



Onondaga County Legislature

DEBORAH L. MATURO
Clerk

J. RYAN McMAHON, II
Chairman

KATHERINE FRENCH
Deputy Clerk

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HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES - May 15, 2014 **DANNY LIEDKA, CHAIRMAN**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Tassone, Dr. Chase, Ms. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Corl

ALSO PRESENT: *see attached list*

Chairman Liedka called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. *A motion was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Tassone, to waive the reading of the proceedings of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Mrs. Tassone to approve the minutes of the previous committee.*

1. COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD: Ann Rooney, Deputy Co. Executive/Human Services
a. Confirming Reappointment to the Community Services Advisory Board (Sara Wall Bollinger)

Ms. Rooney reviewed Ms. Wall Bollinger resume and credentials; pointed out that she is the former Executive Director of Enable and very active in the community.

A motion was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Tassone to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

2. HEALTH:

a. Reorganization Status Update - Ann Rooney, Deputy County Executive/Human Services

Ms. Rooney:

Appointment of Health Commissioner

- Hired Mercer Group, Seminole, Fl. – referred by NYSAC, RFP done in April – 6 responses received. Mercer Group specializes in public service placement; since 2010 Mercer has placed 80 city managers, 15 health commissioners across the country; least expensive at approx. \$16,000
- Mtg. with Mercer and county admin. on Tues.; Mercer has already started--have database in place
- Mercer does all background checks, reference checks, meet with CenterState re: attractions to move to Onondaga County; collects all school data, etc.; will put together a package for anyone who is responding
- Guaranteed that it will take approx. 2 months; will present a minimum of 3 candidates; county will do all interviewing
- 6-month window with state to select someone
- There are 1 or 2 candidates locally that want to be considered

Reorganization:

- Very taken aback with the resignation on April 1st
- Ms. Berger is working with Ms. Mignano on an MOU, once finalized will contact State Health Dept.
- Ms. Mignano is doing fantastic job as serving as interim commissioner
- Dr. Nguyen, Medical Director is available 24-7
- Operating smoothly

Chairman Liedka asked for a gage on where the plan is. Ms. Rooney said that once they work with the State Dept. of Health, and they understand where the county is with the reorganization, then they will do the same strategic pieces that they did with last year's reorganization. The County Executive is meeting with the nurses and making assurances that no one is losing their jobs. It is similar to last year's reorganization. She noted that as part of the reorganization last year, Robert Long is the Commissioner of Adult and Long Term Care Services and is also the Chair of the Community Services Board. If someone has to be committed against their will, he is the only person in the county who has signature authority to do that. They have received the state's blessing that the reorganization last year completely meets their requirements, as well as with Chris Flynn in the Youth

Bureau. She is anticipating the approval from the state for this, but the approval won't come before the legislature actually votes. The National Director for the Nurse Family Partnership is coming to meet to offer how they can be part of moving this under Children and Families.

Ms. Williams asked if there has been any follow up to see how this reorganization will affect the grants. Ms. Rooney said that NFP is one of the biggest ones, with the national director reaching out, it is a good indication. She said that they are adamant that they would not do anything that would jeopardize a dollar of grant funds. In answer to Ms. Williams, Ms. Rooney said that the accreditation is still moving forward.

Chairman Liedka requested that a special meeting be held when "we get close to the finish line". There is a perception that this is a closed door, and that is not the case. He would like a meeting where professionals can come and listen to what is on the table and address the issues; it is much more transparent. It is important to get that perspective. Ms. Williams agreed, as a lot of the feedback in the community is very negative. It would be plus to be open and educate people. Dr. Chase said a lot of people feel this it has been developed and "pushed under the door", people did appreciate being able to come the last time. It increased the interest and thinks more people will show up next time. Ms. Rooney agreed and said that last summer an informational meeting was held about the reorganization that was coming forward; they can do the same thing with this reorganization plan this summer.

Dr. Chase asked who is on the committee to interview/select the commissioner. Ms. Rooney said that typically it would be the administration (Mr. Troiano, herself); the final two candidates would meet with the Co. Executive; it would come to the legislature for approval. At this point, an interview committee has not been put together. **Chair Liedka requested that someone from the Health Committee be a part of the interview team.**

3. INFORMATIONAL: American Cancer Society, Incentives & Grants: Martha Ryan, Sr. Dir., Community Engagement

Ms. Ryan:

- 4/25/14 Legislative Breakfast, Hudson Valley, w/national and state leaders, broadcast on local television – impactful surrounding health issues
- What can be done in Onondaga County
- American Cancer Society: focus on things that affect all chronic diseases: tobacco, physical activity, nutrition, screening, etc.

