

The Legislature of Rockland County



**PHILIP SOSKIN
LEGISLATOR-DISTRICT 7
CHAIR, MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY MARCH 08, 2016
6:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**LEG. P. SOSKIN, CHAIR
LEG. T EARL, VICE CHAIR
LEG. A. PAUL, 2ND VICE CHAIR
LEG. A. WIEDER
LEG. V. TYER**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

**LEG. I. SCHOENBERGER
LEG. C. FALCIGLIA**

OTHERS PRESENT:

**LEG. M. GRANT
LEG. J. HOOD, JR
LEG. L. HOFSTEIN
LEG. D. JOBSON
LEG. N. LOW-HOGAN
LEG. H. CORNELL
LEG. L. SANTULLI
LEG. C. CAREY
E. YEGER, ESQ**

**B. VAN CURA
D. FRIEDMAN
L. INCALCATERRA
R. HANSEN
M. LEITZES
J. FELLA
A. REINER
K. STAVISKY
R. CANSINO
Y. WILLIAMS**

CHAIR SOSKIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:35 PM.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 09, 2016 MEETING.

MOTION TO ADOPT:

PAUL/EARL

UNAN

1. REF.#2973 APPROVING THE AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH THE CLARKSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR NARCOTICS ADDICTION CONTROL AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$112,148 [NCTD] FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT [DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH] (\$112,148)
(MICHAEL LEITZES, COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH) DL#:2016-00452

MOTION TO APPROVE:

SOSKIN/PAUL

TRANSFERRED TO B&F 3/8/16

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, WIEDER, TYER, JOBSON

Michael Leitzes, Commissioner of Mental Health, stated that this funding is coming from the New York office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) which is to be distributed to the Clarkstown Central School District, because of their financial commitment to the program. Funding will be used for narcotics addiction control and chemical dependence prevention.

2. REF.#8281 APPROVING A TWO (2) YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT WITH 26 NEW MAIN STREET LLC FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S OFF-SITE WIC PROGRAM AND CLINIC/SERVICES IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,108 [NCTD] FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 15, 2016 THROUGH APRIL 14, 2018 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH] (\$39,108)
(PARICIA RUPPERT, COMMISSIONER DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH) DL#:2016-00455

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/EARL, PAUL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B&F 3/8/16
UNAN**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, WIEDER, JOBSON

Ron Hansen, Deputy Health Commissioner, explained that this is a two year lease renewal for the Department of Health's off-site WIC program and clinic services.

Chair Soskin asked if the rent has gone up or remained the same

Mr. Hansen replied that there hasn't been any rent increase.

3. REF.#8983 APPROVING THE AGREEMENTS WHICH MAY BE IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH THE LICENSED PERSONAL CARE AGENCIES LISTED ON THE ANNEXED SCHEDULE A TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES REQUIRED BY NEW YORK SOCIAL SERVICES LAW § 365-A(2)(E) AND TITLE 18 OF THE NEW YORK CODE, RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016 WITH TOTAL EXPENDITURES NOT TO EXCEED THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES' 2016 BUDGET FOR PERSONAL CARE SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENTS [DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES]
(CAROL L. BARBASH, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES) DL#: 2015-05203

**RED DOT
VERSION**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/PAUL, EARL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B&F 3/8/16
UNAN**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, WIEDER, JOBSON

John Fella, Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, stated that this resolution is asking authorization to approve the agreements with various licensed personal care agencies to administer Medicaid programs, including appropriate home care services. The Medicaid program will only be administered to people who are eligible to receive such services.

Chair Soskin pointed out that he noticed the contracts stated a possible 6 month extension with personal care agencies and wanted to have some detail on that.

Mr. Fella stated the reason why is because the choice of provider rests with the recipient.

