

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held In The**  
**PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**  
**ROOM 318**  
**CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairwoman Scuccimarra, Legislators Addonizio and Gouldman**

**Wednesday**

**October 11, 2017**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Chairwoman Scuccimarra who requested Legislator Gouldman lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Addonizio, Gouldman and Chairwoman Scuccimarra were present.

**Item #3 – 2017 Budget Review**

**Community College – Page 50 – Account 2490**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the County pays 30% of the tuition for people who attend. She stated it comes to a total of \$3.1 million.

Legislator Addonizio stated this applies to all SUNY (State University of New York) schools.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated a lot of counties have their own community colleges but Putnam does not.

**Health Department – Pages 51, 52, 88-111, 201, 202**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated there are many mandated programs so the budget does not have a lot of wiggle room.

Acting Commissioner of Health Michael Nesheiwat stated he and Health Department Fiscal Manager William Orr have had many meetings with the Administration. He stated they have done their due diligence. He stated there are a lot of savings because they are losing some members of the Health Department due to retirement that have a lot of longevity. He stated they have decided to promote from within the department so there will be savings in the salaries. He stated they have made cuts for savings. He stated the State does mandate certain things, including Early Intervention (Account 4059) and Preschool.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that is on pages 106 and 107.

Acting Commissioner Nesheiwat stated even with the significant increases in the mandates, there are still savings.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra requested clarification that the rise in Early Intervention was because of the increase in children in the program.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated yes there are more children in the program.

Legislator Albano questioned what Care at Private Institution (page 106, line 54414) is.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated that is where the kids go to school and the county pays tuition. He stated the Health Department does not decide where they go to school, the parents do. He stated the tuition ranges from \$25,000 to \$50,000 per child.

Legislator Addonizio questioned how many kids are in that program.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated there are 73 children as of now.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the \$350,000 increase in line 54441 on page 51.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated that is Itinerant Services which is services children get at home. He stated there were 220 kids receiving services in 2016 and currently there are 252 which is an increase of 14.5% which is consistent with the rise of the cost at around 15%.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated questioned if Communicable Disease Treatment (page 108, account 4065) included flu shots.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated yes it does include the flu shots.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if there has already been flu clinics this year.

Acting Commissioner Nesheiwat stated there have been two (2) this year and two (2) more are scheduled.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra requested information on the WIC program (page 109, account 4082).

Fiscal Manager Orr stated it is the Women Infants and Children Program.

Legislator Albano questioned what the program provides.

Acting Commissioner Nesheiwat stated it provides formula, help with lactation and breastfeeding, education for new mothers, seminars about the benefits of taking care of a child.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated the County does not pay for it, the State does.

Legislator Nacerino questioned who is eligible for the program.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated there is a formula and that the State is involved.

Legislator Addonizio stated it is partly based on income.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated that is correct.

Legislator Gouldman questioned why the 2018 tentative was \$60,000 less than requested for State Aid Public Health line 434011 on page 97.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated expenses were cut 36% so funds were cut 36%.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the 2017 budgeted amount for line 52650 Motor Vehicles would be used this year or next year.

Fiscal Manager William Orr stated the vehicles will be bought in 2017, not 2018.

Legislator Gouldman noted that the same amount of money was requested for 2018 as 2017.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated yes but it was decided that two (2) cars would be sufficient so the money was taken out for 2018.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated for Recycling line 54936 on page 201 is a Partnership Initiative with \$7,500 that goes to the Town of Cold Spring for garbage removal. She stated she would like the number to be \$10,000 because Cold Spring is inundated with tourists.

Legislator Nacerino questioned what the local Town Board done to address the problem. She stated this should be a partnership between the local municipalities.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated they are not getting any help.

Legislator Nacerino stated that should not put the responsibility on every taxpayer in Putnam County.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated they share sales tax revenue and help bring people into the County.

Legislator Nacerino stated everyone does. She stated she thinks that the Town Board should have some responsibility to alleviate some of the problems too. She stated garbage and trash removal is a big problem for every municipality and nobody else gets subsidized. She stated she realizes that there is a great deal of tourism but still feels strongly that the Town should bear some of the burden.