Tobacco

- Very involved in implementing 100' ordinance in for hospitals – has decreased tobacco use in Onondaga County
- Tobacco is one of the biggest killers – cancer, cardiac, diabetes
- Flavored tobacco is targeting youth; legislation at federal and state level – nothing at local level
- E-Cigarettes – state legislation to include in Clean Indoor Air Act; of all e-cigarettes only 2 are manufactured, in U.S.- the rest are manufactured in Korea, China, etc – have no idea what is in them, if safe – many have fairly high levels of arsenic in vapors – need to be regulated
- E-cigarettes are de-normalizing
- NYS Tobacco Control Program saves money –\$198 million health care costs attributed to tobacco in Onondaga County; huge impact on Medicaid expenditures
- The lower the socio economic value/the lower education, the higher the tobacco usage rate is

Breast Cancer:

- 72% screening rate; programs in state, county for uninsured or underinsured, it is covered – a lot of initiative to reach out to diverse populations

Colorectal Cancer:

- New initiative – campaign--80% by 2018
- One of the cancers that can be prevented by screening; at 69% screening in NYS; working to get people screened
- A lot of publicity starting June 1st – partnering with Kinney Drugs and Upstate Medical Center

Nutrition & Physical Activity:

- Initiative – working with Syracuse City School District – extremely challenging

Quality of Life:

- Want patients to get the care they need, when they need it

Affordable Care Act:

- Huge impact on cancer patients; no pre-existing clause and coverage for individuals once diagnosed is huge

Dr. Chase said that nutrition is a big focus of Cornell Coop. this year. Ms. Ryan said that they are working with

them; this week Cornell is holding the Smart Lunch Room Conference and ACS is going to the conference – have already taken a lot of those concepts and tried to implement them. The nutrition staff at Syr. City School District are phenomenal. Some school districts outside of the city have approached ACS and want their help.

Ms. Ryan referred to the legislative breakfast that was held--feels it would be great if Onondaga Co. could do something similar. Sen. DeFrancisco is extremely supportive of the Cancer Service Program by Onondaga Co., and all of the Tobacco Free initiatives at the State level. Funding was maintained. Sen. Velasky has been supportive as well. She would love to work the county legislators, state and federal leaders to address health issues of Onondaga County to see what can be done to make a difference.

CEO Cancer Gold Standard Accreditation:

- Working with County Health Dept. for 4-5 years - Dulce Fernandez, Wellness Coordinator – an assessment was done to see where the county was
- Accreditation – based on policy, benefits and practice in tobacco use, nutrition, dietary, physical activity, screening and early detection, access to quality treatment
- Upstate Medical Cancer Center is a Commission on Cancer nationally accredited; Breast Center also accredited
- Hematology, Oncology, surgical group at St. Joseph's Hospital are working on their accreditation for their breast cancer program
- No municipalities have received the accreditation – Onondaga County could be the first
- County has a lot of practices in place; it is down to benefits and policy; would like the legislature's leadership and support to help push it

Flavored Tobacco:

- Is this something Onondaga wants to address – what can be done – can products be limited, restricted, limit number of retailers near schools
- Potential ordinances and legislation is what communities are thinking about across the country – limited accessibility of tobacco products especially near schools
- Taxation and accessibility make a difference
- Smoking rates in Onondaga County are between 16-19% - out of that percentage, 70% want to quit
- Medicaid now covers cessation; supports are available in Onondaga County

World NO Tobacco Day at Destiny USA

- Recognition Fri., May 30th 5:30-7:00 p.m.-recognizing all entities within Onon. Co. that have tobacco free policies, about 40
- Sat., May 31st – 11:00 – 3:00 – Health Symposium, Canyon area - Invited legislators to be a part of it

Cancer Action Network:

- Lobbying arm of Cancer Society, \$10/year for membership – effective at state and national level
- Lets state and federal elective officials know what is important and how to raise the bar

Dr. Chase thought that an initiative of Tobacco Free Initiative was to limit tobacco sales near schools. Ms. Ryan said that it has not gone through yet. Onondaga County has done well in not allowing tobacco use in parks around children (playground). All parks are tobacco free in Monroe County. Two years ago, Cathedral Square Neighborhood came to Tobacco Free Onondaga County and asked for their help. It was mainly the new business on Warren Street. It is appalling with the number of smokers, people on upper floors can't open their windows because the smoke is billowing up. She is working with the Common Council; Corporation Counsel is looking at the proposed ordinance. The Ithaca Commons area has been tobacco free for 4-5 years; the parks in NYC are tobacco free. It is a change of culture. In answer to Dr. Chase, Ms. Ryan indicated that the Cathedral Square does not include the Civic Center.

Chairman Liedka asked members to let Ms. Ryan and himself know if they can attend the World No Tobacco Day that the mall.

Dr. Chase said that she met with some SU law school graduates, who are setting up a free clinic for veterans, have an incredible plan with some funding from the legislature. They want to get the vets into appropriate health care, and are looking for support from the County. Chairman Liedka said that he is meeting with them on Monday, also there is a group meeting being arranged - will find out more about it.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBORAH L. MATURO, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **Health**

DATE: **5/15/14**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Martha J Ryan	American Cancer Society
Joe Stanczyk	Leg
Michelle Mignano	Hlth
Ellen Messer	Hlth
Jim Courtant	Onondaga Co. Medical Society