

# The Legislature of Rockland County



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

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**LEG. P. SOSKIN, CHAIR**  
**LEG. T. EARL, VICE CHAIR**  
**LEG. A. PAUL, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIR**  
**LEG. I SCHOENBERGER**  
**LEG. V. TYER**  
**LEG. C FALCIGLIA**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**LEG. J. HOOD, JR**  
**LEG. D. JOBSON**  
**LEG. L. HOFSTEIN**  
**LEG. C. CAREY**  
**LEG. M. GRANT**  
**LEG. N. LOW-HOGAN**  
**LEG. H. CORNELL**  
**LEG. P. MORONEY**

**E. YEGER, ESQ**  
**T. HUMBACK, ESQ**  
**L. INCALCATERRA**  
**R. FLORIDA**  
**M. MURPHY**  
**D. HOGAN**  
**S. SULLAM**  
**J. DURAND**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**LEG. A WIEDER**

**CHAIR SOSKIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT: 7:05 PM**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF JULY 26, 2016 MEETING.**  
**FALCIGLIA/PAUL, EARL, SCHOENBERGER**

**UNAN**

**1.REF. #9505A** AMENDING THE SCOPE OF SERVICES CONTAINED IN THE AGREEMENT WITH THE CEJES INSTITUTE, INC. AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT [DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES] (\$6,296)  
**(SUSAN SHERWOOD COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES) DL#: 2016-02551**

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

**TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/30/16**  
**UNAN**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, FALCIGLIA, JOBSON**

**1.REF. #9505B** APPROVING THE AGREEMENT WITH NEW SQUARE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL, INC. TO PROVIDE MULTI-SERVICE HUB SERVICES IN ROCKLAND COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$162,513 FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016 WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL ONE (1) YEAR OPTION TERMS AND TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO PAY FOR THIS AGREEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT NO. 6328 TO DEPARTMENT NO. 6010 [DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES] (\$162,513)  
**(SUSAN SHERWOOD COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES) DL#: 2016-02192**

**MOTION TO APPROVE**  
**SCHOENBERGER/EARL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/30/16**  
**UNAN**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, FALCIGLIA, JOBSON**

3. REF. #9505C APPROVING THE AGREEMENT WITH CAMPUS FUN AND LEARN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC. TO PROVIDE A HEALTH SNACK PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,642 FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016 WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL ONE (1) YEAR OPTION TERMS AND TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO PAY FOR THIS AGREEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT NO. 8819 TO DEPARTMENT NO. 1430 [DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL] (\$2,642)  
**(JOAN SILVESTRI COMMISSIONER OF PERSONNEL) DL#: 2016-02545**

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

**TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/30/16  
UNAN**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, FALCIGLIA, JOBSON**

4. REF. #8634 APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND ON BEHALF OF ITS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE TOWN OF RAMAPO TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNITY COMPONENT OF THE CREATING HEALTHY SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES PROGRAM GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000 FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 2015 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE THE INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH] (\$10,000)  
**(DR. PATRICIA RUPPERT COMMISSIONER DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH) DL#: 2016-0239**

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

**TRANSFERRED TO B&F 8/30/16  
UNAN**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, FALCIGLIA, JOBSON**

5. REF. #9326 CALLING ON ALL STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, BUSINESS OWNERS AND RESIDENTS TO ADOPT THE "THINK DIFFERENTLY" INITIATIVE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES  
**(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, CHAIR LEGISLATURE)**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
SOSKIN/EARL, SCHOENBERGER, FALCIGLIA**

**UNAN**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, FALCIGLIA, JOBSON**

6. REF. #8886 SETTING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING: A LOCAL LAW PROHIBITING THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN LICENSED HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS, PHARMACIES, RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS CONTAINING PHARMACIES AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN ROCKLAND COUNTY, NEW YORK  
**(HON. NANCY LOW-HOGAN LEGISLATURE)**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
SCHOENBERGER/PAUL**

**UNAN**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, FALCIGLIA, JOBSON**

Dennis Hogan, American Association of Lung Cancer, explained that Rockland County counts 215 tobacco retailers, 11 are pharmacies like CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens, and supermarkets. By eliminating sales in some of these businesses they will be left with 196 tobacco retailers for the 9% of residents who smoke. Even though it is a legal product they believe it should be regulated.

Leg. Cornell asked if any of these listed retailers have agreed voluntarily to stop selling tobacco

Mrs. Hogan confirmed that the CVS chain is the only one so far that has agreed voluntarily to stop such sale. She also added that local authorities have also shown support to this cause, such as Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee, Dr. Ruppert, the Mayor of Hillburn, and Haverstraw organizations such as CANDLE, People to People and several others.

