

INTERMUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY, April 28,2006
Old Jail Conference Room

Present: B. Flacao-Health Planning Council, T. Joseph-Legislature,
B. Kominos-Personnel, C. Peterson-Mayor of City of Ithaca,
M. Robertson-Legislature, S. Whicher-County Administration,
C. Valentino-Town of Ithaca, D. Barber-Town of Caroline,
H. Engman-Town of Ithaca, P. Stein-Town of Ithaca, D. Lauper-
Administration

Guests: Rich Weiss-BOCES, Jed Constantz-Cayuga Medical Center and
Steve Thayer-City of Ithaca

Note: The meeting was called to order at 3:15pm

This is the last time this meeting will be held at this time. In the future, meetings will be held on the 4th Friday of the month at Noon. However, we will meet next on May 19, 2006, at noon, in the Scott Heyman Conference room. There will not be a meeting on the 26th of May because of the Memorial Day weekend

I. Introductions:

Mr. Whicher introduced Rich Weiss-Director of Administration services at BOCES, Jed Constantz-Physician Relations/CAP Liaison for Cayuga Medical Center and Steve Thayer-Comptroller for the City of Ithaca

II. Technology Advisory Board:

Item 2-Technology Advisory Board was stricken from the agenda. It was felt that there needed to be more information available on this matter, possibly other committee meetings. This item will be revisited at another time.

III. Discussion on Sales and Use Tax Exemption:

The proportionate impact of the State sales tax repeal on Tompkins County is approximately \$500,000, and the impact on the City of Ithaca is between \$150,000 and \$200,000. However, it is difficult to determine anything precisely because the information is calculated as "General Merchandise" and not as "items of clothing costing less than \$110.00". The next State timeline for action is December 1st, 2006 for March 2007. The next Legislature timeline is possibly June. This item will be revisited at the next meeting and, hopefully, we will get further feedback from additional municipalities.

The consensus of the current group was to continue charging sales tax under current laws.

IV. Presentation: Consolidated Municipal Health Insurance

Mr. Whicher asked Rich Weiss to speak to the committee on the Insurance Consortium that was implemented at BOCES, which includes several area school districts.

Mr. Weiss was very positive in his portrayal of the benefits reaped by/with the Consortium. BOCES spearheaded the process in 1985 hiring a consultant, procuring approval and establishing By-laws for each entity (school district), and forming a Board of Directors, which included a representative from each entity as an officer. Start to finish time span, at that time, was approximately one year. Their consortium consistently uses their consultant ("Losey & Cahill,"? out of Syracuse). The Board meets every other month. Blue Cross/Blue Shield (The Blues) is their provider.

Benefits presented by Mr. Weiss were:

- BSBC processes the claim forms

- The Cooperative (County and Townships) control the data

- 95% of the monthly fee goes to the premium

- 5% goes to Administrative costs (processing claims, attorney, etc)

- Overall rates are not as affected by entity claims spikes

- Major premium savings will be to smaller townships but

- the County and City should not see an increase in rates

- OVER ALL-THERE WOULD BE A SAVINGS TO THE

- TAXPAYERS

- BCBS was selected in part because of their geographic coverage, which is especially beneficial to retirees.

Challenges:

- Basically, getting the numerous entities (townships, city, county and prospective unions) to agree on everything.

BOCES premium costs are around 10,000 per year for family coverage and 6,000 for individual. This covers about 3,000 contracts; 8,000 to 8,500 individuals and 1,600 retirees (out of the area). BOCES does not have a "Wellness Program" that is consortium run/wide. The approximate cost for the consultant is \$45,000 per year.

Jed Constantz, Cayuga Medical representative, interjected that it is extremely helpful, when working with insurance carriers, to have access to the data. You are more informed as to where and what happens with your funds. It also allows an opportunity to change the "landscape" over the course of time.

Next Steps:

Mr. Whicher is also scrutinizing "Cafeteria" coverage. There are a couple of RFP's out. Do we wish to have Chautauqua County visit; they are initiating this process. Negotiations need to begin soon with the Unions. What is the timeline for the State grant "bill" application?

Next Meetings:

May 19, 2006 at noon in the Scott Heyman Conference Room
June 23, 2006 at noon in the Scott Heyman Conference Room.

Possible Agenda Items:

Cathy Valentino volunteered to draft an agreement and by laws to set up a Council of Governments.

Discussion of the tax repeal. There is a need for more township representation and input in order to develop consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm

Respectfully submitted by Doreen Lauper