

The Legislature of Rockland County



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

MINUTES
MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

LEG. P. SOSKIN, CHAIR
LEG. T. EARL, 2nd VICE-CHAIR
LEG. A. PAUL
LEG. J. MEYERS
LEG. D. JOBSON
LEG. P. MORONEY

MEMBERS ABSENT:

LEG. J. HOOD, JR., VICE-CHAIR

OTHERS PRESENT:

E. YEGER, ESQ. R. HANSEN
A. PAUL T. GROSSELFINGER
G. DRESCHER

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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 7/30/13 MEETING

**MOTION TO ADOPT:
MORONEY/EARL**

UNAN

1. REF. #9499- SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATE BILL S. 744 - THE BORDER SECURITY, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, AND IMMIGRATION MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2013, AND URGING THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PASS SIMILAR LEGISLATION (**HON. I. SCHOENBERGER, LEGISLATURE**)

DEFERRED

2. REF. #2416- CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BETH WENDY GRUNDFEST-FRIGERI, SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (**S. VANDERHOEF, COUNTY EXECUTIVE, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, JOBSON, MORONEY

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

UNAN

3. REF. #2416- CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DR. EVELYN S. HA, NEW CITY, NEW YORK TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (**S. VANDERHOEF, COUNTY EXECUTIVE, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, JOBSON, MORONEY

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

UNAN

Leg. Paul spoke about having worked with Dr. Ha at Nyack Hospital. She stated that Dr. Ha is dedicated and caring and would be an asset to Rockland County. She thanked her for her service to the community.

4. REF. #2416- CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CHIEF PETER NOONAN, NANUET, NEW YORK TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
(S. VANDERHOEF, COUNTY EXECUTIVE, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, JOBSON, MORONEY

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
MORONEY/JOBSON, SOSKIN**

UNAN

5. REF. #3147- CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENTS OF CHRISTOPHER G. KEAR, NEW CITY, NEW YORK AND GEORGE ZAYAS, STONY POINT, NEW YORK AS DEPUTY COUNTY FIRE COORDINATORS
(S. VANDERHOEF, COUNTY EXECUTIVE, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, JOBSON, MORONEY

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
JOBSON/SOSKIN**

UNAN

6. REF. #8896 - APPROVING THE AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH ROCKLAND MOBILE CARE, INC. FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE (NON-EMERGENCY) FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF HOSPITALS AND MENTAL HEALTH UNDER RFB-RC-2013-067 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,400.60 FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014 WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL ONE (1) YEAR OPTION TERMS AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES – DIVISION OF PURCHASING] (\$150,400.60)
(G. WALSH, COMMISSIONER, DGS - PURCHASING)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, JOBSON, MORONEY

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/PAUL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

7. REF. #2973 - APPROVING WRITTEN CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND, BENDINER & SCHLESINGER, INC. AND LABORATORY CORPORATION OF AMERICA HOLDINGS FOR ALCOHOL/DRUG TESTING AND SCREENING SERVICES UNDER RFB-RC-2010-035 FOR THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 1, 2013 THROUGH MAY 31, 2014 AND IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$317,480.50 FOR THE FULL PERIOD FROM JUNE 1, 2010 THROUGH MAY 31, 2014 WITH ONE (1) REMAINING ONE (1) YEAR OPTION TERM AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES – DIVISION OF PURCHASING] (\$317,480.50) (G. WALSH, ACTING COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES – DIVISION OF PURCHASING)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, JOBSON, MORONEY

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/MORONEY**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

8. REF. #9173 - APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND VILLAGE OF HAVERSTRAW FOR THE HEALTHY PLACES TO LIVE WORK AND PLAY INITIATIVE TO IMPLEMENT POLICY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN ORDER TO REACH THE GOAL OF A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY IN AN AMOUNT OF \$20,000 FOR A TERM FROM APRIL 1, 2013 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2014 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH] (\$20,000)
(R. HANSEN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, JOBSON, MORONEY

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

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

9. REF. #9173 - APPROVING EXECUTION OF AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$22,000 (NCTD) BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE VILLAGE OF SPRING VALLEY THROUGH THE CREATING HEALTHY PLACES TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY INITIATIVE FUNDED BY THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2013 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2014 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH] (\$22,000)
(DR. P. RUPPERT, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, JOBSON, MORONEY

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

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

10. REF. #6546 - APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$262,500 (NCTD) IPA (IN PERSON ASSISTOR)/NAVIGATOR GRANT FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REACH UNINSURED CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYERS THROUGHOUT ROCKLAND COUNTY IN ORDER TO HELP FACILITATE ENROLLMENT IN HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 1, 2013 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH] (\$262,500)
(DR. P. RUPPERT, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL

