

# The Legislature of Rockland County



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

MINUTES  
**MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012  
**6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

LEG. P. SOSKIN, CHAIR  
LEG. J. HOOD, JR., VICE-CHAIR  
LEG. T. EARL, 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE-CHAIR  
LEG. A. PAUL  
LEG. P. MORONEY

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

LEG. J. MEYERS  
LEG. D. JOBSON

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

R. MCKAY, ESQ. LEG. C. CAREY  
LEG. A. WIEDER LEG. I. SCHOENBERGER  
LEG. M. GRANT LEG. N. LOW-HOGAN  
LEG. J. MURPHY B. HUNDERFUND  
LEG. F. SPARACO M. WALSH-TOZER  
M. LEITZES DR. J. FACELLE  
L. BABCOCK S. MATHEWS  
MEDIA J. HUNDERFUND  
P. BRENNAN M. RODRIGUEZ  
D. VILLAR

CHAIR SOSKIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:15 PM

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 3/27/12 MEETING

**MOTION TO ADOPT:**

**EARL/HOOD, JR.**

**UNAN**

1. REF. #9209 - APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF AN AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH CP/RP ROCKLAND ASSOCIATES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT IN THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$87,500 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$575,000 AND TO EXTEND THE TERM FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 2, 2008 THROUGH JULY 31, 2012 FOR THE LEASE OF SPACE FOR THE STORAGE OF VOTING MACHINES AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [BOARD OF ELECTIONS] (\$575,000)  
**(A. KELLY/L. BABCOCK, COMMISSIONERS, BOARD OF ELECTIONS)**

**ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, PAUL, MORONEY, JOBSON**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:**

**SOSKIN/MORONEY, EARL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F**

**UNAN**

Commissioner Babcock stated that an extension was required because the facility has to have an asbestos abatement and the rent is already budgeted for. Chair Soskin asked if there was an additional amount for the rental or if it was the same as last year? Commissioner Babcock said it was the same and that we do not have adequate space, so the machines that are stored in Suffern now will be moved to building G in Pomona.

2. REF. #9173 - APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 (NO COUNTY TAX DOLLARS) FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CREATING HEALTHY PLACES TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY GRANT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2012 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2013 WHICH MAY BE FOLLOWED BY A COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) AWARD OF NO MORE THAN 10% OR \$30,000 MAKING TOTAL GRANT AWARD \$330,000 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY GRANT DOCUMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH] (\$330,000)  
**(DR. J. FACELLE, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH)**

**ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, PAUL, MORONEY, JOBSON**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
SOSKIN/PAUL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F  
UNAN**

Dr. Facelle stated that this was the start of the second year of a five-year grant cycle. There is a community and work site component, with initiatives for access to physical activity and nutrition, using no additional county employees. Leg. Paul asked if this was the same as the Steps to a Healthy NY Program? Dr. Facelle said this program uses similar strategies, but that is a different grant.

3. REF. #8372 - APPROVING AN AMENDMENT AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH NYACK HOSPITAL FOR PRENATAL CLINIC SERVICES AS PER SPECIFICATIONS IN RFP-RC-2010-024 FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$1,400,000, FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2012 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012, FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$2,957,404 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH] (\$2,957,404)  
**(DR. J. FACELLE, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH)**

**ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, PAUL, MORONEY, JOBSON**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
SOSKIN/EARL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F  
UNAN**

Chair Soskin asked for the amounts spent for births. Dr. Facelle stated that the amount expended is \$2440/birth for the first 550 births and \$1372/birth afterwards. Chair Soskin asked if most are covered under Medicaid? Dr. Facelle said that most are eligible for Medicaid, but that doesn't cover all the costs.

4. REF. #8862 - DISCUSSION ITEM – 2012 MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM  
**(HON. J. MEYERS, HON. P. SOSKIN, HON. A. WIEDER, HON. A. PAUL, HON. D. JOBSON, LEGISLATURE)**