Legislator Albano stated in Carmel there are a lot of stores and car dealerships that generate sales tax and taxpayers also paid for a \$32 million sewer plant to help with growth.

Legislator Sullivan stated he would like to figure out a way to generate revenue from the amount of tourism, like through the parking lots or Breakneck Mountain.

Legislator Nacerino stated that is not the County's responsibility. It is a State owned park.

Legislator Sullivan stated there should be a way to offset some of the costs.

Lynne Eckardt, resident, questioned how much the Partnership Initiative (line 54936 on page 201) was for in 2017.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it was \$7,500 in 2017.

Ms. Eckardt questioned if trash collection is done at Breakneck Ridge.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated no, there is garbage all over the mountain.

Ms. Eckardt stated Southeast generates a lot of sales tax along with Carmel. She stated this ignores the other Towns in the County. She stated there is the Metro North parking lot in Southeast which has a lot of litter and problems. She stated they have been relying on volunteer groups.

Legislator Gouldman stated the 2017 actuals for Hazardous Waste Cleanup Assistance (line 434896, page 201) are at zero (0). He questioned if that was because there have not been any Hazardous Waste Cleanup Days.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated they have had the cleanup days but this line is revenue, which comes later in the year. He stated the cost of the cleanup days comes out of line 54185.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that is \$36,000.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated there are two (2) per year. He stated the cost shown was the price of the first one and there was just one this past Saturday (October 7<sup>th</sup>).

Legislator Gouldman questioned if Fiscal Manager Orr expects the full \$19,000 in revenue (line 434896, page 201).

Fiscal Manager Orr stated he does. He stated it is a 50% reimbursement.

### **Mental Health – Pages 48, 112-125**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated they would be addressing the Youth Program on pages 188-191.

Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Joseph DeMarzo stated there are many youth programs that are moving forward. He stated there is the Pegasus Program and Youth Court Program, which are positive youth development program. He stated Pegasus is for children whose parents are alcohol or substance abusers and the program attempts to break the cycle for young people growing up in those environments. He stated over the past few years the mentoring programs have come back. He stated part of the 2018 budget is an expansion of those programs. He stated they are currently in four (4) schools and are looking to add a fifth. He stated the four (4) schools they are in are Carmel, Mahopac, Haldane, and Putnam Valley. He stated there is interest in getting into the Brewster schools. He stated other changes in the budget include looking to combine positions. He stated for the past four (4) or five (5) years there have been about 20 people hired into part-time positions, and then they find another full time position in the County. He stated there has been a revolving door, which is disheartening. He stated they are looking to combine two (2) positions into one (1) permanent full-time position. He stated there is also a secretarial position that historically been full-time but two (2) years ago it was made part-

time in an attempt to be proactive and support the budget. He stated this has handcuffed the Youth Bureau.

Janeene Cunningham, Youth Bureau Executive Director, stated there are two (2) positions that are 28 hours per week. She stated there are no benefits with these positions. She stated there is a lot of turnover. She stated the kids in the program have no consistency.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that has an effect on the children.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated especially when they develop a trusting relationship.

Executive Director Cunningham stated there is a Youth Court position which is 14 hours a week. She stated she would like to combine that position with one (1) of the mentoring positions so it would be full-time. She stated the secretary of many years retired. She stated there is now a part time secretary position in the budget. She stated that position is the only support in the Youth Bureau. She stated in the temporary positions work great for the Pegasus Program.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated the Pegasus Program is in the evenings.

Executive Director Cunningham stated that is Thursday nights from 6pm to 9pm. She stated it is the year round temporary positions that cause huge turnover.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated they are looking for some stability.

Executive Director Cunningham stated the Youth Specialist exam is coming up in October so there will be a list of people who have experience working with kids.

Legislator Sullivan questioned how many people are in the Youth Bureau.

