

# HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

## MINUTES

June 14, 2007

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Excused:</b>	<b>UCMHD:</b> M. Beckman
R. Parete	J. Stoeckeler	E. Brown
P. Terpening	J. Roberti	<b>Ulster County Medical Examiner:</b> Dr. M. Sheran
C. Busick	<b>Absent:</b>	<b>Ulster County Health Department:</b> Aimee Zimmerman.
Sheeley	P. Liepmann	
		<b>Community Heart Health Coalition:</b> Laurie Mozian
		<b>Citizen/League of Women Voters:</b> Margaret Sellers

Chairman Parete called the Health Committee meeting to order at 6:00PM.

1. Chairman Parete distributed the minutes from the previous meeting to the members.
2. Chairman Parete announced that Sheree Cross, Director of Golden Hill Health Care Center and Dean Palen, Director of the Ulster County Health Department would not be attending the meeting, but included department updates with the agenda.
3. Chairman Parete informed the Committee that the Ulster County Board of Health voted to reappoint Dean Palen to a 6-year term.
4. Chairman Parete introduced Aimee Zimmerman, Health Education Unit of the Ulster County Health Department and Laurie Mozean of the Community Heart Health Coalition to talk about Ulster County's new Obesity Prevention Program.
5. Aimee Zimmerman thanked the committee for supporting the Obesity Prevention initiative, or commonly known as HEAL Ulster (Healthy Living And Eating). Ms. Zimmerman showed the committee two separate Public Service Announcements that relate to obesity awareness and the importance of healthy living. Ms. Zimmerman also discussed how local school districts were cooperating with HEAL's request to establish a base-line of information for BMI (Body Mass Index) for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Ms. Zimmerman introduced Laurie Mozian of the Community Heart Health Coalition to discuss *BodyWorks*.
6. Ms. Mozian thanked the Health Committee for their time and support, and appreciated being invited to speak to the Committee. Ms. Mozian introduced the committee to *BodyWorks*, which is an obesity prevention program for healthy girls and strong women to help parents and caregivers of adolescent girls improve family eating and exercise habits. Through facilitated workshops parents and caregivers will learn how to create change for their families, which includes the adoption of healthy eating habits and breaking down the barriers that keep people from engaging in physical activity while recognizing the impact that the environment and media have on their choices. The Office on Women's Health (OWH) found that many girls skip breakfast, have non-nutritious lunches and don't eat dinner with their families. Girls spend about three hours a day watching television, playing video games, using the computer, and talking on the telephone, without parental limitations.
7. Chairman Parete thanked Ms. Zimmerman and Ms. Mozian for their dedication to the prevention and awareness of obesity in our youth, particularly the emotional factor in young girls. Chairman Parete went on to say physical factors are talked about more broadly, yet he is excited *BodyWorks* is addressing the emotional component locally. Legislator Sheeley expressed grave concerns with this issue, particularly in the Ellenville area.
8. Chairman Parete introduced the new Ulster County Medical Examiner, Dr. Michael Sheran, to the committee. Dr. Sheran thanked the committee for allowing him the opportunity to speak. Dr. Sheran gave an overview of the Medical Examiners duties and responsibilities. Dr. Sheran also talked about efficiencies and staff reductions in his office. Dr. Sheran talked about his desire to see the county legislature repeal Local Law #6 of 1987, which deals with cremations and the Medical Examiners office. Dr. Sheran provided handouts regarding the law, and asked the committee to consider his request. The Committee asked Chairman Parete to ask the County Attorney's Office if we can repeal this law.
9. Dr. Sheran talked about the high suicide rate in Ulster County, and will work with Mental Health Department Director Marshall Beckman on this matter.

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 P. Terpening and seconded by M. Sheeley and passed unanimously.
2. The Committee approved a resolution authorizing the elimination of a Chemical Dependency Specialist position and the Creation of a Mental Health Specialist position. The resolution was moved by C. Busick and seconded by M. Sheeley and passed unanimously. This transaction is budget neutral and allows the Department to shift resources from the chemical dependency to the mental health division to address shifting priorities of the agency.
3. M. Beckman updated the committee on the Golden Hill Building renovation project. He reported that we are awaiting revised cost estimates, following our meeting on April 13 with Vic Work and architect Paul Vosburgh. Vic Work indicated at that meeting that the Buildings and Grounds staff can do some of the work in-house to reduce the overall cost of the project, as time allows.
4. M. Beckman reported that the school-based services planning work group met on May 1 and prepared a funding concept that would give school districts choice as to the level of service they desire from UCMHD and the costs associated with each choice. The most robust set of services would be priced at the current rate whereby school districts pay 50% of the salary and fringe costs associated with each position assigned to the district. The next step is for the proposal to be shared with the school districts at a meeting of the special education coordinators with BOCES. Scheduling difficulties have delayed the convening of this meeting.
5. Legislator Terpening gave an update to the committee about the enrollment in the new Domestic Partner benefit. Legislator Terpening stated that only 6 individuals were currently receiving this benefit for a total cost of \$2,400 a month, which is far less than the legislature anticipated.
6. Legislator Terpening gave an update to the committee about a new program he is working on with Legislator Brian Cahill, to utilize a grant to perform health screenings for county employees using the Care-A-Van. Legislator Terpening will provide the dates and locations of those screenings as soon as possible.
7. Legislator Sheeley discussed the concept of placing UlsterRx signs on the inside and outside of all UCAT buses. This effort would increase enrollment and participation in the UlsterRx program. The committee voted, Motion by Sheeley, second by Terpening, to ask the Economic Development Committee to consider this request. Motion Passed Committee unanimously.

Motion by Legislator Busick, second by Legislator Sheeley. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Brown, Ph. D.  
Deputy Director