4. REF.#4496 REQUESTING THAT THE NEW YORK STATE PASS BILL S.6452 TO CONSOLIDATE ALL PRIMARY ELECTIONS ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF JUNE BEFORE EVERY GENERAL ELECTION
(HON. ILAN S. SCHOENBERGER, HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/TYER, WIEDER, PAUL, EARL**

UNAN

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, WIEDER, JOBSON

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky, Commissioner of Board of Elections, went over the details on consolidating all primary elections on the fourth Tuesday of June before every general election and explained that merging the primaries will save Rockland County approximately \$473,000.

Chair Soskin asked what is the probability of the State Senate going along with this proposal.

Mrs. Stavisky explained that the Governor has signed this Legislation based on the three benefits listed below. There is a great probability that the State Senate may go ahead and pass this bill S.6452.

The three benefits are as follow:

- a) This merger will ensure that military and overseas voters will have the opportunity to vote.
- b) It will prevent New Yorkers from having to vote in three separate primaries in a Presidential election year.
- c) It will save New York State approximately \$25 million dollars in election.

5. REF.#6724 OPPOSING THE PAROLE AND RELEASE OF MUTULU SHAKUR, A/K/A JERAL WAYNE WILLIAMS FROM THE FERERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS ON ACCOUNT OF HIS ROLE IN THE BRINKS ROBBERY OF 1981
(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE LEGISLATURE)

TRANSFERRED FROM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 3/8/16

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. WIEDER, HOOD, JR. LOW-HOGAN, PAUL, SOSKIN, JOBSON, SANTULLI, GRANT, CAREY

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/TYER**

UNAN

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. EARL, TYER

Chair Soskin added the County has lost 2 officers during the Brinks Robbery. The people who are responsible should pay the price and complete their sentence. He is voting in favor for this opposing the parole and release of these 3 prisoners who had a role in the Brinks Robbery of 1981 and he asked his colleague on the Multi-Services Committee to do the same.

6. REF.#8116 SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PANEL LED BY EAST RAMAPO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MONITOR DENNIS WALCOTT TO IMPLEMENT A MONITOR WITH VETO POWER OVER THE EAST RAMAPO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION (HON. CHRISTOPHER J. CAREY, HON. LON M. HOFSTEIN LEGISLATURE)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
TYER/EARL**

FAILED

**3 AYES
2 NAYES**

**3 AYES: LEGS. EARL, PAUL, TYER
2 NAYES: LEGS. SOSKIN, WIEDER**

Chair Soskin opened the floor by asking Legislators from the Committee to voice themselves on the recommendation to implement a monitor with veto power to the East Ramapo School District Board of Education.

Leg. Carey who also sponsored this resolution made the following statement, "They need a monitor with veto power and they must stand united behind Dennis Walcott."

Leg. Hofstein stated that this has been a topic with a great deal of concern. Leg. Hofstein also mentioned that he has asked repeatedly why things are being done that way? That's not the proper way to handle people.

Leg. Earl thanked everyone who came tonight to support this recommendation and asked for action.

Leg. Paul stated that education is a very important asset, therefore she recommends that a monitor with veto power is appointed to the East Ramapo School Board.

Leg. Santulli stated that she believes having a monitor with veto power helps all sides in the tenuous schism that exists in East Ramapo between the Board of Education, the community, and subsequently the County as a whole.

Leg. Santulli, a teacher who has spent 18 years in the East Ramapo district, thanked everyone for coming tonight and pointed out the importance of a monitor with veto power, which will create equal opportunity as well as improve social opportunity.

They have characterized these public missions as follows:

- 1) To provide universal access to free education.
- 2) To guarantee equal opportunities for all children.
- 3) To unify a diverse population
- 4) To prepare people for citizenship in a democratic society.
- 5) To prepare people to become economically self-sufficient.
- 6) To improve social conditions. A monitor can ensure and communicate these tenets are being met.

Leg. Tyer thanked Leg. Carey and Leg. Hofstein for co-sponsoring this resolution and stated that he will continue to support this recommendation.