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

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
PASSED/4 AYES/2 NAYS**

**AYES: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, MEYERS
NAYS: LEGS. JOBSON, MORONEY**

R. Hansen, Deputy Commissioner, stated that this was a new grant to replace the Facilitated Enrollment Grant. It goes into place on October 1, 2013 and facilitates the process of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) with the new Medicaid guidelines. One person will go from part-time to full-time and two titles will change. This grant is for more money than the county received for the Facilitated Enrollment Grant and it assists with outreach. Chair Soskin asked if there would be training for the new positions? R. Hansen stated that some employees are certified already and they will look to Albany for further training, but there won't be any new staff. Leg. Moroney asked, if the program was throughout the county, then why was Monsey mentioned by R. Hansen when describing the outreach? R. Hansen said that 70,000 out of 300,000 in the county are underinsured and a large number were in Monsey. Leg. Moroney asked if there was a county contribution? R. Hansen said there was no county share and that this will educate the public about the new exchanges and the outreach is throughout the county. Leg. Moroney stated he would like a report in the future about how the program progresses. R. Hansen said that this was for people over 21 and children under 21 were still covered by Child Health Plus. Chair Soskin asked who was eligible? R. Hansen said that income eligibility that was based on the poverty level still stands. In 2018, the state and federal governments will be taking over Medicaid. This grant is only to educate the public on how to apply for online exchanges. He said the Affordable Care Act makes insurance coverage available for more people and this grant will enable them to educate the public on the plans available. Leg. Jobson asked if this would be good or bad for local people? R. Hansen said that the administration of Medicaid will be taken out of local hands; and the Affordable Care Act (or Obamacare) would be a benefit to residents, but the volume is unknown at this time. Leg. Moroney asked if the undocumented were covered by the ACA? R. Hansen said that the coverage was similar to Medicaid now and care could not be refused. Leg. Moroney stated that he would be voting no and Leg. Meyers asked for an explanation for a no vote. Leg. Moroney stated that, in regards to the ACA, the undocumented were a real problem. He said the Rockland County is the smallest county in New York and we don't know how this is going to end up, like with voting rights and not needing I.D., the way he does when he goes to the airport. Leg. Moroney said that we did not know what the nationwide cost would be. Chair Soskin stated that this was part of a total grant for the entire country and each state was given a chance to accept it or not. He said that if we do not accept the grant money, we might lose out and the law is the law in New York State. Leg. Moroney said that maybe he doesn't agree with the state. Commissioner Dr. Ruppert provided the following fact sheet about The NY Health Benefits Exchange on September 3, 2013:

FACTS ABOUT THE NEW YORK HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE (ACA) AND NYS IPA/NAVIGATOR GRANT FROM NYSDOH

Eligibility:

- To shop in the Exchange you must live in New York and you **MUST** be a U.S. citizen, national or lawfully present non-citizen. (see attached, pgs.3-6 for details)
- Undocumented immigrants will be excluded from state Medicaid expansions and unable to buy health insurance in the new marketplaces. Therefore, the number of uninsured undocumented will remain largely unchanged. *Currently only pregnant undocumented women may apply for temporary Medicaid for pregnancy and postnatal care.
- Undocumented immigrants who would be newly legalized under the Senate immigration reform bill would not be able to apply for subsidies to purchase health insurance, or have access to the health care exchanges and the expanded Medicaid program under the ACA.

Statistics:

- There are 11.7% uninsured residents in RC (31,000). Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) this will decrease to 7.7%, resulting in 11,000 fewer uninsured residents in RC.
- The new guidelines will result in an approximate 20% increase in Medicaid enrollment.
- According to our DSS, there are 73,000 residents that are Medicaid eligible.

Staffing, Training and Marketing & Outreach:

