

# HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

## MINUTES

February 26, 2007

### **Present:**

R. Parete      M. Sheeley  
J. Roberti     P. Liepmann  
P. Terpening   J. Stoeckeler  
C. Busick

**UCMHD:**      M. Beckman, E. Brown

**Others:**      Katie Young, Daily Freeman

### **GHHCC:**

Sheree Cross, Director,    Deborah Sinsabaugh, ADDCS

Chairman Robert Parete called the GHHCC portion of the meeting to order at 6:20PM.

1. Governor's Budget Proposal: Director Cross gave an overview of the cuts proposed by the Governor. The total could be \$824,175 for fiscal year 2007. The governor's proposal includes: 1. eliminating the Nursing Home Quality improvement Demonstration Program a loss of (\$262,500) 2. Phasing out the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Allocations, a loss of (\$153,500) 3. Eliminating the trend factor, a loss of (\$329,975) 4. Imposition of a Medicaid only case mix, a loss of (\$78, 200) 5. Continue the Nursing Home Assessment at a rate of 6% – currently budgeted at an expense of \$225,330. The committee agreed to send a letter from this committee's Chairman in support of restoring the budget cuts and also in support of the revision of the phase in schedule of the 100M grant. The facility did a virtual lobby day on February 15, 2007 by having leaflets and flyers available for staff, residents or family members to call NYS legislators to oppose cuts to nursing homes.
2. Manager Salary Issue: Director Cross discussed salary compression between CSEA represented employees and Managers. Recently, the Assistant Deputy Director of Nursing (manager) retired and the nurse on staff (CSEA) who was chosen to replace her will lose \$.54 per hour to take the promotion. This makes it very difficult to promote qualified staff. Legislator Terpening stated that he sits on the Labor Relations Committee and that the topic has come up and that it will be addressed when that committee meets with representatives from Management.
3. Alcohol for Residents: Director Cross explained that a while ago a request for payment was denied for rum(alcohol) for rum cake for the residents by the county auditor. She also explained how the residents do have occasions where beer, wine and spirits are served for parties. The committee discussed the need or development of a policy for the purchasing of alcohol for resident's occasions. Committee Chair Robert Parete agreed to find out what the objection was and then the committee will make a resolution or policy.
4. Vacancies: 4 vacancies were requested – 2 LPNs, 1 Sr. Account Clerk and 1 Supervising Nurse. A motion was made by Legislator Stoeckeler to approve the vacancy requests and seconded by Legislator Terpening. All were in favor. Motion carried.

5. Equipment Requests: All requests are itemized in the current budget. *Bed Check Controls* – 10 for \$2,650 Legislator Busick made a motion to approve. Legislator Terpening seconded. All were in favor;  
*Shower chair* \$618.00 – Legislator Stoeckeler made motion to approve, Legislator Roberti seconded. All were in favor.  
*Bariatric Shower Chair* \$852.46 – Legislator Stoeckeler made a motion to approve.  
Legislator Busick seconded. All were in favor.  
*Shower Trolley* \$3780 – Legislator Busick made a motion to approve, Legislator Roberti seconded. All were in favor.  
*Rehab High Back Shower Commode* \$760.73 Legislator Terpening made a motion to approve. Legislator Roberti Seconded. All were in favor.  
*Laundry Hampers* 14 not to exceed \$4,000 Legislator Stoeckeler made a motion to approve. Legislator Sheeley seconded. All were in favor.  
*Laundry Linen Cart* not to exceed \$850 Legislator Roberti made a motion to approve.  
Legislator Sheeley seconded. All were in favor.  
*Canopies for South Wing* – new section of canopy, not to exceed \$5,000 Legislator Sheeley made a motion to approve. Legislator Roberti seconded. All were in favor.  
*Replacement of current canopies* – South wing, A2 patio, not to exceed \$7,500. budget had been approved for \$22,000 these two canopy orders would only amount to \$12,500.  
Legislator Sheeley made a motion to approve. Legislator Terpening seconded. All were in favor.
6. Conference Requests: Audio Conference regarding Care Planning, 20 participants, \$239 Legislator Busick made a motion to approve. Legislator Sheeley seconded. All were in favor.  
Survey Update, 2 participants, \$159 each. Discount rate if paid by March 7, 2007. Will only send staff if able to pay prior to March 7. Legislator Busick made a motion to approve. Legislator Roberti seconded. All were in favor.
7. Update Cable TV discussion. Director Cross informed the Committee that there is an RFP sent out asking for pricing for satellite TV service. In the meantime, Chairman Donaldson had a discussion with Time Warner. Time Warner had stated there could be a package for the same rate. The back and forth, over the last month, between the facility's Maintenance Director(Vince Morano) and Time Warner (Mike Stevens) has yielded 2 things:1. The threat that Time Warner owns the cable wires because of the service agreement and therefore can and will not allow the facility to hook up satellite and 2. The channel line up for the same amount paid currently is very unacceptable and there is no opportunity to interchange the channels. The facility is certain that Time Warner has not supplied or installed any wires in the time of our 5 year service agreement. Therefore no ownership by Time Warner is agreed upon. Time Warner has been informed to contact the County Attorney's office in regards to this issue.
8. Van – As has been discussed at previous meetings, Director Cross discussed the 4 passenger van that the facility is interested in purchasing. The financing would be as follows: Donation money - \$32,000, Volunteer Donation \$1,000 and up to \$6,000 from the equipment budget line. It was explained that the van would be

purchased from the state bid which is currently around \$19,500 and there is an additional \$1,000 rebate. This is for a 2007 model. The next step would be to quote the necessary conversions to make it adaptable for the residents. This has been estimated at approximately \$17,000. Also, funding has also been requested of Assemblyman Cahill and Senator Larkin and Maurice Hinchey. The state funds would not be known until the fall and Hinchey funds would be for 2008. If those funds are awarded to GHHCC additional vans will be purchased. Legislator Terpening made a motion to approve the van purchase. Legislator Sheeley seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