Executive Director Cunningham stated there are only two (2) full time employees in the office. She stated there is a part time secretary who works around 28 hours. She stated there are two (2) part time employees for Youth Court, the mentoring program has two (2) employees as 28 hours a week, the Pegasus Program

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated they are taking two (2) part time positions and turning them into one (1) full time position. He stated they will add some hours for the mentoring program that will hopefully be picked up by other part time employees.

Legislator Sullivan stated that explains why there are health care costs in the budget where in the past there was not.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated that is correct.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned why Talbot House has its name.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated that was the original name and has not been changed.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if it was named after a particular person.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated he believes it is named after someone who was very involved in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated line 10029000 Peers Influence Peers is \$36,000 and \$7,000 for Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, which are both excellent programs. She stated Peers Influence Peers is celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May. She stated they seem to be ahead of the curve.

Legislator Gouldman questioned for Talbot House (), the contract line () is less for next year than it was for this year. He stated in 2017 the contract was for \$45,437 and 2018 is expected to be \$38,752.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated he is not sure which contract that is.

Legislator Gouldman stated in 2016 it was \$27,700.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated it is the Drinking and Driving Program.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated that is based on the individuals who the contract is with and historical trends. He stated it is based on a need. He stated people charged with DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) have to go through the program as part of their arrest and/or to get their license back.

Commissioner Carlin stated the program has zero (0) fiscal impact.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated on pages 115-118, the budget for Mental Health Administration is staying pretty much the same.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated there is a requested change for a part time position to become full time. He stated it is a SPOA (Single Point of Accountability or Access) position. He stated the individual came on for housing and case management for people with mental illnesses. He stated the services are mainly for individuals who are homeless or are in inappropriate housing. He explained how New York State has mandated certain services. He stated it is a very labor intensive program which the reason for making this position full time.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she can see that. She requested clarification on Elliot House.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated it is through CoveCare (formerly Putnam Family and Community Services) and the County provides support to them for mental health services, for prevention in the school districts, and alcohol and substance abuse services.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra requested clarification on what is done in the school districts.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated in partnership with the Youth Bureau there are Community Educators, who are in the schools districts as part of the prevention programs.

Legislator Nacerino questioned which districts they are currently in.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated they are in Mahopac, Putnam Valley, Haldane, and Garrison. He stated they are not in Carmel or Brewster because the school districts hired their own social workers.

### **Social Services – 130**

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated it is mostly mandated programs. He stated the budget is basically flat. He stated they have moved some money around and are asking for upgrades for some positions while giving up others.

Legislator Gouldman questioned on page 130 the State chargeback for ABICS was \$3,700 in 2017 but \$6,500 was requested for 2018.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated in general most of the formulas in Social Services are based on reimbursements. He stated kids go into program based on their need, not based on what is available to them.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated on page 143 services for recipients

Legislator Albano stated the revenue seems high

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated each year the formulas from the State and Federal Government change and it is based on that.

Legislator Gouldman stated on page 141, administrative chargeback, the revenue is showing zero (0) for the year. He questioned if that will be paid this year.

Commissioner Carlin stated the claims have not been submitted for the year yet.

Legislator Gouldman stated on page 142 there are three (3) different day cares. He questioned which is which.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated those are the licensed daycare providers in the community and are based on where people live. He stated the County reimburses the daycares for services they provide families in need.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the miscellaneous line on page 143 could be broken down more due to its high amount of \$1,125,000. He questioned if the money is too spread out to be able to do that. He stated in the future, if the line could be broken down more, it would be appreciated.

Commissioner Carlin stated he would look into providing a better breakdown in the future.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra requested clarification on PINS (People In Need of Supervision) on page 148.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated it is all based on projections and historical data. He stated it goes through Family Court and Probation.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated on page 149 there is the budget for State Training Schools for juveniles.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated this is part of changing the age of young people who can go into correctional facilities from 17 years old to 18 years old. He stated there is no historic data because it is new legislation, so projections are being used.

Legislator Gouldman questioned which public assistance programs fall under Safety Net.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated food stamps, which are not called food stamps anymore, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program).

