was a slight increase in the amount of Thanksgiving Baskets given.

Legislator LoBue stated the Legislature understands the needs of the community especially when the Legislature sees the docketed foreclosures. She stated she is glad that the Putnam CAP Members are here before the Health Committee.

Putnam CAP Member Hammond stated Putnam CAP had over 150 volunteers that assisted with the Thanksgiving Food Baskets this year.

Chairman Oliverio stated this is his last time as Chairman of the Health Committee but, he hopes the next Health Committee Chair would focus on Putnam CAP.

Legislator Gross stated he has spoken to Putnam CAP Director Judy Callahan who is planning on submitting a budget request for 2015. He stated Director Callahan informed him that for years many of the recent immigrants were the ones in need of assistance. However, the population has changed and it is now the “everyday people”. He stated he commends Putnam CAP with all their assistance they provide to the community; especially the backpack program where school supplies are given to children in need.

Putnam CAP Board Member Voss stated she gave back to the community over the years and now she is transitioning to be on the receiving end. She stated she would be thrilled to come and talk to the Health Committee when this matter is being discussed again.

Item #5 – Approval/Household Hazardous Waste Grant

Legislator Scuccimarra made a motion to approve the Household Hazardous Waste Grant; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval/Re-Appointment of Board of Health Member/Arthur McCormick

Chairman Oliverio questioned how many years Mr. Arthur McCormick has been a Member.

Commissioner of Health Dr. Allen Beals stated Mr. McCormick has been a Member before he was the Commissioner of Health. He stated Mr. McCormick is a valued member and recommends his re-appointment.

Legislator Scuccimarra made a motion to approve the re-appointment of the Mr. Arthur McCormick to the Board of Health; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #7 – Algonquin Pipeline/Correspondence/NYC Department of Environmental Protection/FYI- Duly Noted

Item #8 – Fund Transfer Request (14T310)/Health Department/Temporary/FYI

Clerk of the Legislature Diane Schonfeld stated the matter is a sign for the Audit & Administrative Committee meeting.

Commissioner Beals stated there is no fiscal impact with Fund Transfer Request 14T310.

Item #10 – Other Business

e. Discussion/2014 Flu Vaccine’s Effectiveness

Commissioner Beals stated as discussed at a previous Health Committee, the flu vaccine is developed about a year before the flu season begins. He stated the Legislature approved the funding for the Quadrivalent Flu Vaccine, where there are four (4) different antigens. He stated the County has been using the Quadrivalent Flu Vaccine. He stated one (1) of the strains in the flu vaccine is a “drift” meaning a mutation occurred and is not effective against one (1) of the flu strains. He stated the flu vaccine is still effective against the other three (3) flu strains. He stated thousands of people die from the flu every year. He stated he recommends that everyone get vaccinated for the flu every year.

Legislator Gross stated at the December Department Head meeting it was mentioned by Commissioner Beals that the flu vaccine is good for the entire year.

Commissioner Beals stated it takes two (2) weeks for immunity against the flu to develop. He stated there are five (5) cases of the flu in the County, and two (2) of those cases required hospitalization. He stated there have been five (5) pediatric deaths in the United States due to the flu.

Item #9 – ProAct/Putnam County Discount Card/FYI- Duly Noted

Item #10 – Other Business

- a. Approval/Budgetary Amendment (14A120)/Health Department/Early Intervention**
- b. Approval/Fund Transfer Request (14T340)/Social Services/Reallocation of Funds**
- c. Approval/Fund Transfer Request (14T341)/Social Services/Reallocation of Funds**
- d. Approval/Fund Transfer Request (14T337)/Social Services/Reallocation of Funds**

Chairman Oliverio questioned how the County is managing the transition in consolidating the psychiatric centers.

Commissioner of Social Services Michael Piazza stated the State is attempting to decrease the psychiatric centers and move some of the funding into the community. He stated the only funding given to our region is for housing or Crisis Intervention Teams. He stated there are two (2) types of housing; Supportive Housing and Crisis Diversion. Supportive Housing is where an individual can live at a place for a couple years and have access to resources such as case management. Crisis Diversion is housing where an individual would only stay for a couple of days. He stated there was the goal to reduce all hospitalization centers within five (5) years by 25%. He stated if there is proper care before discharging a patient, the patient will not come back to the hospital. He stated two (2) weeks ago he received a call about two (2) individuals being discharged from the psychiatric center who are homeless; this situation is very challenging.

Chairman Oliverio questioned what occurs in the County when a homeless person is discharged from the psychiatric center.

Commissioner Piazza stated it is best if that individual does not go to a shelter because they need a strong support system. He stated sometimes a person in this circumstance will be placed in Crisis Diversion housing while the County locates different housing.

Chairman Oliverio questioned if the State aids in funding for this purpose.

Commissioner Piazza stated the State aids in funding for beds. He stated the State steps in certain circumstances. He stated in most of the counties in the State the sheriff's department's jail is the psychiatric center.

Chairman Oliverio questioned if drug abuse and drug use has a big impact on individuals in the jail system.

Commissioner Piazza stated it is a separate issue. He stated most of these cases are mental health.

Legislator LoBue stated the State is not saving money because the process has been lengthened.

Commissioner Piazza stated the State had about 94,000 beds in State Psychiatric Centers in 1954 and now there are approximately 3,000 beds.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned what the rationale behind the drastic cuts is.

Commissioner Piazza stated some is positive rationale where through medications people can live in the community. However, the pressure to have people leave a psychiatric center creates pressure on the community providers. He stated on November 25, 2014 the Sheriff and other police officials had a meeting to discuss the Crisis Intervention Training.

Chairman Oliverio stated there are several additional resolutions that the Legislative Office received.

Commissioner Piazza stated Budgetary Amendment 14A120 is in regards to the Early Intervention. He stated the “safety net population” is growing partly due to the State shifting some of their funding. He stated there is concern regarding the increase in housing costs.

Legislator LoBue made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 14A120, Fund Transfer 14T340, Fund Transfer 14T341 and Fund Transfer 14T337; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

The Legislators commended Chairman Oliverio for all his work while serving the Legislature as his tenure as a Legislator will soon come to an end.

Item #11 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:00 p.m. Legislator Scuccimarra made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Lisa Sommers.