9. A motion was made by Legislator Sheeley to go into executive session at 7:10 pm. Seconded by Legislator Terpening. A motion was made by Legislator Sheeley to end the executive session at 7:20 pm.

The GHHCC portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Chairman Parete called the Mental Health portion of the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

1. The committee approved a resolution to eliminate a Mental Health Unit Leader position and create a Mental Health Program Supervisor position. The resolution was moved by J. Stoeckeler and seconded by P. Terpening and passed unanimously.
2. The committee approved a resolution to reclassify the Fiscal Officer position to that of Fiscal Unit Leader. The resolution was moved by J. Stoeckeler and seconded by P. Terpening and passed unanimously.
3. The Committee approved a resolution to transfer funds for temporary services. The resolution was moved by C. Busick and seconded by J. Stoeckeler and passed unanimously.
4. M. Beckman updated the Committee on the status of the computer system and building renovation project for the Golden Hill Building. He reported that a meeting was held to discuss the project. The meeting included Legislators Donaldson, Berardi, Cahill and Robert Parete and Vic Work, Michael Hein, Ed Brown and M. Beckman. The meeting resulted in a plan to undertake the capital project authorization process and establish an oversight committee for the project. The Committee approved a resolution supporting the commencement of the process. The resolution was moved by P. Terpening, seconded by J. Stoeckeler and passed unanimously.
5. The Committee approved a memorializing resolution to Governor Spitzer and the New York State legislature to promote access to school based mental health clinic treatment services by eliminating financial obstacles. The resolution was moved by J. Stoeckeler, seconded by P. Liepmann and passed unanimously.

The committee members discussed the need for school based services throughout the districts within the County. Legislator Sheeley stated that she felt the County had an obligation to respond to the Rondout School District's request for school-

- based services. M. Beckman indicated that he had not been working on such a plan because he expected the budget to be an impediment to doing so. Ultimately, M. Beckman offered to develop a presentation on all of the issues that would need to be considered for the Committee to make a policy decision about expansion of school-based services. The presentation will be made at the March meeting of the Committee.
6. The Committee approved a conference request for one UCMHD staff to attend the Police Mental health Instructor Program in Batavia, NY in September 2007. The request was moved by J. Stoeckeler, seconded by P. Terpening and passed unanimously.
  7. The Committee approved 8 requests to fill vacancies including 2 Mental Health Specialist Child positions, 3 Chemical Dependency Specialist positions, 1 Senior Mental Health Nurse position, 1 Mental Health Unit Leader position and 1 Mental Health Specialist position. The requests to fill were moved as a group by J. Roberti, seconded by C. Busick and passed unanimously.
  8. Chairman Parete reported that the Tobacco subcommittee met with Dean Palen and Stacey Rein. P. Terpening reported that they viewed a Power Point presentation regarding tobacco use prevention. The subcommittee is seeking a mini-grant to promote these efforts.
  9. Chairman Parete reported that the sub committee on obesity prevention, (P. Liepmann, C. Busick, R. Parete and Dean Palen) has agreed to a public education campaign using a portion of the prevention money allocated in the 2007 budget. M. Beckman informed the Committee that the UCMHD has been working with several community members and groups to establish an Eating Disorders Coalition in Ulster County. M. Beckman reported that a small organizing group has met with the Orange County Coalition to learn more about the subject. He reported that there are limited services locally for treatment for persons with eating disorders. R. Parete noted that it would be beneficial to combine the work of the Obesity Prevention and Eating Disorders groups.
  10. Chairman Parete reported that the Domestic partner benefits have been approved for County employees. It was not known at the time of the meeting if the lawsuit filed by employees' seeking the benefits had been withdrawn, as was agreed.
  11. Chairman Parete asked the Committee if they wanted to take a stand on the use of transfats by local restaurants. The Committee agreed to look into doing something similar to NYC or other jurisdictions. R. Parete agreed to get copies of legislation from NYC, Buffalo and Erie County to share with the Committee in preparation for further discussion and possible action at a later meeting of the Committee.
  12. Chairman Parete asked the Committee if they wanted to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of having the linens from the Golden Hill Health Care Facility laundered at the jail rather than by a private contractor. The

Committee agreed that the idea should be looked at. R. Parete will contact the Purchasing Department to undertake a review of the issue.

13. M. Sheeley requested that the Committee consider a memorializing resolution to the Federal government asking for support for a bill before Congress that would prevent hospitals from involuntarily discharging mastectomy patients within 48 hours of their surgery. M. Sheeley will send copies of the information she has to the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Brown, Ph. D.  
Deputy Director