- The 3 staff members who currently enroll residents for Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus and Medicaid through the Facilitated Enrollment Program, will continue to enroll residents as Navigators of the NYS Health Exchange.
- One LTFT employee will be FT on the Navigator Grant and fully funded by the grant.
- We will continue to subcontract with Community Outreach Center in Monsey (COC) to support one FT position to enroll/assist residents who qualify. We are subcontracting with COC because of the volume of residents they have enrolled in Medicaid/Child Health Plus insurance. They have a highly trained staff familiar with the Facilitated Enrollment program and will easily transition to the Navigator/Health Exchange program. The trained staff speaks Yiddish and Hebrew, and understands the culture of many of the residents they serve. Their agency serves all residents of Rockland County.
- The above 4 Navigators will attend a 3 day training in September to be certified to begin enrollment October 1, 2013.
- The Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) will also have staff trained to assist people in enrolling and determining qualification. (Certified Application Counselors). They will focus first on enrolling current patients who will now qualify for health insurance. The focus will be in the villages they are located in, i.e. Haverstraw and Spring Valley.
- Community Service Society of New York has also been subcontracted by NYSDOH to enroll residents. Their primary focus is on young adults, 18-34 years old and the LGBT population.
- The RCDOH will be working collaboratively with the FQHC's, Community Outreach Center and Community Service Society of New York to insure that all eligible residents of the County can apply for health insurance.
- In addition to seeing residents at our offices in Pomona, we will be in libraries, schools and community based organizations in **ALL** towns, providing evening and weekend hours and reaching out to the small business community through the Chambers of Commerce and Rockland Small Business Association. We will also hold community presentations throughout the County to explain the exchange, which will be rolled out as *NYStateofHealth*.

(cont'd)

Program Summary

The IPA/Navigator Program (IPA/N) will reach uninsured children, adults, and small business employers throughout Rockland County. According to the 2011 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 31,644 people who are uninsured in Rockland County. Of the uninsured, 4,194 are under the age of 18; 26,983 are between ages 18 and 64; and 467 are over the age of 65. This number reflects approximately 10% of the population in Rockland County. Outreach efforts for individuals, families and some small businesses will target lower income, culturally diverse communities where rates tend to be higher, language a barrier, and employer-paid benefits scarce. The IPA/N will serve hundreds of residents and employers on a monthly basis through education and assistance and result in the facilitation of enrollment in health insurance for approximately 175 applicants each month.

Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) is uniquely qualified to provide services that reach the more difficult to reach, high-need communities and small businesses in Rockland. The IPA/N will transition the current Facilitated Enrollment employees to work on this new program. All Navigator staff speaks languages other than English and are sensitive to the diverse and unique cultures and needs of uninsured residents. The Navigators know they are expected to work outside of a traditional business workday and are available as needed.

To educate, enroll, and encourage residents about the Health Benefit Exchange, qualified Navigators at the RCDOH will employ a focused, community-based strategy, reaching people where they tend to congregate for other community services. The IPA/N will continue to reach out to residents who already receive assistance and provide assistance to potential enrollees. In addition, the IPA/N will work with small businesses to provide an easy, and personable approach to enrolling in the Health Benefit Exchange. Navigators will work to educate individuals, families, and small businesses about the availability of coverage. Education and enrollment will occur at a variety of strategically located community and business sites and at convenient times for residents and employers.

Enrollment assistance and education sites include the centrally located RCDOH, Finkelstein Library, New City Library, Nyack Library, Good Samaritan Hospital, Louis Kurtz Civic Center, Community Outreach Center, and Haverstraw Community Center.

The RCDOH will subcontract with Community Outreach Center (COC) to reach more Orthodox Jewish residents and employers in the neighborhood in which they live and work. The RCDOH has an excellent working relationship with the COC and will be able to ensure compliance with the protocols and procedures in place at the RCDOH.

Under the supervision of a RCDOH manager, a full-time IPA/N Project Manager will oversee all aspects of the IPA/N application assistance and maintain communication with the technical advisor from the State DOH. As the current lead agency for the Facilitated Enrollment Program, the RCDOH continuously exceeds expectations with the New York State Department of Health and has an excellent reputation with the local community. The RCDOH is well positioned to provide access to health insurance to all eligible residents.

11. REF. #8486 - APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,747 (NCTD) FROM THE NEW YORK STATE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH HAZARD ABATEMENT BOARD TO ENABLE EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES/OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION TO ATTEND SAFETY TRAINING SESSIONS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 1, 2013 THROUGH JULY 31, 2014 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (DEPARTMENT OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES/OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION) (\$1,747)
(T. GROSSELFINGER, DIRECTOR AND PUBLIC ADVOCATE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES/OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, JOBSON, MORONEY

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
JOBSON/ALL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

Director Grosselfinger stated that this deals with voluble liquids and gas. He said that Melanie Gross of the Sewer District was very helpful in getting the grant, which helps with training and safety supplies to prevent accidents.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: (6:40 PM)
JOBSON/MEYERS**

UNAN

“The Rockland County Legislature is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To that end, the Legislature is committed to creating an accessible environment for all. To request accommodations that you may require, please call Damaris Alvarez at 845-638-5248 (845-708-7899 for TTY/TDD). Please request these accommodations three (3) days in advance so that we can seek to meet your needs.”

MS 8.27.13.MIN/PS