**DISCUSSED**

B. Hunderfund, Department of Health Mosquito Control, stated that the Mosquito Control Program is responsible for preventing the transmission of mosquito borne diseases to humans. Swamps, roadside ditches, and retention basins are checked every two to three weeks. They are responsible for overseeing over 200 public pools and over 300 tire storage facilities, but private pools can be a problem. The county provides free dunks to residents with private pools and free minnows for ponds. The new issue is the Asian Tiger Mosquito, which was discovered last fall in the county and is currently found in Orangetown, with one sample found in Clarkstown. They are an aggressive, container breeder that is very hard to control. They've partnered with Americorps and Keep Rockland Beautiful, but the public needs to inspect their property weekly before the species is entrenched in Rockland County. Leg. Moroney asked that if Orangetown is the main focus, what communications have been done with the town and what more could be done? B. Hunderfund said they've spoken with the Town of Orangetown's supervisor and highway department and there is a sign on Route 303 to alert the public, plus press releases, and a web site. Chair Soskin said that he would make sure that there is some further publicity. Leg. Carey asked if the Town of Clarkstown was given the information needed? B. Hunderfund said they had contacted the Town of Clarkstown and that he could provide the legislators with more informational material. He said that this spring is our only shot to eliminate breeding sites or they will be entrenched like in New Jersey. The main concern is that the Asian Tiger Mosquito bites all day and bites humans, birds, and pets. The West Nile Virus transmits through birds, so there is a chance of human transmission because of these mosquitoes. It also transmits Encephalitis and Dog Heart Worm to pets. Leg. Wieder asked if there was a plan in effect if there was a breakout of West Nile Virus? B. Hunderfund said they treat where the mosquito breeds and there are permits in place to spray, but they don't spray now. They focus on surveying and testing. They used to use helicopters and planes, because they didn't have surveillance, but can make more educated decisions now. Dr. Facelle stated that West Nile Virus has been around a long time and no severe cases have been reported. She said we need residents to be less complacent with this new breed and be more proactive.

5. REF. #9194 - DISCUSSION ITEM – HEALTH HOME LICENSES (LOCAL CARE MANAGEMENT) – STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (OMH/DOH)  
(HON. I. SCHOENBERGER, LEGISLATURE)

**DISCUSSED**

**ACTION: MIS, DSS, and Mental Health Departments will confer, with the assistance of Chair Soskin if necessary, and report to the committee on electronic billing and the interoperability of software use.**

**ACTION: Chair Soskin suggested a meeting between the Mental Health Department’s supervisors and the employees in the Case Management Unit to advise each other of what’s going on. He would be glad to join the group if necessary. Please report back to the committee on the results of the meeting.**

Commissioner Walsh-Tozer stated that it was her wish that employees bring their concerns through the supervisory process. She said she spoke with the supervisor, who was not aware of the concerns that prompted the letter. She would like to sit down with the employees and discuss this, which is encouraged. The Mental Health Department has no control over Health Homes. The state is doing webinars and the case management staff has been invited to attend. She said the Health Home issue is a case management issue that is broader than our department’s case management, because it covers complete care coordinated with all the individuals serving the client. She said Health Homes were considered an important component to improve care and reduce Medicaid costs and it is part of a state mandate. The state is phasing in care management and case managers will transition into these roles and will remain county employees in the meantime. The state may eliminate positions in the future to better integrate care. Chair Soskin said that employees are concerned for their jobs and want to know if they will be included moving forward. Commissioner Walsh-Tozer stated that Health Homes will supervise themselves and the staff, but the time frame under the state government is not definite yet. She said she just went through two series of layoffs in the department and met with each person, and changes aren’t done lightly. Case managers have been involved in the discussion, which will continue, and she hoped some would move on to become care coordinators. Chair Soskin spoke about concerns regarding late billing and asked about buying new software to speed up process. Commissioner Walsh-Tozer said she would be interested to hear what is meant by late billing and said if there were a different billing system, billing might be different. Chair Soskin read an e-mail from an employee expressing concerns. M. Rodriguez, Case Manager, Mental Health Department, stated that she wrote the e-mail and when the staff went to the supervisor and asked about what was coming down the pike, he was in the dark in terms of what he told them. She said she signed up for the webinars and that the Case Managers do the same job that the proposed care coordinators do. The Case Managers are the central point and advocate for their clients and the description on the web site for care coordinators is exactly what the Case Managers have been doing for years, but the job description for a case manager is not the same. Chair Soskin stated that the committee’s function was to listen to the concerns and look into this and to maybe arrange a meeting with the commissioner. He hoped the webinars would clear this up for the employees. Leg. Schoenberger apologized to M. Rodriguez for putting her in an uncomfortable position and said that was not the intent of putting this on the agenda. He spoke about the Whistleblower Law he passed in the county and wanted her to be aware of its protections. D. Villar, Case Manager, Mental Health Department, stated that she was not against the Health Homes, but was adamant the Case Managers would be a huge contribution and should be. She said she had to invite herself to the webinar and found out about it accidentally. Her colleagues in the state are being contacted and attritioned out and she is asking for the same in Rockland County. She said we don’t need more layoffs.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: (7:45 PM)  
EARL/MORONEY**

**UNAN**

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