

HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

July 13, 2006

Present:

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

UCMHD:

M. Beckman E. Brown

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

1. Two employees of the Ulster County Mental Health Department were in attendance at the meeting. They expressed concern that building temperatures have been raised to levels that are so uncomfortable that they are interfering with staffs' and consumers' ability to conduct therapy sessions. Chairman Parete asked M. Beckman to comment, and he explained that the Building Maintenance Supervisor at the Golden Hill Building has been instructed by his Department Head to set temperatures consistent with Federal and State guidelines for energy savings. Mr. Beckman reported that the problem in the Golden Hill building is exacerbated by the uneven temperatures throughout the building. Mr. Beckman acknowledged that our maintenance staff has been responding to the problem by regularly adjusting the temperatures when staff complain of the uncomfortable temperature. Mr. Beckman suggested the issue be addressed by County Government, as it is a policy matter affecting all buildings.
2. The Committee approved a resolution authorizing the appointment of Mary Kay Fiore to the MR/DD Subcommittee of the Community Services Board. The resolution was moved by P. Terpening, seconded by C. Busick and passed unanimously.
3. The Committee approved a resolution authorizing a transfer of funds from personnel accounts to temporary services to pay for temp services to fill in for vacant positions due to resignations and transfers. The resolution was moved by C. Busick, seconded by J. Stoeckeler and passed unanimously.
4. The Committee approved a resolution authorizing a transfer of funds from personnel accounts to miscellaneous contractual and printing accounts for the OMH Forensic grant. The transfer is needed to pay for contractors to conduct and develop training consistent with the mission of the grant. The resolution was moved by P. Liepmann, seconded by M. Sheeley and passed unanimously.
5. The Committee approved a resolution to establish the Ulster County Substance Abuse Prevention Board. The resolution was approved following discussion of the proposed composition of the Prevention Board. The resolution was moved by P. Liepmann, seconded by P. Terpening and passed unanimously. P. Terpening asked whether the OASAS funding accepted by the Legislature via resolution in July would end at some future date. M. Beckman indicated that the intent was for the funding to continue but there was no guarantee that OASAS would not reduce or eliminate the funding at a future date. Therefore, the County Legislature's policy to include sunset language in all resolutions would apply.
6. The Committee approved a resolution to reclassify three positions including a Receptionist, a Transcribing Typist and a Senior Typist to Account Clerk/Typists. The reclassification of the three clerical positions, two in Ellenville and one in Highland, is necessary to accurately reflect the duties required of these positions to ensure accountability for billing and revenue maximization. The resolution passed in the previous month, but was sent back to Committee by the full

legislature for additional consideration of the portion of the resolution dealing with the Fiscal Officer position. The resolution was moved by C. Busick, seconded by J. Stoeckeler and passed unanimously.

7. The Committee went into Executive session to discuss personnel matters at 7:00 PM on a motion by M. Sheeley, seconded by J. Stoeckeler. The Committee came out of Executive session at 7:25 PM on a motion by M. Sheeley, seconded by C. Busick.
8. The Committee approved a resolution to reclassify the Fiscal Officer position to a grade 19 title (to be determined by the County Personnel Office). The resolution was moved by M. Sheeley, seconded by C. Busick and passed unanimously. The Fiscal Officer reclassification to a grade 20 Mental Health Unit Leader was approved by the Committee in June. This resolution was sent back to Committee by the Legislature for further review. The Committee agreed on a compromise that will reclassify the position to a grade 19 at this time, and that's its ultimate level of classification and grade would be subject to the outcome of a study of Fiscal Officer positions throughout the County by the Personnel Department. The outcome of that study will determine if the position warrants classification at a grade 20.
9. The Committee approved a resolution eliminating a Unit Leader and creating a Program Supervisor for the Child and Family Clinic of the Mental Health Department at 40 hours per week. The resolution was moved by M. Sheeley, seconded by P. Liepmann and passed unanimously.
10. The Committee approved a resolution increasing 3 Program Supervisors from 35 to 40 hour work weeks. This change reflects that these individuals are already working additional hours on a regular basis, and cannot accomplish their work within a 35 hour work week. Moreover, a structural problem has developed in that Unit Leader working 40 hour work weeks earn approximately \$7,400 per year more than Program Supervisors with a 35 hour standard. Therefore, there is no way to promote Unit Leaders to Program Supervisors, and this would negate the department's plan to establish the Program Supervisor for Child and Family Clinic Services. The resolution was moved by M. Sheeley, seconded by P. Liepmann and passed unanimously.
11. The Committee approved 1. hiring of temporary services staff to cover vacancies in item 3 above, 2. filling of the positions reclassified in items 6, 8 and 9, above pending passage by the County Legislature, and 3. increase to 40 hours for program supervisors in item 10 above, pending passage by the County Legislature. A motion approving these items was made by P. Liepmann, seconded by M. Sheeley and passed unanimously.
12. M. Beckman asked for time to be scheduled for a presentation on the progress of the UCMHD Strategic Plan. The Committee agreed to schedule time for the presentation in the Fall.
13. M. Beckman requested the assistance of M. Sheeley and J. Stoeckeler in helping to address the issue of providing child care for Ellenville residents who receive mental health and other services at the Trudy Resnick Farber Center. There are times when the lack of childcare becomes an impediment to accessing services. M. Sheeley and J. Stoeckeler indicated that they were very willing to assist in this project.

The Mental Health portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Brown, Ph. D.
Deputy Director