

# HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

## MINUTES

April 12, 2007

**Present:**

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

**Excused:**

J. Stoeckeler

**Absent:**

P. Liepmann

**Guest:** Jack Bennett, Director

Substance Abuse Prevention, Ulster County

**UCMHD:** M. Beckman

E. Brown

Chairman Parete called the Mental Health portion of the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

1. The Committee approved a resolution to transfer funds for temporary services. The resolution was moved by C. Busick and seconded by P. Terpening and passed unanimously.
2. M. Beckman introduced Jack Bennett, Director of Substance Abuse Prevention in Ulster County to the Committee. Mr. Bennett is the first Director appointed by the newly formed Prevention Board. Mr. Bennett has worked in the substance abuse field for the past 18 years in the areas of treatment, education, training and work force development.
3. M. Beckman discussed the formation of a school-based services planning committee composed of members of the Health Committee, the Community Services Board and UCMHD. Mary Sheeley and Phil Terpening will represent the Health Committee. M. Beckman will schedule a meeting of this group for the week of April 30 to conduct a comprehensive discussion of the issues in preparation for a possible proposal in the 2008 budget.
4. M. Beckman informed the Committee that the UCMHD has embarked on an effort to fully implement its Corporate Compliance program to ensure it meets the standards set out by HIPAA. M. Beckman advised the Committee that the department's Corporate Compliance Committee will meet in June to address resource needs to have an effective program to guard against fraud and abuse. He informed the Committee that this could lead to a request for resources in the 2008 budget, and that the Committee might want to take a look at this matter across all of the County departments that bill Medicaid and Medicare (Golden Hill Health Care Center, Health Department).

Mr. Beckman was asked why the department is not in full compliance if we have been aware of the issue for several years. He responded that the department has been taking steps to work toward full compliance, including the development of a policy manual, working with consultants to identify policy areas that required attention, and the establishment of a Policy and Procedure Committee that has been meeting monthly to develop such policies. However, resource constraints and the obligation to respond to other urgencies that have been presented to the department (e.g., new contracting process) have prevented the department from giving this matter its full attention. The department is planning a training for all of its staff regarding its policies and will be assessing what needs to be done to comply with the eight standards of an effective Corporate Compliance program.

The Mental Health portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Brown, Ph. D.  
Deputy Director