

The Legislature of Rockland County



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

MINUTES
MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY JANUARY 13, 2015
6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

LEG. P. SOSKIN, CHAIR
LEG. T. EARL
LEG. A. PAUL
LEG. I. SCHOENBERGER
LEG. A. WIEDER
LEG. L. HOFSTEIN

MEMBERS ABSENT:

LEG. P. MORONEY

OTHERS PRESENT:

LEG. M. GRANT
LEG. D. JOBSON
LEG. J. MEYERS
E. YEGER, ESQ
S. POWERS
C. BARBASH
M. LEITZES
J. LEITZES
S. THOMSON

CHAIR SOSKIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:06 PM

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 09, 2014 MEETING.

MOTION TO ADOPT:

EARL/WIEDER

UNAN

Chair Soskin welcomed Leg. Ilan S. Schoenberger, Leg. Lon. M. Hofstein to the Committee. Also welcomed the family of Mr. Leitzes

1. REF.# 7780

APPROVING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND ON BEHALF OF ITS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER FOR THE PROVISION OF RESPITE SERVICES BY THE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE, INC. AT HAMMOND HOUSE ROAD IN VALHALLA, NEW YORK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000 AND PAYABLE AT THE RATE OF \$200 PER DIEM FOR THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 1, 2014 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2017 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES] (\$200,000) (SUSAN SHERWOOD COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES) DL#: 2014-04856

MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/SCHOENBERGER

TRANSFERRED TO B & F 01/13/15
UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN, JOBSON

Carol Barbash Director of Legal Services explained that this is a 3 years program where the Department of Social Services is charged with providing mandated preventive respite care to children under 18 residing in the County of Rockland. It is a 24 hours home living type of program for a period of 29 days that allows them to determine if is a crisis that can be resolve or a crisis that can be dealt with in a more permanent way. Mrs. Barbash added that she would like to remind the committee that the goal of this program is to prevent placement for the children and make sure that the problems are resolved so that families stay together

Chair Soskin asked if this is provided for by the budget.

Mrs. Barbash confirmed that it is.

2. REF.# 2973

APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND, ON BEHALF OF ITS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, AND THE NORTH ROCKLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE A SATELLITE CLINIC OFFERING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AT FIELDSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF EXECUTION WITH AUTOMATIC ONE (1) YEAR RENEWALS UNLESS TERMINATED BY EITHER PARTY AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE THE INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT[DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH]
(MICHAEL LEITZES ACTING COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH)
DL #: 2014-03169

MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/PAUL, EARL, WIEDER, SCHOENBERGER, HOFSTEIN

TRANSFERRED TO B & F 01/13/15
UNAN

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

ACTION: Chair Soskin requested that Commissioner Leitzes, gives a census of the Department of Mental Health patients and where they are located.

Michael Leitzes Commissioner of Mental Health, stated that the goal of the Mental Health Department is to get closer to the individuals who need the services. The department received approval to provide a satellite clinic offering behavioral health services one-day a week in Haverstraw and one-day week at Fieldstone Middle School. There are no overhead expenses. This represents a great opportunity for us to see if they can provide better services by being close to the school.

Chair Soskin asked if this program will be open to students from other schools as well?

Mr. Leitzes replied if that this service will only be offered at the Fieldstone Middle School.

Chair Soskin expressed concerns as to how fair it is to start a PILOT project only in one school and not have plans to offer this program to other school districts which are also facing financial difficulties. Chair Soskin asked if the clinic in Pomona would still be operating on a regular schedule?

Mr. Leitzes answered at this time this program will only be offered at Fieldstone Middle School and that the Pomona Clinic will follow with regular operating hours.

3. REF # 8216

CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL LEITZES OF PEARL RIVER,
NEW YORK AS THE ROCKLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH
(EDWIN J. DAY COUNTY EXECUTIVE) DL#: 2014-05013

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/SCHOENBERGER**

UNAN

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

Mrs. Yeger Legislative Legal Counsel, informed committee that documents are missing for this resolution. Although the questionnaire for the appointment of Mr. Leitzes has been received, the background check papers done by Sheriff Department are missing. Mrs. Yeger added that they are working under the new revised charter, therefore; they are not actually taking a vote, because this is going to go to the Full Legislature. In other words, what they present to the Full Legislature is our recommendation. Every confirmation of an appointment from now on will need to go to the Full Legislature with the relevant committee recommendation.

Leg. Schoenberger stated that he had the same procedure done when he was the County Attorney and is glad to see that the administration is still doing that. He suggested that a vote be taken to confirm this appointment tonight and hold it for the Full Legislature to act on until such time as the background check comes in and than Legislative Counsel can advise the Committee if there is anything in the background check that they should be aware of.

Mr. Powers explained that no other Commissioner that the Legislature appointed this year other than County Attorney Thomas Humbach required a background check. Even though new procedures are in effect, in Mr. Leitzes case the County Executive's office was satisfied with his credentials being checked by State of New York.

Leg. Schoenberger asked if the intention of the administration was to do a background check of the appointee ? They rely on the County Executive's office to do the background check as it is his appointee.

Mr. Powers advised that they submitted this resolution with no background check and they were comfortable with the appointee as is with the credentials being verified by New York Stated. They were not intending to have a background check on Mr. Leitzes but will certainly have it done if it is required by the Legislature.

Leg. Jobson stated that Mr. Leitzes is a diligent employee and believes that he will be a fine Commissioner. He recommended in today's climate to do a background check on any person that are being appointed as precaution. He also added that are he would vote in favor for Ms. Leitzes appointment at this time with no background check due to his length of service.

Leg. Paul complimented Mr. Leitzes for his wonderful job since 2008 and expressed her support to his appointment with no need of a background check.

Chair Soskin stated that he will take responsibility for this appointment and confirmed the vote on this resolution.

Mr. Leitzes did a presentation in reference to various areas of his job.

Chair Soskin said the he was glad to have Mr. Leitzes on board and also asked that he draw a graph that will show exactly what is current and where they are going.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:6:59 PM
SCHOENBERGER/EARL**

UNAN

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesly Senatus, Committee Clerk

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Edwin J. Day
County Executive

Stephen J. Powers
Director of Public Policy
& Intergovernmental Relations

DATE: January 16, 2015

TO: Hon. Philip Soskin
Chairman, Multi Services Committee

✓ Laurence O. Toole
Clerk to the Legislature

FROM: Stephen J. Powers
Director of Public Policy & Intergovernmental Relations

RE: Response to Multi Services Committee Action Sheet

Please see attached, which lists the number of Pomona Clinic Clients by School District.

Cc: Michael Leitzes, Acting Commissioner of Mental Health
Bonnie Halley, Metal Health Planning

Number of Pomona Clinic Clients by School District

School District	# of Clients
Ramapo CSD	4
South Orangetown CSD	4
Clarkstown CSD	16
North Rockland CSD	42
East Ramapo CSD	73
Nanuet Union Free School District	16
Nyack Public Schools	7
Pearl River School District	3
Total	165