Leg. Cornell stated with determination that it is important to support this resolution.

Leg. Jobson mentioned that last year he sponsored this item and will continue this year to support in favor of such actions for the East Ramapo School District.

Leg. Low-Hogan stated that she supported the original resolution and will continue to do so at this time.

Leg. Hood, Jr. expressed his concern and stated he will support this action.

Chair Soskin closed this discussion and explained that this is their third meeting for the year and he is a great supporter of education and as far as a monitor is concerned he doesn't have any problem with that. A monitor is a professional and a monitor should come down to help steer the board who is made up of unpaid people who are there to represent their community. The private school leaves everything to the public school to handle. In May 2015 this resolution was brought to the Multi-Services Committee and was passed to the Legislature. The people who voted against it represented the people who live in the district. The problem is money; all they need is money.

7. REF. #2416 CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ARON REINER SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
(EDWIN J. DAY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE)

MOTION TO APPROVE:

SOSKIN/ EARL, PAUL, WIEDER

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, WIEDER, TYER, JOBSON

Chair Soskin thanked Mr. Aron Reiner for his services and added that he believed Mr. Reiner experience will be very helpful to the board.

Leg. Jobson along with Leg. Cornell congratulated Mr. Reiner and stated that are they are sure he will do a great job in his newly appointed position to the Rockland County Community Service Board.

8. REF.#8439 DISCUSSION ITEM-SUMMARY OF THE RECENT COUNT OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION IN ROCKLAND COUNTY AND PLANS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE
(HON. ARON WIEDER, HON. ALDEN WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

DISCUSSED

A discussion was opened in reference to the challenges of identifying the homeless problem within Rockland County.

The challenges they face are also in regard to the services available to them and the question remains what can County government do to address it better?

Ya'el Williams, Executive Director Helping Hands, explained that they have been working on identifying the areas by going out to certain sites to identify individuals facing housing shelter issues, and they have identify so far 75 homeless. It remains a complex issue to find permanent housing for these individuals in need. They cannot continue to only rely on volunteer's, elderly people and workers to assist us and monitor our program.

Leg. Wieder expressed concerns with regard to how many families are sheltered. He recommended to maybe looking forward to establish housing assistance. He asked if there has been any increase in adult homes and if so how many beds are available.

Leg. Earl asked for a breakdown of how many people Helping Hands provides shelter for.

Mr. Williams answered that they see about 300 people a month.

Leg. Paul stated that she really admires their dedication to the community and the help provided to the homeless. Do they also get shelter requests from runaway children?

Mr. John Fella, Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, stated they do get adults 18 and up, but they do not provide shelter for anyone under 21 years of age

Leg. Cornell reinforced her willingness to find some sort of solution and recommended that maybe there should be in place a family and a single person shelter home considering the different type of care both scenarios requires.

Cathy Lathiop, Secretary of Helping Hands, talked about a pregnant 21 year old that stayed at the shelter, recruiting sometimes chaperons to stay overnight, an asthma attack by one of the homeless that needed medical assistance, just to name a few. Mrs. Lathiop stated that it is clear that the shelter cannot continue to take homeless in. "They do not have added shelter space nor the resources to help to that extent." Even salaries have been comprised within the budget. The question remains what happens if they face a situation they cannot handle?

Chair Soskin explained that \$21,000.00 is what the County has contributed for that cause. The County should try to do something and even more, the big problem is MONEY. Chair Soskin asked everyone present tonight if anyone knows of any facility that may be available please let the Committee know, they will see what they can do.

Chair Soskin thanked Leg. Wieder and Leg Wolfe who sponsored this resolution.

Leg. Wieder concluded that he is not going to rely on an organization that says "They can't do it"

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 8:05 PM
WIEDER/EARL**

UNAN

Respectfully, Submitted

Lesly Senatus, Clerk

MS. 3/8/16 MIN/LS

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