**See Attached (Public Health and Tobacco Policy Center)**

**7. REF. #8862 DISCUSSION ITEM- COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HIV PROGRAM  
(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE CHAIR LEGISLATURE)**

**DISCUSSED**

Scott Sullam, Coordinator of Infectious Disease Program, explained that the HIV program is about to be abolished. He wrote a letter describing how this program has benefited about 185 patients who come to the clinic seeking medical services. The staff/caseworkers that are here tonight manage those clients. They serve these clients not only when they come to the clinic, but also throughout the month making sure of their good being. The Governor has issued a decree that in the year 2020 they would reduce the number of infections to 750. One of the main jobs they have is to provide people who are HIV positive the healthiest life that they can live. And how they measure that is to give them a blood test that tells how much virus is in the blood. They make sure that they are taking medication and coming for follow-up visits with their doctor. The patients also have access to translator. The largest practice located in West Nyack for the County is closing and they are concerned with where the patients will continue their treatment.

Leg. Schoenberger asked if he can provide more details as to why such a program will be abolished.

Mr. Sullam stated that they received big grants for mental health, housing and outreach program. The program just cost too much to the County.

Leg. Soskin asked how much did this program receive in grants this year.

Mr. Sullam replied, \$400,000.00 in federal funding.

Leg. Earl asked how much out of the \$400,000.00 funding is given by the County?

Mr. Sullam said \$70,000.00

Leg. Earl stated that he will support this resolution and hope his colleagues will do the same.

Leg. Cornell said if they have this under control with a wonderful facility and trained personnel there is no way to dismantle such program. They cannot lose this service in the County.

Leg. Grant stated that this information is preliminary. Legislation didn't restore funding in this year's budget and unfortunately there is no one from the administration that can review or confirm what they are hearing. It should be on everyone's radar to look at the budget and identify this program.

Leg. Paul asked within a span of 5 years how many cases have they accumulated?

Mr. Sullam stated the clinic now has 195 patients but they must also take into accountability that there are people in Rockland County that go to private doctors to be treated.

Leg. Soskin asked if this program is mandated by the government?

Mr. Sullam answered, no this program is not mandated by the government.

8. REF. #2973 DISCUSSION ITEM – UPDATE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSE TEAM  
(HON. PHILIP SOSKIN LEGISLATURE)

**DISCUSSED**

Leg. Soskin welcomed the Behavioral Health Response Team for their presence tonight and explained that there are few EMS teams in the U.S. engaged with practitioner's in the mental health field. Leg Soskin added that the Response team is an organization who tries to calm the situation down before it gets to an emergency phase, before calling the police for example that may cause anxiety and sometimes even arm individual.

Mr. Raymond Florida, Executive Director, stated that the Behavioral Health Response Team is a highly-trained crisis management unit that assists local residents, first responders and behavioral health agencies in providing on scene evaluations, treatment and crisis intervention in the community. The BHRT specializes in providing these services to individuals who are experiencing a mental health emergency. Mr. Florida also added that these services are available 24/7, 365 days a year. The team is experienced in mental and psychiatric behavior that works closely with the police departments, social workers, mental health departments and hospitals.

Michael Murphy, Chief of Operations of Rockland Paramedic Service, stated that in the past they would call 911 and have the patient transported to the emergency room. Now they can actually respond to those cases, assist the patient, give them a safety plan and refer them to various health behavioral center.

Mr. Florida said that the mechanism works very well. Based on the chart of services they have outreached to 3,114 patients, treated 1,229 and gotten 391 out of trouble.

Leg. Paul congratulated the team for their hard work and said that she was very thankful for all the effort put into this program.

Mr. Florida explained that their goal is to decriminalize mental health issues. It is not a crime to have mental issues.

Leg. Low-Hogan also thanked the Response Team for their great work and asked if a husband or wife facing mental health issues were to call the police will the station give them the Response team number?

Mr. Florida answered, yes they would as they work in collaboration. Mr. Florida confirmed that through their assistance the patient is covered under the HIPPA law and therefore benefits from entire confidentiality.

Leg. Carey asked that all this be summarized in an email and sent to all the Legislators to get the word out and post it on websites and mailing list.

Leg. Soskin explained that this Committee is here to serve the people therefore information of good use should be shared.

Leg. Hood, Jr. asked if someone else can take the responsibility to call the Response Team for someone.

Mr. Florida confirmed that another party can indeed place a call for someone, but that someone needs to be aware to expect a visit from Response Team.

Nancy Magliocca, Nurse Administrator, oversees patients admitted to Nyack Behavioral Center who are seeking help with mental issues. This program gives them medical control as they are administered medication and also have direct access with a psychiatrist to get guidance.

Leg. Earl. mentioned remembering former Leg. John Murphy had pushed to initiate this program.

Marion Breland, Director of Haverstraw Center, explained that she has been working in the behavioral health field for a very long time and has seen many services throughout the year in Rockland County. It is amazing that at this time when there is such a need in that area that there is a new program in place that is providing so much assistance.

Leg. Soskin thanked everyone in the assistance and congratulated the Behavioral Health Response Team.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 8:05 PM.  
SCHOENBERGER/PAUL**

**UNAN**

**Respectfully, Submitted**

**Lesly Senatus, Committee Clerk**