

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Community Mental Health Committee
DATE: November 21, 1991
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
PLACE: Mental Health Complex, Golden Hill
LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Irwin and Legislators
Busick, Croce, McAfee, Sfregola
and Hall
LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Legislator Dwyer
OTHERS ATTENDING: Ernest J. Townsend, DPA, CSW,
Director; Marshall Beckman, Deputy
Director; Thomas Roach, Commis-
sioner, Dept. of Social Services

The following items were discussed:

1. Department representatives reviewed the County Administrator's cuts from the department's proposed 1992 budget. Dr. Townsend and Mr. Beckman reported that the department is desperately in need of the existing positions that have been cut as well as approximately 14 new positions (100% state funded) that were also requested. In addition, the department representatives indicated that if all cuts were restored and additional revenue modifications made, the County would save \$92,070. As a result of this discussion, the Committee members unanimously agreed to request that the Ways and Means Committee support the restorations.
2. Thomas Roach, Commissioner of the Ulster County Social Services Department, made a presentation regarding his proposal to have a portion of DSS Children's Services assumed by the Mental Health Department. He indicated that the Mental Health Department would have to add five new positions to its budget, to be phased in in 1992. The purpose of the change would be to reduce the County contribution by taking advantage of the Mental Health Department's increased Medicaid rate. It was agreed that Commissioner Roach and Dr. Townsend should request a

separate appointment to review this request with the Ways and Means Committee of the Legislature with the Committee's positive recommendation.

3. Mr. Beckman made a presentation regarding a proposed computerization project. He indicated that he has worked closely with Mr. Lemme, Director of Information Services Department, and that this is a joint proposal. The Committee unanimously approved a resolution to support the project and to modify the 1991 County budget, if necessary, for encumbrance purposes. The viability of the project is contingent upon the continued availability of the 100% state aid that has been pledged for the project by the State.
4. The Committee unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the department to enter into and have all 1992 contracts signed.
5. The Committee unanimously approved a resolution authorizing that the 1991 County budget be amended in order to increase the Multi-County Community Development Corporation's budget line by \$12,000 and to modify its contract. This additional 100% state aid is from the Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse and is for reimbursement for start-up costs for the establishment of a half-way house for alcoholics.
6. The Committee unanimously approved a housekeeping resolution which primarily addresses psychiatry line items that had been purposely under-funded in the 1991 County budget.
7. The Committee heard a proposal from Commissioner Roach regarding the use of in-kind space in the Golden Hill building for establishment of a licensed day care center for the Parental Recovery Intensive Diversion Effort (PRIDE) Program. Committee members suggested that the matter next be brought to the Public Works Committee for their review.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Irwin, Chairman
Community Mental Health Committee

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