Legislator Gouldman stated on page 151 there is Federal Aid for HEAP. He questioned if that means HEAP does not fall under Safety Net.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated he believes there is an allotment from the Federal Government and then there is a portion that the County is responsible for.

Legislator Gouldman stated for Federal Aid for HEAP on page 151 the County budgeted for \$35,000 in revenue but only received \$7,000. He questioned if that is because the cold season has not hit the area yet.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated that is correct, and the rest has not been claimed by the County yet.

Chairwoman Scuccimara stated Emergency Aid for Adults on page 153 is for when people lose their house and/or their furniture or belongings. She questioned how long the assistance is for.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated there is a small portion of money that the County can support them with. He stated it is not an extended, long term program.

Legislator Gouldman stated for WIA (Workforce Investment Act) on page 154 there was no budgeted amount but the County received close to \$40,000.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated they are not sure what the allotment is going to be. He stated the money comes down from the Federal government. He stated Putnam County receives part of Westchester County's WIA funding.

Legislator Gouldman questioned why nothing has been budgeted for 2018.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated as Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated the County waits to get the allotment amount. He stated if the Federal government reduces WIA then the County will have to as well. He stated as a caveat on the whole Department of Social Services budget, usually the County has a good idea of what is going on but with the Federal government talking about making

cuts, a lot is up in the air and will be determined when the Federal budget is done. He stated the County will have to adjust as more information comes in.

### **Special Programs and Grants – Pages 156-161**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if grants can be counted on.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated no, it is year to year.

### **Office of Senior Resources – Pages 171 – 183, 198**

Director of the Office for Senior Resources Michael Cunningham stated there is an increase of approximately \$140,000 which is primarily transfers from other lines. He stated there are three (3) salary adjustments.

Legislator Nacerino questioned on page 171 a large increase in postage.

Terry Wolf stated that is for the senior guide that goes out.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if it went out in 2017.

Wolf stated there was a bulk account in 2017. She stated they send over 15,000.

Legislator Nacerino stated the increase from \$500 in 2017 to \$7,500 is steep.

Wolf stated the bulk account needs to be replenished.

Legislator Nacerino questioned the increase in medical supplies from \$100 to \$1,000.

Wolf stated need medical supplies.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the \$3,000 budgeted for furniture on page 171.

Wolf stated that is for new hires in the administrative staff at the main office.

Legislator Gouldman stated on page 171 for gasoline in 2017 \$3,643 was used, but 2018 is budgeted for \$1,944. He questioned if less driving will be done.

Terry stated it could be due to vehicle. She stated that line is for the vehicles garaged in Putnam Valley and Cold Spring. She stated there is a purchase agreement for gas there.

Legislator Albano stated on page 171, Personnel Services increased.

Director Cunningham stated that reflects the three (3) personnel lines he mentioned earlier that were changed. He stated further in the budget there are reductions to account for the increase. He stated there is a line for Adult Daycare that was reduced.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated on page 175 there is the budget for Retired Senior Volunteer Program. She stated there are more than 500 volunteers.

Director Cunningham stated there is a slight decrease in this budget.

Legislator Gouldman questioned what the Travel line on page 175 is used for.

Wolf stated it is for volunteers to put in mileage to certain locations.

Legislator Gouldman stated it does not seem the full budget for 2017 will be used in the Travel line.

Wolf stated that is why the Travel budget was decreased for 2018.

**Safe Harbor – Page 157 – Account 6326**

**Youth Program – Pages 188-191 – Account 7310**

**PINS – Page 149 – Account 6123**

**Handicapped Child – Pages 50 -51 – Account 2960**

**Recycling – Pages 201 – 202 – Account 8160**

**PC OSR Title 3 – Pages 172 – 175 – Account 6772**

**OSR RSVP – Pages 176 – 177 – Account 6773**

**Nutrition Elderly/Title VI – Pages 178-179 – Account 6774**

**Recreation for the Elderly – Page 198 – Account 7620**

**County Historian – Pages 193-194 – Account 7510**

**Item #4 – Other Business- None**

**Item #5 – Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 7:08 p.m. Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Ed Gordon.